

**APPLE VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ADULT FALL SOFTBALL 2019
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

Each player must be listed on the team roster, and sign it, prior to participating. Players must be at least 18 years of age. All players listed on the team roster are eligible to participate in the post-season tournaments, regardless of the number (if any) regular season games they played. A player is eligible to play for more than one team in the Apple Valley leagues. However, a player may not be on rosters of teams who play against each other at some time during the season.

Participation of an ineligible player in a league game will be ruled a forfeit by the League Director, regardless of whether or not a protest was filed.

2. **TEAM ROSTER**

DUE: Before the team plays its first league game. Teams may have a maximum of 20 players; if the manager is also a player he/she must also be on the roster. Rosters may be turned in at the Apple Valley Community Center before the first night or at the Johnny Cake Ridge Park (JCRP) softball office on the first night. **Teams who fail to turn in their roster before their first game will be charged a \$25 per day late fee, and will be suspended from playing until it is submitted.**

Changes to the team roster will be allowed the entire fall season. All changes to the roster must be done on the original roster, as mailed-in or phoned-in roster changes will not be accepted. It is recommended that all teams retain a copy of their roster for their records.

Each player's name, signature, **eligible Apple Valley address**, home phone number and birth date must be on the team roster in order to play. **Eligible A.V. address** is only necessary for teams who registered as a "Resident" team; it is the appropriate Apple Valley address (home or work) for players who live or work in Apple Valley. Players who neither live nor work in Apple Valley must list their home address.

Managers or players who falsify any information on the rosters will be suspended from all Apple Valley athletic leagues for one year.

3. **GAME TIMES**

League games will be played at 6:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. (Sunday leagues will play 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 pm). **The 6:15 p.m. game (5:30 Sunday) has a maximum five-minute grace period, which if used is taken off the 55 minute time limit.** Note: the grace period will not be given if both teams have the minimum number of eight players to start the game. All other games...*game time is forfeit time.*

4. **NUMBER OF GAMES**

All Fall Doubleheader leagues will play a 14 game schedule

5. **TEAM SANCTIONING**

All league teams will sanction with USSSA. Sanctioning allows teams to play weekend and post-season tournaments.

6. **RAIN OUTS**

For rain out/game cancellation information, call the Apple Valley Recreation Department's Information & Weather Phone Line after 5pm at **952-953-2399, press #1, then press #1.** If there is no mention of the games on the recorded message, you should assume the games are on and will be cancelled at the field by the umpires and/or field supervisor if necessary. Weather updates will also be made available through **"AVAdultSoftball" on Twitter.** Rained out games will be rescheduled for the weeks after the last regular game. Additional rain-outs might not be rescheduled unless it affects 1st or 2nd place finishers.

7. **FINAL STANDINGS**

Final standings will be based on the Total Points Earned. Win = 2 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points, **Forfeit = -1 point.** If there is a tie in the final standings, the tie-breaking order will be: 1) Head-to-head competition; 2) Run differential in games played between the tied teams; 3) Runs given up in games played between the tied teams; 4) Total run differential for all league games. If a team has forfeited a game to a team they are tied with, the forfeiting team will be placed lower in the final standings.

8. **FORFEITS**

Teams must notify the Recreation Department by 12 noon the day before the date in which they are forfeiting (Sunday teams must notify by 12 noon Friday). Failure to do so will result in a \$25 fee per game forfeited. Teams who forfeit more than two games during the season may be suspended from the league, and will be considered a new team when registering the following year. Forfeits will be recorded as 7 - 0 or the score at the time of the forfeit, whichever is greater.

9. **LEAGUE AWARDS**

Restaurant/tavern gift cards) will be awarded to the 1st & 2nd place teams. The first place team will also receive “Apple Valley Softball League Champion” shirts for their players (*maximum of 16*) as well as a team Championship plaque. Play-off Champion & Consolation Champions will also receive a gift card.

10. **UMPIRES**

Umpires have the authority to enforce league rules before, during and after games. If there is a no show by an umpire, teams may find a mutually agreed upon substitute to umpire the game. The Recreation Department will then pay substitute umpires. Prior to starting a game with a substitute umpire, the managers should confirm in writing that they agree to play the game with a substitute umpire. The Recreation Department will reschedule the game, if the teams cannot find a substitute umpire, or if one or both teams do not want to play with a substitute umpire.

