



City of Maple Grove

Parks & Recreation Board

LEAGUE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It is the philosophy of the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board to provide leisure time facilities and activities for the residents of Maple Grove and to operate them in as safe and economical manner as possible. These leisure time activities include the operation of several adult softball programs.

It is the responsibility of the League Director to enforce all rules and regulations for operating the athletic programs and to make decisions based on these rules. It is the responsibility of the team managers and participants to adhere to the regulations and rules of the league and all City of Maple Grove local ordinances.

The element of competition is a part of an athletic program. However, competition should not overshadow the element of recreation and the social aspect that is involved in sports. In order to enforce the playing rules and to ensure the efficient operation of the game, officials and field attendants are hired. All Parks and Recreation Board employees are to receive full respect of all players, managers and spectators while they are on Maple Grove facilities.

BE ACTIVE, BE FIT



GENERAL INFORMATION

*All teams will be registered MRPA/USSSA.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

If necessary, acceptable proof of eligibility will be the submittal of 2 of the following:

1. Plastic Minnesota driver's license with picture
2. Non-qualification card
3. Renter's agreement, dated prior to May 1, 2021
4. Homestead tax form or property deed
5. Voter registration card
6. Letter from director of personnel where player is employed, if player gains eligibility by work.
7. Tax record from personnel office
8. Employee identification with picture

TEAM DISBANDMENT

If a team disbands once the game schedule has been finalized or the season has started, all remaining games will be credited to their scheduled opponent and no refunds will be made.

ROSTERS

An official team roster, minimum number of twelve (12) and a maximum of twenty (20) players, must be on file at the Parks & Recreation office by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30th.** Any team without a roster on file will automatically forfeit their first game.

The League Director reserves the right to add players to a team roster only if a team has permanently lost a sufficient number of rostered players so that the team will forfeit three consecutive games.

DIVISION AND RANKING

The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board reserves the right to move teams to a higher division in our league if they finished first, second or third the previous season.



PARK RULES



- Pets allowed only on trails.
- Pets must be leashed/under restraint.
- Must always have in possession a means to pick up feces.
- Must always pick up feces.

LEAGUE/OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES:

2021 COVID RULES:

- All games will be played back to back against the same team each night during the season. The end of season tournament will run like a normal bracket.
- All players, spectators, and umpires will wear a mask at all times as stated in the MDH Guidelines for sports found <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf> this rule may change during the season as we get updates from MDH.
- Each team will provide their own game balls each night to play with while in the field. Only members of the team should touch the game balls.
- The team in the field will retrieve home run and foul balls over the fence. The batting team should not touch the other teams game balls.

PROTESTS

- A) The manager must immediately notify the official and the opposing team manager as outlined in USSSA rule 4, Section 11.
- B) A written protest must be submitted with a complete description of the incident, the specific rule that was misinterpreted, and the point at which the incident occurred.
- C) The written protest must be delivered to the Parks & Recreation office by noon the day following the game in question.
- D) A \$50.00 check must be submitted with the written protest. The check will be refunded only if the protest is honored.

ELIGIBILITY

- A) The protest must be lodged prior to, during, but not after the game.
- B) The team filing the protest must first prove the eligibility of its entire roster before the protest will be considered. The umpire will require each player to produce identification and sign the eligibility protest form. If the protesting team does not produce proper identification, the protest will not be considered. The player(s) whose eligibility is questioned must sign the protest form.
- C) A \$50.00 check must be submitted with the protest form. The check will be refunded only if the protest is honored.
- All protests will be ruled on by the protest committee.

PLAYING FIELD

1. Pre-game warm ups are not allowed on the infield prior to the start of each game.
2. Batting practice must be in an area that does not endanger or inhibit other groups using park facilities.

<p>MAPLE GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL - NO WARMING UP OR BATTING ON BLACKTOP AREA. NO BATTING PRACTICE ON FIELD #2 or #3</p>
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3. Home team will use the player bench on the first base line.

OFFICIALS DECISION

1. Team managers are the only individuals who may question the umpire's decision on a given play.
2. Any player leaving the bench area or their position to dispute an umpire's decision will be immediately ejected from the game.

FINAL GAME SCORE

After the completion of each game, the umpire's scorecard will be the official final score for each game.

