

Ripon Diamond Booster Club - Softball Bylaws

Article 1 - Name

1. This organization shall be known as the RDBC - Softball. The RDBC-Softball is a softball (Class C), Not-for-Profit organization as filed with the Wisconsin Department of State. RDBC - Softball shall have the powers set forth to solicit and receive grants, bequests, and contributions for the league purposes.

Article 2 - Purposes

1. The objective of the RDBC - Softball shall be to introduce, establish, teach, and promote youth softball to girls and encourage individual participant's confidence and self-worth, leading to an active, constructive lifestyle.
2. These objectives will be achieved by providing participants with supervised practices and competitive softball games for all girls regardless of league or division. RDBC - Softball will provide instructional clinics and practices during the off-season. They will also provide coaching in regular-season competitions and tournaments
3. Coaches and other involved participants will help develop players in the skills of the game of softball, with a strong emphasis on sportsmanship. A positive learning experience must be obtained win or lose through the competitive spirit of a team. The exhibition of good character and good sportsmanship shall be reflected by the examples and proper attitudes of the coach.
4. RDBC - Softball is committed to building a foundation that nurtures leadership, teamwork, and lifelong values through the sport of softball. We believe that softball can serve as a platform to develop character, foster a sense of community, and promote confidence both on and off the field. Our programs will focus not only on athletic development but also on encouraging personal growth and mentorship in a safe, supportive, and empowering environment.
5. We shall strive to advance and grow with appropriate and well-intentioned actions. We will organize, plan, and develop efforts and strategies to enhance all areas of softball, including efforts to improve our fields, facilities, clinics, storage, and other areas connected to RDBC - Softball in alignment with our mission to create a positive, empowering softball experience.

Article 3 - House League Membership

1. Any girl residing in the Ripon area is eligible for membership.
2. The travel division will be 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U according to USA Softball age guidelines.
3. All participants must complete registration forms and meet payment deadlines set by the board. Parents or guardians of registered players are considered general members of the organization and are encouraged to support league activities and events.
4. Scholarships are available upon request for families who need financial assistance to participate. Requests will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis to ensure fairness and support for the league's mission.

Article 4 - Basic Policies

1. This organization shall be non-commercial, nonsectarian, and non-partisan. The name of the organization or names of any members in their official capacities shall not be used in endorsement of a commercial concern of a partisan interest or for any purpose other than the regular work of the organization. RDBC - Softball is committed to providing a program free from discrimination and harassment based on any characteristic protected by law.

Article 5 - Government

1. The governance body of the RDBC-Softball will be known as the Board of Directors, responsible for overseeing the organization's operations, policies, and strategic direction.
2. The Board shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice President/Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional roles may include Fundraising Director, Team Relations Director, and Tournament Director, as deemed necessary by the Board.
3. Each Board member shall have one vote on all official business, regardless of the number of positions held. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast a second, tie-breaking vote.
4. A quorum, defined as the presence of at least one-half of the Board members, is required to conduct official business.
5. Board members must be in good standing and may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Board for conduct detrimental to the organization.
6. No Board member shall vote on any matter in which they or their immediate family has a direct personal or financial interest.
7. Board members are exempt from standard volunteer shift requirements due to their extensive responsibilities in planning and executing organizational events.
8. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once per month to conduct organizational business, review league operations, and plan future activities. Special meetings may be called as needed.

Article 6 - Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall comprise the following positions:
 - a. President: Oversees league operations, sets meeting agendas, and represents RDBC - Softball publicly.
 - b. Vice President/Secretary: Supports the President, maintains records and meeting minutes, manages social media, and handles communications.
 - c. Treasurer: Manages the league's financial accounts, collects payments, oversees budgets, and provides financial reports to the Board.
 - d. Fundraising Director: Coordinates fundraising efforts and community partnerships to support program goals.
 - e. Team Relations Director: Acts as a liaison between the Board and teams, ensuring open communication and addressing team needs.
 - f. Tournament Director: Manages tournament planning, logistics, scheduling, and coordination with external teams and vendors.

2. Additional roles may be established by the Board as needed.
3. Individuals serving as coaches are eligible to hold Board positions. Their involvement in coaching does not disqualify them from contributing to the governance and leadership of the program.
4. Any Board member may call a meeting by providing notice to all Board members at least 48 hours in advance.