Umpires are required to obtain the names of all players involved in any incident. Refusal by a manager to give correct names of players or refusal by a player to give correct information regarding him/her self will result in an immediate suspension, plus the game becomes a forfeit.

If the incident is an ejection, the player will be asked to provide a picture ID that has his/her name on it. If the player does not have a picture ID at the field, he/she must provide full name (first/middle/last), address, date of birth, and signature before play can resume.

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In Men’s and Co-Rec Class “D”, teams have two options: Competitive or Recreational. The Competitive Tournaments are intended for teams who play weekend tournaments and/or want a higher caliber of competition. *Competitive Tournament teams have the opportunity to advance to a National Tournament.* The Recreational Tournaments are intended for teams who do not play weekend tournaments and enjoy a more “leisure” game of softball. *There is no National Tournament from the Recreational Tournaments.*

11. **LEAGUE PLACEMENT**

Teams that finish first in their league may be allowed to return to the same league the following year. ((This will be the league Directors decision based on team records and +, - game scores of team in that league, and league availability in the next level of play.) During that following year, if the team places 1st or 2nd, then that team would be required to move up one division when registering the next year. Teams that finish last in their league will be required to move down one division if another team is forced to move up into their league from a lower league. League play final standings will be used as a guideline. Additional teams may be moved up or down by the League Director, if necessary, to balance the number of teams in each league.

For the purposes of this rule you will be considered the same team if you return with five or more players from your previous year’s roster. The Recreation Department must approve exceptions to this placement procedure. Teams that are reclassified by either the USSSA or ASA will automatically receive the same classification in league play.

12. **SCHEDULES & WEEKLY STANDINGS**

Visit the City’s website at www.cityofapplevalley.org (under Parks & Recreation) to view schedules and/or weekly standings. At times, other information and reminders will be included on the site. Schedules and standings will also be posted in the display cases next to the concession window, at Johnny Cake Ridge Park.

*** **OTHER WEBSITES:** www.mnussa.com (MRPA – Minnesota’s USSSA); www.ussa.com (USSSA National site)

13. **INSURANCE**

Be aware that there are inherent risks to playing the game of softball. Injuries may occur due to collisions with other players, being struck by a ball or a bat, sliding into a base, running into a fence, etc. The City of Apple Valley does not provide insurance for the participants of our adult softball leagues. Each player, as a result of participation in the league, assumes all liability and risk of injury. It is strongly suggested that each player obtain medical and liability insurance prior to participating in the league. Team insurance policies are available through the USSSA.

14. **LOST & FOUND**

Any items found at the JCRP Athletic Complex should be turned in to the softball office. Individuals who have lost an item should inquire at the softball office between 5:45 - 10:00 p.m., Sunday through Friday. Claimants will be asked to describe the lost item in detail (so we may properly determine the owner). Also, the claimants will be required to provide their name, address, phone numbers and team name in order to retrieve any item placed in the lost & found. By recording this information, false claims are reduced. All items that are not claimed within ten (10) days after the summer league ends will either be used for Parks and Recreation programs or donated. The City of Apple Valley will not be responsible for items lost or stolen. This includes items that may have been turned in to the lost & found.

15. **LEAGUE SUPERVISION**

If you have any questions regarding the league, contact Lyndell Frey at the Apple Valley Recreation Department at 952-953-2316 or by e-mail at Lfrey@cityofapplevalley.org weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Please note that the Recreation Department reserves the right to make rule changes when deemed necessary, and make rule exceptions when special circumstances exist.**

APPLE VALLEY ADULT SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

16. **USSSA rules shall govern in all instances where specific Apple Valley league rules are not listed in the following:**

- **The Home Team is listed second on the schedule. They are responsible for keeping the official scorebook.**
- Names and jersey numbers should be used in scorebooks.
- If a team has a run lead of 15 runs after 5 innings or more of play are complete (4.5 if the home team has the lead), the trailing team can choose to end the game at that time OR they can choose to continue play. If they continue to play, at exactly 55 minutes the game is over regardless of the game situation at that time.
- For league play, team shirts are not required. However, for USSSA post-season tournaments, matching colored shirts are required.
- **Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the field or in the dugout.** If an intoxicated player becomes a safety risk (to self or others), he/she will be asked to leave the game and/or park by the umpire or Facility Supervisor. ***Glass bottles are not allowed anywhere in the park; players and fans that have glass bottles in their possession will be given a warning and must take all full and empty bottles to their vehicles. After the first warning of the season, teams again in violation will be subject to additional penalties, which could include game forfeiture or expulsion from the league.***
- **No glass bottles, wine coolers, HARD LIQUOR or kegs are allowed.**
- A 3-ball, 2-strike count with NO courtesy foul will be used in all leagues except in the Friday night Co-rec Recreational leagues – in those two leagues (Bronze & Silver) a 3-2 strike count with a courtesy foul will be used.
- **Smoking is not allowed on the field or in the dugouts.**

