

VADNAIS HEIGHTS PARKS AND RECREATION
2022 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

1. Playing Rules

The United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Rules will apply to all play unless otherwise stated in the following information:

2. Team Roster

Preliminary rosters and individual waivers must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department **before** the first scheduled play date. Players must play in at least four games to be eligible for the State Tournament. Team roster may not exceed 20 eligible players. Players can be added up until Friday, June 24, 2022.

3. Postponement or Questionable Games

- A. Officially all games will be called at the field by the umpire. Players may call the weather hotline (651) 204-6002 on days of rain to see if an early determination of play has been made. Early rainout determinations will also be e-mailed by 4:30 p.m. to the address listed for the team.
- B. Make-up days will appear on your schedule. If a team cannot make a rescheduled game, they forfeit the game.
- C. In the event of rain or darkness, games will be considered official **after four complete innings.**
- D. For all leagues, a 20 run rule will be in effect after three (3) innings, 15 run rule will be in effect after four (4) innings, and a 10 run rule will be in effect after five (5) innings.
- E. All games shall use the Flip Flop Rule when applicable. The Flip Flop Rule shall also be used to insure completion of an additional inning when a game is near the time limit.
- F. If the game is suspended in the top half of an inning after the fourth complete inning due to rain or darkness, the final score shall revert back to the previous completed innings. If the score is tied at that point, a tie will be recorded in the standings.
- G. Games will consist of a 55-minute time limit or seven innings, providing time and weather conditions allow. No new inning may start after 50 minutes. **The umpire's watch will be the official time piece.**

4. Extra Innings

In the event of a tie game, it will be recorded in the standings as a tie. At the discretion of the umpire, **and if time allows**, extra innings can be played to break a tie.

5. Official Line-ups

- A. The team manager shall enter in the home team score book his/her official line-up before the start of each game.
- B. Teams may begin and end the game with eight players.
- C. A full line-up consists of ten players. Teams may play with eight or nine eligible players.
- D. Teams will be allowed free substitution. Players must reenter in the same spot in the batting order.
- E. Any player who bats must play at least one inning in the field during the game. Any player who plays at one least inning in the field must bat at least once during the game.
- F. Home team is designated by the schedule.
- G. The home team is responsible for recording the score. Captains should verify the score between one-half innings with umpires. Teams may choose to exchange the score book so that the batting team records the scoring.

6. Grace Period

- A. ***There is a 10 minute grace period for the early games only.*** All other games, game time is forfeit time. Teams must produce an official line-up of eligible players. In order for a game



to be officially forfeited, the appearing team must have eight eligible players present. An eligible player is anyone who has a Waiver of Liability on file for the current season. If neither team has eight eligible players, a double forfeit will be declared.

B. Any grace time will be subtracted from the official game time.

7. Protests

Only protests on rule interpretation are allowed. All other protests will be decided on the field by the umpire. After a protested play, the protest must be received by the umpire before the next pitch. A \$50.00 deposit is also required at this time. If, after review by the league director and chief official, the protest is found to be valid; the \$50.00 deposit will be returned. If the protest is found to be invalid, no refund will be provided.

8. Disputes

Team managers and the players involved will be the only individuals allowed to question the umpire's decision on a given play. The opposing team manager may be present but may not comment on the call. Violation of this rule will result in expulsion from the game.

9. Sportsmanship and Ejections

Umpires will not tolerate abusive behavior, profanity, belligerent behavior, or personal baiting of opponents. Players will be ejected from the game and may be ejected from the grounds for such conduct. Fans will be ejected from the grounds for such conduct. Ejected players or fans unwilling to leave when directed shall cause their team to forfeit. If both teams are involved, a double forfeit will be declared. Ejected players are finished for the remainder of the game and suspended for the next game. Players receiving two ejections during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Ejected players have one minute to leave the game and/or the grounds when so ordered. If a player is ejected from the game for any reason, the ejected player's team must have a substitute available to replace the ejected player or that team will forfeit the game. Any player leaving the bench or his position to dispute an umpire's call will be ejected from the game and the grounds. Players and managers may not bump, spit, push, hit or swear at any umpire. Any physical contact with the umpire will result in permanent expulsion from the league and possible criminal penalties/USSSA sanctions. These actions will not be tolerated.

10. Playing Shoes

Metal spikes **will not** be allowed.

11. Drinking

Drinking of alcoholic beverages in cans and plastic bottles is allowed only in the pavilion and picnic shelter areas. They are not allowed in the dugout or on the ball field. Anyone caught with alcohol in these areas will be immediately ejected. Teams are to pick up all bottles, cans and garbage before leaving their area for the night. Violation of this rule will possibly lead to that team being suspended from the league. Refunds will NOT be issued to any teams that we suspend. Any player who appears intoxicated (as determined by the umpire) will not be allowed to play in the game. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS.**

12. Courtesy Foul

Players will be allowed three balls and a two strike count. There is no courtesy foul.

