



# **Adult Softball Leagues**

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**A team will not be allowed to play until Fridley Roster has been turned in. You may not make up your own roster. Name, phone #'s, addresses and signatures of players must be on the roster. No roster changes may be made after June 2.**

**Teams can add players to their Official Fridley Roster at the Fridley Recreation Department or at Community Park Press Box. Recreation Department hours (Monday-Friday 8am- 4:30pm) Community Park hours: Game Nights Only. Any players added to the roster later must personally sign the roster.**

1. Know the playing rules and inform the members of your team.
2. Know the eligibility requirements. Use of an ineligible player may result in a forfeit of the game and fine of \$50.
3. Make sure the Recreation office has your mailing address & phone number where you can be reached during the day.
4. Be aware of the league standings. League standings will be e-mailed out to managers throughout the season. If you detect an error, contact the Recreation office immediately.
5. Any schedule changes, rule changes, policy changes, league standings, etc., will be sent to you. It will be your responsibility to pass this information on to your players.
6. Make sure you have ten (10) players at each game, at least (8) players ten minutes prior to game time. Avoid forfeits!
7. On days involving bad weather, managers are requested to call the City of Fridley "HOTLINE" at 763-572-3578 (after 4:30 p.m.) to find out whether or not the games will be played."
8. Meet with the umpire at home plate five minutes before the game starts to go over the ground rules. If you have any questions, ask. Inform your players of the ground rules. Be ready to exchange line-ups with your opponent at this pre-game meeting.
9. Make sure your team has a scorebook for all games.
10. You, the manager, should handle any dispute with an umpire. Don't let one of your players face ejection by arguing a call. The umpire will respect a manager who calmly handles any disagreements. Learn to respect the decisions of game officials.
11. The manager of the team must give the name to the umpire of any player ejected. If a manager or team refuses to give out the name of the ejected player the game will be over and result in your team forfeiting the game. [Sportsmanship Policy: Ejected Players Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game for an unsportsmanlike act shall face a minimum suspension of one additional game.] *NOTE: Any team that has less than 8*

*players as a result of a player being ejected will forfeit the game and be charged a \$25 forfeit fee.*

12. You are responsible for your team's conduct at and around the ballpark. The Fridley Parks and Recreation Department will not tolerate drinking, abusive language and other irresponsible acts.
13. Make sure your team has a **first-aid kit** at all games. Umpires, and field attendants are not allowed to give first-aid. Umpires are instructed not to delay the game if an injury occurs and a team does not have a first-aid kit at the bench (see Blood Born Pathogen Policy).

**By City ordinance, dogs are not allowed at Community Park. Please share this information with your players and spectators.**

## ***Fridley Rules & Regulations***

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*NOTE: The City of Fridley leagues will abide by official USSSA rules with the following additions and/or exceptions:*

1. **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: no new inning may start after 2 hours from the start of the 1st game. If after 60 minutes of the 1st game, the game is still tied, teams may finish the 1st game. However, the time it takes to finish the 1st game will be imposed on your 2nd game. **Both teams must agree to this!** If both teams cannot agree, 1st the game will end in a tie and 2nd game will start. **NOTE: If an unusual delay occurs or if the game starts late for some reason that is not under control of either team, this rule should be modified as appropriate.**

2. **FORFEIT POLICY**

- a. Teams must have at least eight (8) players to start the game. Teams may finish with 8 players. Additional players may be added to the line-up upon checking in with the umpire at any time, and will be added at the end of the batting order. For the first scheduled game of the evening, a 10-minute grace period will be allowed. This time does count toward the 60-minute time limit. The game must begin when a team has 8 players. Scheduled game time is forfeit time for all other games. If a team is scheduled to play the same team in a double-header, a forfeit for the second game will be declared if they do not have enough players 30 minutes after their first scheduled game start time. Teams with 8 or 9 players will not be issued an out when the 9th and 10th spot in the batting order comes up and no one is available to bat at those spots.

- b. **FORFEIT FEE:** A \$25 fee will be charged to teams that forfeit a scheduled game. This fee must be paid prior to the team's next scheduled game or that game becomes a forfeit. Three nights of forfeits constitutes removal from the league.

