



**2019 Men's & Women's
Summer Adult Softball
Rules and Regulations Packet**

Registration Deadline:
May 10th at 5:00pm

Register online at
www.starkvilleregistration.com

Starkville Parks & Recreation

Adult Men's and Women's Softball Registration Information:

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Entry Fee: \$400 per team (\$350 for each additional team with same name, i.e.: St. Paul Red/St. Paul Green)
- Registration Deadline: May 10, 2019--5:00pm
- Last Day to Add Player: June 28, 2019--5:00pm
- Games Begin: Tentative start date between May 30 - June 3, 2019

I. 2019 Pre-Registration Update

- A. A complete roster and full payment are to be submitted before the entry deadline in order to be considered fully registered for the league and receive a game schedule.
- B. All softballs will be provided by SPRD for game play
- C. A new inning will NOT start with 5 minutes or less remaining in regulation time limit. If a new inning is started with more than 5 minutes remaining, the top half of the inning will be finished, and the bottom half will be finished only if necessary. A new inning begins at the completion of the third out of the home team.
- D. To register for the 2019 season, any 2018 registration dues must be paid in full, along with 2019 registration requirements.

II. Introduction

- A. Starkville Parks & Recreation reserves the right to make changes to the by-laws and regulations during the course of the season.
 1. These will regard only matters of very unusual circumstances deemed to be necessary.
- B. The league will observe all USA (formerly ASA) rules with exceptions noted herein.

III. Website

- A. Information about SPRD leagues can usually be found online at <www.starkvilleparks.com>. Once there, scroll over Sports, then Adult Sports, and then click on "Adult Softball" to view news, schedules, scores, and standings. It is the coach's responsibility to report any possible errors that might affect his or her team.

IV. Eligibility

- A. To be eligible for participation in the SPRD Adult Softball leagues, each participant must:
 1. Be 16 years or older; Persons who 16th birthday falls during mid season may add to to a roster early, but must wait until that day to participate.
 2. Wait one year from release if participant was a professional baseball or softball player.
 3. Players may not be listed on a current collegiate baseball or softball roster
 4. Each individual church must define its "members"

V. Home-Run Classification

- A. A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all SPRD league play. All balls hit over the fence by a team in excess of the following limitations per game will be ruled on as follows. After a team reaches their home-run limit, each succeeding home-run by that team will result in an out, the ball is dead, and runner may not advance. The following are the limits for each league.
 1. Open: Eight
 2. Co-Ed: Four
 3. Church: All divisions: Six
 4. Women: All divisions: Four

VI. Dress

- A. All team members will be required to wear jerseys of the same color—**THIS WILL BE ENFORCED!**
- B. Each jersey must have a number measuring at least 6 inches on the back of the jersey.
 1. The numbers must be permanently attached to the uniforms and be of contrasting color with the jersey
 2. No taped numbers, magic markers, etc.
 3. Each team is allowed to have one shirt with no number visible as long as it is still the same color as the rest of the team for that game. This is especially helpful when two players show up with the same number and one is allowed to turn his/her shirt inside out to play.

4. Players legally participating with no number should be assigned the letter "X" on the line-up sheet.
 5. A team may not have duplicating numbers and numbers must be in integers from 00-99 including 00.
- C. Jerseys may have extra displays that differ from other teammates as long as it reflects good taste and does not create controversial jersey numbers.
- D. Once a jersey has participated, it cannot be swapped.
- E. Participants may wear shoes of soft sole or rubber spikes only; No metal spikes or rubber covered spikes
- F. Participants may not play barefooted.
- G. **Failure to comply with these uniform regulations will result in participation ineligibility.**

VII. Team Assignments

- A. **Sponsors** - All teams must pay an entry fee to participate in the program. This fee covers the cost of officials, equipment, and facility maintenance. The fee can be obtained through sponsorships or individual efforts.
- B. **Team Manager or Coach** - Each team is to designate a team manager or coach on its roster. The manager will act as the official spokesperson between the team and the SPRD office. The manager shall:
1. Turn in the official roster
 2. Sign players to his/her roster
 3. Know the eligibility of all team members
 4. Be familiar with all rules and regulations
 5. Keep teams informed of pertinent information
 6. Act as team spokesperson on and off the playing area
 7. Be responsible for familiarizing their players with the rules and regulations of this league
 8. Turn in line-up cards to the official scorekeeper on time with complete and proper information (jersey numbers, first names, and last names).
- C. **Team Names** - All teams are required to select a name to compete under. Team names are usually that of a sponsor. SPRD reserves the right to censor any name or team uniforms found questionable or in bad taste
- D. **Participation** - A player may participate on one team only. In the case a player's name appears on two or more team rosters, that player will be assigned officially to the team he/she first played on within a scheduled game within that league
- E. **Team Members** - Any player that participated in one game shall be considered a permanent member of that team unless a player release form has been approved by SPRD. Players may participate in more than one league (such as industrial and church), but cannot participate on more than one team inside any one league, even if the two teams are in separate divisions (such as A & B)
- F. **Assumed Names/Nicknames** - No individual shall participate under an assumed name or nickname. Any player, manager, or coach who plays under an assumed name or nickname shall forfeit that game and the player is subject to suspension or expulsion from this league.

