

City of Bloomington Adult Softball League Rules and Guidelines



Welcome to the 2025 season! The City of Bloomington adult softball leagues are played according to USA Softball rules, and other rules established in this document. All registered teams will be sanctioned by USA Softball. All registered teams are responsible for understanding and following all rules. Hammer Sports LLC is the contracted umpire assigner for the 2025 softball season. If you have any questions, please contact me directly. Have a great season!

Anthony DiBella

League Director

Rosters

- A. City Roster/Waiver Form must be completed and signed by all members of your team. Players who have not signed your team's roster/waiver are considered illegal players.
Roster/waiver forms are to be EMAILED to the league director at adibella@bloomingtonmn.gov by the teams second scheduled game.
- B. Players can always be added to your roster using the Roster Addition Form, and onsite with city staff, as long as you do not exceed the 20-player roster limit. Added players will not be accepted during playoffs.
- C. Any protest regarding the legality of an opposing player must be done prior to the end of the 3rd inning to the umpire. If a player in question enters the game after the 3rd inning, the protest must be done immediately, or the protest will not be allowed.

Schedules

- A. League play begins the week of April 21st, 2025. No games will be scheduled on 5/26, 6/19, 7/1, 7/2, 7/3, 7/4 and 7/7.
- B. Link to schedules: teamsideline.com/bloomingtonmn

Team/Player Conduct

- A. Players must be 18 years of age.
- B. A person may play for any team provided the teams are not in the same league.
- C. Abusing umpires will not be tolerated.
- D. The League Director will review all incidents on a case-by-case basis.

Games

- A. **Game Scores:** the winning team reports the final score for each game online. Teams will receive an email to report final scores. Scores will be automatically posted online, and standings will be updated.
 - a. Scorebooks will be provided to each team.
 - b. Teams are not required to keep score, but teams need to know final score to report scores.
- B. Teams are expected to show up for games on time, there is no grace period. A minimum of **Eight (8) players** are required to start and finish a game. The “Shorthanded Rule” will be used if a team does not have a legal number of players at game time.
- C. **The shorthanded team will be designated the visiting team, and the first inning will begin. The half run will be awarded to the home team. If the shorthanded team does not have a legal number of players by the end of the top of the first inning is complete, the game will be declared a forfeit.**
- D. If a team needs to forfeit, the manager must contact the opposing team and league director at an appropriate time allowed.
- E. All forfeits will be recorded 1-0.
- F. **Home and Away teams during the regular season will be determined by the season schedule.** The home and away team will be listed accordingly. **The away team will have the half-run lead in the event of a tie (unless shorthanded rule applies).** The half a run is only to be counted in the final score should the game end in a tie whether the game ends after the completion of the 7th inning or earlier due to time limit constrictions.
- G. All games have a 55-minute time limit; no new inning will start after 55 minutes of play. Games that reach the time limit are considered a complete game.
- H. A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings, or 55-minute time limit, run lead rule, whichever occurs first.
- I. Bases are set at 70' apart.
- J. The pitching distance is 50' from home plate.
- K. In the event a game in progress is cancelled by the Parks and Recreation Staff due to weather it shall be considered a complete game and will not be continued after 4 innings of play or if the home team is leading after 3 ½ innings of completed innings.
- L. **In the event of inclement weather, teams and players can check the **Weather Updates** page on Team Sideline. This page will provide the most up to date information and game status. Page link: [Weather Updates Page](#)**
- M. Each team will be provided with a supply of game balls for the season. Each team is responsible for bringing their supplied balls to the games. If teams need additional balls to complete the season, they are responsible for purchasing the additional balls. Teams must bring an appropriate number of balls to have back up balls ready to be used for play. If a game is delayed because a team does not have balls available, it is at the umpire's discretion to start calling strikes and outs until a ball is thrown in to the pitcher for play.

The approved balls for the 2025 season are to be optic yellow in color and:

When a male is batting —12-inch red stitch, COR .52, Max Compression 300 pounds

When a female is batting —11-inch red stitch, COR .52, Max Compression 300 pounds

- N. Each team will be responsible for providing their own bats to hit with. To be deemed legal for play, all equipment must be legal, and bats must not be listed on the USA Softball banned bat list found here: <https://www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/>
- O. Altered bats will not be allowed. Any player that steps into the batter's box with an altered/non-approved bat will be declared out and ejected from the game he/she is playing in, and all information will be passed on to the state sanctioning bodies for any further disciplinary action.
- P. Metal Spikes are not allowed.
- Q. First Aid kits and AED's are located in the Dred Scott Fieldhouse, and Arnie Johnson Fieldhouse.

Playing Rules

- A. The ball/strike count will be 3/2 with no courtesy foul ball allowed.
- B. A team may bat any **number 8 or greater**. Additional players are allowed to enter at the end of the batting order as they arrive at any point throughout the game. When a void is created in the batting order due to a player being removed from the game for any reason (except by injury), the manager must insert a substitute in that player's place. If no players are available, each time the vacated position is scheduled to bat, an out will be declared when appealed by the defensive team. If the void in the batting order is due to an injury and no substitute is available, the batting order will continue and no out declared due to the injury vacated batting position.
- C. **Home run limits:**
 - Men's Bronze-** 3 per game, then ladder (once both teams hit 3, the number goes to 4, once both teams hit 4, the number continues to increase.)
 - Men's Silver-** 4 per game
 - Men's Gold-** 6 per game
 - Co-Rec Bronze-** 2 per game, then ladder (once both teams hit 2, the number goes to 3, once both teams hit 3, the number continues to increase.)
 - Co-Rec Silver-** 4 per game
- D. Each team will be allowed ONE Courtesy Runner per inning. Any eligible player on the team's official line-up, including available substitutes, may be used as a Courtesy Runner. A Courtesy Runner whose turn at bat comes while they are on base will be called OUT, removed from the base, and take their turn at bat. The runner who called out will NOT be replaced by another runner.

