

# THE VILLAGES BOCCE CLUB BYLAWS

## ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Villages Bocce Club.

## ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Bocce Club is to give all residents of the Villages an opportunity to learn and play Bocce and to enhance community accord through associated social functions and tournament play.

## ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in the club is open to all residents of The Villages who meet the membership requirements.
- B. There is only one class of membership. Non-residents may attend activities as guests by invitation but may not be "associate members."
- C. Members will abide by the Villages Golf and Country Club Governing Documents, including Rules. Members must also abide by the rules and policies established by the Bocce Board of Directors (e.g., Tournament Rules).
- D. Membership may be terminated by voluntary withdrawal. Membership is automatically terminated for anyone who moves out of The Villages or fails to pay dues as described herein.
- E. Serving as a Team Captain or Referee is a privilege. As such, Captains and Referees are expected to fully understand and comply with published Bocce Club rules.

## ARTICLE 4 BOARD

A. Number and qualifications: The Bocce Board will have at least eight but no more than thirteen directors. Bocce Club directors are collectively referred to as "the Bocce Board" or "Bocce Board of Directors". One director will be President of the club, and other directors will be Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the club and are known as officers of the club. A director may hold only one officer position at a time.

Other Board positions and responsibilities are determined annually by the BBOD and **may** include:

- Social Director
- Court Manager
- Tournaments Director
- Publicity Director
- Bash Director
- Membership Director
- Clinics Director
- Webmaster/IT Director
- Referee Director
- Historian

Board directors are expected to attend a majority of all Board meetings and are responsible to notify the President in advance of any planned absence.

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- B. The President of the club is responsible for the annual reporting requirements of Villages Club Rule 1.40. The club must provide a membership list and list of its officers and directors to the Community Activities Department each year. The President shall preside at the Board, Annual Membership, and Special Membership meetings and may appoint committees of officers and members if desired. The President provides an agenda to attendees of that meeting prior to each meeting. The President's primary responsibility is to coordinate the efforts of club officers in the day-to-day operation of the club.
- C. The Vice President presides in the absence of the President.
- D. The Treasurer maintains proper financial accounting records of the club and presents a report at the monthly BBOD meeting.
- E. The Secretary will properly record all activities related to the operation of the organization and submit such records upon the demand of the membership or official authority. The Secretary will keep records of all Board meetings and submits copies of the minutes to all Board members prior to their next scheduled meeting. If the Secretary cannot be present at a Board meeting the chair of the meeting will appoint an acting secretary for the meeting.
- F. The Bocce Club Board will maintain a Standing Rules Committee chartered with maintaining and updating the Bocce Club "Tournament Rules and Procedures".
- G. The Bocce Club Board will maintain the Bocce Club's plaque and photograph on the Villages' Bistro Sports Wall.

### ARTICLE 5 ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Elections of directors will take place on an annual basis, at the club's Annual Membership meeting. If in-person meetings are not allowed or are not advisable, then voting may be conducted by mail, email, website, or other secure method as determined by the Bocce Board.
- B. The directors will appoint a Nominating Committee, to identify and encourage club members who may wish to be a director. The Bocce Board will inform members of the pending election and of the deadline to self-nominate. A member may self-nominate by informing the president or chair of the Nominating Committee of his or her desire to run for office.
- C. Those who are nominated by a Nominating Committee, and those who self-nominate, will each be included on all lists, or slate, of candidates sent to the club membership. Those who self-nominate will be given the same access to the club notification process as those who are nominated by the Nominating Committee.
- D. Each year after the club votes for directors at the Annual Membership Meeting, then those directors shall, in open session at the next Board meeting, vote which of them shall hold the different officer positions, such as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as establish and fill any other Board positions and responsibilities for the upcoming year.
- E. Terms of office as a director shall be two years, starting at the first of the month following the date of their election. Vacancies in the Board may be filled by a vote of the remaining directors, and the new director's term shall continue through the end of the term of the person they are replacing.

