

## ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE – RULES AND REGULATIONS

### I. GENERAL – ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- A. The Shenandoah County Softball Leagues will use SOFTBALL NATION rules, unless stated otherwise.
- B. The Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation and the Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation Activities and Programs Committee will govern all rule interpretations, protest, player eligibility, and any other concerns to help ensure success within the league. Penalties and suspensions will be imposed by Shenandoah County Parks and Recreations, and if needed by the Activities and Programs Committee.

### ARTICLE II: ROSTER AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. A team may have unlimited players signed to a roster. All players are REQUIRED to be registered with Parks and Recreation under their respective team. Coaches will register their team, then send invites to players to join their team with our software system. Paper rosters are no longer used.
- B. Roster addition deadlines are as follows:  
**Men's Summer League – July 11, 2025**  
**All other leagues – Prior to the playoffs**
- C. Players will be allowed to switch teams ONCE during the current season.
- D. Players must be on the roster prior to the deadline to be eligible for the playoffs.
- E. Any team playing an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit all games in which this player participated. Player will not be allowed to continue playing. Coach and /or manager will be subject to suspension, if deemed necessary.
- F. Coach must notify SCPR if a player has requested to be dropped. To add a player, new coach must invite player to join team.
- G. All players in the league must be 16 years old at the start of the season in which they are participating. SCPR must have parents' consent submitted with roster.

### ARTICLE III: DEPARTMENT RULES

- A. Managers and Coaches will be fully responsible for the following:
  - 1. Conduct of their players, before, during and after games.
  - 2. Conduct of anyone occupying the bench area.
  - 3. Informing all players of league rules.
  - 4. Eligibility of players.
  - 5. Assigning a reliable scorebook keeper; HOME score book is official.
- B. **Slaughter Rule:** Twenty (20) after 3 complete innings, (15) after 4 complete innings, (10) after 5 or more complete innings.
- C. **Pitch Format:** Three (3) balls, two (2) strikes. All foul balls will count as strikes. Example: 2 foul balls will be a strike out.
- D. **Line-up/ batting order:** Teams are allowed to use an Extra Player (EP) and/or Designated Hitter (DH) within their batting order. May switch fielding positions as needed.
- E. **Home Runs:** 1 Homerun per inning, each one after will be deemed an out. There will not be a four (4) base error rule.
- F. **Bats:** Teams may use any bat that has been tested and displays a "SCPR APPROVED" sticker. Bat must pass compression test on multiple sides. Bats will be tested yearly and randomly throughout the season. League officials will be responsible for testing and placing stickers on bats. League will use 224 and above compression rating along with a 1.20 BPF stamp to approve bats. The use of SENIOR bats is strictly prohibited. NO sticker needed for FAILED bats. Any bat throw could result in disciplinary action.

Penalty: Any player using an unapproved bat will be subject to the following:

**First Offense:** Ejection from current game.

**Second Offense:** Ejection from current game, plus additional six (6) games.

**Third Offense:** Ejection from current game and remainder of season.

- G. **Ball:** Must be 44 cores 400 max compression Men use twelve (12) inch, women use eleven (11). Coed must use (12) for men and women. Core and compression must be viewable on all balls-umpires discretion. Classic M and Pro M balls are allowed even though they do not have a stamp.
- I. **Start of Game:** Teams can start game with 8 players. If starting with 8 players, team can only add two additional spots in lineup. Player "9" and/or player "10" can be added when they arrive, will not be counted as OUT prior to arriving. A team cannot exceed 10 in lineup if starting with 8 or 9 players.
- J. **Uniforms: Head:** Facial protection is required for all pitchers. No metal cleats.

- K. **Bench Personnel:** ONLY players, coach, and scorekeeper will be the only people allowed to occupy a team's bench/ dugout area during a game. Umpire will have final decision.
- L. **Forfeits:** A total of six (6) forfeits for any reason by one team will result in forfeiting remainder of season for Summer League, no refund.
- M. **Tie:** If a tie exists after seven (7) complete innings, after the one (1) hour and ten (10) minute time limit, or if umpire feel necessary teams will place a player on second base to start the NEW inning. **Exception:** Umpires reserve the right to use the ONE-PITCH format at their discretion only for the 6 and 7 innings as long as BOTH teams agree.
- N. **Playoffs:** The slaughter rule will be in effect for all games with the exception of the championship series.
- O. **Courtesy Runner:** May use one RUNNER per inning; any person that is on the roster is permitted to run at any time. If the courtesy runner is on base when it is his/her turns to bat, then they are "OUT". Teams can NOT substitute for a courtesy runner that is on base.
- P. **Pitcher Rule:** May pitch from no farther than 5 feet behind pitching rubber and the arc of the ball must be between 6-10 feet. If umpire determines that the pitcher is NOT starting with one foot on the imaginary line or the pitch does not meet the arc requirement, then "ILLEGAL PITCH" will be called. Any line drive ball batted that hits the pitcher on the fly who is in line with the pitching rubber will result in batter being called "OUT" and the bat is subject to being re-tested by SCPR if umpire deems necessary. The bat may not be used in league play if retesting is required. If the pitcher is hit on the fly to the left or right of the pitching rubber play will continue. If the bat does pass SCPR standard compression test, the batter will be subject to penalties under section 'F' above.
- Q. If the player/batter refuses to have the sticker removed, the player/batter is ineligible for current game and any remaining games until bat is retested and approved by SCPR.
- R. **Time Limit:** No new inning may start after ONE hour, TEN minutes of play.
- S. **Weather/Darkness:** If game is called due to darkness or weather, game will revert back to exact spot game was called, however 4.5 innings constitute a COMPLETE game. Umpires and Coaches need to ensure games move quickly.

