

All games will be governed by the current USSSA Official Slowpitch Softball Rules, with the additions outlined in the in-house rules below. For any rules not covered here, refer to the USSSA Slowpitch Softball Rule Book & By-Laws available at <https://ussa.com/slowpitch/slowpitch-rules-and-legal-info>

PLAYER ELEGIBILITY

1. Minimum age for players is 18.
2. Players must be listed on the team roster in order to play in league and/or post season games.
3. Any team registering an ineligible player will be removed from the league prior to the start of the season. If ineligibility is determined after the season begins, the player will be removed from the league and the team will forfeit all games played to that point.
4. Rosters are all managed electronically through teamsideline.com. All players MUST go through the process of enrolling on your team and accept league waivers before they are allowed to play.
5. Players may join leagues which best align with their gender identity.
6. An official roster is required on the day of your first game.
7. No roster changes will be allowed after **June 23** in summer leagues and **September 15** in fall leagues.
8. The maximum number of players that may be on the roster is 20.
9. In the event that a team disbands before the scheduled games are complete, all the remaining games will be credited to their scheduled opponent. No refund will be made.
10. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to place teams in leagues or divisions where there will be equalization of competition and/or allow teams opportunity to play.

MANAGER'S DUTIES

1. Make sure you have a full team and at least one reserve for every game.
2. You, the manager, must handle any dispute. Do not let one of your players face ejection by arguing a call.
3. You are responsible for taking charge of your team's and your spectator's conduct. Abusive language, improper drinking, litter and other irresponsible acts will not be tolerated.
4. Any schedule information, changes or other league information will be sent to you. Make sure we have your current address for the current season and next year. It is your responsibility to pass the information on to your players.
5. Know the rules. Tell your players the rules. This will help the game run smoothly and help your team concentrate on playing.
6. **Dugout Rule:** The Managers/Coaches of a USSSA Registered Slow Pitch Softball Team and the umpires of a USSSA Sanctioned Slow Pitch Softball game/tournament shall not allow anyone other than a Participant, Manager, Coach, Trainer or Sponsor to be in the dugout, bench or the field of play during a sanctioned USSSA Slow Pitch Softball game/tournament. Managers, Coaches, Trainers and Sponsors, unless otherwise approved by the State Director must be at least 18 years of age. 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.

LEAGUE RULES

1. All games are to be played at M Health Fairview Sports Center, fields 10-13.
2. Games are scheduled at 6:15, 7:15, 8:15 & 9:15 for all leagues.
3. **Time Limits:** No new inning will start after 55 minutes of play. Tie games end at the time limit or the end of 7 inn. whichever happens first. A minimum of 3 1/2 inn. or 40-min. is required for a regulation game.
4. **Run Rules**
 - a. Run Rule: If a team is ahead by 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4, or 10 after 5, the game is over.
 - b. Flip Flop Rule: When the run rule has been reached by the visiting team by the end of the inning prior to the run rule going into effect (20 after 3, 15 after 4, 10 after 5), the home team clears the bases at the end of that inning and starts the next inning by continuing to bat as the visiting team. Play continues, as it normally would with run rules in effect. If the situation reverses, the teams would flip-flop again.

5. Home Run Rule

<u>League</u>	<u>Home Runs Allowed</u>
Co-Rec	2 (1 HR per male batter / 1 HR per female batter)
Men's D	3
Men's E	1

Any other ball hit over the fence between the foul lines (except when touched by a fielder) after the home run limit is reached shall be declared an out.

These are Woodbury League Rules only. In Qualifiers, State, National and World tournaments different rules will apply.

