



# City of Prior Lake

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## 2010 Official Slow Pitch League Guidelines

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[www.cityofpriorlake.com](http://www.cityofpriorlake.com)



# City of Prior Lake

## Recreation Department

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City of Prior Lake  
4646 Dakota St. SE  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

### **Recreation Staff Phone Numbers, E-mail & Websites**

Recreation Department: Nancy McGill: 952-447-9820 or  
nmcgill@cityofpriorlake.com  
City Hall Receptionist: 952-447-9800  
Fax: 952-447-4245  
Recreation Supervisor: Angie Barstad: 952-447-9822 or  
abarstad@cityofpriorlake.com  
**Schedules/Standings:** [www.cityofpriorlake.com](http://www.cityofpriorlake.com)  
**Weekly Calendar:** [www.priorlakesavage.ce](http://www.priorlakesavage.ce)

### **Managers and their Duties**

1. Read everything. Ask questions if something is unclear.
2. Make sure the Prior Lake Recreation Department has your correct mailing address and phone numbers.
3. Know the eligibility requirements and consequences for use of an ineligible player.
4. Know the playing rules and inform members of your team.
5. **Meet with the umpire at home plate before the game starts.** If you have any questions, this is your chance to ask them. Exchange line-ups with the other team. 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.
6. The “designated manager” must handle any dispute. Do not let one of your players face ejection by arguing over a call.
7. You are responsible for your team and your spectators’ conduct at the fields and around the park. The City of Prior Lake will not tolerate abusive language, improper drinking, litter and other irresponsible acts.
8. 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.
9. For safety reasons, it is recommended that children and spectators not be allowed on the player’s bench.

## Eligibility

1. All players must be 16 years of age before they begin play.
2. Players may be rostered on more than one team provided that 1) the teams are sanctioned at the same level and 2) the teams do not play on the same night or in the same league. Example: Co-Rec D and Men's D level player.
3. Participation of an ineligible player will result in a forfeit of one or more games.
4. Players may be asked to prove their eligibility by producing a valid picture ID.
5. Teams must abide by the eligibility rules as stated in the current USSSA guidebook.

## Rosters

1. A team may roster a maximum of 20 players, and a minimum of 10 players.
2. A player is not eligible to play until their name appears on the league roster.
3. Rosters are due by **June 2**. Names and addresses are required at this time. Players listed without addresses are considered non-resident players. Changes can be made **until June 2 in writing**. After that date, the roster becomes final. You are responsible to make sure the League Director has received your changes (especially teams going on to post season play). Your team's participation may be suspended if your roster is not submitted on time (June 2, 2009).

## Standings

The Prior Lake Recreation Department will make an effort to post overall league standings every week on the [www.cityofpriorlake.com](http://www.cityofpriorlake.com) website during regular season play. For more information on league standings, please contact Nancy at 952-447-9820, Tuesdays-Thursdays.

For teams tied in the standings, the following tiebreaker system will be used:

- a. Comparison of win/loss record in head to head games.
- b. Total run-differential of those head to head games.
- c. Least runs allowed – season.

## Post Season Play

Post-season berths **will not** be automatically awarded to league winners. Any team wishing to participate in post-season play in USSSA must submit a check for **\$160** (D level) to the Recreation Department, made payable to the City of Prior Lake by **June 23, 2010**. **After teams have purchased a berth, refunds will not be given.** In the event that more berths are requested than available, they will be awarded on the basis of division and standings as determined by the League Director. Teams finishing in first or second place in their league will be eligible for the reimbursement of their berth. (**1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$160 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100**). If your team anticipates finishing first or second in your league, you are still required to submit your \$160 payment by the June 23 deadline if you wish to proceed to post-season play. Teams finishing first or second in their league that

do not submit payment for a berth will receive \$160 for 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place which can be applied toward the following summer league.

## Sportsmanship

Managers have the significant responsibility to make every member of the team aware of all rules. It is your obligation to set examples of fair play and good sportsmanship for the team and spectator members. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their families and friends. Excessive abuse, as determined by the umpire, by a team's spectators can be viewed as a violation of sportsmanship. An umpire has the authority to ask that a team attempt to control these non-playing personnel and has the right to call a forfeit when abuse is deemed "excessive." Players that are ejected from a game and continue "unsportsmanlike" conduct, may be suspended for additional games beyond the stated rules, as well as cause his/her team to forfeit the game. Players may also be asked to leave the playing area and the park if the player's presence is creating a disturbance.

## Ejections

Any player or manager ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the league for the next two games. If a player is ejected from a game he/she is placed on probation for 1 calendar year. If a player is ejected a total of two times from any of South of the River Recreators (SORR) community (Burnsville, Apple Valley, Prior Lake, Farmington, Lakeville, Rosemount, Savage, and Eagan) in one year then the player is suspended for 1 full year in all communities. League Director can modify ejections as situations demands.