VIII. Conduct

- A. Coaches and managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and obvious fans.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct, such as cursing, rowdiness, or continuous baiting of officials shall be cause for suspension.
1. A maximum of two (2) games can be administered for the first offense, with further action possible, pending the extent of the conduct.
 2. Further incidents will lead to more serious action by SPRD.
 3. A report will be completed and filed in the SPRD office. The coach and/or player will be given copies of the report.
- C. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises and any violation of this rule shall result in suspension from the league, and the matter shall be referred to the proper authorities. Tobacco products are also prohibited.
- D. The coach or manager of each team may confer with the officials concerning a rule interpretation if it is done in a courteous manner. Matters that involve judgment on the part of an official are not open for question.

IX. Officials

- A. Officials, scorekeepers, and field supervisors will be assigned to all games by the SPRD.
- B. Only registered officials will be used except for emergency situations.
- C. Officials and scorers will be evaluated and rated with assignments made based on these ratings.
1. This is to provide for the best officiating possible while still affording inexperienced officials an opportunity to officiate in a recreational setting.
- D. SPRD shall give the officials complete authority during the time they are on duty.

X. League Director's Duties

- A. The Starkville Parks and Recreation Department shall have broad supervisory powers, including all schedules, playoffs, rule interpretations, official assignments, awards, maintenance, and general management of the league.

XI. Postponements

- A. We do not like to postpone or cancel games, but if in our judgment one of the following situation exists, we will be forced to postpone games:
 - 1. Fields are in a condition that will receive great damage if played on.
 - 2. The player's safety is in question due to condition of weather and/or fields.
- B. If the decision is made to postpone games, we will normally postpone games on all fields because of the confusion that occurs if we do not. There are limited situations which games may be played at a selected park.
- C. Obvious decisions to postpone contests due to severe weather may be made at any time of the day.
- D. Decisions over questionable weather or standing water are usually made at 3:00pm, but sometimes have to be a game-time decision.
 - 1. Coaches are encouraged to view the website to see if any information has already been posted on any cancellations, but may also call the Sportsplex office between 4pm and 5pm. Please keep in mind that phone lines are usually very busy on questionable days.
 - 2. To avoid making multiple phone calls, encourage every team member to sign up to receive the SPRD text messages texting the phrase "@sprdfields" to the number 81010 to receive information regarding field status
- E. On nights when games have been canceled, we expect all players to stay off of all fields. All violators will be reported to the authorities.
- F. In-Progress Rainouts:
 - 1. Recreational Games -- games rained out in progress during the recreational season are official and over with if the losing team has batted 4 full innings (3 innings if 25-run rule applies). Games will be picked up where they left off only if the losing team has batted 2 full innings, otherwise the game will be replayed from the beginning.
 - 2. Tournament Games -- games rained out in progress during the End-of-Season tournaments will pick back up where they left off, unless both coaches and SPRD administration are all in agreement to do otherwise.

XII. Game Protests

- A. Protests base upon question of the officials' judgment will not be considered. The only grounds for protest will be misinterpretation of playing rules, or questions of eligibility of players or equipment.
- B. Protests involving eligibility of players or equipment must be done before the game begins.
- C. The head coach or manager, at the point of any protest, must be the one making any protest.
- D. He or she should first calmly discuss the issue with the lead official of intent to protest.
- E. All protests must be signed by the protesting head coach or manager, and be accompanied by a \$25.00 protest fee.
- F. If the protest is lost, the \$25.00 will be turned over to the SPRD Activity Fund, and the time and date of its filing will be recorded on the receipt.
- G. If a protest is won and only one game is affected, the game will be replayed and picked up at the appropriate place in the game and the \$25.00 will be refunded.
- H. If a protest in won where more that one game is affected, the \$25.00 will be refunded and some other type of compensation will be negotiated.
- I. During an official protest, both teams involved are subject to thorough examination by SPRD administration and a legitimate protest may still be lost due to any discovered infractions. The investigation will include but is not limited to:
 - 1. Any registration fees still owed.
 - 2. Any incomplete team roster form.
 - 3. Proof of ineligible player participation.
 - 4. Proof of inadequate line-up card submission.
- J. The burden of proof regarding any eligibility protest falls upon the player in question
- K. The validity of protest will be reviewed and determined within 10 working days. Officials, players, coaches, and/or managers may be requested to attend a hearing to assist in determining the validity of the protest.
- L. Coaches of the teams involved in the protest will be notified of the date of the protest meeting.