6. Batting team must replace or retrieve HR Balls ASAP to keep game on track.
7. Home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. This is important when protests occur, when games are halted by officials, when score disputes arise, or when batting line-ups are questioned.
8. **3/2 Pitch Count: All leagues use 3 balls and 2 strikes pitch count – NO courtesy foul allow.**
9. **Double First Base** - A double first base is used for league play. Any batted ball hitting the white portion is fair and any batted ball hitting the orange portion is foul. On the initial throw to first base the batter-runner must touch the orange portion of the base. The defensive player must touch the white portion of the base. This is in effect only on the initial play at first base and does not include:
 - A. Returning to the base after over running.
 - B. Running on a base hit to the outfield (runner may touch white or orange portion).
 - C. Retag to advance on a fly ball.If the batter-baserunner is called safe for the initial play at first base but missed the orange base, the defensive team can appeal. To appeal, the defensive team must alert the umpire that they are appealing the runner at first and either legally tag the runner before the runner returns to first base or legally hold the ball on first base before the runner returns to first. The defensive team may also appeal after the umpire signals "play ball" but before the first pitch is thrown to the next batter. The pitcher must make a verbal appeal announcing which runner and which base they are appealing.
10. A legal game may be played with 8 players. The 9th & 10th player may be added at any time. When players are added they shall be placed at the end of the lineup. A double forfeit will be declared if neither team has 8 players.

11. **Open-end lineup** - Free substitution will be in effect for all games. Teams may bat no more than 20 rostered players. Batting line-up length may be 8 to 20 or everyone. Any drop in the original batting line-up length may result in an appealed out. There is no automatic forfeiture unless a team drops from eight to seven players. Teams must announce their batting line-up length to the opposing team and umpire at the beginning of the game.
12. **Courtesy Runner:** One courtesy runner per inning (one time) may be used. The courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup. Once the courtesy runner occupies the base, the selected courtesy runner may not be exchanged for any other desired courtesy runner. **If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time her/his turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.** In CoRec leagues, any male player in the lineup may run for any male, and any female player in the lineup may run for any female. Both a male and female player may opt for a courtesy runner in each inning.
13. All runners must get down or out of the way on close plays at any base except for first. If the base runner does not get down or out of the way, he/she will be out and/or called for interference.
14. **Pitching Rule** - Refer to page 36 in the USSSA Rule Book. Woodbury leagues has grandfathered the floating pitching rubber for the upcoming season. The pitcher may pitch from the pitching plate or from an area the width of the plate and up to 6 feet behind the pitching rubber.
15. **Music is not allowed.** This includes pre-game, during the game and after games.
16. **Each team must carry their own first aid kit.**
17. **Infectious Disease Control Rule** - A player, coach or official who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. Appropriate treatment is:
 - A. Bleeding has stopped
 - B. Injury is covered
 - C. Uniform changed or disinfected with acceptable disinfectant*
 - D. Competition area/equipment disinfected with acceptable disinfectant
 If treatment can be administered within three minutes, the individual would not have to leave the game. Otherwise, substitution of the individual must take place.

*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
 3. A commercially produced infectious disease spray.

ADDITIONAL CO-REC RULES

1. Teams field 10 players when playing defense (5 male/5 female). Teams with only 9 players may have 5 male/4 female or 4 male/5 female in the field. Teams can position players as needed at any of the fielding positions (infield, outfield, pitcher, and catcher).
2. An official time out will be called and the batter will be awarded an option of 1st base if an outfielder encroaches the infield before the ball is hit.
3. **Co-Rec Batting Order:** Men and women players must alternate in the batting order at all times regardless of male to female ratio. In the occurrence that there is an uneven ratio of men to women, the team would still alternate male/female in the batting order. Teams can use a "**floating batting order**" if they have an odd number of players. Essentially, teams using the floating batting order will have two separate batting orders (one for men and one for females). The men must stay in order following the same male player and women must stay in order following the same female player. If the team is playing with fewer than 10 players no automatic out is recorded in the batting order (unless a player ejection takes place). The team

should inform the umpire and opposing manager during the pre-game meeting that a floating batting order will be used.

4. When a male batter receives three straight balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat. If it is not 3 straight balls, then the male only gets first and the female must bat.
5. All Co-Rec leagues use a 12" ball for the men and 11" ball for the women.

