



PORTAGE PARK & REC
ADULT SOFTBALL
2026 LEAGUE INFO & RULES



- Registration for the 2026 begins with ‘priority registration’ for teams that played last season. Teams from 2024 until March 31st to submit their registration form and payment. Beginning April 1st, leagues will open for registration for any team. The registration deadline for all leagues is Friday, April 17th at 4:00pm
- Each league has an 8 team maximum, so the first 8 teams to turn in this Registration Form and Team Fee will be accepted
- Leagues will begin mid-May and run through mid-August, depending on number of teams
- League Fee is \$300 per team, and there will be no individual player or non-resident fees
- A Captain's Meeting will be held prior to the season starting. Each team will be required to have a representative at this meeting. All team rosters with signatures will be due at this meeting.

Leagues Offered

Monday Night—Men’s League

TEAM NAME _____

MANAGER _____

LEAGUE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL (required) _____

Registration Forms and Team Fees can be dropped off or mailed to our new office:

Portage Park & Recreation Department
401 Cemetery Road
Portage, WI 53901

Rosters and payment will be collected prior to the first game.

2026 SOFTBALL RULES

(no changes from previous years)

OFFICIAL LINE UP

- 1) Games will begin at scheduled start time. A 5 minute grace period will be allowed, and after that the game will be forfeited
- 2) The home plate umpire will determine the start time. The start time and end time will be marked in the scorebook
- 3) Line ups must be turned in to the scorer or umpire 5 minutes prior to each game
- 4) A team consists of 10 players. A team cannot start or continue a game with less than 8 players
 - a) If a game is started with 8 players, there will be an out awarded in the 9th batting spot
 - b) There is no limit on the number of batters you can put in your lineup
- 5) If a team starts the game with 9 players, an out will NOT be given for the 10th batting spot
 - a) If a 10th player arrives late, player may be added at any point without penalty.
 - b) After team has batted through an entire 10 player line up, any added players after that point must be added via substitution, not added to the end of the line up
- 6) If a player is injured, team may substitute a player in his/her position. If no substitute is available, the team will be given an out at that position in the line up
- 7) Players must be 18 years old to participate. High school seniors (who are 18) are allowed to play provided they are not currently part of a WIAA sport at the time
- 8) Each player is only allowed on 1 roster per night/league

LENGTH OF GAME

- 1) Official game will consist of 7 innings, or a fifty (50) minute time limit. No new innings will be started after the time limit is reached, unless the game is tied
 - a) If the home team is batting and in the lead while the time limit is reached, the game will be ended immediately
 - b) If the visiting team is batting when the time limit expires, they must finish that half of the inning. When top half of inning ends and home team is leading, the game will be over. If the top half of inning ends and home team is trailing, the bottom half of the inning will be played
- 2) If the game is tied after 7 innings or when the time limit is reached, International Tie Breaker Rules will apply in the next new inning.
 - a) This means to start the inning, the batter who made the final out in the previous inning will start the new inning on 2nd base
- 3) Run Limits- Leagues will follow the below run rules for all games
 - i) Team is leading by 15 runs after 4 innings
 - ii) Team is leading by 10 runs after 5 innings
- 4) If home team is ahead by the required run limit, the game will be called after 3 ½, or 4 ½ innings are complete

- 5) If home team goes ahead by required run limit during the bottom half of the inning, the game will be over immediately
- 6) All games must complete at least 3 ½ innings to be official (4 innings if the home team is trailing)
- 7) All games that are cancelled during play due to weather, and have not reached the 3 ½ inning minimum, will be at the discretion of the Umpire and the Park & Recreation Manager about whether to replay the entire game or to start the makeup game where the cancelled game ended.

PLAYING RULES

- 1) Pitching arch will be a minimum of 6 feet from the ground for all leagues. Unlimited height. Pitching mound is 50' from home plate
- 2) Warm Up Pitches- pitchers will be allowed up to 5 pitches to start the game. Between half innings, only 2 pitches will be allowed. A ball will be awarded to the batter for each pitch above the limit
- 3) Home plate and an ASA pitching mat will be used to determine balls and strikes. If any part of the pitched ball lands on any part of the plate or mat, it will be called a strike
- 4) The City allows catchers and pitchers to wear a mask or helmet for safety reasons. Players must provide their own mask or helmet.
- 5) A batter is not awarded first base if they are hit by a pitch. It will be called a ball.
- 6) There will be no infield or batting practice on the infields Prior to games or in between innings. Teams may take batting practice in the outfield prior to games.
- 7) **Metal spikes are prohibited**
 - a) Rubber or plastic spikes, or tennis shoes are allowed. Absolutely no bare feet or sandals will be allowed
- 8) A 'double first base' will be used in all leagues for safety

