



Rules and Information Packet

City of Lakeville
Parks & Recreation Department
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www.lakevillemn.gov

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Weather Info:

Messages will be updated by 4:30 p.m.

Twitter [@LakevilleParks](https://twitter.com/LakevilleParks)

Hotline: 952-985-4690, option #2

On days of inclement weather check back before heading to the field in case a change has been made.

LAKEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Softball League Rules—updated 3/10/2025

Official Rule Book:

Current year's Official USSSA Slow Pitch Rulebook and National By-Laws, unless noted throughout this document.

Teams:

ROSTERS can include up to a maximum of twenty (20) players. Players must be 18 years of age or older before the first regular scheduled game. Changes to rosters will be allowed until **2 week prior to the end of regular season** at which time rosters will be frozen and no changes will be allowed. Please communicate with the League Director with any updates as they occur.

UNIFORMS. Same color and style shirt should be worn by all team members so players are easily identifiable. Shoes shall be considered legal if they are either leather or canvas uppers or made with similar materials. The soles may have soft or hard rubber cleats. **Metal cleats and Metal screw-in cleats are prohibited.** Shoe sole or heel projections other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited. The all-purpose molded cleat softball shoe is legal. Shoes must be worn by all players.

BASES must be removed after the last game played on each field and caps must be put on the base pegs. If your team plays the last game on that field for the evening, please remove the base closest to your dugout and set the base along the fence line. Additionally, 2nd base should be removed by the team sitting on the 3rd baseline.

FORFEITS. If your team must forfeit a game, you are required to contact the league director and your opponent a minimum of 48 hours before the scheduled game time. You will not be required to pay a forfeiture penalty if the 48 hour advanced notice is given.

Forfeiture penalties are as follows:

- If you give Lakeville Parks & Recreation notice of your forfeit with **less than** 48 hours before game time, but are successful in contacting your opponent's team manager by 4:30 p.m. on the day of your game, you will be required to pay a \$25.00 penalty fee.
- If you forfeit your game and give no notice before 4:30 p.m. on game day you will be required to pay a \$75.00 penalty fee.

If a forfeiture takes place because a team is short of players and teams would still like to scrimmage they may, but the umpires are instructed not to officiate. A score of **7-0** will be recorded for forfeiture games. Two or more forfeitures by a team can result in termination from the league.

Game Information:

SCORING – RUN RULE. The home team is listed on the schedule. The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. Visiting teams are also encouraged to keep score. In case of a tie, each team will be credited with one half win on the standings. A game is complete when a team has a lead of 20 runs in the 4th inning, 15 runs in the 5th inning or 10 runs in the 6th inning.

HOMERUNS. For league play, the City of Lakeville will not follow the USSSA national rule for homeruns. However, these rules will be in effect for post season play in Minnesota.

Co-Rec D allows 1 home run per game. Men's League allows 3 home runs per game. Once a team has reached that number additional home runs will be ruled an out. Foul balls and home run balls must be retrieved without delay by the team that hit them. Failure to do so will result in a warning from the umpire and possible forfeiture.

UMPIRES are instructed to start the game at the scheduled game time. Teams may have a 5-minute grace period the first game. There shall be no grace period after the first games for missing players. An umpire must allow any team a grace period if they are playing a doubleheader and must travel from field to field. Official game length is 7 innings. No new inning may begin from the actual game start time after 55 minutes for both Co-Rec and Men's regardless of score. Extra innings can be played if time permits. A game stopped by an umpire is complete if 4 innings are completed or 3 ½ if the home team is in the lead.

If an official does not show up to officiate please take the following actions:

The game will be treated as a rainout game unless both managers agree to play the game with a stand-in umpire. If both managers agree to a "stand-in" the results of the game become final, **no exceptions!** The stand-in umpire will be paid by the City of Lakeville. If a stand-in umpire is used the home team manager is responsible for calling in the score to the league director.