Rules specific to the Co-Rec league:

- If a male receives a walk, he will be awarded second base, and the female batter will have the **option** to hit or go to first base. Note: The woman is not required to take a position in the batter's box, she can go directly to first base.
- The shortstop, 1st, 2nd and 3rd basemen must play behind the baseline until the ball is hit. In the outfield, a white painted fielding arc of 160 feet from home plate will be used. All four outfielders (including a short fielder if used) must remain behind this arc line until the ball is hit. First violation: no pitch and warning to the team. The next violation by the same team: no pitch and awarding first base to the batter.
- An 11" softball will be used when a female is batting and 12" softball will be used when a male is batting. It is an appeal play when the wrong ball is pitched to a batter. If the appeal is allowed, the batter returns to bat with the same count he/she had at the time of the pitch, and any base runners must return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

17. **GAME TIME LIMITS & LENGTHS**

No inning shall start after 55 minutes has elapsed, starting at the conclusion of the pre-game meeting (**NOT THE SCHEDULED GAME TIME**). Four innings must be played regardless of time to make a legal game (or 3½ innings with the home team ahead). If the minimum innings have not been played, the game may continue past the time limit in order to make a legal game.

18. **TIE GAMES**

Games tied when the time limit expires will be recorded as a tie. **However, if the score is tied after seven innings but the time limit has not expired, teams will continue to play up to the time limit in order to break the tie. If the game is still tied at this point, the game will be considered a tie.**

19. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS – MEN’S LEAGUES**

A. A team must have at least 8 players to start and continue a game. **The game will be started if both teams have at least 8 players.** When the 9th and/or 10th player arrives after the start of the game, the player may immediately enter the game and that player will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Teams who start with 9 or more players may drop down to a minimum of 8 players; however, it is an appealed out when it is time for each pulled player to bat.

B. **Special Option:** Teams have the option to use a continuous batting order, in which all players on a given team must bat. Teams that use a continuous batting order do not need to announce any defensive substitutions during the game (as all their players are already in the line up). Teams utilizing the continuous batting order may drop down to a minimum of 8 players. However, when it is time for each pulled player to bat it is an appealed out. Managers must inform the umpire at the start of the game as to the number of players in their batting order (8, 9, 10, 11 or continuous). If a team uses the continuous batting order and a player arrives after the start of the game, that player may immediately enter the game and will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

20. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS - CO-REC LEAGUES & including above special option (20B)**

A. A team must have at least 8 players to start and continue a game. **The game will be started if both teams have at least 8 players.** When the 9th and/or 10th player arrives after the start of the game, those players may immediately enter the game and that player will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. **At no time shall the number of men in the game exceed the number of women, but you may play with up to two more women than the number of men. Violation: Forfeit.**

B. Men and women shall bat alternately, unless there are more females than males. If a player leaves the game without a substitute, it is an out when it is the pulled player's time to bat. Plus, if the pulled player is a female, the male player batting immediately before or after the pulled female player must also leave the game, unless the number of men is not greater than the number of women. When it is the pulled male player's time to bat it is an out.

21. **SUBSTITUTION**

If a team is batting a specific number (not the continuous option), any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he/she returns to the lineup. Managers should report substitutions to the umpire and the other team manager.

