

CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised: 2/19/2025

The following rules and regulations are designed to govern play in all City of Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department's Adult Slowpitch Softball Leagues for the current season. All participants, including managers, players, and coaches, are expected to familiarize themselves with and adhere to these guidelines. It is the responsibility of each team's manager to ensure that all players are aware of and follow these rules throughout the course of the season. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in disciplinary action, including suspensions or ejections.

By participating, players and teams agree to uphold the principles of good sportsmanship and ensure a fair, competitive, and enjoyable environment for all involved. These rules are designed to create consistency in league play, and will be strictly enforced to promote safety, fairness, and respect among all participants.

I. GENERAL PLAYING CONDITIONS

- **Field Conditions & Game Cancellations:**

- Games will be played as scheduled unless the field conditions deem them unsafe or unplayable. Decisions Do not assume that games will be canceled.
- If no cancellations are announced by 4:30 PM on game day, the decision to play or cancel will be at the discretion of the softball supervisor on-site.

Cancellation Notification:

- To stay updated on cancellations, players and managers should sign up for email and/or text alerts through the "**Statusfy**" app, available on the App Store or Google Play.
- After downloading the app, search for "**Sun Prairie**" and opt-in for updates related to Adult Softball. Make sure to enable notifications to receive timely alerts. You can also access Statusfy via a computer.

II. PLAYER/TEAM CONDUCT

- **Manager's Responsibilities:**

- The manager is responsible for controlling the actions of their players before, during, and after games. This includes:
 - Educating players on local rules and league procedures.
 - Ensuring players respect staff and opposing teams.
 - Reinforcing that players voluntarily accept all judgments made by staff and agree to abide by all league rules.

- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:**

- Players engaging in unsportsmanlike behavior (e.g., derogatory remarks, profanity, obscene gestures, threats, physical abuse, or verbal abuse) toward any staff, players, or spectators will face immediate ejection from the game and may face further disciplinary action.

- **Alcohol & Smoking Regulations:**

- Smoking is prohibited on the field or in the team bench area.
- Alcohol is allowed outside of the fence area but is prohibited on the field. Glass containers are not allowed, and players must be of legal drinking age.

- **Ejections & Suspensions:**
 - Players ejected from a game will be suspended for that game and the team's next game, including any playoff games. Additional suspensions may apply for continued unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - If a player is ejected and no substitute is available, an out will be assessed each time the ejected player would bat.
 - An ejected player must remain outside the field or dugout area for the remainder of the game and the following game of suspension.

III. ROSTERS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- **Multiple Teams:**
 - Players are not allowed to participate on multiple teams within the same league during the same season.

IV. GAME RULES

- **Softball Playing Rules:**
 - Official games will follow the Softball Playing Rules as adopted by the International Joint Rules Committee on Softball and the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), except where local rules are specified.
- **Umpires & Game Officials:**
 - This is a self-officiated league. An on-site supervisor and scorekeeper will be scheduled for each game.
- **Home Team & Official Scorebook:**
 - The team listed second on the schedule will be the home team and will occupy the first-base bench.
 - The home team is responsible for maintaining the official scorebook for the game. If the home team cannot do so, the visiting team has the option to keep the scorebook.
- **Minimum Players to Start the Game:**
 - A team must have at least 8 players present to start and continue a game.

V. PITCHING, BATTING, AND BASE RUNNING

- **Pitching Rules:**
 - All pitched balls must have an arc, with a minimum height of 6 feet. There is no upper limit to the arc.
- **Strike Zone:**
 - The strike zone includes any white or black part of home plate and the attached black mat. A pitch that hits the plate or mat will be called a strike.
- **Base Running:**
 - Runners may not leave their base until the ball has been hit. There is no courtesy step or leading off allowed.
 - For safety, runners must touch the orange part of first base when running through if a play is being made. The white portion may be touched to avoid a collision or when no play is being made.
- **Safety at Home Plate:**
 - Runners must touch the black mat at home plate. If the runner touches the white part of the plate to avoid a collision, they shall **not** be called out.

VI. SPECIAL RULES & PROCEDURES

- **Tie Breaker:**
 - If a game is tied after 7 innings, the 8th inning will start with the last out of the previous inning as a runner on second base. The visiting team will bat first, followed by the home team.
 - The team with the most runs after each team has had their turn will be declared the winner.
- **Time Limits:**
 - Games will have a 55-minute time limit. No new inning will begin after the time limit expires unless the game is tied.
 - If the game is tied, the tiebreaker procedure will be followed.
 - The last game of the night must start by 9:20 PM. If not, the game will be rescheduled.
- **Run Rules:**
 - The 15-run rule applies: if a team has a 15-run lead after 4 ½ or 5 innings, the game will be called.
 - Teams are allowed up to 6 home runs per game. Any additional home runs will result in an automatic out.

VII. INCLEMENT WEATHER & RESCHEDULING

- **Weather-Related Cancellations:**
 - If a game is called off due to weather before 4 ½ or 5 innings are completed, it will be rescheduled from the beginning.
 - Games can be temporarily halted for lightning, and will resume if it is safe to do so within 15 minutes.
- **Rescheduling Procedures:**
 - Rescheduled games will be communicated to team managers via email, usually within 24-48 hours of cancellation.
 - Make-up games will be played at the regularly scheduled times if an entire night is canceled. Games may be moved to different times or diamonds if only part of the night is canceled.

VIII. ADDITIONAL GAME AND PLAYER SAFETY RULES

- **Equipment:**
 - All players must wear appropriate attire, including shirts with numbers and appropriate footwear. Metal spikes are prohibited.
 - Casts, exposed jewelry, and other dangerous items may not be worn during play.
- **Blood Rule:**
 - Any player or coach with blood on their uniform or showing visible signs of bleeding must be treated before continuing. If medical treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual can return to play. First aid supplies are on-site.

IX. LEAGUE STRUCTURE AND PLAYOFFS

- **League Play:**
 - All leagues will consist of 12-14 regular-season games, depending on total number of teams registered. Playoff structure will be based on standings at the end of the regular season.
- **Tiebreaker for Playoff Seeding:**
 - Head-to-head competition, followed by run differential, will be used to break ties.