**Double Header:** Teams that play double headers will be required to submit \$25 or \$50 prior to the next scheduled double header depending on if they forfeit one or both games.

3. **\*NATIONAL RULES\***

Games will be considered official if the run differential is 20 or more after 3 innings, 15 or more after 4 innings, or 10 more after 5 innings. Flip Flop Rule is in effect.

4. **3-2 COUNT – (added in 2020)**

Pitch count will be 3 balls, 2 strikes with NO COURTESY FOUL. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> strike foul ball that is caught by the defense in foul territory, it will be counted as an out and is a LIVE BALL - base runners CAN advance at their own risk.

5. **Batter's Box- (added in 2020)**

The batter must set up with his back foot no further forward than home plate. Any forward stride will be allowed. The batter will be called out, when either one or both of his feet are in contact with the ground COMPLETELY outside the lines of the batter's box in front of home plate or when his foot is in contact with home plate while contact is made with the ball. Any batter, who runs forward through the batter's box to hit a ball will be judged in or out of the box at the time they contact the ball.

6. **FREE SUBSTITUTION RULE**

A team may bat more than 10 players. Any 10 of these players may play in the field at any one time. If a player is unable to bat, (gets injured) the team can just skip over that player in the order with no penalties. Players unable to bat are considered injured or have left the park and will not be permitted to re-enter the game. A team that has a player ejected and cannot replace him/her in the line-up and out will be declared every time his/her positions come up to bat. Teams that lose a player, that result in the team only having 7 players, will have to forfeit that game.

\*7. **HOME RUN RULE**

Any fair ball hit over the fence by a player after the team has reached their allotted number of home runs will result in an out.

<u>League</u>	<u>Home Runs</u>
Men's D/E	2
Men's D/Co-Rec D	3
Men's E	1

8. **INTERFERENCE (League Rule)**

If a runner does not slide or get out of the way during a double play situation, the runner and batter will be declared out if the umpire feels a double play could have been made, regardless if the ball was thrown or not.

NOTE: If another runner was originally on 2nd or 3rd base, the lead runner will be declared out rather than the batter.

9. **DEAD BALL APPEAL**

On appeal plays, the defensive team needs to only vocally announce to the umpire what they are appealing. This should be done after the umpire declares "time".

10. **POSTPONED GAMES**

The Recreation Department will reschedule games postponed due to weather. Games that are suspended due to inclement weather prior to being an official game (at least 4 completed innings) will not count and will be played from the beginning. The guideline for this season will be to reschedule make-up games at the conclusion of the season. If necessary, games will be rescheduled. Managers will be notified by mail e-mail or by phone regarding all make-up dates.

11. **HOME TEAM**

During the regular season, the 2nd team listed on the game schedule will be home for the first game. The visiting team of the first game will be the home team for the second game when playing the same team back to back.

12. **WARM-UP FIELDS**

Teams are permitted to warm up on the field, which is scheduled for their upcoming games. Please do not warm up on the infield area.

13. **POSITION TIE POLICY**

For teams tied in the standings at the end of the regular season, the following will apply to determine first place:

- a. Win/loss record from head-to-head competition involving the tied teams.
- b. Run differential.

14. **INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER RULE**

If the game is tied at the end of 7 innings we will play INTERNATIONAL RULE: Start all extra innings with the last out, of the last inning on second base, with 1 out. Pitch count goes to ONE PITCH. Each at bat will consist of one pitch, if it's a ball the batter will walk, if it is a strike the batter will be out, any foul ball will be considered a strike and the batter will be out. Each inning will consist of three (3) outs. Play the game until we have a WINNER.

15. **RAIN OUT POLICY**

Team managers are to call the City of Fridley "HOTLINE" at **763-572-3578** after 4:00 p.m. on days where weather is a factor. **Players are to call their managers**, not the Recreation office, to find out whether or not the games will be played. In most cases, if a game is not called off by 4:00 p.m. the umpire or field supervisor will decide at the field, at game time whether or not to play.