22. **COURTESY RUNNERS**

Unlimited courtesy runners are permitted for two players during the game. (Co-Rec = 2 men & 2 women)

23. **TEAM HOME RUN LIMITS**

1-Up Homerun perk **WILL be used in ALL spring/summer leagues*

Men’s Monday and Tuesday D and Tuesday D Church leagues - 2

Men’s Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Men’s Silver and Bronze D Leagues -- 2

Co-Rec Friday D Leagues -- 2

During league play, any home runs hit over the fence after the limit has been reached will be called OUTS . The one up rule will be in effect for all 2016 Summer league play. Be aware that different home run rules will be enforced in the USSSA post-season tournaments (listed in tournament information).
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24. **TEAM BENCH AREA**

Only players, managers, and coaches who are listed on the roster will be allowed in the team bench area or on the field of play. Due to safety considerations, **ABSOLUTELY NO CHILDREN** are allowed in the team bench or on the field of play. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

25. **CASUAL PROFANITY**

Casual profanity pertains to expletives and verbal unsportsmanlike language that most likely involves a player uttering them out of frustration. This type of behavior is penalized by OUTS being declared against the offending team.

- A. If the team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter will be declared out.
- B. If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat he/she will be called out.
- C. If the defensive team commits the act, the first person to bat in the next inning will be declared out.
- D. If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning where the fielding team might not bat again, player ejection may result. If the team has an eligible substitute they can continue the game.
- E. A game may be ended by a casual profanity out!
- F. The outs will be treated as a delayed ball situation.

26. **BATS**

BEFORE YOU BUY A NEW BAT **-Bats:** All bats used in league and tournament play must have the "new" USSSA logo on its tapered end. Approved bats can be found at:

<http://www.ussa.com/sports/Announcements.asp?Sport=17&AA=517>

The performance standard for all bats will be a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20 or less. Also, if a bat has flat spots or pronounced dents, or if in the umpire's judgment the bat has been altered, the umpire shall prohibit the use of the bat. The USSSA national website, www.ussa.com has a complete list of LEGAL bats for your review. **If a bat is not on the list it is not allowed in league play.** Note: USSSA rules state that a bat weighing 31½ ounces or more may not be used.

27. **SLIDING**

Sliding is allowed in all leagues. There are no circumstances where a player is required to slide, but if a player runs into a defensive player, it will be an out (and possible ejection in severe cases). Safety bases will be used at 2nd & 3rd base; however, there is always danger of injury to any player who slides into a base.

28. **SCORING**

Home team (listed 2nd on the game schedule) will be the official scorekeeper. Visiting teams are also encouraged to keep score. **This is important when protests occur, when games are halted before becoming official, when score disputes arise, or when batting line-ups are questioned.** After each ½ inning, once the number of runs is reported to the umpire, who then confirms it with both teams, the score becomes final. If there is a discrepancy about the number of runs for that ½ inning, a representative from both teams must meet immediately to come to an agreement. At the end of the game, managers are encouraged to check the scorecard to make sure the score is being reported correctly.

29. **PLAY STOPPAGE - WEATHER**

The umpires and Recreation Department staff will determine if conditions (rain, lightning, etc.) warrant stoppage of play. Once the decision has been made to stop play, all fields will immediately stop play. If 3½ innings have been played, with the home team ahead, the game will be considered a complete game. If 3½ innings have not been played by the time play is stopped, the game will be resumed at a later date from the point it was suspended. Generally a 20 minute rain delay will be applied in case of heavy rain. Please stay at the fields until the field supervisor has officially called the games for the evening. If fields can be made playable play will resume.

30. **BASE & PITCHING DISTANCES**

The distance between bases is set at 70 feet. The pitcher's plate is 50 feet from home plate. The pitcher has the option of moving back up to an additional 6 feet (any distance 50-56'), and can change distances for, and during, each batter.

31. **DOUBLE-WIDE FIRST BASE**

- A. A double-wide first base will be used on all fields.
- B. If a play is being made on the batter/runner prior to reaching first base, the batter/runner must use the orange base and the defense must use the white base; however, should he reach and go beyond first base, he must return to the white base.
- C. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at first base, the runner may touch the white base.
- D. When tagging up on a fly ball, the white base must be used.
- E. A batted ball hitting the white base is declared fair and a batted ball hitting the orange base is declared foul.

32. **PROTESTS**

Rule Protest Procedures - A team may protest a rule infraction, but not a judgement call.

- Teams wishing to protest a rule infraction must notify the umpire before the next pitch.
- The umpire will then notify the other manager of the protest and write down on the scorecard the circumstances of the protest and the current status of the game (score, inning, outs, base runners, etc.)

Eligibility Protest Procedures - A team may protest the eligibility of another team's player(s).

