



RULES & MANAGER HANDBOOK ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

www.applevalleymn.gov/softball

Weather Line: (952)953-2399, option #1

Johnny Cake Ridge Park East, [5800 140th St W](#)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to the Apple Valley Adult Softball Leagues! We look forward to an excellent season. Attached you will find league rules and other pertinent league information.

Our hope is that you enjoy your experience participating in our leagues. If you have a comment, question, or concern, please feel free to contact the league director at any time. Feedback is always welcomed.

Apple Valley Parks and Recreation reserves the right to add or change rules at any time for the betterment of all, and make rule exceptions when special circumstances exist. Any new or clarified rule from the previous year or that happens mid-season will be **highlighted in grey**.

USSSA rules shall govern in all instances where specific league rules are not listed in the following:

INTER-LEAGUE MOVEMENT

If you have any questions regarding which division you should register for, please call before you register your team. When the numbers of teams call for it, a league may be split into a silver (upper) and bronze (lower) division prior to the season starting or mid-season based on round robin results, at the league director’s discretion.

As a general rule, where applicable, teams that win or lose 70%+ of their games the previous season may be required to move up or down a division. The League Director can make exceptions at their discretion including moving multiple teams up/down or leaving teams in the same league, with the goal being what is best for the overall league and each division. While input from teams is encouraged and taken into consideration, refunds will not be issued to teams who disagree with the division in which they are ultimately placed.

MANAGER'S DUTIES

1. **Pre-season manager meeting:** A representative from the team should watch the online manager's meeting on the City of Apple Valley's adult softball webpage www.applevalleymn.gov/softball.
2. **Be knowledgeable:** Read all league procedures and rules and inform members of your team.
3. **Pre-game meeting:** Meet the umpire before the game to ask question and relay any messages to your team. The person representing your team at the pre-game meeting will be the "designated manager" for the game.
4. **Handling disputes:** The "designated manager" must handle any disputes and should be the only person discussing calls with the official. Don't let one of your players face ejection by arguing a call.
5. **Communicate with team:** Relay schedule information, changes, or other league information sent via email and posted at www.applevalleymn.gov/softball to your players.
6. **First aid kit:** Each team should equip themselves with a first aid kit.

GAME SITE INFORMATION & REGULATIONS

All softball leagues will be played at Johnny Cake Ridge Park East, [5800 140th St. W](#)

1. **Alcoholic beverages** are not permitted on the field or dugout. Hard liquor and kegs are not allowed. Impaired players who becomes a safety risk to themselves or others will be asked to leave the game and/or park by the umpire or staff.
2. **No glass** bottles of any kind are allowed.
3. **Smoking** is not allowed on the field or dugouts.

ROSTERS & ELIGIBILITY

Roster forms are available at www.applevalleymn.gov/softball and the Johnny Cake Ridge Park office.

1. **Minimum age:** All participants must be at least 18 years old prior to participating.
2. **Players may play on multiple teams** in Apple Valley leagues but may only be rostered on one team per division. Schedules will not be accommodated for players playing in multiple divisions.
3. **Rosters:**
 - a. **Submitting your roster:** Rosters must be submitted on-site prior to the start of your first game. All players must fill out all information and sign the roster prior to playing in their first game.
 - b. **Adding players to roster** is allowed at any point up to the ending of a team's last regular season game. Ask league staff for your original roster to make changes or additions, or you can fill out an additional roster that can be stapled to your original as a roster addition.
 - c. **Rosters are frozen for playoffs** following the last regular season game. No players may be added after that point. All rostered players are eligible to participate in the post-season tournaments, regardless of the number of regular season games they played (if any).
4. **Free agents players'** rostering procedures are listed below.
5. **Games with illegal players** can be ruled as forfeits.
6. **MRPA & USSSA Spring/Summer tournament roster deadline:** 2nd Friday in June. All rosters will be locked at that point for post-season USSSA tournament play only.

DRAFT/FREE AGENT LIST

The Parks and Recreation Department keeps a list of individual players who would like to be placed on a team and/or be substitutes. Email AVathletics@applevalleymn.gov to request a copy of the list.

Players interested in becoming a free agent can fill out the form at www.applevalleymn.gov/freeagent.

Players from the Draft/Free Agent List can sub for multiple teams in a league, but if they play in a fifth game for a team, they must be removed from the draft list for that particular evening's leagues and be placed on that particular team's roster. Free agents are not eligible for the play-offs, so invite them on to your team! Once on a roster, players may not act as a free agent for that league's night of play.