In the event of rain or questionable weather, **we will update Twitter @LakevilleParks** or you may call the Lakeville Parks and Recreation Department Hotline **952-985-4690, option #2 after 4:30 p.m.** If the message does not indicate cancellation teams are to report to the

field for the evenings first scheduled games. If games are questionable later in the evening managers should call the hotline in case of evening updates. On site, prior to the start of the game, and once the game has begun, the umpire has sole authority as to whether or not the game should continue.

EJECTIONS. Please refer to the attached SORR Sportsmanship Policy. SORR stands for the South of the River Recreators. SORR is comprised of the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville, Rosemount, and Savage. Remember any violation of the SORR Sportsmanship Policy could lead to suspension from any SORR Softball League regardless of what SORR city the ejection happened in.

MUSIC RULE. Teams that want to warm-up with a music box playing is fine. At the umpire and team manager meeting the umpire needs to ask both teams if they are okay with "light" music being played during the game. If both teams agree than it's fine for the game. If a team does not want music played during the game the other team cannot play their music box in or close to the dugout area. At any time during the game the umpire can request that the music is stopped if the umpire deems it is becoming a distraction for either team or the umpire. If a spectator complains about the music the umpire can have the team turn off the music.

Equipment:

Due to the rapidly expanding and advanced technology of adult softball bat productions, USSSA changed its bat requirements in January of 2023. Our state association, and S.O.R.R. Cities, including Lakeville, will continue to allow the use of both the older stamped bats and the new stamped bats in 2025. PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2026 WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ALLOWING BATS WITH THE OLD STAMP. Please begin planning now; In 2026 all bats will need to have the new bat stamp and the lowest allowable threshold for passing the compression test will be 240.



The 11-inch softball will be used when a female is batting and a 12-inch softball when a male is batting. It is an appeal play when the wrong ball is pitched to a batter. If the appeal is allowed, than the batter returns to bat with the same ball and strike count he/she had at the time of the pitch. Also, any base runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

The Lakeville Parks and Recreation Department will provide each team with new softballs.

CO-REC - Each "home" team is responsible for providing one new 11" and one new 12" softball for each game. Both teams must also provide an adequate back-up ball.

MEN'S – **The home team** is responsible for providing a new ball before the start of each game. Both teams must also provide an adequate back-up ball.

Home teams of the first games of the evening are responsible for setting the bases if they have not already been set for you. Team managers all have instructions on how to access the storage room. Home teams of the last game of the night must cap the base pegs and pull the bases off the field, setting bases neatly alongside the fence. Make sure the storage room door is locked at the end of the evening.

Playing Rules:

Pitching distances will be 50 feet with **bases set at 70 feet**. A pitcher may pitch from the pitching rubber or directly behind the pitching rubber. If pitching from behind the pitching rubber the pitching area is the width of the pitching rubber up to 6 feet behind the pitching rubber

No children are allowed in the bench/dugout area or on the field. * Player's must stay in the dugout area during the game.**

Co-Rec outfielders must be in the grass at the time of ball contact by the hitter. Otherwise, Co-Rec players can play in any defensive formation they wish.

Unsportsmanlike conduct and unnecessary roughness will **not** be tolerated, the offender is subject to immediate removal from the game.

No bunting or chopping the ball.

Batters get a three-ball, two-strike count. No courtesy foul permitted. When the 2nd strike is a foul ball, the batter is out. The ball is considered a live ball when caught by a defensive player and runners may advance at their own discretion.

A team can play with 8, 9, or 10 players.

CO-REC - The number of men and women on a team may vary no more than one (Example: Five women, four men / four women, five men). If a team is playing with 9 players and five are men, the fifth man can still bat. The 10th batter (which would be a woman in this example) receives an automatic out.

CO-REC - When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat. **NOTE:** If the next female batter chooses to walk, it is not considered an intentional walk for the purpose of making an appeal.

CO-REC – Each team may bat an unlimited number of players in accordance that the number of men and women batting may vary no more than one. The batting order must remain constant. A loss of a female player will also result in a loss of a male player. If there is a loss of a male player, the female player may continue to bat. If for any reason a team cannot finish a game with the number of players it started with, the team will be permitted to continue play, however, an automatic out will be recorded when a vacated position occurs in the order.