Should a player/manager wish to appeal a ruling, they must present a written appeal to the League Director within two working days of the decision. The League Director, Umpire Association official, and Recreation Supervisor will make the final decision.

## Casual Profanity Rule

Casual Profanity pertains to expletives and verbal unsportsmanlike language that most likely involves a player uttering them out of frustration. This type of behavior is penalized by "outs" being declared against the offending team.

- If the team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter will be declared out.
- If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat he/she will be called out.
- If the defensive team commits the act, the first person at bat in the next inning will be declared out.
- The outs will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation.
- If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning where the fielding team may not bat again, apply the ejection rule. If a team has an eligible substitute they can continue the game.
- A game may be ended by a casual profanity out!

## Protests

Managers can only protest rule interpretations. Manager can not protest judgment calls. Any protest must be made before or during a game to the umpire. Umpires will then follow up with the League Director.

## Weather/Game Cancellations

Decisions on game cancellations will be **made by 4:00 pm**. Team managers/coaches can call the "Weather Cancellation Hot-Line" after 4:00 pm (952-447-9825) for current information. If there are no indications that games are canceled, assume they are to be played as scheduled. After 4:00, umpires will call games if inclement weather develops.

Teams should be prepared to **play rescheduled games on any available night**. Team representatives will be notified of the "make up" games at least 5 days prior to time of the game, whenever possible.

## Alcoholic Beverages

Alcoholic beverages are **not permitted on the field, in the player bench area, or in the parking lot (or within 30 feet of the lot or any roadways)**. Players should refrain from drinking alcohol while playing the games as alcohol impairs a person's ability to make rational decisions. If a player is impaired he/she can be asked to leave the game by the umpire or League Director for the safety of the player(s) and others participating in the game. Umpires have the authority to eject any player who is drinking alcoholic beverages inside the fenced area.

## Park Regulations

1. **Parking on the grass areas** and park trails **is not permitted** under any circumstances. Violators may be ticketed!
2. **City of Prior Lake Park Ordinances makes it illegal to drink alcoholic beverages in the fenced area of any athletic field or in the parking lot or within 30 feet of the parking lot or any roadway.**
3. **Glass bottles are illegal** in all Prior Lake City Parks.
4. Please use trash barrels to dispose of your trash at the end of your stay.
5. All Prior Lake Parks close at 10:00 p.m. If you choose to stay after park hours, you may subject yourself to a ticket from the Prior Lake Police Department.

## The Playing Field

1. Games are played on fields with a 50' pitching distance.
2. Games are played on fields with a 70' base path
3. For Co-Rec play, no infielder may be in front of the base path except for the pitcher. Outfielders are not allowed inside the painted line until the ball is hit.

## The Game

1. The first game of the evening has a 5 minute grace period which if used is taken off the game time. All other games do not have grace periods.
2. *If a team does not have a legal number of players at game time, they can be designated as the VISITORS and will begin batting at the top of the first inning. If the team that is shorthanded does not have a legal number of players by the end of the top of the first inning, the game will be declared a forfeit. If both teams are shorthanded the game will be declared a forfeit at game time.*
3. No new inning may begin **after 55 minutes** has elapsed from the start of play. Extra innings can be played if time permits – ties after the limit will remain ties. Games ending in a tie will remain a tie in the standings.
4. Scheduled game length is 7 innings.
5. A game stopped by an umpire will count in the league standings if 4 innings are completed or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is in the lead.
6. A game will conclude early according to: Twenty (20) run lead rule after four (4) innings or fifteen (15) run lead rule after five (5) innings.
7. The second team on the schedule is designated as the home team.
8. The designated manager is the person meeting with the umpire prior to the start of the game. Any discussions with the umpire should only involve the designated manager.
9. Only official rostered players and coaches can be on the field and in the dugout. No persons under 16 or pets are allowed on the field or in the dugout.

## Equipment

### Official Bats

The performance standard for bats will not exceed 1.20 BPF. Umpires have the right to confiscate any bats on sight that exceed the 1.20 BPF if they are used in a game. A list of approved bats, as determined by USSSA, can be found on the USSSA website.

### Official Ball

The home team will supply a NEW ball and a decent back up ball. Failure to do this will result in a 2 run penalty at the start of the game for the home team. *The City will provide 1 dozen balls per team. Additional balls can be purchased through the City.* The official game balls must be a Blue Stamped or Blue Stitched

12" men - Dudley – Stamped USSSA.

11" women - Dudley – Stamped USSSA

Contact Prior Lake Recreation if you need additional balls.