Article 7 - Elections

1. An annual nomination meeting followed by an election shall be held after the end of the season of each year, on a date, time, and place determined by the President. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Officers and Board for the upcoming season and to address any other pertinent business.
2. Nominations for Board positions shall be presented to the Board of Directors at the end of the season and recorded by the Secretary. The Board will review the nominations for qualified candidates and select nominees by majority vote. Candidates seeking a specific position are not eligible to vote in that election.
3. New Board members shall be elected by a majority vote of current Board members. In cases where two candidates are nominated for a position, the vote shall be conducted by written secret ballot. If a Board position remains vacant after the election, the Board may appoint a qualified individual to fill the position, subject to majority approval.
4. Each Board member shall serve a term of two years, commencing on September 1st and concluding on August 31st. Board members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in the same position.

Article 8 - Code of Conduct & Expectations

1. All coaches, players, and parents/guardians must review and sign the RDBC Code of Conduct prior to the start of the season.
2. Repeated failure to follow these expectations may result in removal from the team, coaching role, or organization activities.
3. Coaches are expected to maintain open and respectful communication with families.
4. Collaboration among coaches is essential to uphold the values and broader goals of RDBC - Softball.
5. Any grievance involving a player, parent, coach, or board member must be submitted in writing to the Board. A grievance committee, composed of at least three board members (not directly involved in the issue), will review the complaint and recommend a course of action. Decisions may be appealed in writing to the full board, whose decision shall be final.
6. All members of the organization are expected to represent RDBC Softball in a respectful and positive manner when engaging in any digital or social media communication. Negative comments or public disputes about the league, coaches, or players may result in disciplinary action.

Article 9 - Travel Policies

1. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for girls to compete at a higher level.

2. Coach Selection: All coach candidates shall be approved each year by the executive board. Travel coaches will submit to a background check. Travel coaches shall assist the clinics by acting as teachers and instructors for other coaches and all players at league clinics. Coaches are expected to uphold standards of instruction and sportsmanship.
3. Travel players are strongly encouraged to register and participate in the Rec softball league to support skill development and community involvement. While participation is not required, it is highly recommended as it provides valuable game experience and reinforces foundational skills. Travel coaches are asked to avoid scheduling practices that conflict with Rec league games to allow interested players the opportunity to participate in both.
4. Tryouts for travel teams and team formation will be in late July/early August for the following Fall/Summer season to allow for practice during the winter months.
5. All travel team formation will occur through formal league tryouts as published by the President. Coaches will fill out their rosters from the tryout and turn them in to the board for final approval.
6. Players on a younger team may be used as a temporary "call-up" player for a travel team above their age bracket with the approval of the travel coach.
7. Each team will set their budget based on tournaments entered, league fees, and equipment needs. The final budget must be submitted to the board for final approval. Any equipment purchase should go through the treasurer. If any player leaves the team for any reason, a refund will be used and prorated based on expenses incurred by the team.
8. Travel division or league fundraisers will be subject to approval by the board of directors.
9. All teams looking to create a new team uniform shall gain full approval from the executive board.
10. The travel Head Coach position shall be for one year, per year. During the agreed-upon year, after satisfying the duties of the position, which are clinics, following all bylaws, and adhering to coaching codes of conduct and responsibilities, consideration will be given to extend a renewal year to have that head coach continue with the respective team, promoting continuity amongst players, parents, coaches, as well as the organization.
11. Should circumstances arise where the board feels it needs to address a potential change in the coaching of a travel team, that coach will be addressed before tryouts, and a discussion will be had as the best course of action for the coach and team. A decision will be rendered before tryouts begin.
12. Should a team coach desire something different than the head coach position they currently hold in the upcoming year, either to coach a different team or wish to discontinue his/her coaching responsibilities at the end of a season, he/she shall not disclose to any player or parent before the board. The deadline for this decision is July 10th of each year. No travel coach shall simply name his/her successor. The board will then follow the process to search for a replacement coach.

Article 10 - Amendments

1. These bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, provided that written notice of the proposed changes is given to all Board members at least seven days prior to the meeting. All amendments shall take effect immediately unless otherwise specified.