

2024 Adult Softball Rules

League Director: Courtney John, MA, CPRP, CYSA
courtney.john@ci.stpaul.mn.us | 651-802-5437

Except as modified by the League, USSSA (slowpitch) and NAFA Softball (fastpitch) rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all contests in which League members participate.

ROSTERS

- Rosters are due before the first game. Send rosters to: muni@ci.stpaul.mn.us by mail/visit to: Municipal Athletics, 1500 N. Rice Street, St. Paul, MN, 55117
- All players must be 18 years of age or older by May 1, 2024.
- Players may not play on more than one team in the same league.
- Add/drop deadline is July 1. No roster limits for league, tournaments are subject to their own roster limits.
- Bench Area is for rostered players only – **no children and pets on the field nor in bench area.**

SCHEDULES/STANDINGS – Schedules and standings are posted at www.teamsideline.com/stpaul during regular season play. Team Managers are responsible for scoring games via TeamSideline (reminder e-mails are sent after each game). For more information on league standings, please contact the league director. Home and Visiting teams are listed on the schedule – no coin flip needed.

INCLEMENT WEATHER – 1 Slowpitch, 2 Fastpitch games will be made-up (added to end of season). Additional Rainouts will not be played or refunded.

- TeamSideline and Weather Hotline (651-558-2118) will be updated at 4:30 pm if necessary – any calls made after that are at the umpire's discretion at the field.
- If a game is called before the end of the 4th inning, it will be called a rain-out and replayed if possible. If game is called after the end of the 4th inning, the score will stand as-is.

LATE ARRIVALS, FORFEITS, NO UMPIRE

- Forfeits: The team manager is responsible for notifying opponents AND the Municipal Athletics Office as soon as possible if unable to play a scheduled game.
- Slowpitch - team must have 9 players to begin a game. Fastpitch – team can start with 8 players. If a team does not have the minimum number of players 10 minutes after the scheduled game time they will forfeit the match.
- If an umpire does not show up, teams should find a volunteer. If both managers agree to an umpire replacement, the game will count as an official game. The umpire should call 651-558-2255 the following morning and let us know the score – they will need to sign a w9 form to receive payment.

TIME LIMITS

- Slowpitch –no new inning after 55 minutes.
- Fastpitch – no new inning after 1 hour, 40 minutes.
- Umpire will set the start time during the manager meeting.
- Games are 7 innings and can result in a tie – no extra innings.

FIELD SPECIFICATIONS

- Slowpitch – Pitching Distance 50 ft, Base Distance 65 ft.
- Fastpitch – Pitching Distance 46 ft, Base Distance 60 ft.



EQUIPMENT

- Bats must have a legal USSSA (slowpitch) or ASA/USA (fastpitch) stamp as seen above.
 - If a bat is found to be illegal it will be removed from play and will result in the batter being declared out. If the batter reaches base after using an illegal bat and is properly appealed by the defensive team, the batter-runner will be declared out and all runners must return to bases occupied at time of pitch. Once the offending team is informed that the bat used is illegal, it may not be used again.
 - Approved ruling for a team's second offense: Batter will be declared out and offending player will be suspended for three games. In addition, offending team will immediately forfeit the game.
 - Approved ruling for a team's third offense: Batter will be declared out and the offending team will immediately forfeit the game. In addition, the player will be suspended indefinitely. Offending player and team manager must appear after the season has ended before the Municipal Athletics Conduct and Eligibility Committee for possible reinstatement.
 - Dented/Chipped/Cracked bats, which are also illegal, will be removed from the game (no out, forfeit or suspension)

****Slowpitch** – "220" bats are permitted for league play. Sanctioned tournaments will require the use of bats with the newer "240" stamp.

- Balls – *New Game Balls are provided by the League – 6 for SP Singles, 12 for SP Doubles and 14 for FP.*
 - Slowpitch: Dudley USSSA Thunder SY Classic, M (12") for Men, W (11") for Women. Home team provides a new game ball, Visitor team provides a suitable backup.
 - Fastpitch: Dudley SB12 44/375 Both teams provide new game ball.
- Uniforms - teams are not required to wear matching shirts for league play. Teams advancing to state or national tournaments are subject to that tournament's uniform policy.

WARMUPS & FIELD PRESERVATION

- No Infield practice prior to or between games.
- Warmup Pitches: Slowpitch – 2 to start, 1 between innings. Fastpitch – 5 to start, 3 between innings.
- NO DIGGING** - Under no circumstance may a batter dig with any part of his/her body or other objects, move or disrupt any solid material within the confines of the batter's box [loose material may be moved, but creating new loose material from packed ag-lime is a violation]. Penalty: There will be a team warning given on the first violation. Any further violations will result in an out for each occurrence.

PITCHING

- Slowpitch - The pitcher may pitch from the pitching plate or from the pitching area, an area the width of the plate and up to six (6) feet behind the pitcher's plate. ****Please note that in sanctioned tournaments, pitcher's foot must be on the plate at release per new USSSA ruling****
- Fastpitch – Refer to Current NAFA Softball rulebook.

BATTING & RUNNING RULES (Co-Rec Leagues – See Additional Heading on Page 3)

- Unlimited batting rule allows teams to bat more than 10 players SP, 9 for FP. Unlimited batting is optional, but if used, it must be made known to the umpire and opponents prior to the start of the game. If not used, teams must abide by their governing association's substitution rules.
- Players must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game. Late players can be added to the end of the line-up.
- Players must be in the batting order to play a defensive position.
- Courtesy Foul is in effect for all slowpitch leagues.
- Home Run Limits:** 4 home runs per team on fenced fields (EXCEPTION – 0 HRs for Males playing at Dunning. Females still have 4 HR Limit). Additional HRs will be an out, runners may not advance.
- Fly balls that are touched by a defender and go over the fence are 4-base hits, do not count against HRs.