SAFETY & INSURANCE

1. **Inherent risk of the game:** In addition to the possibility for bodily harm through playing, everyone present must be aware of the hazards associated with the sport both in and around the play area.
2. **Insurance:** The City of Apple Valley does not provide insurance for the participants of our adult athletics 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, but not required, through USSSA.
3. **Blood rule:** A player who is bleeding or has an open wound is 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. All teams are encouraged to have a first aid kit with disinfectant with them during each game.
4. **Spectators and children** are not allowed on the area of play during the game and may result in stoppage of play up to forfeiture of game. If you must bring children to your game, they must be supervised by a non-playing adult (1 adult per 2 children) at all times.

INCLEMENT WEATHER & THE WEATHER LINE

Weather conditions can change dramatically in a short period of time. If there is a safety concern, a team is never required to play a game, even if the weather line or staff have not cancelled a game. The determination on make-ups, forfeits, etc. can be made at a future time.

1. **Weather line:** Weather lines are the official way games are canceled and are updated immediately when a decision is made. If there is no mention of the games on the recorded message, you should assume games are on and will be cancelled at the field by the officials or league staff, if necessary.
 - a. Silver & Bronze Apple Valley Leagues: Call 952-953-2399, option #1 after 5:00 p.m.
 - b. Wednesday Competitive Apple Valley & Eagan League:
 - i. On nights when games are in Apple Valley, call Apple Valley's weather line 952-953-2399, option #1
 - ii. On nights when games are in Eagan, call Eagan's weather line: 651-675-5566, option #1
2. **Play stoppage due to weather:** If conditions become unplayable at game time or after games have started, umpires should delay games for 20 minutes. The umpire should discuss a time and meeting place, and after the 20 minute delay has passed, umpires/managers should make a decision on the status of games for the rest of the evening based on conditions at that time. If games are resumed, they may be shortened if necessary.
3. **Games cancelled once they have started:** If a game is "official" (see "THE GAME" section for details) the results at the point when the game was called will stand. If the game is not official when it is stopped, it will be resumed at a later date from the point it was suspended.
4. **Rescheduling weather-canceled games:**
 - a. There is typically one to two days available for weather cancellations per season. If games are cancelled due to weather and there is an available make-up date, games will be rescheduled at the end of the season. Managers should check the schedule online five business days after the cancellation to view the rescheduled dates and times.
 - b. Depending on the number of cancellations, games maybe affected any or the following ways:
 - i. Playoffs may have to be on a different night from regular season play
 - ii. Teams may be required to play more than the standard number of games in a night
 - iii. Game time limits may be shortened
 - iv. The playoff extra inning tie breaker method may be used for an entire game to speed up play and/or accommodate a shorter game time limit. See "Standings, League Awards & Post-Season Play" below for details
 - c. If there is not a make-up date available and a game is unable to be rescheduled, teams will receive a prorated refund.

LOST & FOUND

The City of Apple Valley will not be responsible lost or stolen items. Any items found should be turned in to the softball office. Individuals who have lost an item should inquire at the softball office during regular league play. Claimants will be asked to describe the lost item in detail. All items that are not claimed within ten days after the league ends will either be used for Parks and Recreation programs or donated.

GAME TIMES, LATE ARRIVALS, & FORFEITS

1. **Game start times** on weekdays typically range from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. and Sundays are typically 5:30, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 pm. Occasional earlier or later games may have to be played on rare occasion. In doubleheader leagues, every effort is made to schedule games back-to-back. Leagues with an odd number of teams may have teams with a one-hour break, byes, or a combination of both.
2. **Player limit to play:** A team must have at least eight rostered players to start a game. Teams that have at least eight players at the scheduled game time must begin to play at the scheduled game time. Teams cannot use the grace period for their 9th and/or 10th players to arrive.
 - a. Co-Rec: Must have equal or up to two more women than men.
3. **Grace period:** A ten-minute grace period is allowed only for 6:15pm games Monday through Friday for teams to get the minimum number of players to start. Those ten minutes come off the game time.
4. **Starting short on players:** If a team is still short players when the game is scheduled to begin, they will be declared the visiting team and play will start. If they 1) run out of available batters to field a full 8-person team or 2) need to take the field and are still short players at that point, the game will be declared a forfeit.
5. **Forfeits** are never a positive situation but are even worse when a team fails to show up for a game without notice. Out of respect for the teams, please notify the League Director by noon. A forfeit will be recorded as a 7-0 score, or the score at the time of the forfeit if the run differential is more than seven runs. Any team with three or more games forfeited may be dropped from the league.