**NOTE: IF YOU BELIEVE THERE IS THREATENING WEATHER OR INCLEMENT CONDITIONS ALWAYS CALL THE HOTLINE AT 763-572-3578 PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST GAME TO SEE IF IT WILL BE PLAYED. THE HOTLINE IS UPDATED AS NECESSARY AND IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS PER DAY.**

16. **PARK REGULATIONS**

No alcohol or beer is permitted on park property (including the parking lot) by city ordinance; profanity is not tolerated; and smoking is not allowed on playing fields or bench areas. Teams will be held responsible for controlling the conduct of spectators watching their game. Post-game gatherings in parking lot are prohibited.

**NOTE: By City ordinance, dogs are not allowed at Community Park.**

Please share this with players and spectators.

17. **CAR PARKING**

Players must park all cars in appropriate parking lots. Cars are not allowed on park property. Failure to comply with this policy may result in a parking ticket from the Fridley Police Department, and possibly the towing of the car at the owner's expense.

## **Umpire Notes:**

1. **Bench Area for all Fields at Community Park**  
Bench area should include the 6' high fence behind the player's bench. This will allow the team extra room for their equipment. Please review the out-of-play area prior to each game with the managers
2. **Time Limit**  
Keep in mind that the time limit for each game is as follows:
  - a. Teams get a 10 minute grace period for the first game. This grace period does count towards the overall time limit.
  - b. Keep teams informed of time remaining.
3. **Scorecards**  
Be sure to completely fill out the scorecard and submit it to the building supervisor. Please use this card as a communication link. All ejection's, protests, and unusual situations must be written down on this card so that I am aware of the situation. The scorecards are used both for standings information and as a communication link between umpires and the Recreation office, so be sure to correctly write down the scores for each game, and note any other information you would like me to know.
4. **Game Balls**  
Turned back into the umpire at the conclusion of the game.
5. **Meet with both managers 5 minutes before each game. Go over rules.**
6. **Inclement Weather**  
If the situation warrants that the games may need to be delayed, all umpires are required to discuss the situation with the other umpires and agree on a decision. There should not be an instance where some fields have called their games off due to inclement weather and some fields continue to play. This situation should only occur, if after a rainstorm, some fields are playable while others are not playable

### ***Legality of Bats (Please share this information with your players)***

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Since 2014, any softball bat that has a BPF of greater than 1.2 is illegal. Any double or triple walled bat must have the BPF of 1.2 or less permanently marked on the bat. The city of Fridley has grandfathered the old USSSA mark 1.20 BPF bats. For a list of bats that are legal or illegal visit the National USSSA Website at [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com). The Fridley League will not require the new USSSA 2014 stamp on the bats.

**\*\*\*(All bats used in tournament play must have the "new" USSSA logo tapered end)\*\*\***

## ***Casual Profanity/Family Atmosphere Rule***

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Casual profanity pertains to expletives not directed at umpires or opposing players, but said by a player or manager to themselves, a teammate, or spectator. This type of “casual” profanity is penalized by “outs” declared against the offending team. The rationale for this rule is to provide a lesser penalty for the gray area between accepted conduct and those situations where the offender must be ejected. This rule is meant to sensitize players and discourage them from using words that are considered offensive/obscene. This rule will allow family and friends to come to the game and not be embarrassed or insulted by language used by players.

*The guideline for swearing is anything a rational parent wouldn't want a 2-year-old repeating.*

**Penalty** - If the offending player is at bat, he/she is declared out, unless the result of the play is an out in which case the next batter will be declared out. If the offending player is in the field, the first player 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.

Outs will be treated as delayed dead ball situations.

**NOTE: Profanity directed at opposing ball players or umpires  
Must always be penalized by ejection (an out is not declared).**

## ***Eligibility***

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### **Corporate**

Teams must be composed of players who are employed full-time for the company they represent. They must be employed from July 16th, 2022 through the remainder of the season to be eligible. Any employee who is temporarily laid-off may not continue to play in the corporate division, even if they return to work as per MRPA State Guidelines. For Fridley teams, up to three (3) players that work for the company, but not at the Fridley location may appear on the team roster. These players must be noted on the roster.