- E. Games will be declared complete if there is more than a 20-run differential after 4 completed innings or a 10-run differential after 5 completed innings.

Co-Rec Specific Playing Rules

- A. A team may bat **any number 8 or greater**, with a minimum of **4 players per gender**. Additional players will be allowed to enter the end of the batting order as they arrive at any point throughout the game. The batting order must alternate genders. If the batting order contains more players of one gender than the other, an out will be declared when 2 players of the same gender bat back-to-back. Teams should be mindful of roster limits.
- B. Teams must have **4 players of one gender and 4 of the other** to start and finish a legal game. To utilize the “shorthanded rule” as the visiting team they must have a minimum of three players of each gender.
- C. A walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next female batter will bat. With two outs, the next female batter has the option to walk or bat.
- D. A team utilizing courtesy runners must use the same gender player.
- E. At no time may there be more than one gender playing in the field.
- F. Changing of player’s position during an inning unless there is a substitution, change of pitcher, or an injury is not allowed.
- G. The third base coach may wear a fielder’s glove to catch the ball that is thrown to the base coach when switching the male and female balls during a time out on the field.
- H. Defensive position must follow these guidelines.
 - Outfield** (2 males and 2 females)
 - Infield** (2 males and 2 females)
 - Pitcher/Catcher** (1 male and 1 female)

Playoff Rules

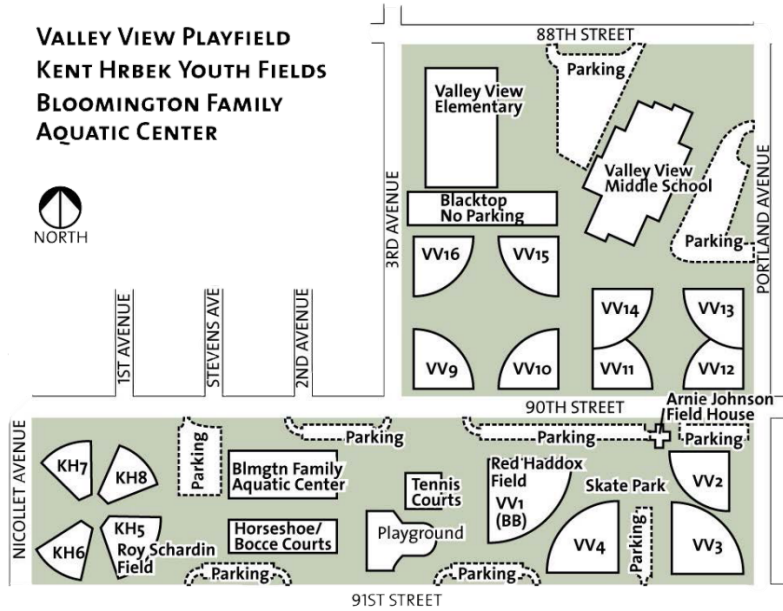
- A. If the score remains tied after seven completed innings, the international “tiebreaker rule” will apply
- B. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number five batter is the lead off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base.
- C. 3. Teams will begin each half inning with 1 out.

Important Dates

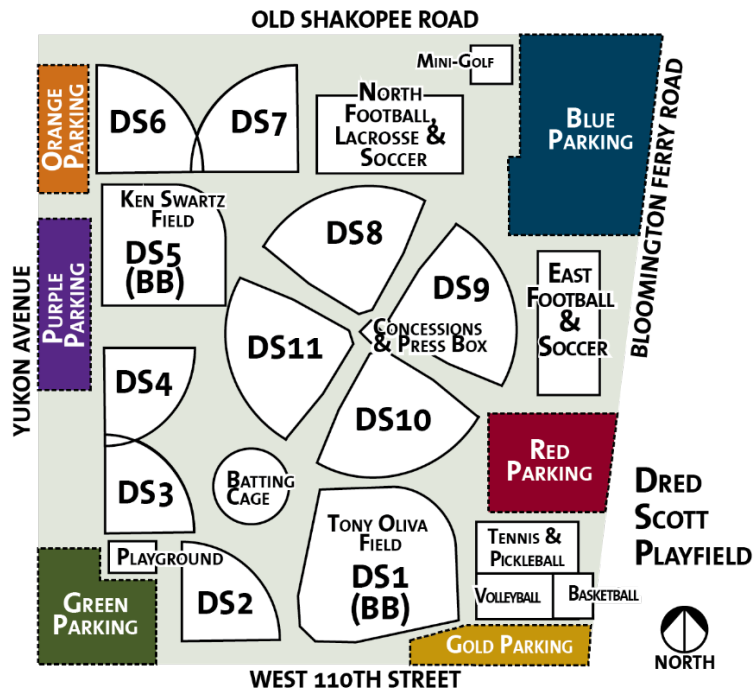
- A. Registration deadline: April 7th
- B. Season starts: April 22nd
- C. Rosters due: Email by teams second scheduled game

Locations

- A. **Valley View Playfields:** 9000 Portland Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420



- B. **Dred Scott Playfields:** 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road, Bloomington, MN 55438



Contacts

- A. Anthony DiBella (League Director)
 - a. adibella@bloomingtonmn.gov
 - b. Office: 952-563-8676
 - c. Cell: 952-215-9788
- B. Parks and recreation office
 - a. Phone: 952-563-8877