

ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

BLAINE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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www.blaineparks.com

The City of Blaine Softball Leagues will be governed by Official USSSA, with the following additions and/or exceptions.

1. **PLAYERS:**

- a. All players must be rostered and have a waiver form submitted to the Park and Recreation Office. Players must be age 16 or older as of September 1 of the current year.
- b. All players who are wearing a hat or visor, must wear it with the bill of the cap or visor facing forward. Wearing your hat backwards will not be tolerated. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a warning and possibly an out or ejection.

2. **TIME LIMIT:**

No new inning will start 55 minutes after a game has begun. **If the game is tied at the end of 7 innings or at the time limit we will play one extra inning. The last out of the last inning will start on second base with 1 out (International Rule). If the score still remains tied after both teams have hit, then the game will end in a tie.**

For teams playing the same team back-to-back: Both games will have a 55 minute time limit. If the first game is completed before the time limit, teams may begin playing the second game before or at their next scheduled game time. Teams and the umpire must be in agreement on starting the game before or at the scheduled time of the second game.

3. **FORFEIT POLICY:**

- a. All leagues must start a game with at least eight (8) eligible players. Teams may finish with eight players. Teams may add to the line-up if in accordance with the Additional Hitter Rule (See Rule #4).
- b. For all leagues, the first game on a field will be forfeited ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time, if a team does not have the minimum number of players. All games thereafter, game time is forfeit time. If the preceding game runs over, teams in the following game are still expected to arrive at their scheduled starting time.

4. **ELIGIBILITY/CONDUCT/FORFEIT FEE:**

a. **Eligibility:**

If a team or any player thereof is found to be in violation of the eligibility requirements, that team will be assessed a \$50 eligibility fee. The fee must be paid by the team's next scheduled game.

b. **Conduct:**

Any team or player that damages park property will be liable for the cost to repair the damage prior to their next game.

c. Forfeit Fee Policy:

A \$25 fee will be charged to teams that forfeit a scheduled game. **This fee must be paid to the team you forfeited against prior to the team's next game.** Double-header leagues will be required to submit \$25 or \$50 prior to their next scheduled double-header depending on if they forfeited one or both games. Three forfeits constitute removal from the league.

UNLIMITED BATTING RULE:

All leagues are allowed to use the following unlimited batting rules:

- a. Unlimited batting rule allows teams to bat more than 10 or all [round robin] players. When the unlimited batting rule is used in Co-Rec play, **teams may bat everyone even if there is an odd number of men and women. The team doing this must make sure that it alternates every other batter.** 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 the USSSA substitution rules.
- b. If a player is unable to take his/her turn at bat, the team can just skip over that player in the order with no penalties. In Co-Rec Leagues, if a male is unable to bat, the female next in order must be skipped over as well and, vice versa with a female unable to bat. Players unable to bat are considered injured or to have left the park and will not be permitted to re-enter the game.
- c. 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.
- d. If unlimited batting is used, they all must bat and any 10 can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed, but the batting order must remain the same (Co-Rec teams see Special Co-Rec 11"/12" League Rules for defensive positioning). Players must be in the batting order to play a defensive position.
- e. Players may be substituted for at any time, either by a pinch runner or pinch-hitter. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting player who is substituted for can re-enter the game once.

COURTESY RUNNERS:

New for 2016 – Only one courtesy Runner per inning may be used. The courtesy Runner will be the last recorded out. If it is the first inning of the game, no courtesy runner may be used until an out is recorded. If the courtesy runner is still on base when his/her turn to bat comes up, the original baserunner can take the place on base with no penalty. For Co – Rec games, only the last male out can run for a male and only the last female out can run for a female.

6. NO DIG RULE:

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 batters 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.

7. **RUN RULE:**

The following run rules will be used to end a game prematurely.

20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings.

9. **FLIP/FLOP RULE:**

Flip/Flop Rule: If beginning an inning in which the Home Team is losing by a margin that constitutes a Run Rule for that inning, then the Home Team will “flip/flop” and become the Visiting Team, and the original Visiting Team will become the Home Team. If the new Visiting Team does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the run rule, then 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 they do not, then the game will continue under that format. If the situation reverses, the teams would flip/flop again. Example: The Visiting Team is ahead 21-10 after 4 complete innings. The Home Team would then flip/flop and become the Visiting Team, clear the bases, and start the 5th inning. If they do not score at least 2 runs, then the game is over. If they score 2 or more runs, then they will remain the Visiting Team until the completion of the game or until the situation is reversed.

10. **BALLS & STRIKES:**

Three [3] balls and two [2] strikes will represent a walk and strike-out, respectively, in all leagues.

11. **NO COURTESY FOUL:**

There is no courtesy foul in USSSA!

12. **HOME RUN RULE:**

All Men’s and Co-Rec Leagues will abide by the following home-run rules.

**MEN’S D
CO-REC
WOMEN’S**

**3 home-runs per game.
3 home-runs per game.
Unlimited**

A homerun is an untouched fair ball hit over the fence. A fly ball that is touched by a defensive player and goes over the fence in fair territory is a 4-base hit, but does not count as a homerun. Homeruns hit after a team’s limit are outs.

13. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

Call the Blaine Parks and Recreation Department Office no earlier than 4:00 p.m. at **763-717-2709**. If games are not canceled from the office, teams must show up at the field and the umpire will make a decision to play. If the first game is canceled then all games afterwards are canceled.

14. **POSTPONED GAMES:**

Games postponed due to weather will be rescheduled only by the Parks and Recreation Department. Make-up games will be scheduled after the regular season and/or, if necessary, Fridays, weekends and/or after the play-offs.

15. **NO UMPIRE:**

If an umpire does not show up, teams should find a volunteer. Let our office know who it is, their address and phone number, so we can pay them. If both managers agree to an umpire replacement, the game will count as an official game. If no replacement is found, the game will be rescheduled.

16. **HOME TEAM:**

- a. Home team is listed second for the regular season schedule.
- b. Coin flip before the game will determine home team during the playoff schedule.

17. **TIE-BREAKER POLICY:**

The following procedure will be used to determine league championships:

- a. Total points – 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- b. The team with the most wins.
- c. Head to head games.
- d. If the tie is not broken by the first three procedures, co-champions will be declared.

18. **WARM-UP FIELDS:**

Teams are permitted to warm up on the field which is scheduled for their upcoming game. However, batting practice should not be taken on the infield or in an area that endangers or inhibits other groups using the park facilities. Umpires are instructed to start the games on schedule. Teams are not to warm up on the field when games are running behind. Managers do not have the right to waive this rule.

19. **FIELD REGULATIONS:**

Smoking is not permitted on the playing field or in the bench area. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in all City of Blaine parks (see #20). Umpires are empowered to remove players from the game if they are consuming alcoholic beverages in, near, or adjacent to designated team areas.

20. **PARK REGULATIONS:**

City of Blaine Code of Ordinances, Section 14.8. 3.2 Beer and Intoxicating Liquor Prohibited. No person shall drink, consume or have in their possession any 3.2 beer or non-intoxicating malt liquor or any intoxicating liquor in any City Park.

City of Blaine Code of Ordinances, Section 19-21. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive, park or operate a motor vehicle upon any city property which has not been expressly designated for motor vehicle traffic or permitted by Ordinance.

21. **PROTESTS:**

Refer to Rule #4, Sections 11 of the USSSA Rule Book.

- a. Protests on player eligibility must be in our office, in writing, within 24 hours of the game. The team filing the Protest must prove the eligibility of its' entire roster before the Protest will be considered.

22. **DROP/ADD PLAYERS:**

Players may be dropped or added to team rosters until **June 6th**. A player dropped from one team roster and added to another Team roster must be approved by the league director and manager of the team dropping the player. Players added must sign the team roster in the Park and Recreation Department Office before they are eligible to play. Roster limit is 20 players.

23. **RECLASSIFICATION:**

Teams that participate in a MRPA/USSSA State Tournament and win two-thirds of their games (.666 winning percentage) may be moved up a classification the following year.

24. **LEAGUE, LEAGUE PLAY-OFF AND POST SEASON TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY:**

- a. A player may not participate on more than one Blaine team that is registered in the same division of play. The divisions of play are defined as Slow-Pitch, Fast-Pitch, Church, Co-Rec, Master's Slow Pitch, Master's Fast Pitch, Industrial and Modified Pitch.
- b. If a player participates on more than one team from more than one community in the same division of play, he/she must declare in writing which team they will play for in the event both teams qualify for Regional or State Tournaments. If written declaration is not received prior to June 10 the participant must play in the Community they reside. Play-off Intention Forms are available at the Park and Recreation Office.
- c. A team or player may not participate in more than one MRPA post-season sports tournament in the same division of play. Any team found to have an ineligible player(s) shall be immediately disqualified from MRPA post season tournament play.

25. **REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENT BERTHS:**

All teams that are interested in post-season can request a region or state tournament berth. Just complete the enclosed State Tournament Request Form and return it with \$170.00 to the Blaine Parks and Recreation Office by **JUNE 24** to be eligible. Teams must plan on participating.

All Blaine leagues, except Co-Rec (single game leagues) will award the winner of the league or division a paid region or state berth provided they have submitted a State Tournament Request Form and the **\$170.00** fee.

If unsure of your team's classification, please call 763-785-6161. Refer to the Minnesota/USSSA website for dates and locations of local and State Tournaments. www.mnrpa.org/usssa-softball

MRPA-USSSA STATE TOURNAMENT REQUEST FORM

Blaine Park and Recreation Department

TEAM NAME: _____

TEAM MANAGER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ CELL : _____

LEAGUE: (check one)

- Men's (Competitive Tournament) Men's (Recreational Tournament)
 Women's D (Competitive Tournament) Women's D (Recreational Tournament)
 Men's Church Co-Rec (Competitive)
 Co-Rec (Recreational)

SEASON: (circle one) Summer Fall

CLASSIFICATION: (circle one) B C D E Silver (Fall) Bronze (Fall)

NIGHTS OF PLAY: (circle one) Mon Tues Wed Thurs

CONDITIONS:

1. Only teams submitting this form and **\$170.00** will be considered for Region or State Tournaments.
2. If there are more teams submitting Region/State Tournament Request Forms than there are berths available, teams with the best win-loss regular season record will have priority.
3. Any team that submits a Region/State Tournament Request Form and then declines a berth will forfeit their \$160.00 deposit.
4. Teams that submitted their Region/State Tournament Request Form will be refunded their deposit if they were awarded a paid berth for winning their league or division or, no extra berths were available. Co-Rec (single game leagues) and Womens league entry fees do not include a paid berth for the league/division champion and are not eligible for a refund.
5. Completed form must be submitted to the Blaine Park and Recreation Department, 10801 Town Square Drive NE., Blaine MN 55449 by **JUNE 24** for summer softball and **SEPTEMBER 9** for fall softball to be eligible.

I have read and understand the above conditions and agree to these conditions for receiving a MRPA-USSSA Region/State Tournament berth.

Manager's Signature

Date

Method of Payment (completed form can be faxed in with credit card information at **763-785-6191**):

CASH CHECK CREDIT CARD (Visa, MasterCard or Discover)

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name On Card: _____ Signature: _____

SPECIAL CO-REC 11"/12" LEAGUE RULES

The following apply to the Co-Rec 11"/12" League as established by Blaine and/or USSSA Rules and Regulations.

1. **Softballs:**

The 11-inch softball will be used when a female is batting and a 12" softball will be used when a male is batting. When the wrong ball is pitched either team may appeal. If allowed the batter returns to bat with the same ball and strike count he/she had at the time of the pitch. Any base runners must return to the base occupied at time of pitch.

2. **Batting Order:**

Men and Women must alternate in the batting order. **Teams that have an uneven number of players may bat everyone just as long as they alternate guy/girl or girl/guy.**

3. **Pitching Distance:**

The pitching distance will be 50 feet for both men and women pitchers.

4. **Switching of Positions:**

No switching of positions during an inning, except pitchers, injured players or those changes made with the consent of the opposing manager.

5. **Walk Option:**

If a man receives a walk, he will be awarded first and second base. In addition, his manager has the option of having the next woman batter automatically awarded a base on balls. She is not required to take a position in the batter's box but may be sent directly to first base.

6. **Defensive Positions:**

Teams may use all combinations of males or females in the outfield or infield.

SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT

1. **BALLS:**

- a. Blaine Parks and Recreation Department will provide teams with 1 game ball plus one extra for a back up ball. Softballs are distributed at the Manager's Meeting. All 12" softballs are Dudley , synthetic cover .40 COR ball (Optic Yellow).
- b. Home Team must provide one new game ball and the Visiting Team one good used back-up ball. Teams are to check out the new game balls at the Parks and Recreation Department prior to their scheduled Home Games. Teams keep their game balls.
- c. Failure of Home Team to provide a new game ball that is the same brand name and model number, as issued by the Parks and Recreation Department, will result in a two [2] run penalty at the start of the game.

2. **BASES:**

Parks and Recreation Department will supply bases on all game fields.

3. **BATS:**

All bats must have the permanent USSSA Mark on its taper or be a wood bat in order to play in league, tournaments or post season play. For a list of illegal bats visit the USSSA website at www.ussa.com.

4. **PITCHER'S MASK:**

We encourage pitchers to wear protective masks.

5. **FIRST AID KITS:**

It is highly recommended that each team have a well-equipped First Aid Kit at each game.

6. **SCOREBOOKS:**

Teams must have a Scorebook. The Home Team is the designated official scorekeeper for all games.

7. **SHOES:**

Metal spikes are illegal in all Blaine and USSSA softball Leagues. Shoes with soft or hard rubber cleats are acceptable.

8. **UNIFORMS:**

We encourage all players on the team be uniformed alike. As a guideline, matching shirts or jerseys should be the minimum requirements.

9. **AWARDS:**

League Champion:	Individual "Champion" T-shirts [16 maximum].
Play-off Champion:	Gift Card

SPORTSMANSHIP

The Parks and Recreation Department is striving to provide a worthwhile adult athletic program for all participants involved. Although the element of competition plays a major role in athletics, the game should always maintain its recreational and social values. Therefore, it is necessary for each participant to be responsible for the promotion of good sportsmanship and fair play.

The Parks and Recreation Department has instituted and will enforce, the following policies for player conduct.

1. No player, coach or manager shall physically touch or verbally abuse an umpire or league official. The team manager should be the only person to ask for a rule interpretation or clarification of a call.
2. The use of profanity and personal baiting by player (s), coach (es), manager (s), or spectator (s) will not be tolerated and is sufficient grounds for ejection from the premises. Managers will be held responsible for the behavior of their spectators.
3. Any physical altercation by players, managers or coaches is not permitted.
4. Players are held responsible for their actions on park property before, during, and after their game.
5. Any player(s), or manager(s) ejected from a game for any reason will be suspended from participation in at least their next scheduled game. If the ejection occurs in the first game of a double-header the player is suspended for the second game. A second offense will result in an indefinite suspension from all City of Blaine sponsored athletics. A team found to be using a player under suspension will automatically forfeit that game.