

### **Schedules**

League Play begins the week of August 27, featuring a 5-week doubleheader season.

Make-up games and a end league playoff will be added on to the end of the regular season as long as all games are scheduled to be played prior to September 27.

Game times are balanced so no team will have more than one more or one less game at a particular game time than the league average. Ex: League average is two early games, a team may have 1, 2, or 3 early games scheduled.

Teams will have equal number of home and away games. If a team does play an odd number of games, it will have either one extra home or away game.

### **Game Balls**

Team are provided a supply of game balls for the season. Teams are responsible for providing games balls for each game for use while their team is batting. Teams are not to use the opposing team's ball and are expected to have replacements ready as necessary. All new softballs should remain in original packaging until they are needed in a game. It is recommended teams label their balls with identifiable markings. No altered balls allowed, penalty is an automatic out if appealed by opposing team.

If more balls are needed, teams are responsible for purchasing additional legal game balls. Teams must bring an appropriate number of balls to ensure back up balls are ready for play. Games delayed due to no available game balls (not having enough, not retrieving balls out of play, etc), it is at the umpire's discretion to call strikes and outs until a ball is thrown in to the pitcher for play.

# **CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY CONTACTS**

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**Golden Valley  
Parks and Recreation**  
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(763) 512-2345

**League Director**  
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**Schedules & Standings**  
<https://webtrac.goldenvalleymn.gov>

**Weather Line**  
(763) 512-2350

**Schaper Park**  
631 Ottawa Ave N



# **2024 FALL SOFTBALL**

Welcome to the 2024 Men's Softball season. It promises to be a fun and competitive season for all teams and players. Enclosed you will find pertinent league information regarding this year's information softball leagues.

All 2024 Men's Softball leagues are sanctioned by Minnesota United State Specially Sports Association (USSSA) and play according to their rules with the few exceptions covered in this rules pamphlet. All leagues are officiated by a USSSA official with Parks and Rec staff available to monitor the leagues and park amenities.

Fall teams will play a 5 week doubleheader regular season with scheduled league playoffs played (on regular night of play) immediately following the regular season, if games are completed prior to September 27.

Thank you for playing in Golden Valley this year and I hope your team enjoys the season!

Sincerely,  
Kong Moua



## League Overview

The City of Golden Valley Men's Softball Leagues are sanctioned by Minnesota United State Specially Sports Association (USSSA) and play according to their rules with a few exceptions which are covered in this booklet.

All teams are responsible for understanding and following the City of Golden Valley League Rules in addition the USSSA rules of play. A written league overview is provided to team managers prior to the season to help teams and players gain a proper understanding of these policies and rules. If clarification is needed contact the League Director.

The City of Golden Valley is NOT RESPONSIBLE for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

In the event of inclement weather on the day of the game the League Director will determine if the games are to be played no later than 4pm. League updates and game cancellations will be placed on the weather voicemail line .

All teams registered for a Golden Valley Softball Leagues are subject to transfer at the discretion of the League Director. A mandated transfer by the League Director may occur due to (but is not limited to) level of competition, previous league results, balancing number of teams per league, or team classification.

## Team/Player Expectations

Players and spectators must adhere to all City of Golden Valley laws and ordinances.

Players must be at least 18 years of age to participate in a Golden Valley Softball League.

Teams need to show up for games on time, there is no grace period. If there is a need to forfeit, that team manager must contact both the League Director and the opposing team's manager by 3pm on the day of the game.

During the regular season a person may play for any team, provided that two of the teams are not on the same evening.

## Team/Player Expectations Continued...

A complete Team Roster must be submitted online, limit 20 players, prior to a team's first game. Teams will not receive their supplied game balls until the roster is received. Players not on the Team Roster are considered illegal players and games that illegal players compete in can be ruled forfeits.

Abusing officials and/or city staff will not be tolerated. There is a difference between a discussion and verbal abuse. In the event of persistent verbal abuse of officials and/or city staff, a warning shall be issued. After a warning is issued, any further offense will result in game disqualification for the offending player(s). Any player with more than two game disqualifications in a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Any physical altercations or threat/verbal intent to harm another person heard/witnessed by an officials or staff will result in immediate suspension from play for all individuals involved.

- First offense will result in a suspension for the current and next scheduled game.
- Second offense will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.
- Third offense will result in a permanent suspension from participating in Golden Valley adult sponsored leagues.

The League Director will review all other player and officials conduct issues and render a decision before the next scheduled game.

## Golden Valley League Rules

A bat will be deemed legal for league play if all three requirements below are met:

- The bat has a 2014 or 2020 USSSA Certification Mark
- The bat is unaltered
- The bat is not listed on USSSA's Banned Bat List

A player that steps into the batter's box with a bat not deemed legal will be ejected from the game.

## Golden Valley League Rules Continued...

Metal spikes are not allowed.

A pitcher must have one foot in contact with the pitching rubber when a pitch is delivered.

The ball/strike count will be 3/2 with no courtesy foul ball allowed.

A team may bat any number 8 or greater. Additional players are allowed to enter at the end of the batting order as they arrive at any point throughout the game.

Teams are allowed 3 home runs over the fence per game. Every fair ball hit over the fence thereafter will be declared an out.

Games will be declared complete if there is more than 20 after 4 innings; 15 after 5 innings; 10 after 6 innings. All leagues will use the Flip/Flop rule.

A minimum of 8 players is required to start and finish games. If a team falls below 8 players, for any reason, the result is a forfeit.

All games have a 55 minute time limit. Games reaching the time limit are considered a completed game. If the score is tied after time limit is reached or 7 innings of play, the game will be played out using the "Tie Breaker Rule" until a winner is declared. The "Tie Breaker Rule" states the last batter from a team's last at-bat will be placed on second base. The inning will start with one out.

All field lights must be turned off at 10:30pm. If this results in an incomplete game, a continuation game will be scheduled. In the event of a continuation, teams can reset their batting order and fielding positions for the start of the continuation game.

If a game in progress is cancelled by the umpire due to weather it shall be considered a complete game and will not be continued after 5 innings of play or if the home team is leading after 4 ½ innings. Games not considered completed will be rescheduled and restarted as a new game at a later date.