### **Church**

All players in the church division must be regularly attending and active members of their church.

### **All Teams**

No player can play on two different teams in the same league.

**\* \* ALL PLAYERS MUST BE OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL OR GRADUATE THIS SPRING \* \***

## ***Player Eligibility/Forfeit Fee***

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### **A. Player Eligibility**

The Fridley Parks and Recreation Department will enforce the eligibility requirements of softball participation with the following procedure:

1. If a team or any player thereof is found to be in violation of the eligibility requirements, you will be assessed a \$50 penalty fee, payable before your next scheduled game (your team will not be allowed to play until this is paid).
2. If a team or any player thereof is found in violation a second time, the team will be immediately removed from the league with all fees forfeited.
3. Any team protesting the eligibility of an opponent will be required to follow the official protest procedure as established by the Fridley Parks and Recreation Department. (Listed below)
4. A team that has been removed from the league due to an eligibility violation shall not be allowed to file a protest on any other team.

### **B. Forfeit Fee**

1. A \$25 fee will be charged to teams that forfeit a scheduled game. This fee must be paid at the Fridley Recreation Department prior to the team's next scheduled game or that game becomes a forfeit. Three nights of forfeits constitutes removal from the league.
2. Double Header: Teams that play double headers will be required to submit \$25 or \$50 prior to the next scheduled double header depending on if they forfeit one or both games. Three scheduled nights of forfeited double headers constitutes removal from the league.
3. Half of the forfeit fee will be given to the team that showed up and was unable to play at the end of the season.

**MRPA/USSSA POLICY: PLAYERS WHO PLAY ON TEAMS IN DIFFERENT CLASSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ONLY WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS WHICH THEIR HIGHEST CLASSIFIED TEAM ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. FOR POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS, PLAYERS MUST PLAY ON THEIR HIGHEST CLASSIFIED TEAM.**

## ***Protests***

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Protests involving rule misinterpretations or misapplication must be registered with the umpire on the field immediately and before any succeeding pitch, intentional walk, illegal pitcher action, or before all fielders have left fair territory (refer to Rule 4, Section 11 in the official rule book).

On protests involving player eligibility, the protesting team must fill out an official protest form, along with a \$20 per player protest fee, by the next working day. When the umpire is notified of the protest, the player in question will be required to sign the back of the scorecard. The team filing the protest then has 24 hours to prove the eligibility of its entire roster before the protest



will be considered. After this is complete the player(s) being protested has 24 hours to prove their eligibility.

Protest forms are available at the press box.

### ***Blood Borne Pathogen Policy***

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The following policy will apply to all programs offered by the Fridley Recreation Department:

Aggressive treatment of open wounds or skin lesions should be followed. In particular, whenever a participant suffers a laceration or wound where oozing or bleeding occurs, the activity should be stopped at the earliest possible time, and the participant must leave the activity and may not return to participate until the bleeding has stopped and the injury is covered.

**All teams are required to have a first-aid kit with them at all games. If a player suffers a laceration or wound, he/she will be required to comply with the policy as listed above.**

Umpires are instructed not to delay the game if an injury occurs and a team does not have a first-aid kit at the bench area.

If a team does not have the required minimum number of players after a laceration or open wound occurs, and there is no first-aid kit immediately available, the game will be forfeited.

### ***Sportsmanship Policy***

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The Fridley Recreation Department is attempting to maintain a high level of sportsmanship in the athletic programs operated by the City. Therefore, a policy for dealing with cases of unsportsmanlike conduct has been instituted.

1. Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game for an unsportsmanlike act shall face a minimum suspension of one (1) additional game. A team using a suspended ballplayer in a game faces forfeiture of that game.
2. Any player, coach or manager exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct toward the game official or opposing team/team member at or after the conclusion of a ball game will face a minimum suspension of one (1) game.
3. Any player, coach or manager ejected from a second game during the year for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be prohibited from participating in the remaining season.
4. Any unsportsmanlike conduct by an individual, which involves physical contact or the threat to cause physical harm with a game official or opposing player, will result in that individual being suspended indefinitely from participating in any athletic program operated by the City of Fridley Park and Recreation Department.

