



SOFTBALL MANAGERS' GUIDE 2016

CITY OF
VENTURA
PARKS, RECREATION &
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



www.teamsideline.com/ventura
805/ 658-4743

2016 Softball Managers Guide

(Revised December 10, 2015)

You can obtain your schedule by visiting:

www.teamsideline.com/ventura

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE DATES

EVENTS	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
Registration Deadline	February 4	June 1	August 31
Leagues Begin	February 16	June 14	September 13
Leagues End	April 24 Unless rain delays	August 26	November 22
Manager's Meetings	February 10 6:00 PM City Hall	June 8 6:00 PM City Hall	September 7 6:00 PM City Hall

General Information

- Check schedules weekly at www.teamsideline.com/ventura.
- Umpire fees are \$15.00 per game per team and due at game time.
- In case of rain call 805-658-4743 or check www.teamsideline.com/ventura after 3:00p on your game day. Any games that are postponed will be made up at the end of the season in the order that they were missed.
- No Drinking of Alcohol during the games! If any member of your team is caught drinking your team will automatically forfeit your game. Game fees will not be returned to teams who forfeit games for breaking this policy. No coolers near playing fields.
- The City of Ventura has banned all Composite Bats except those provided by the Adult Sports Staff. All Aluminum single/double bats certified by ASA bat list can be utilized in City of Ventura Leagues. You can find the ASA bat list by visiting www.softball.org.
- In Ventura only a female can be inside the coed line (180' arc) when a female is at bat. At no time can a team play with 6 men on the field when a Coed team is playing.
- All teams are guaranteed 8 regular season games with the top 4 teams per division going to a single elimination playoff.
- Contact: Doug Reed at 658-4743 or e-mail to dreed@cityofventura.net or Eric Burton-Office 805-658-4738, cell 805-701-8122, e-mail eburton@cityofventura.net. Fax: 805-648-1030.

Registration Requirements

The City of Ventura requires each manager to complete a team roster and return it 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 game of the season.

Softball League Format

The City of Ventura softball league currently utilizes an 8-week league format. Teams will play a guarantee of 8 Games. The top (4) four teams in each division will advance to a single-elimination playoff the week after their final regular season game is completed. You can obtain your playoff schedule by visiting www.teamsideline.com/ventura. The rules and conditions of the City of Ventura softball program will follow the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) Rulebook. Games are one hour and ten minutes and utilize a one ball and one strike count.

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 conclusion of the regular season.

Official Softball Rules

Softball rules and conditions shall 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.
- *Teams should be ready for 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 1 hour and 10 minutes will be declared a tie and considered final.*
- *Roster size is limited to 15 players. **Players may only play on 1 team in the same Division.** Any player determined to be playing on more than 1 team in the same Division will be suspended for (1) calendar week and the team with the illegal player will forfeit the game. Each player must have picture identification at every game and players must be available for check-in at least 10 minutes before game time. No add-ons after 4th game unless approved by City Staff due to injury or circumstances beyond our control.*
- *Umpires may start a game with (8) eight players (any combination of 5 players of same sex for Coed teams). At no time can a team play with 6 men on the field on a Coed team. If at game time a team does not have sufficient players, an official 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 and all fees paid by the forfeiting team.*
- *Once a team has agreed to supply a courtesy catcher, the catcher will be supplied for the remained of the game, or until another player arrives. Courtesy Catcher Rule applies to both league and playoffs.*
- *Players must play a minimum of 3 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. All players must check-in and show picture identification prior to the first playoff game. Random ID checks will be made throughout the year. Teams playing with illegal players will forfeit games.*

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. The PR&CP staff for Adult Sports or designated representative shall assume responsibility for enforcing penalties and for disciplinary actions. All rules of the game, and any misconduct violations relating to the field of play, shall be enforced by the on-site umpire. All rules of the game, and any misconduct violations relating to the field of play, shall be enforced by the on-site umpire.

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 rules of the game and any misconduct violations relating to the field of play shall be enforced by the on-site umpire.