OFFICIATING

One umpire is contracted per game. They are authorized and required to enforce all the rules that govern league play. They have the authority and should use it with discretion to direct managers, coaches, players and fans to do, or not do, any act within their judgment to manage the game and enforce the rules of play.

No-show or late umpire: If more than five minutes have elapsed from the scheduled game time and an umpire isn't on the field, the teams should jointly agree to either:

1. Play the game with a substitute umpire agreed upon by both teams. This person will be paid if they work a complete game. If you choose to play the game with the stand in umpire:
 - a. 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.
 - b. The game is official regardless of how the stand-in umpire performs; no rule protests allowed.
 - c. The winning team should report the score of the game to another umpire at the complex or to the league director via phone or email before 10 a.m. the next day.
2. If one or both teams don't want to use a substitute umpire, the game can be suspended, and the league will attempt to reschedule. Depending on field availability, the rescheduled games might not be on the same night of league play or may have to be before or after regularly scheduled games. If a game is unable to be rescheduled, teams will be issued a prorated refund. If teams opt to have the game attempted to be rescheduled, they should leave the field and may not play a "for fun" game.

PROTESTS

A protested game can result when there is a difference of opinion on the field between the protesting team and the umpire regarding the application or interpretation of an official rule. The USSSA has a specific rule protest policy. If you want to protest a rule interpretation by an umpire, be sure to follow the process properly or it is null and void (even if you were right).

Player eligibility may also be protested – again, we recommend closely reading the USSSA rulebook:

1. Teams wishing to protest a player's eligibility must notify the umpire before the end of the game.
2. The umpire will then notify the other manager of the protest.
3. The protesting team must prove their own eligibility first.
4. 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.

In either situation (Rule Protest or Eligibility Protest) the protesting team must submit a **\$60.00** protest fee and a written description of the protest to the League Director within 24 hours of the game (protests during playoffs must be handled on the field before play can resume...cash deposit applies). The League Director will then rule on the protest. If the protest is upheld, the offending team will forfeit the game in question and the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is denied, the game will stand as played and the protesting team will forfeit their protest fee.

APPLE VALLEY LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to provide a friendly and orderly league, managers, coaches, players and fans should treat their opponents, umpires and other fans appropriately. If individuals fail to display good sportsmanship before, during or after a game, their actions can be viewed as a violation of our sportsmanship code of conduct.

An umpire, the league director, or another agent of Apple Valley softball program has the authority to utilize any of the tools in any combination to maintain control and integrity of the game including but not limited to a warning, an offensive out for any undesirable behavior including causal profanity, asking a manager to voluntarily remove a player for a period of time to avoid ejection, ejecting an individual, and/or terminating the game.

If a player is ejected, the SORR sportsmanship policy will be used. The League Director can increase or decrease the length of a suspension based on the severity of the offense and previous behavior by the player and/or team.

SORR SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

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. Unsportsmanlike behavior will be handled as follows:

1. Any player, coach, manager or spectator ejected from a game for an unsportsmanlike act:
 - a. Suspension will result for profanity, tantrum behavior, verbal abuse, etc., for that game plus at least the next two games.
 - i. A suspended person may not be present at any site where league games are in progress. Violation will result in an extended period of suspension.
 - b. The suspended player's name will be placed on one-year probation in the SORR communities.
2. Any person who is ejected during their one-year probationary period from their previous ejection will be prohibited from participating in any SORR community for at least one calendar year.
3. An individual retains the right of a hearing when the action to be taken is expulsion from a league:
 - a. The player who is protesting their expulsion from a league must write an appeal email to their League Director within one week of notification of their expulsion. The email should include a written explanation of the situation that resulted in his/her ejection. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of ones right to appeal.
 - b. A suspended player or representative must be present at the next scheduled SORR meeting to review his/her case. Failure to attend will result in a forfeiture of one's right to appeal. Invited to attend the hearing will be: the player, his/her manager, the SORR League Directors and the Umpire Assigner for the community.
 - c. A majority vote of a minimum of five SORR League Directors is necessary to overturn a suspension/expulsion.

CASUAL PROFANITY

Casual profanity pertains to unsportsmanlike language, usually uttered by a player out of frustration. This type of behavior, at the umpire's discretion, may be penalized by issuing outs against the offending team.

