



## 2012 SPRING ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

### I. GOVERNING BODY

- A) The governing body consists of the Spartanburg County Parks Department Athletics Division.
- B) The 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 ASA Rule Book except where Spartanburg Parks 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-CLASS (HOME RUN LIMIT)

- A) Co-ed – (5 HR)
- B) Men's – Church B/C (3 HR), and D (2 HR), Open (3 & 5 HR), Industrial C (3 HR), and D (2 HR)
- C) Women's – Church and Open (3 HR)

### IV. REGISTRATION

Cost per team is \$375. This includes umpire fees for 8-10 regular season games and a post-season double elimination tournament. Fees must be received in full by Monday, March 19, 2012.

### V. UNIFORMS

- A) A team's players must all wear the same color jerseys.
- 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 ASA approved with the 2000 or 2004 ASA certification stamp on the bat.
- B) Any bat listed on the ASA Non-Approved Bat List may not be used.
- 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 all Divisions must be .440 cor or under, 375 lbs max compression and ASA approved (stamped). Men's Divisions must use a 12" ball and Women's Church an 11" ball.
- E) Umpires and/or Spartanburg Parks Athletic staff may remove any equipment from play that has been altered, fails to meet ASA 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 tourney). Team Manager may also be suspended.

## VII. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) All players must be **18 years** or older prior to the season to participate with the exception of the Church Division. Players in the Church Division must be **16 years** of age to participate but must have one of his/her parents sign the adult waiver-release on the back of the team roster.
- B) Church Division – Any player participating must be a pastor-approved member of the church or a pastor-approved active participant of the sponsoring church to be eligible to play.
- C) Industrial Division – A commercial player must be on payroll of the company he/she represents.  
**Exception:** An employee who has worked with a company through a Temporary Agency full-time for three continuous months prior to being placed on the team roster is eligible. Sub-contractors to a company are not eligible. The Athletics Division, at its own discretion, may investigate and collect evidence involving team or player eligibility.
- D) A person may only play on one team per Division. The Divisions are Co-ed, Church, Industrial, and Open. 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.
- E) Players must provide identification to verify identity if it is questioned in regards to the name that is listed in the line-up. 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.
- F) 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 game.

## VIII. TEAM ROSTERS AND WAIVER-RELEASE

- A) Each team must complete a team roster (limited to 25 players) to participate in the league.
- B) Each player must read and sign the adult waiver-release on the back of the team roster before he/she is eligible to play. Rosters and waiver-releases must be turned in by Monday, April 2.
- C) The deadline for Team Managers to add players to the team roster is Monday, April 30. 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. The player(s) being added must read and sign the adult waiver-release on the back side of this form.
- 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. 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) Church Division – Church Pastor must verify and sign team roster and for any additions.
- G) Industrial Division – Personnel Manager must verify and sign team roster and for any additions.
- H) 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 possible). 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 scheduled game.
- 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, suspended from the program, banned from all Spartanburg County Parks Department facilities, and may have criminal charges filed against him/her. The governing body will determine the length of time for banned suspension.
- I) **First Ejection** – The person will be suspended for the remainder of the game, the next scheduled game from all Divisions and must leave the park premises immediately.
- J) **Second Ejection** – The player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the game, the next two weeks from all Divisions and must leave the park premises immediately.
- K) **Third Ejection** – The player or coach will be suspended for the season, including any post-season tournament play and must leave the park premises immediately following the ejection.
- L) Smoking is not permitted on the field or in the dugout and is only allowed in designated areas.
- M) Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited at Spartanburg County Parks Department 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 players’ first initial, last name, position and number.
- B) The home team’s scorebook is the official scorebook and will be used by the umpires.
- C) All teams have the option of batting 12 players in the line-up with two extra hitters.
- D) Each game each team is required to furnish **one (1) new white or yellow 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.

## **-GENERAL and LOCAL RULES Continued**

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. 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, loses a player during the game and is unable to substitute, the game will be ruled a forfeit.

**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 (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> slot depending on gender).**

- H)** 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.
- I)** 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 ten seconds. Further violations by any team member will result in his/her turn at bat being an automatic out.
- J)** Depending on registration, some Classes/Divisions may be combined. Plaques will be given for first and second place for each Class/Division for the regular season. The head-to-head matchup will be used to break ties for league standings. If the teams play twice during the regular season with each team winning once, the team allowing the fewest total runs against each other will be the determining factor. If the teams are still tied, a coin toss will be used.
- K)** Each team will be entered into a post-season 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 post-season double elimination tournament.
- L)** Teams forfeiting three games during the season will be automatically dropped from league.
- M)** Schedule requests made during the registration period will be considered but not guaranteed.
- N)** No refunds of league registration fees will be made after the schedules have been completed.

## **XI. FIELD SUPERVISOR**

A park supervisor will be present at the park during most scheduled games. After consulting with umpires, the park supervisor has the authority to cancel any game if hazardous or unsafe conditions exist. The park supervisor 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, a text message and/or email will be sent out via **RainedOut.com** at 4pm and then leading up to game times. To receive this service, Team Managers and players must register via [www.RainedOut.com](http://www.RainedOut.com). 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 supervisor with a decision.
- 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 shall 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 (VII. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY), 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. 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 two business days. When a protested game is upheld, the game is to be rescheduled from the point at which it was protested.

### **Types of protests:**

- 1)** Misinterpretation of a playing rule – protest must be made:
  - a. Before the next pitch,
  - b. Before the next play
  - c. Before all infielders have left fair territory
  - d. On the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the playing field.
- 2)** Illegal player – protest must be made while they are in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field.
- 3)** Ineligible player – protest must be made by the completion of the first inning that they play in.

## **XIV. DIVISION PROVISIONS**

- A) Church Division** – Any church that does not have enough players to form a team may join with another church to form a team under the approval and supervision of the governing body.
- B) Co-ed Division** – Men's ball must be SB 12-RF (Restricted Flight) ball. League specific rules are listed on a separate sheet (Annex Rules).

