

2021 Adult Softball League

Local Rules

(361) 485-3200

The City of Victoria Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to change and implement new rules at any time. Victoria Parks and Recreation is committed to providing the best program possible to ensure the best environment for the players, coaches, and their respective families. In case of inclement weather, it will be the manager's responsibility to verify game status. Game status can be verified after 3pm on game day by phone/email and cancellations will be posted on The Victoria Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Managers will also receive an email through Quickscores for any game changes.

USSSA Rules and Regulations will be used in governing this league, any exceptions are listed below.

LOCAL PLAYING RULES

- 1.) Scheduled game time is FORFEIT time (5 min "grace" awarded for 7pm games only).
- 2.) All games will have a 55 minute time limit, or 7 innings.
- 3.) Lineup cards MUST be turned in to the umpire during the manager's meeting prior to the start of the game – FIRST NAMES, LAST NAMES, and NUMBERS.
- 4.) Game clock will begin immediately following the end of the manager's meeting.
- 5.) All leagues may start with 9 players. Teams that start with 9 players must take an out in the 10th batting position. Teams must enter the 10th player when he arrives in the 10th batting position.
COED – MUST HAVE AT LEAST 5 GIRLS ON THE LINE-UP TO BEGIN A GAME. Coed cannot have more males than females in the line-up.
- 6.) Batting order must alternate by gender for mixed leagues.
- 7.) There will be no 'courtesy foul.' A ball is live and in play when a fly ball is legally caught, fair or foul, after two strikes.
- 8.) All leagues will be able to bat up to 12 batters.
- 9.) In Coed, men will be awarded 2 bases when walked and women will be awarded one. When a man is walked, the woman following will automatically have the option to take a walk. A woman will no longer have the option of taking the walk if she walks through the batter's box.
- 10.) A "200 line" will be marked in the outfield for all coed games. All outfielders must start behind this line prior to any ball being hit by male or female batters.
- 11.) Courtesy Runners: In **Coed**, any male player in the batting lineup may run for any male, **and** any female player in the batting lineup may run for any female. Males will be allowed (1) courtesy runner per inning and females will be allowed (1) courtesy runner per inning. The **Men's and Women's** league may use one courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner can be any player in the batting lineup. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.



- 12.) All teams must have similar shirts with permanent, non-duplicated numbers on the back that are a minimum of 6 inches and clearly visible. Numbers cannot be taped or pinned on. Caps cannot be worn backwards. No steel cleats.
- 13.) Each team must furnish one (1) USSSA approved ball per game. The Men's league must have (1) 12" USSSA approved **Classic Plus** game ball per game. Coed must have (1) 11" USSSA approved **Classic W** and (1) 12" **Classic Plus** game ball per game.
- 14.) Any protest made on a player's uniform or eligibility must be made by the team manager or acting team manager prior to the conclusion of the first inning in which the player in question is on the field or prior to the conclusion of the player's first at bat. In the event of a protest, the game will be stopped until a Recreation Specialist can make it to that field of play and make a decision on whether the player(s) in question would be able to continue in the game. If no protest is made before that time, the game will continue and no further protest will be made for the duration of the game. *Any team with a protested player that is deemed ineligible will receive a forfeit.* See the USSSA handbook for official protest rules.
- 15.) Any protest made on the game's score must be made prior to the conclusion of the game. Once the game has been called by the umpire, the score can no longer be protested. In the event the score is questioned, the umpire may refer to the home team's scorebook. If the home team does not have a scorebook, then the visiting team's book may be referenced. Scorebooks are available for team use in the office.
- 16.) In the event of a tie where extra innings are needed, or time expires, the International Tie Breaker will be used. Batters will begin the next full inning with a 3-2 count, 1 out, and the player that recorded the last out of the previous inning will start on second base. Only one extra inning will be played in regular season games and games may end in a tie. During tournament play, ITB will continue as normal until a winner is determined. A "last out" is not allowed for the runner starting on 2nd base.
- 17.) ZERO TOLERANCE on profanity; this includes music.
- 18.) A team that forfeits 2 or more game nights in a single season will be deemed ineligible for the end of season tournament. A team that forfeits 3 consecutive games will be dropped from the league without refund.
- 19.) The team with the higher seed, entering playoffs, will have the decision of Home or Visitor at the start of each game at 7PM & 8PM. The Home & Visitor will be determined by coin flip before the 9PM championship game. Playoff format will be: 2nd vs 3rd seed will play at 7PM, 1st vs 4th seed will play at 8PM, with winners from both games advancing to the championship at 9PM.
- 20.) A team that qualifies for playoffs is subject to being moved up to a higher division in future seasons.
 - a. If any team wants to move up prior to being bumped that is allowed.
 - b. Teams may request what league to participate in, but final discretion is up to the Parks & Recreation Department. Teams will be ranked and placed according to Upper/Lower.
- 21.) **Fighting: Due to USSSA policy, if a player is involved in a fight, they will be suspended. This includes: fighting on the field, in the complex area, or the parking lot. The player will be suspended from all City of Victoria league play & USSSA events for 1 full calendar year.**



