



Sacramento Valley Gay & Lesbian Softball New Player Information

What is the SVGLS?

SVGLS stands for the **S**acramento **V**alley **G**ay & **L**esbian **S**oftball League. It was founded in 2010 by a group of dedicated volunteers to provide the opportunity for LGBT individuals to play, and support the play of, organized slow-pitch softball. We strive to create a safe, healthy, and supportive environment to develop skills, promote competition, and build fellowship within our community.

We have grown from an original 7 teams in one open division to more than 18 teams in three divisions made up of players from the Sacramento Valley region including Sacramento, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, and parts of Solano and Contra Costa Counties. The league is a Non-Profit Corporation (awaiting 501(c)3 federal approval for our application filed December 2011) governed by a Board of Directors elected each Fall by league members. In 2012 we became affiliated with NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance) www.nagaaasoftball.org in order to allow participation in the Gay Softball World Series.

The league is subject to all federal and state laws governing non-profits, City of Sacramento ordinances and policies, the rules and guidelines of NAGAAA and the ASA (Amateur Softball Association of America) www.asasoftball.com, and our own bylaws and policies established by the Board of Directors.

Sacramento Valley Gay & Lesbian Softball does not discriminate against persons regardless of age, race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, athletic experience or ability.

How do I join a team?

- 1) Attend an SVGLS information night or meet & greet (dates posted on our web site) to meet other players and coaches.
- 2) Register as a new player on the web site at www.svgls.org or fill out a New Player Information Form at an SVGLS sponsored clinic.
- 3) Attend at least one of the official SVGLS clinics to meet other players, teams, and be rated. Every player must be rated according to NAGAAA's ratings guidelines, which can be found at www.nagaaasoftball.org, prior to the registration deadline.
- 4) Participate in the SVGLS Draft that typically takes place three weeks before the start of each season and be placed on a new or existing team. Specific dates and procedures are posted on our web site or available from your any Board Member.

5) Once you have found a team or been placed through the draft process you must complete the Player Registration & Waiver Form and sign a Membership Contract. The SVGLS Membership Coordinator will make every effort to ensure that every individual who wants to play in the league is placed with a team through the Draft process. If you have questions about how to become part of the league or join a team, email MembershipCoordinator@svglis.org.

Where/when are games held and how long is the season?

The Sacramento Valley Gay & Lesbian Softball League has two seasons Spring/Summer (12 weeks April-June) and Fall (8 weeks September-October). Games are held Monday evenings at the Sacramento Softball Complex, 3450 Longview Drive, Sacramento, CA 95821 [*INSERT LINK TO GOOGLE MAP*], near Watt and I-80. Game times vary by season and a full schedule, released at least seven days in advance of opening night, can be found on our web site.

Playoffs typically take place on the weekend at the end of each season.

Team practice times and locations vary and are set by each team individually. Typically teams practice one or more days per week in the evening or on the weekends during the day. In addition, the league occasionally sponsors scrimmages and skill clinics mid-season, which will be posted on our web site.

Additional time commitments:

In addition to team practices and games, individual teams and the league hold fundraising and social events throughout the year. Attendance is not required at these events, but supporting your team, the league, and community is encouraged. These events help your team pay for uniforms, equipment, practice fields, tournament fees, etc. and ensure the league can continue to provide a safe fun environment in which to play organized softball.

How much does it cost?

SVGLS membership dues and seasonal player fees are currently \$45.00, payable to the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Softball League. Fees are due by the registration deadline posted on our web site. This covers the cost of fields, umpires, scorekeepers, equipment, and liability insurance for league play. If you cannot afford the registration fee, limited financial aid funds may be available. See our financial aid policy on our web site under "Playing."

Additional costs you should anticipate:

- Cleats (no metal spikes) are required for league play
- Softball Mitt (New or Used, we recommend a 13" to 14" glove) is required for league play
- Uniform team jerseys are required for league play (some team sponsors pay for uniform jerseys, but some teams require players to purchase them individually, check with your

coach/manager). Some teams also purchase color coordinated softball pants, shorts, hats, belts, etc., but they are not required for league play.

- Most teams have “Team Softball Bats” for use by all members. Do NOT immediately purchase any softball bat, as the SVGLS follows ASA requirements and some may not be legal to use in our league.
- Additional equipment such as bat bags, batting gloves, protective cup for infielders, sports sunglasses should also be considered.
- Some teams travel to other league tournaments, this is purely voluntary, but team members may incur additional varied costs such as air tickets or gas money, hotel, player fees and food in order to participate.
- ***In all cases, consult your team manager or coach before a major purchase.***

How can I fit into the league if I am just a beginner or an elite athlete?

There is a place for everyone in SVGLS. The league is divided into three divisions—B, C, and D—according to NAGAAA rated abilities. The “B” division is made up of elite players and is highly competitive. The “C” division is made up of intermediate players and moderately competitive. The “D” division is made up of beginning players and geared toward creating a fun, recreational, learning environment.

If you aren’t sure what level of player you are, don’t worry! Attending the skill clinics will help the ratings committee assess your skill level and place you on a team in the appropriate division with similarly rated players. A player’s rating may change over time as skills develop or decline and players must be rated at the beginning of each season. The Ratings Committee strictly adheres to NAGAAA’s guidelines for individual player and team rating limits, which can be found at www.nagaaasoftball.org or on our web site at www.svgl.org/ratingguidelines.

What if I want to transfer to a different team than the one I’m placed with?

You may transfer to a different team between seasons, or before the add/drop deadline for roster changes, usually after the first official game but before the second each season. If you wish to change teams, you must inform the coach/manager of the team you are leaving and the one you are joining, as well as the league Membership Coordinator and Vice Commissioner to ensure your registration and ratings are appropriately transferred.

Can my partner, children, or friends come and watch or participate?

Everyone is welcome to come watch practices and games. There is no charge for admission to watch the games and the Softball Complex is family friendly. If a friend, partner, or parent would like to build even closer ties to the league as a team scorekeeper, super fan, or participate in other SVGLS functions, they can become an Associate Member of the league for \$25. This allows them in the dugout, provides admission to membership based events, and includes participation in SVGLS Board elections. You must be at least 18 years old to play in the SVGLS.

Look forward to you being a part of OUR growing league.