- Teams wishing to protest a player's eligibility must notify the umpire before the end of the game.
- The umpire will then notify the other manager of the protest.
- The protesting team must prove their own eligibility first.
- Then the players who have been protested will be required to print and sign their names on the scorecard before play can resume. If the player refuses to print and sign his/her name, the player will be ejected from the game and his team will forfeit the game.
- Protests filed after the completion of the game or after the player has left the softball complex will not be allowed.

In either situation (Rule Protest or Eligibility Protest):

- The protesting team must submit a \$30.00 protest fee and a written description of the protest to the Recreation Department at the Apple Valley Community Center within 24 hours of the game.
- The Recreation Department will then rule on the protest. If the protest is upheld, the team with the ineligible player(s) will forfeit the game in question and the \$30.00 protest fee will be returned. If the protest is denied, the game will stand as played and the protesting team will forfeit their \$30.00 protest fee.

33. **SPORTSMANSHIP**

The League Directors from the SORR communities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville, Rosemount and Savage are interested in ensuring that a high level of sportsmanship be maintained in the sports programs directed by each City. Therefore, the following policy for dealing with cases of unsportsmanlike conduct will be instituted:

- A. Any player, coach, manager or spectator ejected from a game for an unsportsmanlike act:
 1. Suspension will result for profanity, tantrum behavior, verbal abuse, etc., for that game plus at least the next game.
 - a. A suspended player may not be present at any site where league games are in progress.
 - b. Violation will result in an extended period of suspension.
 2. The suspended player's name will be placed on one-year probation in the SORR communities.
- B. Any player, coach, manager or spectator ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, during the one-year probation, will be prohibited from participating in any SORR community for at least one calendar year.
- C. **Any physical assault on an umpire will result in a minimum 13 month suspension. The incident will also be reported to the state softball organization for additional disciplinary action.**
- D. Any physical assault on another individual will result in a suspension deemed appropriate by the SORR League Directors.
- E. An individual retains the right of a hearing when the action to be taken is expulsion from participation in the league:
 1. The player will provide a written explanation of the situation that resulted in his ejection from the game.
 2. Present at the hearing will be: the player, his/her manager, the SORR League Directors and the Umpire Assigner for the community.
 3. An appeal letter must be received within 7 days of being notified of the expulsion to your League Director. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of ones right to appeal.
 4. A suspended player (or representative) must be present at the next scheduled SORR meeting to review his/her case. Failure to attend this meeting will result in a forfeiture of one's right to appeal the expulsion.
 5. A majority vote of active/ present League Directors is necessary to overturn a suspension/ expulsion.
 6. A minimum of 5 SORR League Directors must be present at a review meeting.
- F. Remember that leagues are available to help you enjoy your leisure time. Your "fun" should not be at the expense of others. Check your language that might be offensive to others. Keep your socializing before and after games to a moderate level of noise and alcohol consumption.

Teams are also responsible for the conduct of their families, friends, and other fans. Excessive abuse by a team's spectators, determined by the umpire and/or Field Supervisor, can be viewed as a violation of sportsmanship. Umpires and Field Supervisors have the authority to ask that a team attempt to control these non-playing individuals and will call a forfeit when necessary.

34. **BLOOD RULE**

A player who is bleeding or has an open wound shall be prohibited from participation until the bleeding is stopped and the wound covered. If treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. If excessive time is involved, the re-entry rule would apply.

If there is any blood on the uniform, it must be changed or disinfected with an acceptable disinfectant before the individual may resume playing. Acceptable disinfectants are: 1) A solution of ¼ cup of sodium hypochlorite and one gallon of water, 2) A solution of ¼ cup of 70% isopropyl alcohol and one gallon of water, and 3) A commercially produced infectious disease spray. **All teams are encouraged to have a First Aid Kit with them during each game.**

35. **LEAGUE DIRECTOR**

If you have any questions regarding the league, contact the League Director: Lyndell Frey at (952) 953-2316 or lfrey@cityofapplevalley.org weekdays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please note that the Recreation Department reserves the right to make rule changes where needed for the betterment of the League. If so, Team Managers will be informed of rule changes or clarifications in writing. Based on final standings teams may be required to move up or down in their current division, as a general rule of thumb (but each case will be closely looked at by the League Director) the top team in each division will move up and the bottom team in each division will move down. Sometimes based on the number of teams in a current division and final team standings, several teams may be required to move up or down a division. I will look at what is best for the overall league and in each division a few changes may need to be made to have teams playing other teams of "like" ability.