- Run Rule: Any team having an advantage of the following will end the game.
 - Slowpitch: 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings
 - Fastpitch: 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 7 runs after 5 innings
- Flip Flop Rule: If the visiting team is leading by 10 or more runs between innings 4-6, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If the team (new visiting team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the run rule the game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below the run rule, then the new home team will bat. If the new home team subsequently scores enough runs to exceed the run rule the game will be over. If the situation reverses, the teams will flip/flop again.
- Courtesy Runner: 1 per inning, the runner may be anyone on the roster. If the courtesy runner comes up in the batting order while they are on base, it is an out.
- Halo Rule – A ball hit directly at the pitcher, within 2 feet of any side of the pitcher's mound in any direction, head height or lower. Calls are at the umpire's discretion and are not contestable.
 - 1st offense – Warning
 - 2nd offense by the same player – Batter shall be deemed out immediately and no runners shall advance.
 - 3rd offense by the same player – ejection (see ejection rules)
- Sliding – Runners must avoid contact by sliding, jumping over the tag, or going around the defender (while remaining in the 3-foot lane), or will be called out.

CO-REC RULES

- Co-Rec teams cannot have more men than women on the field at any given time – failure to comply will result in forfeit.
- Teams may use any combination of genders in infield/outfield positions. No switching of positions during an inning (EXCEPTION: Pitchers or injured players)
- Genders must alternate in the batting order. Two Males may never hit in succession, but two women may.
- If a Male player is walked, he will be awarded first and second base. Manager has the option of automatically awarding a base on balls to the upcoming female batter.
- Both Male and Female HRs count towards the team limit of 4 (EXCEPTION – 0 HRs for Males playing at Dunning)
- Participants that do not identify as male or female may play on the field and bat in the order as they see fit.
- Batting teams should NOT wear a fielder's glove while coaching bases/holding the alternate ball.

CONDUCT POLICY & EJECTIONS

- Umpires will issue one verbal warning for minor infractions, severe or repeated minor infractions are subject to player, spectator or team ejections.
- Ejected persons must leave the complex immediately and will serve a suspension equal to one week's worth of games. Suspended players are not permitted to watch games on-site.
 - If a person is ejected, and has a bye the next week, they will serve their suspension the following week.
 - If a person is ejected during a doubleheader league, they will miss any remaining games that night and both games the following week.
 - Ejections include all games in any Saint Paul league. If a person plays in Monday and Thursday leagues and is ejected on Monday, they will miss that Thursday and the following Monday.
- Intentional physical contact towards another player or umpire will result in ejection from the **rest of the season from all Saint Paul leagues** and possible criminal charges.
- There will be no arguing with officials. Managers only will be allowed to ask rule interpretations. Please remember that officials are human as well and there is a nationwide shortage of certified officials. If you are interested in being paid to officiate on a night you are not playing, please contact our office.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

- Alcohol (malt beverages no more than 5.5% ABV, no hard liquor) and Tobacco (smoking and chewing) are not permitted on the field nor player benches, but is permissible outside of those areas (Exception: at Recreation Centers, no alcohol/tobacco on the entire premises). Umpires and City Staff reserve the right to eject anyone who is overly intoxicated (see ejection rules above).
- No glass containers are permitted.
- Marijuana and other illegal substances are banned at all Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Facilities and Fields. Umpires and City Staff reserve the right to warn and subsequently eject any players/teams that participate in illegal substance use. In the event that an illegal substance is smelled and is not claimed/cannot be traced to a particular individual, the manager may receive the ejection (see ejection rules above).

MUSIC – All music must be turned off between the first pitch and final out of the game.

- Music is allowed pre- and post-game but must remain at a reasonable sound level and have no explicit/profane or suggestive lyrics (ie. The word “drug” isn’t considered profanity but songs that relate to drug usage/sales/etc are prohibited).
- Umpires and City Staff reserve the right to request music be turned down or off. Multiple requests can result in warnings/ejections.

PLAYOFFS/AWARDS – T-Shirts will be awarded to the **rostered players** of the team with the highest record in each league.

- Tie Breakers: 1) Winning Percentage, 2) Head-To-Head, 3) Head-To-Head Differential, 4) Total Points For, 5) Total Points Against, 6) Total Points Differential, 7) Lowest Number of Forfeits, 8) Coin Toss

INSURANCE – Be advised that neither the City of Saint Paul nor the league carry insurance for individual players or teams. The City of Saint Paul is not liable for injuries.

VALUABLES – Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is not responsible for any damaged or stolen property while person(s) are participating in or near a City-sponsored activity or event.

[Please certify your understanding of these policies by completing this survey.](#)

Best wishes for a safe and successful season!

THANK YOU

The City of Saint Paul would like to thank you for your team’s cooperation this season.
Recreational leagues promote the many benefits of parks and recreation in our community.
If you have questions or comments, please contact the League Director.

Municipal Athletics 1500 Rice Street, Saint Paul MN 55117 651-558-2255 muni@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Important Websites: www.stpaul.gov/athletics www.teamsideline.com/stpaul
 www.facebook.com/SaintPaulMunicipalAthletics