13. Home Runs

Men's 'D' - 2

Men's "E" - 1

Co-Rec - 2 Men, 2 Women

Note: Any homerun over limit will be ruled an out, the ball is declared dead and no runners may advance.



14.

Baserunning

- A. Safety Base (first base). Any batted ball hitting the white portion is a fair ball and any ball hitting the colored part is a foul. On the initial throw to first base from the infield, the batter/runner **MUST** touch the colored portion of the base. The defensive player **MUST** always touch the white portion. This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base which does not include:
- Returning to the base after over running.
 - Running on a base hit to the outfield (runner may touch the red or white part).
 - Re-tag to advance on a fly ball.
 - If the base runner uses the orange portion at any time after the first attempt at first base and is not in contact with the white portion, then he is considered off the base.

EXCEPTION: On any attempt to force the batter/runner out at first base on the initial throw that pulls the defense off of first base into foul ground the defense and the batter may use either the white or colored portion of the base.

- B. Any deliberate collision constitutes an automatic out. Whenever the catcher or any fielder clearly has the ball and is waiting to tag the runner, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact. If, in the umpire's judgment, the runner deliberately and forcefully runs into the defensive player, the runner is declared out and shall be ejected from the game. The ball is declared dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.

NOTE: The catcher or any fielder may not block the pathway of the runner unless he has possession of the ball or is in the act of fielding a batted ball or taking a proper position to receive a thrown ball (thrown ball must already be in flight).

- C. A player attempting to slide may not attempt to prevent a fielder from making a play.
D. On double play chances, runners must slide or get out of the way. The umpire will call the runner failing to get out of the way OUT along with the batter.
E. Teams may have one courtesy runner per inning for injured players. A player requiring a courtesy runner may not advance past first base on the initial hit. They will be the last out recorded in the book.
F. On a fair fly ball hit over the fence for a home run, the batter and all base runners are credited with a score. The batter and any runner on base do not need to advance and touch the bases. They should go directly to the dugout area.

15.

Field Management

- A. The Managers/Coaches and the umpires shall not allow anyone other than a Player, Manager or Coach to be in the dugout, bench or the field of play during a game. The first violation of this rule shall be a warning by the umpire. The second violation or refusal to heed the warning issued on the first violation shall be an immediate forfeiture of the game.
B. No player will carelessly throw a bat. For a first offense, the player may be warned that a repeat offense will result in an ejection. All flagrant offenses (including a first offense will result in an ejection).
C. All equipment not in use must be kept inside the dugout. Any stray equipment that comes in contact with a live ball may result in a penalty to the offending team.
D. All players on the batting team except for the batter, on deck batter, First Base Coach, Third Base Coach and base runners must be inside the dugout or outside the field of play. Any player not listed above who comes in contact with a live ball may result in a penalty to the offending team.
E. Casual profanity rule will be enforced. Any use of the "F" word will result in an automatic ejection.
F. No Dig Rule will be enforced by the umpire.
G. No smoking anywhere on the playing field.
H. Due to safety concerns, at no time can a camera, audio or video device be worn or used by a player or coach on the field of play.



16. Miscellaneous

- A. In the event that an umpire does not show for the game, managers of both teams shall agree on a substitute umpire from either team's bench. This umpire will be paid for his/her services.
- B. To determine the league champion, in the event of a tie in the season record, head to head competition will be the tie breaker. If for some reason a tie still exists, runs scored in head to head competition will determine the league winner. If a tie still exists a coin toss will determine the league champion. This rule applies for determining other "trophy" positions.
- C. All exposed jewelry or items that are judged to be hazardous or potentially dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game.

Team managers are responsible for informing their teammates and fans of these rules.



VADNAIS HEIGHTS PARKS AND RECREATION 2022 CO-REC SOFTBALL RULES

All Regular USSSA and Vadnais Heights softball rules and regulations apply with these exceptions:

1. Co-Rec league will use a 12" ball when the men hit and 11" ball when the women hit.
2. Teams must begin and end the game with at least eight players (10 maximum) on the field and at least 50% must be female. If there are nine players with only four women, then the team may play all nine players in the field but must take an automatic out when the missing woman would normally bat.
3. Males may not pinch-hit or courtesy run for females.
4. There must be a female between two males in the batting order, up to 14 batters. Teams may use a "Rolling" batting order to insure maximum participation.
5. Outfielders may not play closer than 15 feet from the infield. Infielders may not play in front of the base lines until after the ball is hit.
6. With less than two outs, when a male is walked, he is awarded second base and the following female will bat. With two outs, when a male is walked, the following female has the option of also walking or batting. In either case, the male is awarded second base.
7. On defense, players may play at any position.
8. The team at bat will provide a third base coach (who may have a glove) who will be responsible for changing out the balls with the opposing pitcher. A team that does not have a third base coach in position at the start of an inning will receive a delay of game penalty.
9. At the discretion of the umpire, time will be immediately called for any serious injury. All runners will be awarded 2 bases from the last base occupied.

