

**STRUCTURE OF LEAGUE & TOURNAMENT TEAMS
FOR
CARSON VALLEY GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
DBA, CARSON VALLEY FASTPITCH (CVF)**

LEAGUE

A. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:

- 1.) All active participants must be current with necessary documents and registration fees for the current season.
 - a) Fees shall be established and reviewed prior to registration of each year.
 - b) Daughters of board members shall be exempt from required fees.
 - c) As a general rule, no player shall be denied access to the program due to an inability to pay established fees.
 - (1) Players requesting consideration for a waiver or reduction of fees shall be placed on a waiting list pending board review, and shall be considered on a case by case basis.
 - (2) The requesting player's parent(s) shall be required to fill out and submit a needs assessment form to assist the board in the decision making process.
 - (3) Players shall be allowed no more than two (2) years of waiver/ reduction of fees, unless otherwise allowed by the board.
 - (4) Alternative means such as fundraising activities shall be determined by the board.
- 2.) Parents or players who owe the league money, uniforms or equipment from previous years shall not be allowed to participate until the debt is settled.
- 3.) All players must be bona fide residents in the geographical areas designated by the board of directors, per Article IV of CVF bylaws.
- 4.) All players will be required to provide formal proof of age by means of birth certificates or other official documents at the time of registration for the current season.
- 5.) Players shall not be assigned to teams and subsequently will not be allowed to participate in the program until all of the above requirements are met.

A. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY (continued):

- 6.) Team managers/coaches who fail to return CVF equipment and/or uniforms at the end of the season may not be allowed to participate in the league function the following year until all equipment is returned, and at the discretion of the board, may lose seniority in the draft. Subsequent violations may result in the manager/coach being permanently removed from all participation in the program.

B. DIVISIONS:

- 1.) Eligible players shall be broken down into divisions that will be grouped by age as follows:
 - a) 6U: Ages 4 years through 6 years.
 - b) 8U: Ages 7 years through 8 years.
 - c) 10U: Ages 9 years through 10 years.
 - d) 12U: Ages 11 years through 12 years.
 - e) 14U: Ages 13 years through 14 years.
 - f) 16U: Ages 15 years through 16 years.
 - g) 18U: Ages 17 years through 18 years.
- 2.) Ages are defined as how old the youth will be on December 31st of the previous year.
- 3.) Players are allowed to play up into an older age grouping with the approval of the board of directors.
- 4.) Should a manager/coach in good standing wish to move him/herself and his/her daughter(s) up to an older division, the daughter(s) shall not be required to preview up, but shall not later be allowed to move down to a younger division.
- 5.) Players are not allowed to play down into younger age groups than their designated age as of December 31st of the previous year under any circumstances.
- 6.) The board is responsible for ensuring that players are placed in proper divisions, and that any question of age be resolved prior to participants being assigned to teams.

C. TEAMS:

- 1.) Teams shall be formed within each division by means of a draft system as specified in the "Player Draft" adopted by CVF.
- 2.) The number of players per team shall be determined by the league based upon the number of registered players within a division and the number of qualified managers/coaches available for the current season.
- 3.) The determination of quantities of teams and players per team shall be determined prior to the draft.

C. TEAMS (continued):

- 4.) Once a player is assigned to a team roster, that player may not play on any other CVF team for the balance of the current season.
 - a) Assignment to a team roster shall commence the date of the draft.
 - b) No exception to team assignment shall be allowed without a majority vote by the board, and only under extreme situations.
- 5.) Adult volunteers acting as managers/coaches shall have the necessary signed volunteer forms and Code of Ethics on file with the league.
- 6.) Managers/coaches shall participate in an instruction clinic, ensuring that at least one responsible adult per team has completed the clinic.
- 7.) Team managers/coaches shall be provided with necessary original medical release forms which must be available at all practices and games.
- 8.) It is strongly recommended that male managers/coaches obtain a female volunteer from parents of players to assist in team functions.
- 9.) Team managers/coaches are responsible for holding a parent/player meeting as soon as possible after team drafts to emphasize parent participation and overall goals and objectives of the program.
- 10.) The league shall provide teams with the necessary equipment to safely play the game of softball.
 - a) Team managers/coaches are responsible for ensuring that any equipment provided or used by individual players meets the necessary safety standards established by the league (refer to the USA Softball rule book and CVF division rule modifications).
 - b) The league is responsible for replacement of any defective equipment issued to a team.

