



SPARTANBURG
COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT



2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

I. GOVERNING BODY

- A) The governing body consists of the Spartanburg County Parks Dept. Park Operations Team – Athletics Division.
- B) The Park Operations Team – Athletics Division will make decisions on all protests and suspensions with its interpretation of the league rules being final in all cases. *It also reserves the right to make any exceptions necessary if it feels it is in the best interest of the league. All games will be played according to the USA Rule Book except where Spartanburg County Parks\Dept. Adult Softball League Rules supersede.

II. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose and intent of the Adult Softball League is to provide wholesome recreation for the adults of Spartanburg County. Each division is set up to instill good sportsmanship, team fellowship, for each participant to enjoy themselves and have fun.

III. DIVISIONS (HOME RUN LIMIT)

- A) Coed Open (3HR)
- B) Coed Closed (3HR)
- C) Coed Church (3HR)
- D) Men's Open (3HR)
- E) Men's Closed (3HR)
- F) Men's Church (3HR)

IV. REGISTRATION

Cost per team is \$480: Payments can be made to Spartanburg County Parks Department. This includes umpire fees for 8 regular season games and a postseason double elimination tournament. Fees must be received in full. Payment to Spartanburg County Parks Dept. can be paid by debit or credit card or by check or money order. **CASH CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

V. UNIFORMS

- A) All team players must all wear the same color jerseys during regular season play and tournament play.
- B) All jerseys must have a manufactured, permanently affixed number on the back at least six inches in height. No tape, drawn, temporary, or duplicating numbers are allowed. Numbers must be only single or double digits and range from 0-99. Metal cleats are not allowed.



VI. EQUIPMENT

- A) Softball bats must be USA approved with the USA certification stamp on the bat.
- B) Any bat listed on the USANon-Approved Bat List may not be used at any time.
- C) Bats used may not be altered in any way. Umpires will inspect bats each game for bat approval.
- D) Softballs used for play in the **Men's Divisions must be yellow optic 12", .52 COR, 300 lbs compression and USA approved (stamped)**. Softballs used by the **Coed Divisions must be yellow optic 12", .52 COR, 300 lbs compression for men and 11", .47 COR, 275 lbs compression for women. It is mandatory that all balls are yellow optic color and USA approved (stamped)**.
- E) Umpires and/or SCPD staff may remove any equipment from play that has been altered, fails to meet USA certification requirements, or that is otherwise deemed illegal.
- F) Usage of any illegal equipment, regardless if umpire approved, will result in ejection of the offending player for the season (including postseason tournament). Team Manager may also be suspended.

VII. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) All players must be **18 years** or older prior to the season to participate.
- B) A person may only play on one team per Division. The Divisions are Coed Open, Coed closed, Men's Open and Men's Closed. Any player who plays for more than one team in the same Division will be automatically ruled ineligible with the team receiving a forfeit for all games in which the offense was committed. The Team Manager will also be subject to immediate suspension.
- C) Players must provide identification to verify identity if it is questioned in regards to the name that is listed in the line-up. The Team Manager will be responsible for presenting Player Identification to the Home Plate Umpire during the verification process. Failure to provide identification will result in suspension of play from the game and possible future games. Any request must be made by the Team Manager and be made by the completion of the first inning; or by the completion of the first inning that the player in question plays in if arriving late.
- D) If a player is ejected from a game, it is the responsibility of the Team Manager or person in charge when the ejection occurred to notify the player of the suspension for the next two games.

VIII. TEAM ROSTERS AND WAIVER-RELEASE

- A) Each team must complete a team roster to participate in the league.
- B) Each player must read and sign the adult waiver-release before he/she is eligible to play.
- C) Players may be added to the team roster by the coach submitting the player's name, address, and phone number to the Athletics Division on a roster addition form before the deadline that is set. The player(s) being added must read and sign the adult waiver-release before they are eligible to play in the league.



