

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR VSA WOMENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE – PAGE 1

ELIGIBILITY

- EVERY PLAYER MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER – NO EXCEPTIONS
- No residency requirement
- If a team plays with an illegal player and gets called out on it – the game will be forfeited
- If there is a question regarding the identification of a player, the umpire has the authority to seek verification via a photo id. Failure to produce identification will result in the player be ineligible for that game
- VSA will be the final judge of the eligibility & discipline of players and there shall be no appeals

GENERAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- The official USSSA rules for 2026 shall be in effect unless otherwise amended herein
- Game times are 6:20, 7:30 & 8:40 (15 minute Grace period for 6:20 game only) teams should be ready to play 15 minutes before their SCHEDULED GAME TIME.
- 25 players is max roster – Players can be added and deleted up until June 16th
- If there is an injury in the game and the player cannot be substituted for that spot in the order would be an out each time it came up. If a team drops to 8 players then the game would be over.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. **A player ejected from a game must sit the remainder of that game and then the teams next 2 games.** If the player is ejected from a game for a 2nd time they will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the session. And the VSA League President will review whether or not the player will be allowed to play the following session.
- Profane and/or obscene language will not be permitted as well.
- Any players who become a problem will be reviewed by VSA League President who will also report to the Vernon Parks & Rec Dept the player could possibly face further discipline.
- We ask that teams have at least shirts with similar likeness. There is no penalty if they don't
- No new inning can start after 10:30. If it is an official game (4 ½ inns minimum with the home team ahead) then the results will count. If its not an official game then the game will be rescheduled in its entirety.
- If you plan on protesting your team must:
 - 1st - inform the home plate umpire
 - 2nd – Email the league president @ vsaleaguepresident@aol.com within 24 hours
 - 3rd – A \$100 protest fee must accompany the protest and must be in the League Presidents hands within the 24 hour period. If team wins protest the \$100 fee will be returned. If they lose the protest fee is lost as well
- A player must appear in a **minimum of 4 games to be playoff eligible**. Make sure you fill out the game sheets with first and last name clearly written. Games sheets must be returned to the umpire by the top of the 3rd inning. OF NOTE: DO NOT put 17 players on game sheet when you only have 12 in attendance. If a player arrives after the 3rd inning and you have handed the sheet in please go see the umpire and tell him/her you need the add the late arriving player
- Lights at Henry Park cannot be turned on until the baseball game has conclude
- All players have the option of wearing a mask at any position
- A team is allowed 2 forfeits. The 3rd forfeit is an automatic dismissal from the league. Only exception being that if your forfeits were on makeup nights. Your status would then be determined by the League President
- Lightning – Players must clear field. Umpire will wait 30 minutes after last flash of lightning or clap of thunder to resume. It is recommended that all players return to their vehicles during the delay.
- There will be a minimum of 2 days notice on makeups. I generally like a week but just in case we get backed up bad at the end of the season.
- Section 9-1 of Town of Vernon Town Ordinances – prohibits the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on town property, including parking lots. Any person violating this provision may be penalized. Additionally possessing or consuming alcohol while participating in the game or sitting in the bench area will be subject to ejection and forfeiture of the game. UNDERSTAND THIS

GAME RULES

- Pitching arc is 3-10 ft and there is no faking.
- Batter starts with a 1-1 count and gets 1 waste foul balls once they have 2 strikes
- There are no warm up bats or doughnuts allowed in the on deck circle
- Courtesy Runner Rule – 1 per inning. Can be anybody on the roster now.
- Teams hit the own balls for all regular season games – Dudley 4U542Y Classic W is only legal ball
- Minimum of 9 women are needed to start the game. 8 is a forfeit. You can legally add a 10th player at any time in the game and that player is inserted into the 10th spot in the batting order.
An 11th or 12th player CANNOT BE ADDED once the 1st pitch is thrown
- Teams can bat up to 12 players. EH1 & EH2 would be 11th & 12th. Those EH's can be subbed in defensively
- A player can directly ask an umpire for an appeal. She does not have to wait until time is in. Keep in mind you must state exactly what you are appealing and you only get one appeal
- There will be a 3 over the fence untouched home run limit. Excessive HR's are outs
- The pitching distance is 50 feet. The pitcher may still go back 6 more ft as long as they are directly behind the pitching rubber and pause for 1 second
- The Run Rule is:
 - 20 After 3 innings
 - 15 After 4 innings
 - 12 After 5 innings
- NO metal spikes

PLAYOFFS

- All teams make the playoffs – Format TBD
- To be eligible for the playoffs a **player must play a minimum of 4 games**
- The league will provide 2 new balls for each playoff game – teams supply backups
- All playoff games must be played in the entirety. Any playoff games rained out will be resumed from that point. Make sure both teams have an accurate scorebook and note with the umpire
- **NEW FOR 2026** – In the playoffs, if a team is potentially playing their 3rd game of the night both coaches get together before the start of that game and if BOTH agree we will reschedule the game