COED LEAGUE RULES

- 1) Batting order must alternate between 1) males and females
- 2) If a male is walked with less than two outs, he is awarded 2nd base, and a girl must bat
- 3) If a male is walked with two outs, he is awarded 2nd base, and the next girl has the option to walk or bat
- 4) Base runners for Co-Ed leagues will be the previous out, but must be male for male, and female for female
- 5) Pitching arc for female batters is between 6' and 12'. Umpires will be the judge on height. If a ball is pitched outside of the 6-12' limit, it will be called a ball
- 6) Pitcher and/or catcher are the only two allowed on the 'T' near home plate
- 7) While playing the field, there must be an equal amount of males and females in the field

MEN'S LEAGUE RULES

- 1) A team may bat with 9 players and NOT take an out in the 10th spot
- 2) If a team starts with 8, an out will be given for the 9th batting spot

- 3) Pitcher and/or catcher are the only two players allowed on the 'T' near home plate

SPECIAL RULES

- 1) Sliding is mandatory on all plays made on the bases. A player must either slide or give themselves up
 - a) If a player does not slide or clearly give themselves up, both runners will be called out
 - b) For any base running situations, interference rules will apply
- 2) Once a runner crosses the 'T' on the third base line between third base and home, the runner is not allowed to turn back and return to third base. They must continue to home plate.
 - a) Catchers must step on the Safety Plate for all plays made at home plate. Runners are required to touch home plate OR the black mat for all plays at home
- 3) Pinch runners are allowed and will be the last out recorded
- 4) Free substitution rule will apply in all leagues

EQUIPMENT

- 1) Uniforms
 - a) No specific uniform is required. All participants must wear shirts, whether playing or not
 - b) Shorts are acceptable
 - c) All players must wear shoes. Metal spikes are prohibited
- 2) Bats
 - a) Bats must be ASA approved and have the current 'Portage Park & Rec Approved' sticker for this year. Bats can be approved at the Park & Rec Office (701 W Slifer St) before the season, or at the field on the first night.
 - b) If a player is caught using an illegal bat,
 - i) First Offense- the player will be called out
 - ii) Second Offense- the player will be ejected and the game forfeited
- 3) Helmets and catchers masks can be worn at the discretion of each player
- 4) Jewelry/Casts
 - a) Any item deemed unsafe by the umpire may not be worn

CONDUCT

- 1) NO ALCOHOL IN THE FIELD OF PLAY
- 2) Managers will be held responsible for the actions of their team
- 3) Misconduct will be reviewed by the Umpire in Charge, the Manager of the Park & Recreation department, and the Recreation Coordinator. Penalties will be determined on a per case basis
- 4) Any violation of the City Ordinances or State Law will result in the immediate suspension from the league, and any applicable fines will apply

UMPIRES/SCOREKEEPERS

- 1) Umpires are representatives of the Portage Park & Recreation department, and are the officials in charge of each game
- 2) Umpires will discuss the rule interpretation only with the managers of each team
- 3) Umpires have the authority to eject any players, managers, or fans from the games and grounds for violations of official rules and regulations, or unsportsmanlike conduct
- 4) Umpires will keep score of each game

CANCELLATIONS

- 1) Games canceled due to inclement weather will be announced to the managers if possible. Every attempt will be made to play the games. The umpire may call any game due to bad weather. See 'Length of Game' #6 & #7 for details on canceling in the middle of games
- 2) An email will be sent to all team managers as soon as we make a decision to cancel any games. It is the manager's responsibility to notify all players on their team. We will also post it on our website and Facebook page. DO NOT CALL THE PARK & REC OFFICE ASKING IF GAMES ARE BEING CANCELLED.

TIEBREAKERS

- 1) All ties in standings will follow these criteria:
 - a) Head to head record
 - b) Head to head runs allowed
 - c) Overall runs allowed for the season
 - d) Overall runs scored for the season

ROSTERS

- 1) Manager must turn in an official roster to the Park & Recreation department at the League Meeting
 - a) The roster MUST be signed by each player. It will also include the league's Waiver of Liability statement.
- 2) Players may be added to the roster by the manager, by calling our office prior to 3:00pm on the day of play.
- 3) Any player that is not on your official roster but is discovered playing for your team will result in immediate forfeit
- 4) No players may be added to your roster after July 31st



PORTAGE PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ADULT SOFTBALL TEAM ROSTER

MANAGER _____ TEAM NAME _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____ LEAGUE _____ NIGHT _____

	NAME	CITY/ZIP	PHONE	AGE	SIGNATURE
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
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20					

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

By signing this roster, I understand that Portage Park and Recreation programs and activities involve risk of serious bodily injury, including disability or death, and loss or damage to my property. Athletic activities present risks to participants. Despite the variety of risks that may be present, I hereby release and waive any liability claim against the City of Portage, its employees, its agents, and the Portage Community School District, with respect to any and all claims for injury, disability, death, or loss or other damages based on negligence, related to my, or my child's, participation in the Portage Park and Recreation Department programs and activities. I understand that I may bargain for a different waiver of liability terms. However, I hereby waive my right to bargain for different waiver of liability terms. I have read this Release and Waiver of Liability and understand its terms. I know that I am giving up substantial rights by signing it, but I do sign it freely and voluntarily.