#### **ARTICLE IV: PLAYER CONDUCT**

- A. No unsportsmanlike conduct will take place towards other **TEAMS, PLAYERS, OR SPECTATORS** on or around the playing field, before, during or after league games. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to: throwing bats, taunting, harassment, profanity, baiting of other players, etc.
  - Penalty: First offense-** warning from umpire, however if conduct is severe, umpire could rule for an ejection from game. If a player is ejected they are suspended for 2 games and may carry over from league to league.
  - Second offense-** ejection from game and any additional games held on same day, however if conduct is severe, umpire could rule for suspension from additional games. Any player being ejected from three (3) games in one season, suspended from league for season.
- B. Fighting by a Player or Coach will result in ejection from the game and a one-year suspension from the league and all other activities sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department. NOTE: Suspension may include additional years of suspension and including a 'LIFETIME' ban from all SCPR activities. A warrant for arrest may be issued. After serving the one (1) year suspension, the individual must appear before the Activities and Programs Committee for a decision on reinstatement.
- C. Harassment or abusive and threatening actions towards **Umpires or Parks & Recreation Department staff** will not be tolerated. This rule will be enforced before, during and after games and shall be grounds for removal from the league, depending on the severity of the encounter. Conduct may include, but not limited to: threatening comments, verbal harassment, obscene gestures, etc.
  - Penalty: First Offense-** Suspension for a minimum of 4 league games. Not limited to this if deemed necessary by league officials.
  - Second Offense-** Suspension for a minimum of eight (8) league games. Not limited to this if deemed necessary by league officials.
- D. Any player, coach, or fan associated with a team who strikes or pushes in any manner an **Umpires or Parks & Recreation staff** member will serve the following penalty and after serving the two (2) year suspension; the individual must appear before the Activities and Programs Committee for a decision on reinstatement.
  - Penalty:** Will automatically be suspended for two (2) years from all Parks & Recreation Department activities, but not limited to this if deemed necessary by league officials. A possible warrant for arrest will be issued by the official or Parks & Recreation staff member. There will be no exceptions or appeals.

- E. Players, coaches, and fans shall direct their criticism of game situations to the Parks & Recreation Department the following day in writing.
- F. The Shenandoah County Parks & Recreation Department and/or the Activities and Programs Committee will impose penalties and suspensions upon players, coaches, teams, and fans such as are necessary to ensure orderly conduct of the league. Notice of such action will be served on the parties involved. These decisions will be final.
- G. If a player or coach is ejected three (3) times in one year for unsportsmanlike conduct, the individual will be suspended from the league and all other activities sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department for a period of one (1) year or more. Not limited to this if deemed necessary by league officials.
- H. It is illegal to consume alcoholic beverages on any County-owned property. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** will NOT be permitted on County property before, during, or after league games, practices, or tournaments. Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation staff and law enforcement will be patrolling the premises. Violators will be prosecuted. There will be no appeals process related to any alcohol violations. Per VA Code, Section 4.1-308 any prosecutions would be considered a Class 2 misdemeanor.

**Penalty: First Offense**- Ejection from current game and any remaining games on same day, but not limited to this if deemed necessary by league officials.

**Second Offense**- Ejection from current game and a minimum of the next four (4) league games, but not limited to this if deemed necessary by league officials. Player will receive written letter stating possible results if conduct happens again.

**Third Offense**- Ejection from current game and remainder of season. Not limited to this if deemed necessary by league officials.

- I. Any player serving a suspension one (1) year or longer must appear before the Activities and Programs Committee for reinstatement.
- J. Any player ejected from a game must leave the Shenandoah County Park immediately. Failure to do so could result in additional suspensions.

#### **ARTICLE V: PROTEST**

- A. Protest based solely on judgment of the umpire, shall not be considered for protest.
- B. Managers, witnesses, and umpires are subject to appear before the Activities and Programs Committee.
- C. Protest Procedure: If any item is not complete, protest will not be accepted.
  1. To protest a game, you must notify the umpire and opposing coach when noticed infraction occurs.
  2. The protest must be made in writing to SCPR the following business day.

#### **ARTICLE VI: PLAYOFFS AND AWARDS**

- A. All teams will qualify for the playoffs. Single and double elimination formats may be used, depending on league.
- B. Tournament seeding and regular season standings are determined by the following:
  1. Wins vs. losses.
  2. Head-to-head.
  3. Coin flip.