D. EJECTION FROM A GAME:

- 1.) Any manager, coach, assistant, player, or person affiliated with a team who is ejected from a game shall be automatically suspended from the next scheduled and played game.
 - a) Any such suspension is mandatory, and may, upon disciplinary review by the board, be increased for good cause.
 - b) Any person ejected or under suspension shall not be allowed in the game area without the specific permission of the league President.

E. PRACTIC/GAME SCHEDULES:

- 1.) The league shall make available fields suitable for practices and games.
 - a) The league is dependent upon local government agencies for field availability.
 - b) Based upon access to fields, the league shall ensure that all teams are provided equal opportunity to use available fields.
- 2.) The board shall determine practice season and game season dates.
 - a) Team managers/coaches are responsible for coordinating players/teams with dates and times for practices and games.
- 3.) Postseason play may be scheduled by the league if time and field access is available.
- 4.) The board shall determine the number of games scheduled per team.
 - a) Scheduling of games shall be the responsibility of the President in conjunction with the Umpire-in-Chief for the current season.
 - b) Games not completed or canceled due to conditions beyond the control of the league may or may not be rescheduled.
 - c) A manager/coach requesting a change in a scheduled game shall be responsible for establishing a date and time that are agreeable with the opposing manager/coach, subject to field and umpire availability.

F. CONDUCT:

- 1.) All participants in CVF, both youth and adult, will be required to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the board, including all parents/guardians.
 - a) In the event of a violation requiring formal action, the President shall convene a meeting with a quorum of the board present.
- 2.) Any participant in CVF, both youth and adult, who is the subject of supervision by the judicial system shall be required to have the permission of the supervising agency and CVF in order to participate.
- 3.) Any participant in CVF, both youth and adult, may be called in writing and in a timely manner before a quorum of the board for failing to adhere to the rules, bylaws and/or Code of Ethics adopted by the board.

F. CONDUCT (continued):

- 4.) Any participant in CVF, both youth and adult, may be called in writing and in a timely manner before a quorum of the board for any arrest, conviction, or other formal allegation of violation of a law.
 - a) Disciplinary action may consist of, but is not limited to:
 - (1) Verbal or written reprimand.
 - (2) Temporary suspension for a specified period during the current season.
 - (3) Permanent removal from participation in the league.
 - b) While a disciplinary hearing is not an adversarial hearing, any CVF participant, both youth and adult, who is brought before a quorum of the board shall have the opportunity to speak on their own behalf to present information or witnesses in support of their position or circumstance, and to hear the allegations presented against them.
 - c) Discussion and decision making by a quorum of the board shall be conducted in closed session, and notification of actions shall be presented to the participant involved in writing within 24 hours.
 - d) All disciplinary decisions made by the board are final.
- 5.) In the event a player is removed from or quits her team, the player and/or parent/guardian will be contacted by her division representative who will inquire into the circumstances leading to this action.
 - a) In the event it is necessary, the division representative will assist in presenting the facts at a hearing of the board.
 - b) The player may not participate with another team within CVF for the remainder of the season, or until a ruling and determination of status has been reached by the board.
- 6.) A player or parent having a grievance with a manager/coach may notify the division representative for her age group for possible action by the league.
 - a) The division representative is required to bring any matter brought to his/her attention to the board for discussion and evaluation.
- 7.) Any player or manager/coach deemed by the board as not demonstrating responsibility and commitment to their team or league will be subject to elimination from the CVF program for the remainder of the current season and possible future seasons, pending board review.