PROTESTING

1. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the USSSA Rule Book on protests.
2. Based on an umpire's judgement such as whether a batted ball was Fair or Foul, a pitched ball was a Ball or Strike, a baserunner was Safe or Out or when any other situation wholly within the Umpire's scope, to make the decision, is not to be accepted for consideration.
3. **To protest a non-judgement call, the intention to Protest a Rule must be made known by the Manager or Captain of the Protesting Team to the Umpire immediately and before the next Pitch is made to the batter.** This is to enable all concerned, umpires, scorekeepers and the opposing team to take notice of the exact conditions prevailing on the field at the time of the protest.
4. If protesting eligibility, have that player sign the scorecard before the final out of the game.
5. **A \$40 protest fee plus a written report of your protest must be filed at Woodbury Parks & Recreation by noon of the next working day.**
6. **Umpire Decisions** - Managers and umpires ONLY will handle disputes over rule interpretation! Players disputing calls will be given a warning. The second time the player disputes a call; they will be removed from the game.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Profanity and personal baiting of opponents by players or spectators will not be permitted. The umpire shall eject anyone violating this rule, from the game.
2. Team managers are responsible for the behavior of their team's spectators. In the event that a player or spectator is involved in the violation of this rule, the umpire will eject this individual from the park.
In the event that a player or spectator will not leave the game, the umpire will stop the game and award a win to the opposing team. If both teams are involved, the umpire will declare a double forfeit.
3. Any incident of the above described nature will be reported by the umpire and the team manager will be required to submit a written description of the event to the league director for possible disciplinary action.
4. **Player Ejection** – \$25 per ejection. Any player who is ejected from a game, for any reason, will not be allowed to play in any games the remainder of the evening and suspended any games the following week. Ejected players are ineligible to participate in any and all league play in Woodbury, during the time of the expulsion, including league play in other divisions, make up games, sanctioned tournaments, etc. The ejected player must leave the facility. Failure to comply will result in the game being declared a forfeit. If the player is ejected a second time, suspension may cover additional games or possibly the remainder of the season depending on the severity of the incident.
5. Physical contact with an umpire will mean an automatic expulsion from the league.
6. Any player initiating a fight during a game will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season.

7. **Casual Profanity/Family Atmosphere Rule** – Casual profanity pertains to expletives not directed at umpires or an opposing player, but uttered by a player, manager/coach frustrated with themselves, a teammate or a fan. Examples include a player/manager swearing after a pop out, strike out, kick of a ball, or at a belligerent fan. “Outs” being declared against the offending team penalize this type of “casual profanity”.

Penalty: If the offending team is at bat and profanity is used, the player is out unless the result of the play is an out in which case the next batter will be declared out.

If the offending team is in the field, the first player(s) to bat in their half of the inning will be declared out. (It is possible for a team to come to bat with one or more outs recorded or lose their bat altogether.)

Outs will be treated as delayed dead ball situations.

Note: Profanity directed at opposing players or umpires must always be penalized by ejection.

EQUIPMENT

1. Metal spikes are illegal and may not be worn.
2. Bat rings or “donuts” are not allowed.
3. Catcher’s mask is optional.
4. Hazardous Jewelry – All exposed jewelry or items that are judged to be hazardous or potentially dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game.
5. **Softball bat enforcement:** The performance standard for all bats will be a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.2 or less. The BPF was developed by The American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) Softball Bat Performance Study. All bats must be permanently marked with a BPF of 1.20 or less by the manufacturer. For a list of USSSA Licensed/Approved Bats go to the USSSA web site at www.ussa.com.

BATS

1. **All bats must be marked with one of the two USSSA 1.20 BPF certification stamp in order to be used (shown to the right).**
2. Penalty: If the batter hits the ball with an illegal bat (one that does not have the stamp or is illegal in another way), he will be declared out if the infraction is discovered prior to the next pitch. All runners will be returned to their time-of-pitch position. If out(s) are recorded on the play, the defense may choose to take the result of the play instead of the penalty.
3. Dented or damaged bats should be removed from play.