UMPIRES

When umpires do not show up by game time, find the Field Attendant who will contact the Summer Athletic Supervisor. The Athletic Supervisor will assist with finding a substitute umpire. Substitute umpires will be paid. Contact the Parks and Recreation office and report the sub's name and address and a check will be issued. **Games played with a substitute umpire will count as an official game.** In the event a substitute can't be found or both managers do not agree on a sub, the game will be rescheduled for a **Sunday** evening. The Field Attendant has other duties in the park that prevent her/him from umpiring.

CONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND FOLLOWERS/SPECTATORS

1. The manager is responsible for the behavior of all players and team followers/spectators for the entire time the team is on the playing surface and at the facility.
2. In the event that a manager is not effective in controlling his team or followers, the umpire is empowered to declare the game a forfeit.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1. Alcoholic beverages are **NOT** permitted at any Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board sponsored event or school district 279 property.
2. If the umpire detects alcohol on a player's breath, that player may be ejected from that game.

LITTERING

Players, managers and spectators must make every effort to help with the problem of litter in park areas. This is not only an unsightly problem, but it does become an expensive one.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

1. No uniform is required, however, it is recommended that teams adopt a minimum uniform consisting of matching jerseys.
2. All players must wear shirts, shorts or pants and shoes.
3. The Parks and Recreation Board will supply the team managers with game balls (Men's, Women's & Co-Rec - Dudley .40 cor, optic yellow, Blue Stitch).

The home team shall provide a game ball and a good condition back-up ball. **The back-up ball MUST be the same brand as the game ball.** The game & backup ball will be given to the home team at the completion of the game. If the home team does not have said balls, the game will be forfeited and awarded to the visiting team.

The Parks and Recreation Board will supply officials and facilities for adult softball leagues. All other equipment must be provided by the participant.

4. Teams are responsible for providing their own first aid supplies.

5. 'For 2021, league directors of Recreational-Only (non-competitive) USSSA Leagues may, in their sole discretion, allow all USSSA marked 1.20 BPF bats, provided such leagues are diligent in removing from league play worn/abused/damaged or foreign substance bats as is required by Rule 2 sec. 2. This grandfathering of old USSSA mark 1.20 BPF bats is not required but is allowed in the discretion of the recreational league director.'

Maple Grove Parks and Recreation will allow the old USSSA mark 1.20 BPF bats during league play in 2021.

ELIGIBILITY

For a team to be eligible to represent Maple Grove in the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association District or State tournament, players must meet the following criteria:

- a) Players be at least 18 years of age.
- b) If player plays on more than one team in the same classification (one in Maple Grove and one in another community), he/she must declare, in writing, which team they will play for in the event both teams qualify for Region or State tournaments. If written declaration is not received prior to June 1, 2015, the participant must play for the community they reside in.
- c) **If a player plays on teams in a different classification (ie. B, C, D) they must play on their highest classified team for MRPA post-season tournaments.**
- d) Players that play on 'C', 'B', 'A' or 'AA' teams are not eligible to play on Maple Grove softball teams.

FORFEITS

A five minute grace period will be allowed from the **scheduled** starting time for teams to produce an official line-up of eligible players.

"No Show" policy - Any team that no shows and forfeits two league games without notifying the Parks & Recreation Board by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the game will be dropped from the league.

POSTPONEMENTS

In the event of severe weather, the League Director will postpone and re-schedule games.

In case of rain or questionable weather, a decision will be made by 4:00 p.m. as to game status for that evening's game. Status information is posted on our website, <https://www.maplegrovern.gov/parks-and-recreation/program-game-status> or by calling, 763-494-5959. Once games are cancelled, they will not be played if weather changes.

If games are on as scheduled, the decision to play or postpone the game will be made by the umpire.

All players and fans should know that weather conditions can change dramatically in a short period of time. A team is never "required" to play a game even if the weather line or the umpire has not cancelled the game. If there is a safety concern, players, managers and fans should always choose safety ahead of choosing to stay at the fields. The determination on make-ups, forfeits, etc. can be made at a future time.

If the umpire cancels the 1st game, all remaining games are also canceled. The Parks & Recreation recording (763-494-5959) will be updated no later than 7:00 p.m. if the evening's games are canceled. Website information will not change after 5:00 p.m.