1. If the team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter will be declared out.
2. If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat, he/she will be called out.
3. If the defensive team commits the act, the first person to bat in the next inning will be declared out.
4. The outs will be treated as a delayed ball situation.
5. If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning where the fielding team might not bat again, player ejection may result.
6. A game can be ended by a casual profanity out.

OUTS FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

An umpire, the league director, or another agent of Apple Valley softball program has the authority to utilize any of the tools in any combination to maintain control and integrity of the game. This may include utilizing the "Casual Profanity" process above for any unsportsmanlike conduct, at their discretion. This allows an official to provide a lesser penalty for the grey area between accepted conduct and those situations where an offender must be ejected.

STANDINGS & AWARDS

Standings are kept at www.applevalleymn.gov/softball.

1. **Final regular season league standings** determine playoff seeds and are based on win percentage. Tie breakers, in order used: win percentage, fewest forfeits during the regular season, head-to-head record, run differential in games between tied teams, run differential between tied teams, total run differential between tied teams, a coin flip.
2. **League awards per division:** Regular season determines seeds for the playoffs.
 - a. Silver and Bronze Divisions
 - i. Regular season division champ: t-shirts for up to 16 rostered and active players
 - ii. Playoff champion for each bracket: \$60 team gift card or league credit
 - iii. Playoff 2nd place (upper bracket only, if applicable): \$30 team gift card or league credit
 - b. Competitive Division:
 - i. Regular season champ: t-shirts for up to 16 rostered and active players
 - ii. Playoff champion for top bracket: \$100 team gift card

APPLE VALLEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

1. **Format:** Playoffs will be held for all spring/summer leagues with each team guaranteed two games. Fall leagues do not include playoffs. Larger divisions may be split into an upper and lower bracket at the league director's discretion. Teams may have to play up to four games in an evening.
2. **Timing:** Playoffs will begin the week following the last regular season game and will last one to two weeks.
3. **Players must be on a team's roster** by the last night of league play to be eligible for playoffs.
4. **Home/Away:** The higher regular season seed will be the home team in each match-up.
5. **Ties:** If a game is tied at the end of the 7th inning or after the 55-minute time limit, ties will be broken by playing extra innings with progressive international tiebreaker rules.
 - a. **1st extra inning:** At the start of the first extra inning, a runner will be placed on second base with the intent of accelerating opportunities to score and bringing the game to a speedier conclusion. The runner is the last batter to make an out in the previous inning. At least one full inning is played, allowing each team the same chance to score.
 - b. **2nd (and subsequent) extra innings:** If the score remains tied after the first extra inning, teams will start the remaining innings with runners placed on second and third at the start of the second (and subsequent) extra inning(s). The runners are the last batter to make an out plus the person batting immediately before that batter.
6. **Run rules** will be automatic and the trailing team will not have the option of continuing play. The flip-flop rule will not be utilized. 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 game will end.
7. **Protests** during the playoffs must be handled on the field before play can resume. Cash deposits apply.
8. **Balls** will be provided by the league for playoffs.
9. **All league rules apply** unless otherwise noted. Time limits apply and run rules are in effect.
10. **If playoffs need to be condensed due to weather-related cancellations**, any or all of the following may be implemented:
 - a. Games might begin earlier than the standard times, as early as 6 p.m. during weekdays and 3 p.m. on weekends and may end later than standard times, as late as 11 p.m.
 - b. Game time limits may be shortened down to 40 minutes
 - c. Playoffs may have to be on a different night from regular play
 - d. The playoff extra inning tie breaker method may be used for an entire game to speed up play and accommodate a shorter game time limit. See "Ties" above for details.

SACTIONING & REGIONAL/STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

All teams in Apple Valley's leagues are sanctioned through USSSA and eligible for sanctioned regional, state, and some national tournaments. Teams interested in playing their respective region/state tournament can find details and registration information online www.mnussa.com.

APPLE VALLEY ADULT SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

THE PLAYING FIELD

1. **Pitching distance:** 50 feet along with a pitching area the width of the pitcher's plate up to 6' behind the back edge of the pitcher's place.
2. **Base length:** 70 feet.
3. **Batter's boxes are not provided.** It is the judgement of the umpire as to where the box begins and ends.
4. **Co-rec play area:**
 - a. An arc line is painted 160' from home plate for co-rec leagues. All outfielders must remain behind the 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.
 - b. No infielder (except the pitcher) shall be in front of the base paths until the ball is hit. Penalty: fielder's interference. A delayed dead ball will be called by the umpire. If batter reaches base safely, the play will stand. If an out is made the batter will be placed at first base safely.
5. **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, scorekeepers, pets, children and fans are not permitted on the field or dugout at any time.