SPARTANBURG

COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT



- D) There are no player releases or transfers in any Division. Once a player plays for the team whose roster he/she is on, that player is locked in for the season and postseason. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to know the eligibility requirements of all their players.
- E) Falsifying a team roster or roster addition form will result in suspension from the league.
- F) If a protest is lodged in regards to a player not being on the team's roster and it's ruled valid the ineligible player will be removed from the program, the manager suspended for one game or more, and the game will be recorded as a loss. In addition, any prior game(s) in which the ineligible player participated will result in a forfeit.

IX. PLAYER CONDUCT

The home plate umpire will have authority over players, coaches, and managers during the game. Profane language or display of unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in the program.

The following provisions shall apply:

- A) Players, coaches, managers, and spectators are expected to demonstrate a good sportsmanlike attitude and courteous behavior.
- B) Persons failing to demonstrate appropriate conduct or behavior will result in an immediate warning or prompt ejection from the game, depending on the severity of the incident.
- C) If a person is warned regarding their misconduct (including arguing the judgment of balls and strikes), the next offense will result in prompt ejection from the game.
- D) Any person ejected from the game must leave the park premises. If a person is unable to leave premises, the person must be "out of sight, out of sound."
- E) Failure of an ejected player to leave park premises will warrant a forfeiture of the game.
- F) Any person ejected from a game will also be suspended from their next two scheduled games.
- G) If the offending act is flagrant, involves a fight or if the unsportsmanlike conduct continues after ejection, the person will be suspended from the league, including post season tournament play.
- H) Any player, manager, and/or spectator who does or attempts to do bodily harm to an official will be immediately ejected from the game, expelled from the program, banned from all SCPD facilities, and may have criminal charges filed against him/her. The governing body will determine the length of time for banned suspension.
 - a. Threatening or attempting to do bodily harm to an official will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action; i.e. criminal charges will be filed through the County's Police Department and the party's team will be automatically ejected from league play.
- I) Smoking is not permitted inside any of the walk-in entry gates of any SCPD park.
- J) Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited on the premises of all SCPD facilities.



X. GENERAL AND LOCAL RULES

- A) The Team Manager is required to complete the line-up on a line-up card or SCPD line-up sheet prior to the scheduled game time and meet at home plate prior to each game to submit to the home plate umpire. **Line-ups must include player's first and last name, position and number. No nicknames are allowed on the lineup card. All names must match the name(s) on your team's roster.**
- B) The home team's scorebook is the official scorebook and will be used by the umpires.
- Each team must have a designated score keeper.
- C) All teams have the option of batting 12 players in the line-up with two extra hitters.
- D) Prior to every game, each team is required to furnish **one new yellow optic game ball** and have an additional playable ball in which the ASA stamp can be read.
- E) Game times will be scheduled on the hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m.
- F) Game time is forfeit time. The time limit for all divisions is 1 hour and 5 minutes (65 minutes).
- This is from the start of the game (break off from plate meeting), unless the game is tied. The time clock will be stopped for an injury or a ruling on the authority of the home plate umpire. If a game runs past the time limit, the next scheduled game will begin as soon as the game is completed. A game can be started before its scheduled time if opposing coaches agree.
- G) A team must be able to **field at least 8 players** when the umpire calls to start the game. If additional players arrive after the line-up sheet has been turned in and/or game begun, they may be added to the end of the batting order up to a maximum of 10 players. **COED Must have at least 4 women on the lineup to start the game.** The coach must notify the official scorekeeper of the players who have arrived late. If a team starts with 8 or 9 players and no other player(s) arrives to play; there is not a penalty for the slot(s) in the line-up. If a team starts the game with 9 or 10 players in the line-up, loses a player during the game and is unable to substitute, that slot in the batting order results in an automatic out. A team may only drop one player less than what it originally started with for a game to continue. If a team starts the game with 8 players in the line-up or loses a player during the game and is unable to substitute, the game will be ruled a forfeit. IF a team drops below 9 players due to a player being ejected, the game will be an automatic forfeit for that team.
- H) **Exception: In the Co-ed Division, teams must have 9 players to start the game and will receive an automatic out in the vacant slot of the batting order (9th or 10th slot depending on gender).**
- I) All players will enter the batter's box with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. A second foul ball will be awarded on the third strike before an out is called.
- J) Each team is allowed an ASA Courtesy runner – one runner per inning (Co-ed – on male, one female per inning). **Runner must be the last out.**