RAINOUTS/RESCHEDULES

Games that are postponed due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions will be rescheduled as follows:

Leagues without playoffs – Game(s) will be played at the end of the regular schedule. Information will be emailed.

Leagues with post season playoffs – Make up games will be rescheduled on a **Sunday** evening, unless a weeknight at the end of the season is available. Information will be emailed.

***Teams unable to make a rescheduled game will forfeit.**

AWARDS

The division champion, runner-up and playoff champion will be notified of their award choices. Standings will be determined by **win percentage**.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board's Player Code of Conduct is:

1. At no time shall any person lay a hand on, shove, strike, use abusive language or threaten bodily harm to an official, league supervisor, league director or an employee of the Parks and Recreation Board before, during or after an event sponsored by the department. Such incidents will require the person(s) involved to be suspended from further participation until the case is considered by the Protest Committee. Maximum penalty for such incidents will be suspension from participation in department athletic competition indefinitely.
2. Profanity and personal baiting of opponents by players and spectators shall not be permitted. Baiting is defined as remarks referring to the nationality, race, religion, creed or physical/mental characteristics of an individual. The official shall eject anyone violating this rule from the premises.
3. An individual or individuals ejected from a game has 1 minute to completely leave the premises, or the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. If players from both teams are involved, a double forfeit will be declared.
4. Any incident of the above described nature shall be reported to the League Director by the umpire, and the team manager must submit in person a written description of the incident to the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board within 2 working days. If no written report is submitted, that team will forfeit their next scheduled game.
5. Physical altercation is not permitted. All players involved in a physical altercation will be immediately ejected from the game and be suspended from further participation until his/her case has been heard by the Protest Committee. No value judgment will be made by the game official as to cause or fault at the time of the incident.
6. Fighting will not be tolerated before, during or immediately after any contest sponsored by the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board.
7. If a player is ejected from a game, he/she will automatically be suspended from the next scheduled game. This includes playoff contests.
8. The official's authority at a contest shall not be questioned!
9. The official or the League Director shall have the authority to determine if a player's physical condition and proper dress will enable him to participate in the contest.
10. Profanity on or about the playing surface is not permitted. Profanity is sufficient grounds for ejection from the premises.
11. Players become spectators after the contest that they are involved in is completed, and he/she has left the playing surface and bench area. The individual is still the responsibility of the manager and may still be ejected from the premises by a game official.

12. All players must adhere to any City Ordinances, park rules or building use requirements that affect the contest they are participating in.
13. The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board is not responsible for injuries sustained to participants in department sponsored activities.
14. The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board does not carry or offer any medical insurance, therefore, players should have family, company or team insurance.
15. District #279 School Board policy prohibits the use of tobacco on school grounds 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is expected that persons involved in Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board activities held at District #279 facilities will adhere to this policy.

DEFINITIONS

<u>MRPA:</u>	Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association.
<u>Operational Rules:</u>	Rules used for the purpose of administering the league.
<u>Playing Rules:</u>	Official rules adopted for the sport to be conducted.
<u>League Playing Rules:</u>	Modification of official USSSA playing rules used either to expedite play or protect the safety of the participants.
<u>MRPA State Tournament:</u>	Rules used during State Tournament operated by the MRPA and <u>Rules</u> league playoff rules.
<u>Open-ended batting order:</u>	All individuals present at the game must be placed in the batting order. Any individual arriving after the start of the game will be placed in the last spot of the batting order. Free substitution is permitted defensively at the beginning of each inning. However, the only defensive changes allowed during an inning will be in the event of a pitching change or in the event of an injury.
<u>Batting 11 players:</u>	Free substitution (as stated above) is allowed among 11 people playing. Players on the bench are considered substitutes. Re-entry is permitted.
<u>Protest Committee:</u>	Will rule on all protests, appeals and at any hearing concerning player suspension for more than one game. Committee: League Director, Superintendent of Recreation, Summer Athletic Coordinator.
<u>U.S.S.S.A.:</u>	United States Specialty Sports Association.
<u>Flip Flop Rule:</u>	In the inning when the run rule for that particular program is exceeded and the home team is losing, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If the team (new visiting team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the run rule, the game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below the run rule then the new home team will bat. If they subsequently score enough runs to exceed the run rule, the game will be over; if they do not, the game will continue under that format. If the situation reverses, the teams would flip/flop again.

MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2021 PLAYING RULES

The United States Specialty Sports Association official rulebook and Minnesota Recreation and Park Association will be the official rulebooks with the following exceptions:

1. **Teams must have at least 8 players to start and finish a game. The 9th & 10th players may be added to the line-up upon checking in with the umpire, as would any other additional players. Any person added will occupy the last spot in the batting order.**
2. Forfeit - A 5 minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled starting time.
(see page 6 for "no show" policy)
3. Length of game - A game is complete when:
 - a) Called after 4 complete innings or 3 ½ if the home team is up due to darkness or inclement weather.
 - b) A team is ahead by 15 runs after **4 complete innings the flip flop rule applies or 10 runs after 5 innings.**
 - c) The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board softball leagues will utilize a **3 ball, 2 strike** count. The games will be 7 innings in length. A batter will receive a walk after 3 balls and will be declared out after 2 strikes are obtained. **(No courtesy foul)**
 - d) Games ending in a tie will be allowed to play 1 extra inning if the time limit hasn't expired.
4. Metal spikes are not allowed.
5. Time limit - No new inning of a game may begin **55 minutes** after the starting time of the game. Umpires will give a warning when there is 10 minutes left in the game.
6. The home team on the schedule will be required to provide a new game ball and a back-up ball in good condition. The ball must be the same brand, etc. as game ball. The home team will receive both balls at the end of the game. If no balls are provided, the game will be forfeited and awarded to the visiting team.
7. Home team will keep the official book.
8. **Teams may bat 8, 9, 10, 11, or use an open-ended batting order. If a team chooses to use an open-ended batting order or bat 11 players, this must be stated to the umpire at the beginning of the game.**
9. A courtesy runner will be allowed only in the event of an injury to the participant during the current game being played. **Umpires have the discretion to allow a courtesy runner in all other situations.** The courtesy runner will be the last person put out.
If a batting position becomes vacant due to an injury, that position is skipped with no outs and the batting order continues. If the batter stays in the game defensively the position in the batting order is considered an out if the player does not take the at bat.
10. **Homerun Hitter Rule: 3 homeruns. After a team has reached its limit of homeruns, any fair ball hit over the fence will be an out unless the ball was touched by a player.**

Men's League Playing Rules

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11. **Over the fence homeruns do not need to be run out. Team that hits the home run MUST go and get the ball.** The runs WILL NOT count unless the ball is retrieved before the end of the half inning.
12. Any player ejected from a game will automatically be suspended from the next scheduled game.
13. Pitching Distance - 50 feet. The pitcher may pitch from the pitcher's plate or from an area the width of the pitcher's plate and up to six feet behind the pitcher's plate. Base Distance – 70 feet
14. Profanity Rule: Umpires will warn each team during the managers meeting that profanity will not be tolerated. Any player using profanity will be subject to ejection. The umpire's discretion will determine the point of ejection.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2021 PLAYING RULES

The United States Specialty Sports Association official rulebook and Minnesota Recreation and Park Association will be the official rulebooks with the following exceptions:

1. **Teams must have at least 8 players to start and finish a game. The 9th & 10th players may be added to the line-up upon checking in with the umpire, as would any other additional players. Any person added will occupy the last spot in the batting order.**
2. Forfeit - A 5 minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled starting time. See page 6 for "No Show" policy.
3. Length of game - A game is complete when:
 - a) Called after 4 complete innings due to darkness or inclement weather.
 - b) A team is ahead by 15 runs after **4 complete innings flip flop rule applies or 10 runs after 5 innings.**
 - c) The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board softball leagues will utilize a 3 ball, 2 strike count. The games will be 7 innings in length. A batter will receive a walk after 3 balls and will be declared out after 2 strikes are obtained. **(No courtesy foul)**
 - d) Games ending in a tie will be allowed to play 1 extra inning if the time limit hasn't expired.
4. Metal spikes are not allowed.
5. Time limit - No new inning of a game may begin **55 minutes** after the starting time of the game. Umpires will give a warning when there is 10 minutes left in the game.
6. The home team on the schedule will be required to provide a new game ball and a back-up ball in good condition. The ball must be the same brand, etc. as game ball. The home team will receive both balls at the end of the game. If no balls are provided, the game will be forfeited and awarded to the visiting team.
7. Home team will keep the official book.
8. **Teams may bat 8, 9, 10, 11 or use an open-ended batting order. If a team chooses to use an open-ended batting order or bat 11 players, this must be stated to the umpire at the beginning of the game.**
9. A courtesy runner will be allowed only in the event of an injury to the participant during the current game being played. **Umpires have the discretion to allow a courtesy runner in all other situations.** The courtesy runner will be the last person put out.
10. Pitching Distance - 50 feet. The pitcher may pitch from the pitcher's plate or from an area the width of the pitcher's plate and up to six feet behind the pitcher's plate.
Base Distance – 70 feet.
11. Profanity Rule: Umpires will warn each team during the managers meeting that profanity will not be tolerated. Any player using profanity will be subject to ejection. The umpires discretion will determine the point of ejection.
12. **Over the fence homeruns do not need to be run out.**

11-12" CO-REC SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2021 PLAYING RULES

The United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) and Minnesota Recreation and Park Association will be the official rulebooks with the following exceptions:

1. **Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to begin a game. Of these 8, at least 4 must be women.**
2. **At no time on defense will the number of men exceed the number of women, however the number of women may exceed the number of men.**
3. Forfeit - A 5 minute grace period will be allowed from the scheduled starting time. See page 5 for "No Show" policy.
4. Length of game - A game is complete when:
 - a) Called after 4 complete innings due to darkness or inclement weather.
 - b) A team is ahead by 15 runs after **4 complete innings or 10 runs after 5 innings.**
 - c) The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board Co-Rec softball league will utilize a 3 ball, 2 strike count. The games will be 7 innings in length. A batter will receive a walk after 3 balls and will be declared out after 2 strikes are obtained. **(No courtesy foul)**
 - d) Games ending in a tie will be allowed to play 1 extra inning if the time limit hasn't expired.
5. Metal spikes are not allowed.
6. Time limit - No new inning of a game may begin 55 minutes after the starting time of the game. Umpires will give a warning when there is 10 minutes left in the game.
7. Men and women must alternate in the batting order. At no time will two men bat consecutively.
8. If a man receives a walk, he will be awarded first and second base. In addition, his manager has the option of having the next woman batter automatically awarded a base on balls. She is not required to take a position in the batter's box but may be sent directly to first base.
9. Infielders may not play in advance of the baseline.
10. Courtesy runners will be allowed; men for men, women for women; but only in the event of an injury to the participant during the current game being played. **Umpires have the discretion to allow a courtesy runner in all other situations.** The courtesy runner will be the last person put out.
11. Players in the field may not change positions during the inning except in the case of injury. The lone exception for this rule will be if a pitching change is desired.
12. **Teams may use an open ended batting order alternating men and women in the order. Men may not bat consecutively.**
13. Free substitution is permitted defensively at the beginning of each inning, however, the only defensive changes allowed during an inning will be in the event of a pitching change or in the event of an injury.
14. Home team on the schedule will provide a new game ball and a back-up ball in good condition. The ball must be the same brand, etc. as game ball. The home team will receive both balls at the end of the game. If no balls are provided, the game will be forfeited and awarded to the visiting team.

Co-Rec Playing Rules Continued

15. Pitching Distance - 50 feet. The pitcher may pitch from the pitcher's plate or from an area the width of the pitcher's plate and up to six feet behind the pitcher's plate. Base Distance – 70 feet.
16. The home team will keep the official book.
17. Profanity Rule: Umpires will warn each team during the managers meeting that profanity will not be tolerated. Any players using profanity will be subject to ejection. The umpires discretion will determine the point of ejection.
18. **Homerun Hitter Rule: 3 homeruns. After a team has reached its limit of homeruns, any fair ball hit over the fence will be an out unless the ball was touched by a player.**
19. **Over the fence homeruns do not need to be run out.**

GAME SPECIFIC RULES

The 11 inch softball will be used when a female is batting and a 12 inch softball will be used when a male is batting.