F. CONDUCT (continued):

- 8.) CVF has adopted and maintains a zero tolerance policy toward inappropriate conduct on the part of all participants.

Any participant in the CVF program, both youth and adult, who is involved in any inappropriate behavior with any player or other participant shall be immediately removed from the program.

Inappropriate behavior shall include, but not be limited to, sexual harassment or misconduct, dating of players by older participants, or any act or behavior that tends to discredit CVF.

In the event of such an allegation, an immediate preliminary inquiry shall be conducted, and if it is determined that there may be substance to the allegation, all participants shall be immediately suspended from CVF activities and the allegation shall be handled as outlined in this section.

If a governmental or law enforcement investigation is pending, that investigation shall take priority, and league disciplinary actions shall be held in abeyance pending the outcome of that action.

- 9.) Smoking and any use of tobacco products is prohibited within Stodick Park during any CVF activity to include games, practices, team meetings, or any other CVF activity. This ban specifically includes coaches, assistants, team parents, board members and anyone directly involved with any team or CVF activity. Spectators and fans are strongly discouraged from smoking or use of tobacco products. The parking lot is a designated smoking area.

G. UMPIRES:

- 1.) Umpires will be provided by USA Softball for all scheduled regular season and postseason games.
- 2.) In the event the game official is not present at the scheduled game time, a mutually agreed upon volunteer over the age of 18 may assume the responsibilities of the game official.
- a) Both teams must agree with the selection of this volunteer.
- b) The replacement official will have full authority over the game, and game results will be considered official.

H. FUNDRAISING:

- 1.) All participants in CVF, both youth and adult, may be required to take part in fundraising programs or events to support the financial requirements of the league.

H. FUNDRAISING (continued):

- 2.) All participants in CVF, both youth and adult, will be advised of any fundraising efforts prior to the formation of teams.
- 3.) Refusal to participate in these fundraising efforts shall be cause for possible action by the board of directors.
- 4.) Managers/coaches are responsible for ensuring that players and parents understand the need for these fundraising efforts in order to continue providing the CVF youth sport activity to the community.

I. PROTESTS:

- 1.) Protests are allowed in game situations in all divisions **except 6U and 8U**.
- 2.) Protests are based upon misinterpretations of playing rules, and not judgment calls.
 - a) Judgment calls are defined, but may not be limited to:
 - (1) Safe or out.
 - (2) Ball or strike.
 - (3) Fair or foul.
 - (4) Obstruction, interference.
 - (5) Infield fly, etc.
- 3.) A protest must be duly notified to the game official, and noted in the official scorebook prior to the next pitch in the game.
- 4.) Written notification including circumstance, opponent, game official, and rule reference must be received by the league President within 24 hours of the protest.
- 5.) All legitimate protests will be addressed by a quorum of the board within 48 hours of the protest. Any board member shall remove him/herself from participation in a decision involving a team in which he/she has a personal interest. The remaining board members will thus make the decision. The President will serve to break ties, if necessary. The President will inform the affected teams of all decisions handed down.
- 6.) All parties involved with protest shall be notified to present the facts of the infraction.
- 7.) If the protest is allowed, the game shall be rescheduled to a later date, and continued from the point of protest.
 - a) Pitching eligibility shall remain the same as established at the date and time of the protest.

I. PROTESTS (continued):

- b) Both team lineups shall continue unchanged as established at the time of protest.
- c) Game playing time shall resume from the point of protest.
- 8.) If the protest is not allowed, the game results shall be declared as official.
- 9.) Findings and rulings of the board are final.

TOURNAMENT TEAMS

A. TRAVEL TEAMS/ALL-STAR PROGRAMS

- 1.) CVF does not offer travel teams/all-star programs. However, postseason travel teams and all-star teams are offered by Battle Born Sports.