RUN RULE

<u>20</u> runs	<u>3</u> innings
<u>15</u> runs	<u>4</u> innings
<u>10</u> runs	<u>5</u> innings

HOME RUN LIMIT

MIXED LOWER	<u>3</u>
Mixed Lower will have IEO (Inning ending out) after 3 homeruns	
MIXED UPPER	<u>5</u>
Mixed Upper is allowed 1 DHH/Mixed Lower will not have a DHH	
MEN'S LOWER (Tuesday & Thursday)	<u>3</u>
Men's Lower will have IEO (Inning ending out) after 3 homeruns	
MEN'S UPPER (Tuesday & Thursday)	<u>5</u>
Men's Upper is allowed 1 DHH/Men's Lower will not have a DHH	

ROSTERS

- 1.) Players must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the league. NO EXCEPTIONS OR WAIVERS.
- 2.) Women may not play in Tuesday or Thursday Men's Leagues.
- 3.) **ID's must be presented to sign and/or confirm a roster spot.** Rosters MUST be turned in prior to the start of the first scheduled game of the season. If a roster is not submitted on time, then that team will receive a forfeit for each game that their roster is not turned in. Players may be added to the roster after it is turned in, providing they meet roster requirements and it is not after the cutoff date. Added players must print and sign their first and last name in the presence of the onsite Recreation Coordinator.
- 4.) The roster cutoff date will be at 5:00pm on Friday, October 29th. No players may be added to the rosters after this date. Coed and Men's leagues roster spaces are limited to 20 players.
- 5.) A player is considered to be on a locked roster once a roster has been submitted. Players are locked on that roster until the end of the season and may not strike their name to join another team's roster in the same league. Players may be added to the roster provided they are not currently on another roster in the same league, the roster has not exceeded 20 names, they are at least 18 years of age, and it is not after the roster cutoff date. Players must print and sign their name to be eligible on a roster.
- 6.) Players are subject to ID checks at **any time** and a player without an ID will be ineligible to play until an ID is presented. During playoffs, IDs will only be checked upon protest.
- 7.) Men's players may play in an Upper or Lower division, but only on 1 team and within 1 league per night.
- 8.) Men in the coed divisions may play on either a Coed Upper team OR a Coed Lower team. Women, however, may play on one team within both divisions.
- 9.) Men on a Men's Upper team may not play on a Coed Lower team.
- 10.) Men who are on a Men's Upper lineup will automatically forfeit their eligibility to play Coed Lower.



- 11.) You can only use players who are signed to your roster. Players can only sign one roster per night. All rosters are in the field office to sign.
- 12.) ONLY WHEN TEAMS ARE SHORT PLAYERS: Teams will be allowed 2 “pick up players” that are not on their roster. Upper players are not allowed to pick up in lower games. If an upper player does pick up in a lower game, they are subject to protest if the other team wishes to do so. Pick up players are only allowed when teams are short players during regular season. During playoffs, no pick up players are allowed. Teams may only use the minimum amount of players if they are using pick up players (10). Pick up players in Upper divisions are NOT allowed to be the DHH. Teams must let umpires know when they are using pick up players at start of game. You cannot use pick up players if you have enough players on your own roster to play.

Bat Policy

In the event the Victoria Parks & Recreation staff does a random bat check and finds a bat to show signs of alterations, the player/person claiming the bat will have the following choices:

- 1.) The owner/person claiming the bat will turn the bat over to The City of Victoria Parks & Recreation Staff to be held until a decision has been made on the bat’s legality and the owner/person claiming the bat may continue to participate in league play. If the bat is deemed illegal, then the owner/person claiming the bat will be suspended for a time period of two (2) years from league play and all USSSA events.
- 2.) The owner/person claiming the bat will have the option to have us send the bat in for testing, during which time the player will be suspended pending the test results. If it is found to be altered, then the player in question will be suspended for a time period of two (2) years from league play and all USSSA events. If it is found to be unaltered then the player in question will be able to resume play.
- 3.) The owner/person claiming the bat that chooses to not turn the bat over will be suspended from league play and all USSSA events immediately for one calendar year to the date.
- 4.) Any bat in question that is not claimed will become property of The City of Victoria Parks & Recreation Department’s lost and found.