XIII. Forfeits

- A. Game time is forfeit time. However, if one team in present with 9 players ready, they may choose to allow a five-minute grace period to the opposing team. This is on the umpire's time, but THIS IS NOT THE UMPIRE'S DECISION
- B. A forfeit results in any contest not being played without prior arrangement with the SPRD office.
- C. Any contest which is not completed due to unsportsmanlike conduct, ineligibility of players, not enough players to start on time, or for any other reason counts as a forfeit loss of 7-0 and will not be replayed.
- D. A team must have 9 players ready to play at the scheduled game time.
- E. All games will start on assigned time unless a prior game, weather, or SPRD administrative decision delays them.
- F. A double forfeit in recreation play will count as a 7-7 tie.

- G. When a double forfeit occurs in the winner's bracket of a tournament or if a trophy is decided, the game officials will count it still as a tie, and then a coin flip by the home umpire will decide the winner.
- H. If a double forfeit occurs in the loser's bracket of a tournament and no trophy is decided, then both teams are eliminated.
- J. Officials are not required to oversee scrimmage games due to a forfeit.

XIV. Game Times

- A. Games are usually scheduled Monday-Thursday during the summer leagues between 6:00 and 10:30pm
- B. M/W and T/Th games may be played on different days if deemed necessary by SPRD Staff.

XV. Addition of Players and Participation

- A. Players participating must have their names signed on the team roster and on file with the SPRD office.
- B. Players may be added to the roster until 5:00pm on Friday, June 28th. **NO ROSTER ADDITIONS AFTER THIS DATE**
- C. All substitutes must be located in the bench area and/or be wearing a proper jersey at time of mandatory substitution.

XVI. Championship

- A. League winners will be decided by a format declared by the league directors prior to the beginning of each league. Some of the most common formats used are:
 1. Win/Loss records
 2. Qualifying tournament
 3. Open tournament (*double elimination)—Current format used by SPRD

XVII. Game Rules

- A. All rules not covered by SPRD regulation will be governed by current USA softball rules.
- B. **All SPRD adult leagues will not allow for stealing of bases.**
- C. Only team players, coaches, and managers will be allowed on the playing field or in the dugouts.
- D. All league games will consist of 7 innings of play unless a time limit is reached, a run rule is reached, or extra innings are required.
- E. All games will consist of a time limit of 70 minutes. The home plate umpire will announce the start time for each game. The supervisor will record the start time and make sure time is properly enforced.
- F. A new inning will NOT start with 5 minutes or less remaining in regulation time limit.
- G. If an inning is started with more than 5 minutes remaining, the top of the inning will be finished, and the bottom half of the inning will be finished if necessary to determine a winner.
- H. The umpire's watch is the official timepiece unless declared differently beforehand.
- J. Extra innings will be limited to two during recreational play, and ties after two extra innings will be decided by way of an international tiebreaker. The international tiebreaker consists of placing the team's last "out" on second base, and playing ball.
- K. All line-ups should be given to the scorekeeper at least 5 minutes prior to game time. Line-ups not turned in by game time result in a forfeit.
- L. The scheduler software determines who is the home and away team. The team following "@" on the schedule is the home team.
- M. The current run rules are as follows:
 1. 5 innings 15 Runs
 2. 4 innings 20 Runs
 3. 3 innings 25 Runs
- N. There will be NO "taking infield" or "batting practice" before games.
- O. **The last recorded out may pinch run.**
- P. Men will use the 12" ball.
 1. All softballs must be officially ASA stamped .52 cor (300 compression) and must have red stitches.
 2. **All softballs in SPRD play will be provided by SPRD**
- Q. The official ASA non-approved bat list will be fully recognized.
 1. Updates to the list during the season will also be recognized.
 2. Persons in violation will be ruled upon by current ASA rules unless deemed necessary to rule internally.
 3. Wooden bats may be used as long as they are in safe condition, are no longer than 34", and will slide through an ASA official bat ring.
- R. **BAT TESTING WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEASON UPON REQUEST.**
 1. **Bats in question will be marked with an SPRD sticker.**
 2. **If a player is found to be using an illegal bat, he/she will be suspended for the game in which it is found AND the following game, and the bat will be disallowed from play for the remainder of the season. If the owner of the bat cannot be determined, an alternative punishment will be levied up to, but not limited to, a forfeit of one game.**
 3. **If a player on the same team uses an illegal bat after the first offense, the team is disqualified from the league.**
 4. **IT IS UP TO TEAM COACHES TO MONITOR TEAM BATS!**
- S. Only one warm-up batter may be "on-deck" during any "at-bat", which must also stay on the batting-team's dugout side of the current batter.
 1. Warm-up batters may only swing one bat or ASA-approved "warm-up" device at a time and cannot have any non-ASA weighted devices (including donuts) added to a "warm-up" bat.

XVIII. Co-Ed Specific Rules

- A. Co-Ed teams must play either an 11-person lineup of no more than eight (8) males and no less than three (3) females, or a 10-person lineup of no more than seven (7) males and no less than (3) females.
- B. In an 11-person lineup, a female cannot be the DH/EH; she must be a positional player.
- C. Co-Ed teams must field a defense of no more than seven (7) males and no less than three (3) female.
- D. If a team intentionally walks one batter to put the next batter at the plate, both players are awarded a base.
- E. Rule adjustments may be fairly supplemented as needed.