Any player ejected from a game for a Major Infraction will not be allowed to play or attend games for (1) calendar week and will be required to leave the field of play. A letter will be sent to both the suspended player and the manager of the team, notifying them of the suspension and the date the suspended player may return to league.

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Major Infractions

- **Physical Contact with Official, Player or Fan:** No team member shall at any time lay a hand on, push, strike or threaten to strike an Official, Referee, Umpire, Player or Fan. **Penalty:** Any physical contact against another person in an aggressive manner, before, during or after a league game will result in immediate ejection and suspension from all league play. Major Infractions, involving physical contact usually result in year-long suspensions.
- **Verbal Abuse/Objectionable Demonstrations:** Players shall not verbally abuse any City of Ventura staff, Player or Fan for any reason. Players shall not make objectionable demonstrations by throwing bats, gloves or other equipment in a forceful manner. **Penalty:** Immediate ejection and suspension from game. This violation results in an automatic (1) week suspension from league play. Progressive disciplinary action may be applied with repeat offenders.
- **Unnecessary Rough Play:** Players shall not use unnecessarily rough tactics during the game against any other player or be guilty of physically aggressive play. **Penalty:** Immediate ejection and suspension from game. This violation results in an automatic (1) week suspension from league play. Progressive disciplinary action may be applied with repeat offenders.
- **Consumption of Alcohol While on Premises:**
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 player(s) consuming alcohol will forfeit games.

Appeal Process

- A participant shall have the right to appeal a suspension greater than one week by notifying the City 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. Participant will remain suspended until appeal has been reviewed.

City of Ventura Official Bat Policy:

Bats shall be made of 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 manufacture's label along with "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 certified Umpires have the authority to remove any bat that he/she suspects has been altered in any way. This judgment 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 a position in the batter's box with any bat that has been previously removed by the umpire in accordance with this rule.

Older bats used 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. Team 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 a majority of players with little or no experience playing organized softball. Novice leagues often consists of company teams without experienced players, usually playing one night a week.

Novice 1 Classification: Teams claiming this classification may have some experienced players, but have no tournament players on their rosters. Many of these teams have less than 2 years experience playing organized softball or have a large number of older players on the team.

Novice 2 Classification:

Recreation Classification: Teams claiming this classification have players with more than 2 years experience who may play multiple nights a week. Rec teams may have 1-2 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. City of Ventura has the right to move teams from one league to another after the season begins, to ensure leagues are competitively balanced.

Player Adds & Drops

Completed rosters are due at the time of registration. No additional drops/adds will be allowed after 5:00 pm of the 4th scheduled league game. If a team roster drops below 12 players, a manager may appeal to the League Office to add a player(s) with the following process:

- 1) Call the Adult Sports Office at (805) 658-4743 and/or send an e-mail to the Adult Sports Office and state your name, the name of your team, first and last name of the player to be added, and the reason for the addition.
- 2) Go to Team Sidelines at www.teamsidelines.com/ventura and download a Add/Drop Form and return to the League Office at least 24 hours before the date the added player is scheduled to play. Fax to (805) 648-1030 or e-mail to dreed@cityofventura.net or eburton@cityofventura.net.
- 3) League Office will verify the added player with a phone call or e-mail prior to the first game the added player is expected to play.

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

League Standings/Playoffs/Awards

Teams will play (8) eight games in a regular season and the top four teams will play in a single-elimination tournament to determine a league champion. League standings will be found on Team Sidelines and will be updated weekly. One the regular season is over staff will post the tournament brackets and teams will be seeded based upon win/lose record, head-to-head competition, and runs scored.

Teams playing in the league-ending tournament must be the same team that played in the regular season. Players must bring picture identification to playoff games to be eligible and NO add-on players that have not been approved by the Adult Sports Office will be allowed to play. The Adult Sports League Office will certified that players on teams participating in the league-ending tournament have played a minimum of (3) games and are eligible to play in the tournament. Teams unable to participate with a certified roster will forfeit their spot in the playoffs and the next available team will replace them.

Teams will be given awards at the conclusion of the league-ending tournament. First Place Awards only will be given for 2016 spring, summer, and fall leagues.