- K)** For safety reasons only, jewelry/ornaments shall not be worn during participation of a game. Necklaces, bracelets, anklets, watches, pins, post, any types of earrings, nose rings, etc. must be removed. The only exception to this is a wedding ring and medical bracelet or medical necklace (if taped down). Placing tape over exposed jewelry/ornaments is not allowed. If the game is delayed due to a player having to remove jewelry/ornaments, a team warning will be issued and the umpire shall call balls or strikes (whichever is appropriate) every 10 seconds. Further violations by any team member will result in his/her turn at bat being an automatic out.
- L)** Plaques and / or trophies will be given for first and second place for each Division for the regular season. If there is a tie for placement in the final standings, the following methods will be utilized in breaking said tie:
 - A)** Head To Head: If two teams are tied for placement, the regular season head to head ratio will be evaluated to break tie. Example: If Team A and Team B are tied for first place and Team A beat Team B during the regular season, Team A wins the tie.
 - B)** Runs Scored (If there is still a tie after utilizing Method A): The team that has scored the most runs during the regular season will win the tie.
 - C)** Runs Allowed: The team that has allowed the least amount of runs during the entire regular season will win tie.
 - D)** Coin Toss: If there is still a tie after the utilization of Methods A & B, a coin toss will determine final placement.
- M)** Each team will be entered into a postseason double elimination tournament provided it has abided by the league rules and regulations during the regular season. Champion and Runner-up trophies will be given for each postseason double elimination tournament. Home team will be determined via coin flip for the duration of the tournament.
- N)** Teams forfeiting three games during the season will be automatically dropped from league.
- O)** Schedule requests made during the registration period will be considered but not guaranteed.
- P)** No refunds of league registration fees will be made after the schedules have been completed.

XI. PARK ASSISTANT (FIELD SUPERVISOR)

A park assistant will be present at the park during all scheduled games. After consulting with umpires, the park assistant has the authority to cancel any game if hazardous or unsafe conditions exist. The park assistant also has the authority to warn or eject a person for demonstrating inappropriate conduct or behavior listed under the **IX. PLAYER CONDUCT** section.

XII. RAINOUTS AND RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- A)** If any change in field or game status occurs, an email will be sent to each team manager notifying him or her of this cancellation. It is the team's responsibility to be at the field at game time (unless otherwise notified) and remain there until officially notified by the umpires or park assistant with a decision.



SPARTANBURG

COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT



- B) The Team Manager will be notified by email of any rescheduled games and will be responsible for notifying all players of his/her team.
- C) Rainout games will be scheduled as time and space allows according to field availability and not according to specific days of the week that the Division played on during the season.

XIII. PROTESTS

The Team Manager must lodge a legal protest with the plate umpire during the regulation game informing the umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper. The scorekeeper must mark the time and game information when the protest was made. The plate umpire will submit a written report to the Athletics Division stating the nature of the protest and the rule that the manager is protesting.

With the exception of a request for identification to verify identity in regards to the line-up, the Team Manager must submit a written protest to the Athletics Division and enclose a \$50.00 protest fee during office hours within 24 hours (*Exception – must be submitted within 12 hours during postseason play). If the protest is lost, the fee will not be returned and will be deposited into the appropriate account of SCPD. No protest will be accepted based on an umpire's judgment. Each protest must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules and sections to justify the protest. The governing body will rule on each protest properly submitted and send the protesting manager a written ruling within one business day. When a protested game is upheld, the game is to be rescheduled from the point at which it was protested.



SPARTANBURG

COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT



I have read these rules and fully understand the implications of not abiding by said rules. I have also discussed these rules in their entirety with my fellow managers and teammates. I understand that if these rules are not adhered to by myself and my team, it may result in disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the governing body.

Manager's Name: _____

Team Name: _____

Date: _____