### Safety Base

First base on all fields will be utilizing a safety base. On the initial throw to first base from the infield or outfield, the batter-runner must touch the orange portion of the base. If legally appealed by the defense during a live ball situation, the runner will be called out.

### Uniforms

For league play, matching colored shirts with visible numbers are highly recommended. While participating in USSSA tournaments, players are required to be uniformly dressed. Metal spiked shoes are prohibited.

## Players and Substitutes

A team can start a game with **8 players** and can finish with 8 players. Players must be on the playing field. A game cannot start or proceed with less than 8 players. Late players can be added to the bottom of the batting order. In Co-Rec, the ninth player may be added at any time. If a team begins with ten players but must drop to nine (Co-Rec must drop to eight if the player dropping out is female) that player's spot in the batting order may be appealed as an out, this includes ejections. A team must have ten players for the entire game during the post-season.

A player is prohibited from playing when bleeding until the bleeding is stopped and the wound and any effected clothing are completely covered.

## Batting

### Count

Each batter will have a 3-ball, 2-strike count, NO courtesy foul.

### Men's/Women's Batting Line-ups

Batting line-up length may be 8, 9, 10, 11 or everyone. The line up will collapse; accept for ejection, where the team must take an automatic out. Failure to do so will be a forfeit. There is no automatic forfeiture unless a team drops from eight to seven players. Teams must announce their batting line-up length to the opposing team and umpire at the beginning of the game. Any of (and only) the players listed in the batting line-up may play the ten defensive positions.

### Co-Rec

Co-Rec leagues follow the same rules as men's/women's with the following exceptions:

1. Co-Rec teams can not play more men then women in the field.
2. Co-Rec teams may bat an odd-numbered line-up but must have more women than men. Teams must alternate male/female in batting order.
3. *If a team has an odd number of women to men and they bat 2 men in a row, there is an automatic out between the two men batters. If a team has an odd number of women to men and they bat 2 women in a row, there is no automatic out between the two women batters.*
4. They may play any of the ten positions in the field, remaining at the defensive position in which they begin the inning except for pitching changes and substitutions.
5. The batting line-up is set and may not float; ex: women's line-up within a men's line-up or vice-versa. If a male batter is walked, he is automatically awarded 2nd base. The next female batter has the option of either batting or walking to 1st base.
6. A defensive team must keep the same defensive alignment for an entire inning. For example, if a team starts the inning with 4 outfielders they must play the entire inning with four outfielders. They may not bring in a fifth infielder for a batter and then switch back to four outfielders. Note: an outfielder is considered an outfielder as long as they have both feet in the grass. There are no defensive restrictions for post season or tournament play.

## Pitching

In all leagues the City of Prior Lake will use the USSSA National Rule. Teams can become familiar with this rule by reading Rule 6 on pages 36, 37 and 38 of the 2009 USSSA Official Slow Pitch Playing Rules (specifically Sec. 3)

## Homeruns

**For league play, the City of Prior Lake will not follow the USSSA national rule for homeruns. However, these rules will be in effect for post-season play in Minnesota. Instead the City of Prior Lake will utilize the "1-up rule" with a 2 homerun limit. The fields at The Ponds have outfield netting, a homerun will be declared only when the ball clears the netting for all leagues.**

**1-Up Homerun Rule:** Once both teams have reached their respective home run limit (2) either team may hit an additional home run; however, no team may ever go more than one (1) home run up on the other team. Any additional homeruns above the "one up" will be declared an out. The home team cannot go "one up" in the bottom of the seventh or any subsequent innings. If the umpire has declared an inning to be the last due to the time limit, the home team cannot go "one up".

## Scoring

### Official Score Book

Home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. Visiting teams are also encouraged to keep score.

### Forfeit Policy

The official score of a forfeited game is 7-0.

### Courtesy Run Rule

A maximum of two team members can have a courtesy runner per game for the entire game. The last out will be the courtesy runner.

## Umpires

If an umpire does not show for a game, 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. The City of Prior Lake will pay the stand-in umpire. The umpire is responsible for getting the scores to the League Director.

Umpires are required to enforce the rules set by the league with absolute authority. Umpires will use a "ZERO TOLERANCE" mentality when enforcing league rules.

Any physical assault on an umpire will result, at minimum, in an immediate 13-month suspension for all players involved, and the violation will be reported to the state sanctioning officials for additional disciplinary action.

Umpires are required to obtain team and player names involved in any incident. Refusal by a player to give proper names of other players or refusal by a player to give information regarding him or her will result in an immediate suspension of the manager, plus the game becomes an immediate forfeit.

## Thank You

The City of Prior Lake would like to thank you for your team's cooperation this season. These recreational leagues promote the many benefits of parks and recreation in our community. Have fun!

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