GAME BALL

1. The game ball used will be a .40 COR mid range ball (12") & .47 COR (11") Dudley Blue Stitch Optic Yellow. New games balls will be given to the umpire from the attendant at the beginning of each game.
2. Home team at the start of each game must furnish a good used ball. If a team fails to provide this ball to the umpire, five runs will be awarded to the opposing team.
3. The home team shall retain ball(s) used during the game.
4. Pitcher’s cannot exchange a ball being used in a game unless the umpire rules the original ball unfit for play.

PARK REGULATIONS

1. Player benches are reserved for managers, players, batboy and scorekeeper. All others should be kept clear of the benches.

2. **At no time will players be allowed to drink or have in their possession any alcoholic beverage while in the dugout, coaching bases or on the playing field during the course of any game. NO GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARK OR SOFTBALL COMPLEX.**
3. At no time will players be allowed to use tobacco on the M Health Fairview Sports Complex. Tobacco use is PROHIBITED.
4. Park only in designated areas. Breaking this rule will automatically disqualify your team from the league.
5. All litter must be placed in refuse containers. **Please keep the dugouts and facility clean.**
6. Amplified music is not permitted while athletic games are in progress. Artificial noisemakers, air horns, balloons and electronic amplifiers are not permissible.
7. All umpires, managers and players must understand and adhere to the Lightning Detection System guidelines and if sirens are activated, immediately stop play, leave the area and seek shelter.

UMPIRES

1. All umpires will be assigned by Umpire-In-Chief.
2. Umpires have the power to delay the starting time of the games due to weather conditions or to call an official rain out.
3. **Umpire no-show** - If an umpire does not show for your scheduled game, the 2 managers have two options:
 1. Agree to play the game by using a fill-in person to act as the umpire. **Both managers need to agree to this option. (See attached memo to fill out if there is a no show).**
 2. Have the game rescheduled (if possible) at a later date.

STANDINGS & AWARDS

1. Standings will be posted weekly on the bulletin board at the field. You can also get the standings on-line at www.teamsideline.com/woodburymn.
2. In case of a tie between teams after the final league standings, the tie will be broken by:
 - a. Head-to-head record between tied teams
 - b. Head-to-head run differential between each of the tied teams
 - c. Total runs scored entire season
 - d. Total runs against entire season
 - e. If the above tie breaking methods do not break the tie, a coin flip will determine the winner.
3. Awards will be given out to the top two teams in the tournament (winner and runner-up). Teams will be given their choice of a trophy or a gift certificate to a Woodbury restaurant/business of their choosing.

USSSA POST SEASON TOURNAMENTS

1. Fill out and return the State Tournament Deposit Procedure Form to the Woodbury league director three weeks before the tournament begins.
2. A team that earns a berth to state tournament games and forfeits shall lose their deposit and will be banned from post-season play the following season. You must also register as a new team next year, losing your returning teams status.
3. **All bats must be marked with the 2020 USSSA 1.20 BPF certification stamp in order to be used in any USSSA sanction tournament (shown to the right).** The old 2014 USSSA certification mark is no longer legal for USSSA sanctioned tournaments.



WEATHER POLICY

1. If weather conditions are questionable, call the field condition information line: (651) 714-3569 after 4:30pm.
2. Players can sign up for text message alerts at <http://www.teamsideline.com/woodburymn>.
3. If a game is not cancelled by 4:30 p.m., the umpire will make a decision at the field. If the umpire cancels the 1st game, all remaining games are also cancelled.
4. Rainout games will be attempted to be rescheduled. Teams unable to make the rescheduled game will forfeit. Each team manager will receive a call or written notice of the makeup game.

INSURANCE

Be aware that there are inherent risks to playing the game of softball. Injuries may occur due to collisions with other players, running into a wall or bench, etc. The City of Woodbury does not provide insurance for the participants of our leagues. Each player as a result of participation in the leagues 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. For information on team insurance please visit www.ussa.com.

Woodbury Parks and Recreation has the right to change or add rules for the betterment of all.