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## ARTICLE 6 MEETINGS

A. There will be a minimum of eleven Board meetings per year. Notification shall be given at least four days in advance to all members by posting on the website and at the Bocce kiosk and will include date, time, and location. In addition, notice will be sent to directors via email and will include agenda, date, time, and location. The quorum for Board meetings is a majority of the Board directors. All meetings shall be conducted in general accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. Executive Session meetings of the Board will be held as needed for dealing with member disciplinary decisions.

B. Special Membership meetings may be called by the President or upon request of at least three directors. Such meetings shall have at least four days' notice given to club members regarding time, place and agenda. Notification shall be posted via email and at the Bocce Courts.

C. An Annual Membership meeting shall be held in the month of November each year, for the purpose of electing directors. Notification shall be given at least seven days in advance to members via email and posting at the Bocce Courts, and will include agenda, date, time, and location. A quorum is the number of members required to conduct any business or vote at a meeting. The quorum for annual and special membership meetings is 8% of club membership.

D. All club committee meetings are open to all members of the club.

E. Meetings are normally conducted in person, but if in-person meetings are not permitted or not advisable, then meetings may be conducted by electronic means such as teleconferencing.

## ARTICLE 7 DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Annual dues shall be required for club membership. Renewing member's dues will be during the month of January each year. Dues amounts may be changed by a vote of the club membership at the annual meeting, or at a special membership meeting.

Existing members will be reminded in December of their upcoming dues and given an opportunity to resign before they are charged for their next dues payment. It is the responsibility of the member to notify the president or Membership Chair (if one exists) of the member's desire to discontinue membership.

New members must pay their dues at the time they join the club.

A resigning member forfeits any dues already paid.

## ARTICLE 8 FINANCIAL

The Treasurer shall keep all financial records, collect payments, and disburse funds.

## ARTICLE 9 RECORDS

Minutes of Board meetings, annual and special membership meetings, correspondence, and other club records shall be kept by the Secretary.

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## ARTICLE 10 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Members of the club will attempt to resolve any bocce club related disputes between themselves civilly and with respect to all parties. If necessary, members may refer an unresolved dispute to the Bocce Board for mediation.

Violations of Bocce Club Rules may result in loss of the privileges of being a team captain or referee, participating in Club sponsored tournaments or social events, up to loss of membership in the club for a period of up to two years, as determined by the Bocce Board. The initial violation will result in a verbal and/or written warning, the second violation will be in writing, and the third violation will result in loss of Bocce Club privileges or club membership depending on the judgement of the Bocce Board during an Executive Session held for this purpose.

If any dispute involves any violation of The Villages Club Board Rules (note especially Rule 1.53 Disorderly Conduct), the Bocce Board will immediately refer the dispute to the Club (via Public Safety and/or the Villages General Manager).

## ARTICLE 11 AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members at the Annual or Special Membership Meeting(s), after an explanation and discussion of the proposed changes, with a quorum at least 8% of the membership present. Printed or electronic copies of the proposed Bylaw changes must be available to every person at the meeting. Amendments must be approved by the Villages Golf and Country Club Board of Directors to be effective.

## ARTICLE 12 VGCC BOARD RECOGNITION OF BOCCE CLUB

The club must comply with Villages Club Rule 1.40 to obtain Club Board recognition. Failure to maintain compliance with these Bylaws, with Villages Golf & Country Club Governing Documents, and with Rule 1.40, including any failure in annual reporting or failure to maintain the required active membership, may result in withdrawal of Club Board recognition.

## ARTICLE 13 CONFLICT OF DOCUMENTS

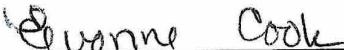
The governing documents of The Villages Golf and Country Club, including Club Rules, including any future changes to them, take precedence over any provision of these Bylaws.

## ADOPTION

Bylaws were adopted by the Bocce Board of Directors on 11 January 2022.

The foregoing Approved by The Villages Golf & Country Club General Manager on 25 January 2022.

The Bylaws were approved by a majority vote of members on 4 March 2022.

  
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Bocce Club Secretary