EQUIPMENT

1. **Official bat:** All bats used in Apple Valley league play must have one of the two USSSA thumbprints pictured at right. For more information on bats, please refer to the USSSA Rule Book. Approved bats can be found at: www.ussa.com.
2. **Hot or alter bags:** If in the judgement of an umpire, a bat seems "hot", has flat spots, pronounced dents, or seems altered, the one of following will occur:
 - a. The bat will be removed from that game and turned over to the umpire until it can be tested or
 - b. The player keeps his/her bat and accepts an immediate suspension from the league of up to one year.
3. **Official softballs** will be Yellow 12" .40 cor and 325 compression for men and Yellow 11" .44 cor and 400 compression for women.
 - a. Teams will receive the appropriate number of softballs required for regular season league before games once a completed roster is handed in. The home team must supply one new ball at the umpire/manager meeting before each game or be subject to a 3-run penalty.
 - b. Back-up balls should be available from each team. Please retrieve all balls hit out of play as soon as possible and return them to the umpire.
4. **Shoes** must be worn at all times. Metal spikes will not be allowed in any leagues.
5. **Bat rings** or "donuts" are not allowed.
6. **Scorebooks:** Teams will be given a scorebook the first evening of games. Names and jersey numbers should be used in scorebooks with the home team being the official scorekeeper. Visiting teams are also encouraged to keep score. Accurate scorebooks are 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. Designated managers should discuss any score discrepancies.
7. **Uniforms:** Teams are requested, but not required, to have matching-colored shirts.
8. **Valuables:** The City of Apple Valley will not be responsible for lost or stolen items. Lock all valuables in the trunk of your car do not leave anything of value in plain sight in your vehicle.
9. **Electronic equipment** including a camera, audio or video device may not be worn or used by an umpire, player, or coach on the field of play.
10. **First aid:** Each team should supply a first aid kit for their team.
11. **Music:** Teams may play music at a reasonable volume level, determined by the game official, as long as none of the songs have any profanity.



THE GAME

1. **Designated manager** is the person meeting with the umpire at the umpire/manager pregame meeting. Any discussions with the official should only involve the designated manager.
2. **Official game** shall consist of seven innings or 55 minutes, unless otherwise noted below:
 - a. **The home team is leading** after the visiting team has batted in the seventh inning.
 - b. **Time limit:** No new inning shall begin after 55 minutes, starting at the conclusion of the pre-game meeting (not the scheduled game time).
 - c. **Official game:** A game is official after four innings are completed or 3 ½ if the home team is in the lead. If the minimum innings have not been played, the game may continue past the time limit in order to make an official game.
 - d. **Shortened games:** Game time limits may be shortened to get games in due to weather delays or to accommodate additional make-up games if a season gets an unusual number of rainouts.
 - e. **Ties:** Games can end in a tie. Extra innings will only be played to break the tie if there is time remaining.
 - f. **Run rule:** 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. The flip-flop rule will not be utilized. If they continue to play, at exactly 55 minutes the game is over regardless of the game situation at that time.
3. **Home runs:**
 - a. **Limits:** Home run limits vary based on the league. Any other ball hit over the fence between the foul lines, except when touched by a fielder, after the limit is reached, shall be declared an out.
 - i. Silver & Bronze league limit: 2 home runs per game with 1-up rule in effect
 - ii. Wednesday Competitive league limit: 3 home runs per game with 1-up rule in effect
 - b. **One-up rule:** All leagues will use the one-up rule. In short, once teams are at the home run limit, they can't have more than one homerun than their opponent, with the exception of the bottom of the last inning. In the last inning, the home team can equal the number of home runs from the visiting team but may not go "one-up".
 - c. **Hit-n-sit:** Immediately following a home run, the batter and any runners on base can simply return to the dugout; they do not need to run the bases.

THE PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTES

1. **Minimum number of players:** A team must have at least eight players to start and continue a game. Players may immediately enter the game as they arrive and be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Co-rec teams must have at least four women to start or continue play. See "Batting line-ups" for co-rec line-up options.
2. **Player leaving game without a substitute:** Teams that start with nine or more players may drop down (injuries, ejections, players needing to leave early, etc.) to a minimum of eight players. See "BATTING" for more information. Co-Rec will default to a snake batting line-up if the dropped player is a woman.
3. **Courtesy runners** may be used – details are in BASE RUNNING.
4. **Defensive positions:** All players listed on the batting order are eligible to play any position in the field at the frequency determined by the team.
5. **Co-rec fielding:**
 - a. Teams should have five men and five women on the field. If teams only have four women, they may take the field with five men and four women (cannot have six men and four women).
 - b. There are no male/female restrictions for defensive positions in co-rec leagues. However, once an inning starts, players must remain at the defensive position in which they began the inning except for pitching changes and substitutions. Pitching changes and substitutions must be same sex.
 - c. The shortstop, 1st, 2nd & 3rd base positions must play behind the baseline until the ball is hit. In the outfield, a white painted fielding arc of 160' 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.