## Softball Equipment

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### 1. **Balls**

The umpire will provide one new game ball and one back-up ball for each game. The Dudley Blue Thunder synthetic leather .40 core mid-range ball will be used for all

### 2. **Bats**

Only official softball bats will be allowed. Bats must not be tampered with in any way. Bats with rubber knobs are illegal. For a list of legal and illegal bats visit the National USSSA Website at [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com). Going forward, the 2015 USSSA, and The City of Fridley Parks and Recreation slow-pitch softball league will implement the new bat policy **identifying USSSA 1.20 Marked Stamp on all bats for league play**. Teams will need to have the new USSSA stamp on the bats

Bats: All bats for the season used in league and tournament play must have the USSSA logo on its tapered end. Approved bats can be found here: <http://ussa.com/slowpitch/slowpitch-licensed-softball-bat-ball-manufacturers>



THE OFFICIAL BAT shall be round in cross section, straight in length and measure not more than 34 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle, and not more than 2 ¼" inches in diameter at its largest part. Its weight shall not exceed 31-ounces, including tape or grip addition to the bat. The bat shall have a grip of tape or some other material to facilitate holding the bat during the batter's swing. The grip shall be not less than ten inches (10") long, nor extend to touch the taper or barrel of the bat. All key graphics, including USSSA and BPF markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method that would allow the key graphics to be easily removed or added to the bat.

A. **Material.** The bat may be made of hard wood of one piece, or laminated from sections of hardwood bonded together with adhesive in such a way that the grain

directions of all the pieces are essentially parallel to the length of the bat. The bat may also be made of aluminum or other metals, fiberglass, graphite or composite materials.

**B. Construction.** The bat may be made in pieces from different materials but must have a closed barrel end, a handle and a taper. The bat may be modular with interchangeable parts, subject to additional safety and tampering requirements as set forth in the standard USSSA Bat Licensing Agreement. The knob portion must be welded or mechanically attached to the bat. Only USSSA approved bats, USSSA approved weighted bats or USSSA approved bat weigh attachments, may be used by the on deck batter while loosening up on the field.

**C. Official Softball.** Authorized bat manufacturers shall mark their products with the words "Official Softball."

**D. Other Criteria for Legal USSSA Bats.** Bats will be legal for USSSA sanctioned play only if the bat is manufactured by an approved USSSA bat manufacturer on the USSSA approved bat manufacturer list (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website) and has the new USSSA mark (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website) on the taper of the bat. Wood bats made on the approved USSSA bat manufacturer list shall be legal without regard to this section D.2.

**E. Altered Bat Director Inspection and Suspension.** A USSSA Director may at any time ask to inspect a bat that has been brought into the location of a USSSA sanctioned event or any other USSSA facility. The owner and/or user may either: 1. Withhold the bat from inspection and accept an immediate two (2) year (automatic life for second time offenders under E1 and/or E) suspension from USSSA sanctioned activities with no right to appeal; or,

1. Allow the Director to inspect the bat and reach a conclusion as to whether or not the bat might be altered.

## 2. **Bat Rings**

The weighted bat 'donut' and 'fan' used on softball bats for warm-up are not allowed. The Power Wrap is allowed.

## 3. **Catcher's Mask**

It is recommended that all catchers wear protective masks.

## 4. **First Aid Kits**

It is required that each team have a well-equipped first aid kit at each game.

## 5. **Scorebooks**

Teams should have a scorebook. All teams will be given a scorebook when schedules are distributed.

## 6. **Shoes**

Metal spikes are illegal in all Fridley leagues. Shoes with soft or hard rubber cleats are acceptable.

### 7. **Uniforms**

It is recommended that all players on the team be uniformed alike. As a guideline, matching shirts should be the minimum requirement.

## ***Awards & State Tournament Information***

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**CHAMPIONSHIP T-SHIRTS ARE AWARDED TO EACH LEAGUE CHAMP (MAXIMUM 14/TEAM).**

All teams interested in playing in any post-season region or state tournaments will receive this information will be in the USSSA packet.