

2021 Summer Softball Manager's Guide
(Revised April 2021)

You can obtain your schedule by visiting:

www.teamsideline.com/ventura

	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Virtual Manager's Meeting</u>
Summer 2021	June 4	June 15	June 10

Welcome to the City of Ventura Adult Slow Pitch Softball League!

- Check schedules and standings weekly to make sure you have the most up to date information
- Umpire fees are \$15 per game and due at game time
- Contact Information:
 - Tyler Nelson
 - Office: 805-658-4743
 - Email: tnelson@cityofventura.ca.gov
 - Eric Burton
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 - Email: eburton@cityofventura.net
 - Fax: 805-648-1030

Registration Requirements

The City of Ventura requires each manager to complete a team roster and turn it in to the Adult Sports office with entry fee payment in full to be eligible to participate in leagues. Rosters are limited to 15 players and signatures for each player must be obtained prior to the first regular season game.

All players are also required to sign a COVID waiver to be eligible to participate in leagues.

Players are only allowed to play for one team per night.

- When registering, use the same team name or list a previous team name to assist with classification

Softball League Format

The City of Ventura softball league utilizes an 8-game league format. Teams will play a guaranteed 8 games. You can obtain your schedule by visiting www.teamsideline.com/ventura. Games are one hour and utilize a one ball and one strike count.

Team captains are responsible for filling out score cards with all eligible players on game day. If a player is not on the score card, they will not be considered 'present' as a player for that game. Players must have been 'present' for at least three regular season games to be eligible to play in the playoffs.

If your team must forfeit a contest, you must report 24 hours ahead of your scheduled game time. If you fail to contact City of Ventura Adult Sports staff 24 hours in advance, the full official's fees (\$30) will be due in full, prior to your next scheduled game. You may call Tyler Nelson at 805-658-4743, or email tnelson@cityofventura.ca.gov to confirm your forfeit. Failure to call will result in the forfeiture of the next game, and your team may be dropped from further league play.

Rainouts/Cancellations

If rain occurs during the day of your game please call 805-658-4743 after 3:00pm or check www.teamsideline.com/ventura on your game day to determine if games will be played. Rainout games are made up at the end of the regular season.

Official Softball Rules

Softball rules and conditions will follow the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) Rulebook with the following exceptions:

- All game related fees must be paid before the start of each game. The game will not start until fees have been paid
- While Little League fences are up at Camino Real Park, any ball hit over the fence will be considered an automatic out. If a player continues to hit balls over the fence, he/she may be ejected from the game at the discretion of staff or officials
- Teams should be ready to check in 15 minutes before game time. Infield practice may be refused if games are running behind. Game time is forfeit time. Games tied at the end of seven innings or one hour will be declared a tie and considered final
- Teams may start a game with 8 players (any combination of the same sex for Coed teams). At no time can a team play with 6 men on the field on a Coed team. In Ventura, only a female can be inside the coed line (180' arc) when a female is at bat. If at game time, a team does not have enough players, teams may start the game with the home team becoming the visiting team and batting first. If 8 players have not arrived before the bottom half of the inning, the game will be forfeited
- Once a team has supplied a courtesy catcher, the catcher will be supplied for the remainder of the game, or until another player arrives
- Teams playing with illegal players will forfeit games
- Managers are responsible for writing down the players who are present for each game on the blue score card
- Mercy rule
 - A game will end when one team is ahead by twenty (20) runs after four (4) innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead), fifteen (15) runs after five (5) innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) or twelve (12) runs after six (6) innings (5 ½) innings if the home team is ahead). Complete innings must be played unless the home team attains the designated lead in its half of the inning. When the visiting team achieves the designated lead in the top half of the inning, the home team must have their opportunity to bat in the bottom of the inning
- No drinking of alcohol is allowed during the game or at City of Ventura parks. If any member of your team is caught drinking, your team will automatically forfeit your game. Game fess will not be returned to teams who forfeit games for breaking this policy. No coolers are allowed near playing fields

Additional Rules for 2021

- Players should remain in their cars up until 15 minutes before their assigned game times. Players may not assemble in groups of more than 10 people before game time and may only warm up in the outfield while bleachers are being cleaned
- Players will self-administer wellness checks before games. Wellness check signs will be posted at each field. Anyone exhibiting symptoms listed on the sign will be required to leave the park immediately
- Dug-outs are closed. Players will seat themselves in the bleachers in designated seating spots that are at least 6 feet apart. Bleachers will be closed to the general public and spectators will be discouraged from assembling. Players will be allowed to walk through the dug-out area to take the field, but may not place anything in the dug-out area
- When games are completed, players are encouraged to collect their belongings and leave the area as quickly as possible. No new team may place their belongings in the seating area until it has been cleared out and sanitized
- Players are required to wear masks when not on the field. The umpire will be required to wear a mask if requested by either team
- The catcher, umpire, and batter must stand at least 6 feet apart from one another unless they are making a play on the runner
- Only the batter's team may touch a bat after it has been used. An opponent and the umpire are not allowed to help retrieve a used bat
- All forms of sportsmanship will be touchless

- *There will be a virtual captain's meeting on June 10 hosted via Webex at 6:30pm. All teams must have one representative present at the meeting. Failure to have someone available for this meeting may result in your team being removed from play. The captain will be sent the link in an email upon registration.*

Failure to abide by any rules listed above may result in removal of a player from the field of play and a suspension for one week

Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct for the City of Ventura Softball leagues shall immediately be in effect. The City reserves the right to interpret any rule in accordance with the philosophy and goals of the Adult Sports Program and the City of Ventura. **It is the responsibility of the team manager to enforce and abide by the following Code of Conduct. Team managers shall be responsible for the conduct of their players and fans associated with their team, before, during and after their game.**

Depending on the severity, frequency and circumstances related to an infraction, a sequence of progressive disciplinary action may be used at the discretion of the City of Ventura Adult Sports Staff. **It should be noted that any step(s) in the discipline process might be passed or eliminated in applying disciplinary action.** The progressive discipline process may progress as follows: 1) warning to team manager or player, 2) team member or fan removed, 3) player or team suspended from the league. Rules of the game and any misconduct violations relating to the field of play shall be enforced by the on-site umpire.