PITCHING

Pitching area is the width of the pitcher's plate up to 6' behind the back edge of the pitcher's place. USSSA removed the floating rubber or box in 2023. **BASER softball communities have decided to reject that rule change and continue to allow the floating pitching area.** Refer to the USSSA Official Slow Pitch Playing rules for legal pitching options.

BATTING

- Batting line-ups** will default to “everyone” unless a team specifically requests a set batting line-up length, which the manager would have to do at the manager/umpire pregame meeting.
 - “Everyone” or continuous batting line-up** option will allow every official player at the game to bat. If a player has to leave the lineup for an emergency or injury, the line-up will collapse and no out occurs.
 - Specified number line-up length** may be 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12. Rules for teams opting for this option would default to USSSA rulebook with the most notable differences being strict substitution rules and that any drop in the original batting line-up length will result in an appealed out when that player’s spot in the batting line-up comes up, unless a substitute is available to fill the vacated spot. **Substitutions must be announced to the umpire and opposing team’s manager.**
 - The line-up for Co-rec play** is designed to consist of five men and five women or six men and six women alternating man, woman every other spot in the batting line-up. However, for recreational purposes, the City of Apple Valley softball leagues also allows the following:
 - A team may have up to two more women than men in the batting line-up.
 - Teams must have at least four women to play.
 - Teams can use a floating men’s line-up within a women’s line-up (snake line-up). I.E. If a team has 5 men and four women, the team will bat “everyone” using 9 batting positions. The batting line-up would alternate man/women with the men always batting one spot after the same man and the women batting one spot after the same woman.
- Ejections:** If a player is ejected, that spot in the batting order is an automatic out unless they have a substitute available to fill the vacated spot. This applies to both batting line-up options.
- Batting count (balls/strikes):** A three-ball, two-strike count will be used in all leagues.
- Courtesy fouls:** Men’s Leagues-No courtesy fouls allowed. Co-rec leagues-courtesy fouls are allowed.
- Batter’s box:** The USSSA batter’s box rule as written in 2020 is being rejected as inappropriate for recreation leagues. We will be playing as we have in the past. Summarized and simplified, if a batter steps on the plate, in front of the plate, or too far toward the pitcher, they will be called out.

BASE RUNNING

- Double-wide 1st base** will be used for league play.
 - 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/she reach and go beyond first base, they must return to the white base.
 - 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.
 - When tagging up on a fly ball, the white base must be used.
 - A batted ball hitting the white base is declared fair while the orange base is declared foul.
- Courtesy runners:** Teams have two options for courtesy runners:
 - The default courtesy runner rule is that teams are allowed unlimited courtesy runners are permitted for two players during the game. The last out for that team must be the courtesy runner for that player. In mixed leagues, Co-Rec: two men and two women are allowed courtesy runners. The last out for the male player/players and the last out for female player/players must be the courtesy runner for that player. OR...
 - Teams can opt to allow unlimited courtesy runners for the entire game if both teams agree pre-game. This discussion would need to happen at the pre-game managers meeting, be agreed to by both team managers, and be confirmed by the umpire. If one manager does not want to agree to unlimited courtesy runners, the courtesy runner rule would default to the process above.
- Men walked in co-rec:** In co-rec leagues, if a man is walked, the next batter has the option to bat or walk. The man is awarded second base whether the woman chooses to walk or bat.
- Home run hit-n-sit:** After a player hits a home run over the fence, they can choose to hit-n-sit instead of running the bases. Any player(s) on base when a home run is hit over the fence have the same option.
- Sliding** is allowed in all leagues but is never required under any circumstance. All players must avoid contact while running the bases and defensive players may not block baselines. 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.
- Foul balls** are only live on the first strike or foul ball. If it is the second foul ball in an at bat, the ball is dead and base runners may not advance. Note, this is how the game has been played in the past, but USSSA input a rule in 2020 that MN USSSA has rejected.