SUBSTITUTION If a team is batting a specific number (not the continuous option), any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he/she returns to the lineup. Managers should report substitutions to the umpire and the other team manager.

MEN'S – Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to start a game and end a game. Teams starting with 8 players may add the 9th and 10th players when they arrive. They must be placed in the 9th and 10th spots in the batting order. An out will be recorded each time the number 9 hitter is scheduled to bat if that position is vacant. Teams may bat an unlimited number of players. This decision must be made during the manager-umpire meeting before the game. If for any reason a team cannot finish a game with the number of players it started with, the team will be permitted to continue play, however, an automatic out will be recorded when a vacated position occurs in the order.

COURTESY RUNNER – Teams are allowed unlimited courtesy runners. Runners may be anyone in the lineup, but if a courtesy runner is still on base when it is their turn to hit, their spot in the batting order will be an out. In Co-Rec leagues, courtesy runners must be the same sex as the player requesting the courtesy runner.

Only the team manager may enter into a discussion with the umpire. If you are planning to protest a game, the team manager must notify the umpire and the opponent's team manager before the last out in the game. The league director must be notified by 4:30 p.m. the next working day. The league director will decide all protests.

First Aid:

If a player is hurt during play resulting in a bleeding wound, 3 minutes will be allowed to properly cover the wound. A small 1st aid kit is located in the storage room.

Awards & Playoff Information:

All players on your roster must participate in a minimum of two regular season games before participating in Lakeville Co-Rec league playoffs.

Co-Rec, the top 8 teams in the Lakeville Co-Rec league will be seeded according to the standings after the regular season. Playoffs will be single elimination style and will be completed in two evenings or less. \$10 per team will be put towards cash prizes at the end of the season. Therefore, if the league has 8 teams, \$40 will be awarded to the team with the best regular season record and \$40 to the team that wins the playoff.

If there are 8+ teams the Leagues Director may choose to develop a schedule with an upper and lower division however this is not required. In this case \$10 per team will still be put towards cash prizes at the end of the season. Division of prizes will be determined by the League Director.

Men's, league cash awards will be based on regular season standings (no playoffs). \$10 per team registration will be put towards the regular season cash prize. Example: If there are 8 teams in the league, \$80 awarded to the 1st place team.

Park Hours & Rules:

LIGHTS OUT RULE – No inning shall start after 10:55pm regardless of the score. All lights must be turned off at 11:00pm. The park closes at 11:00pm and players must vacate the park at this time. The last teams at the park must turn off the lights in the equipment room.

ALCOHOL. Can beer is the only form of alcohol allowed in the park. No glass bottles or containers allowed. Alcohol is not allowed on the field or in the dugout areas. An umpire shall have the authority to eject any player and/or coach who is intoxicated. Legal drinking age is 21.

LITTER. All teams are responsible for picking up the area surrounding their dugout after the game!

USSSA Tournaments:

Your involvement in the softball leagues through the City of Lakeville enables you to compete for a spot in the USSSA post season tournament(s) sponsored by the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (MRPA). All spring teams are USSSA sanctioned, if your team is a new team in fall and you need to be sanctioned for tournament play please let the League Director know.

SORR SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

The League Directors from the SORR communities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville, Rosemount and Savage are interested in ensuring that a high level of sportsmanship be maintained in the sports programs directed by each City. The SORR communities shall enforce a zero-tolerance policy with regards to negative conduct before, during or after league games. Therefore, the following policy for dealing with cases of unsportsmanlike conduct will be instituted with each city's league rules superseding this policy:

- A. Any player, coach, manager or spectator ejected from any game for an unsportsmanlike act including but not limited to profanity, rowdy or disruptive behavior, mischief, tantrum behavior, verbal abuse will result in a:
 - 1. Game suspension for the remainder of that game plus at least the next two games.
 - a. A suspended person may or may not be allowed at any site where league games are in progress.
 - b. Violating the suspension will result in forwarding the incident to SORR or state for further sanctions against the player and/or team.
 - 2. The suspended player's name will be placed on probation for one year in all SORR communities.
 - 3. Any player, coach, manager or spectator ejected a second time during a 365 day period for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be prohibited from participating in the SORR communities' adult leagues for at least one calendar year.
- B. Any unnecessary physical contact including but not limited to fighting, hitting, kicking another individual will result in a:
 - 1. Game(s) suspension deemed appropriate by the League Director(s).
 - a. A suspended person may not be present at any site where league games are in progress.
 - b. Violating the suspension will result in forwarding the incident to SORR or state for further sanctions against the player and/or team.
 - 2. Suspended indefinitely from all SORR communities' adult leagues, pending review of the incident by the SORR League Directors for additional disciplinary action at the next scheduled SORR meeting.
 - 3. The suspended player's name will be placed on probation for one year after the suspension has been served in all SORR communities.
- C. Any physical contact including but not limited to fighting, hitting, kicking an official/umpire will result in an immediate:
 - 1. Minimum 12 month suspension from the SORR communities' adult leagues.
 - a. A suspended person may not be present at any site where league games are in progress.
 - b. Violating the suspension will result in forwarding the incident to SORR or state for further sanctions against the player and/or team.
 - 2. The suspended player's name will be placed on probation for one year after the suspension has been served in all SORR communities.
 - 3. The incident will also be reported to the state organizations or governing body for review.
- D. An individual retains the right of a hearing when the action to be taken is expulsion from participation in the league:
 - 1. The player will provide a written explanation of the situation that resulted in his/her ejection from the game.
 - 2. An appeal letter along with \$50 cash must be received within 7 days of being notified of the expulsion to your League Director(s). Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of one's right to appeal. If your ejection is over-ruled you will get your \$50 back.
 - 3. Invited to attend the hearing will be: the player, his/her manager, the League Director(s) and the Official/Umpire Assigner for the community.
 - 4. Additionally, a suspended player must be present at the next scheduled SORR meeting to review his/her case. Failure to attend this meeting will result in a forfeiture of one's right to appeal the decision of the SORR League Directors.
 - 5. A minimum of 5 SORR League Directors must be present at the review meeting.
 - 6. A majority vote of active/present League Directors is necessary to overturn a suspension/expulsion.
- E. Remember that leagues are available to help you enjoy your leisure time. Your "fun" should not be at the expense of others. Check your language and actions that might be offensive to others. Keep your socializing before and after games to a moderate level of noise and alcohol consumption. Keep traffic speed and parking appropriate for safety. Remember, we are neighbors to local residents and need to respect their rights. Respect people and the park!

Manager's Duties:

1. Read everything. Ask questions if something is unclear. Pass all information on to your teammates. Any schedule information, changes or other league information will be sent to you. It is your responsibility to pass this information on to your players.
2. You are responsible for your team's and your spectator's conduct at and around the park. Abusive language, improper drinking, litter and other irresponsible acts will not be tolerated.
3. Know the eligibility requirements and consequences for the use of an ineligible player.
4. Make sure you have at least ten (10) players at each game. Avoid forfeits and get substitutes to fill in when needed.
5. Know the playing rules and share them with your teammates.
6. The last teams scheduled on a field each evening remove bases, cap base pegs, and set bases along the fence line.
7. Make sure you have a scorebook. The home team's scorebook is official.
8. **Meet with the umpire at home plate five (5) minutes before the game starts.** If you have any questions, ask them. Exchange line-ups with your opponent. Inform your players of the ground rules. The person representing your team at the pre-game meeting will be the "designated manager" for the game.
9. Any dispute must be handled by the "designated manager." Do not let one of your players face ejection by arguing over a call. Be respectful of the umpires and other managers/players.
10. It is recommended that each team wear shirts of similar color.
11. It is the manager's responsibility to ensure that the players' bench area is occupied only by players and the scorekeeper. Children and spectators are not to be on the player's bench.
12. On days involving bad weather the fastest way to get game updates is via Twitter [@LakevilleParks](#). You may also call 952-985-4690; option #2 after 4:30 p.m. to learn whether the games will be played. The decision to cancel will not be made prior.