Any player committing a Major Infraction listed below will immediately be ejected from the game and will not be allowed to play or attend games for (1) calendar week and will be required to leave the field of play. An email will be sent to the manager of the team, notifying them of the suspension and the date the suspended player may return to league. Progressive disciplinary action may be taken with repeat offenders.

Major Infractions

- **Physical Contact with Official, Player, Staff, or Fan:** no player shall at any time lay a hand on, push, strike, or threaten to strike an official, staff, fan, or other player. Players making physical contact with another person in an aggressive manner will be suspended from all league play. Major infraction involving physical contact usually result in year-long suspensions.
- **Verbal Abuse/Objectionable Demonstrations:** no players shall verbally abuse or threaten any staff, official, fan, or other player for any reason. Players shall not make objectionable demonstrations by throwing bats, gloves, or other equipment in a forceful manner, or use any obscene gestures towards another person.
- **Unnecessary Rough Play:** no player shall use unnecessarily rough tactics or overly physical play during the game against any other player.
- **Consuming Alcohol:** the consumption of alcohol in City of Ventura parks is NOT permitted and is punishable by law. The City of Ventura strictly bans the consumption of alcohol during games. Teams with any player(s) consuming alcohol will forfeit the game and will not have game fees returned to them.

Appeal Process

A player shall have the right to appeal a suspension greater than one week by notifying the City of Ventura Adult Sports Supervisor in writing within 3 days of the suspension. City staff will review the appeal within 3 days of receipt of the written appeal. The player will remain suspended until the appeal has been reviewed.

City of Ventura Official Bat Policy

Bats shall be made from wood or aluminum. No 100% composite bats will be used in City of Ventura leagues. Bat handles may be composite; however, barrels may only contain aluminum or alloy. The outer surface of non-wood bats must be aluminum only. Bats must be designed for slow pitch softball use only and newer bats must have a manufacturer's label along with an "Official Softball/ASA" stamp. Multi-walled softball bats are permitted (aluminum only); however, bats must not exceed the 1.20 BPF rating or exceed the 98mph limit.

- No fiber wrapped or non-aluminum coated bats
- No wood or aluminum fungo bats
- No baseball, senior softball, or fast pitch bats

City of Ventura officials have the authority to remove any bat that he/she suspects has been altered in any way. This judgement is left entirely to the discretion of the umpire in any given game. The game shall be immediately forfeited by any team whose player takes position in the batter's box with any bat that has been previously removed by the umpire in accordance with this rule.

Older bats that have worn labels from long time usage will be left to the discretion of the game officials.

Classification Guidelines

The following guidelines have been developed to assist staff in placing teams in correct leagues. Teams may not have more than 2 players on their roster that are currently playing in a higher classified league or tournament.

Novice Classification: Team claiming this classification must be new teams or inexperienced teams with most players having little or no experience playing organized softball. Novice leagues often consist of company teams without experienced players, usually playing one night a week.

Novice A/B Classification: Teams claiming this classification may have some experienced players but have no tournament players on their rosters. Many of these teams have players with less than 2 years of experience playing organized softball or have many older players on the team.

Novice 1/2 Classification: Teams claiming this classification have several experienced players and may have some tournament players on their rosters. Many of these teams have more than 2 years of experience playing organized softball or have many veteran players on the team.

Recreation Classification: Teams claiming this classification have players with more than 4 years of experience who may play multiple nights a week. Rec teams may have players with tournament experience.

Note: The City of Ventura has the right to place teams in the league that suits the skill level of the players on the roster. Teams that do not have a completed roster may be placed in a higher division. The City of Ventura has the right to move teams from one league to another after the season begins, in an attempt to ensure leagues are competitively balanced.

Player Adds & Drops

Completed rosters are due at the time of registration. No additional add/drops will be allowed after 5:00pm of the second scheduled league game. If a team drops below 12 players, a manager may appeal to the league office to add a player(s) with the following process:

- Call the Adult Sports Office at 805-658-4743 and/or send an email to the Adult Sports Office and state your name, team name, name of player to be added, and the reason for the addition
- Go to www.teamsideline.com/ventura and download an Add/Drop Form and return it to the league office at least 24 hours before the date the added player is scheduled to play. Fax this to 805-648-1030 or email to tnelson@cityofventura.ca.gov
- The league office will verify the added player with a phone call or email prior to the first game the added player is expected to play

Any dropped player is not eligible to play on the same team or another team in the same league but may play on another team in a different league

League Standings/Playoffs/Awards

League standings will be updated weekly on Team Sideline. The top four teams in each division will advance to the playoffs the week after the regular season.

The playoffs will be a single elimination bracket, completed in one night. Teams ranked second and third will play the first game at 6:15pm. Teams ranked first and fourth will play the second game at 7:30pm. The winners of each of the first two games will play the championship game against each other at 8:45pm.

There will be prizes awarded to the winner of the championship game in each division.