**Adult Softball Rules**

*Stephenville Parks and Recreation*

***A. League Information***

1. Team fees must be paid in full by the seasons’2nd game – **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS**.

Unpaid teams will be removed from the schedule and all fees paid will be forfeited.

1. Team managers/leaders are responsible for the conduct of their team / spectators during

play, including disagreements on the field.

1. Submit all league paperwork on time (rosters, scorecards). Team names must

be appropriate for city web site and public posting. **PLEASE NOTE:** Stephenville Parks and

Recreation has the right to change or replace inappropriate team names if necessary.

1. All players must read & sign the waiver / roster before playing the 2nd game - first name, last name, and player

numbers are required for all rosters.

1. Scorecards must be signed by team manager/leader before scores will be approved and published.
2. Special requests concerning game schedules need to be made by the registration deadline to be

considered. There is no guarantee your request will be granted. **Any requests made after the game schedules are posted can be refused by staff for any reason.**

1. The **official** game schedules can *only* be found on

<https://recpro.stephenvilletx.gov/report.aspx?report=ls&cid=11143&tid=0>

***B. Make Up / Reschedule Games / Weather Line***

1. All rescheduled games will be posted on

<https://recpro.stephenvilletx.gov/LeagueSchedulesAndStandings.aspx?id=11>

1. Make up games will be rescheduled on the following night in which the team plays (Tuesdays –

men’s and Thursdays - co-ed). If fields are *not* available on the following night or weather proceeds, games could be moved to the following week. Make-up games will be held on weekdays ***ONLY.***

1. In case of inclement weather SPARD will contact (via email or phone) team manager of game

status if games are rained out, cancelled, or postponed.

1. We will post changes on Stephenville Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page regarding

field status by 3:00 PM.

1. **When lightning is detected within 10 miles, outdoor activities are suspended and evacuated.**

***C. Team Waiver / Roster***

1. A team waiver / roster is required for all teams and must be turned in by the 2nd league game.
2. Roster must be given to the scorekeeper at the start of each game during the home-plate meeting.
3. Players must be at least **18 years of age** at the time of participation.
4. A maximum number of 20 players can be on the team roster.
5. Changes to the league roster may be made until the beginning of the 2nd game. After this, rosters

will be FINAL and changes/updates will not be permitted.

1. **Players can only be on ONE roster per league.**
2. Once a player participates with a team, he/she cannot be removed to participate on another team

in the same league.

1. Photo ID will be required upon request of SPARD staff at ALL league and tournament games –

ID must correspond with correct name on roster.

1. Amplified music is allowed if the following conditions are met:

 - volume is at a reasonable level and cannot be louder than the action on the field

 - no profanity, or violence actions in words

 - the other team does not object

 - umpire does not object

 - Stephenville Parks and Recreation staff does not object

1. If any objections to the music being played or if the team does not follow above conditions,

music will be **TURNED OFF** immediately. Continued disturbance will result in the game forfeit.

***D. Governing Body: USSSA Rules***

1. The run rule for ALL leagues will be:

 - **20 points** after 3rd inning

 - **15 points** after 4th inning

 - **10 points** after 5th inning

1. All batters assume a one-ball, one-strike upon entering the batter’s box. No courtesy fouls.
2. In the event extra innings are needed and/or a tie remains after time has expired, the batters will

start with a 3-2 count. One pitch only, no courtesy foul. The last out of the previous inning will go to second base (ITB).

1. Any players that intentionally hit “up the middle”, verbally state, act in a manner, or by

attitude cause unsportsmanlike tension; may receive an out, warning and / or be ejected. The call is considered a judgement call by the umpire and cannot be protested upon any circumstance.

1. Players may not flip or toss bats in a manner that can possibly endanger other players or staff.

The player may receive a warning and / or ejection for this action.

1. Only one courtesy runner per inning may be used. The courtesy runner will be the last recorded

out. If it is the first inning of the game, no courtesy runner may be used until an out is recorded.

1. **There is no stealing of a base in any division.**
2. Divisions will have a **5-homerun** limit. Excess homeruns will be ruled as outs within the inning.
3. Scheduled game time is FORFEIT time. No exceptions!
4. All bats must be an up-to-date USSSA, NSA, or ISA approved certification mark on the bat. NO

senior or ultra-bats allowed. To view bats that are approved, you may visit the website of the above associations. Bats will be inspected for certification before games begin.

1. SPARD will provide game balls.
2. Teams may start the game with no less than required:

 - Men’s – 8 (Out will be recorded on 9th and 10th batter)

 - COED – 4 or 5 women/4 or 5 men (Out will be recorded on 10th batter)

 - COED – 4 women/4 men (Out will be recorded on the 9th and 10th batter)

***E. Uniforms***

Uniforms will be specific to ***USSSA*** rules. See below:

1. *Sec. 11.* UNIFORMS, including similar headpieces or CAPS, when required, should be adopted using similar colors and materials. If caps are worn, they must be worn with the visor facing forward. *(exception: catcher while playing defense or anyone wearing a mask while playing defense*

2. All participants in a game should wear the adopted/agreed team color. All players must wear the same COLOR shirt/jersey.

3. Managers and coaches, when on the field should wear the adopted full uniform, or a cap and jacket, which include the team’s emblems/colors, to readily identify them as a member of the team

4. ALL players must have a clearly visible jersey number and be dressed appropriately to play softball in all outdoor conditions.

1. Players must wear shoes that cover the entire foot. Metal cleats are prohibited.
2. All exposed jewelry or items that are judged to be hazardous or potentially dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game.
3. In all programs, batting helmets may be worn by players/coaches at any time.
4. While participating in tournaments, players should be uniformly dressed.

**NOTE:** Refer to By-laws for uniform requirements in National and higher tournaments.

**F*. Team Conduct / Behavior***

1. USSSA rules will be followed unless otherwise indicated by Stephenville Parks and Recreation
2. Full set of rules can be found at this link: <https://usssa.com/docs/2021/SP_RuleBook_21.pdf>
3. Stephenville Parks and Recreation reserves the right to expel any team/participant from the

league for reasons of conduct, failure to observe rules, regulations, and procedures, or failure to field a team for two or more games.

1. Written notification of such actions will be provided to the individual and/or team manager.
2. The umpire(s) and/or supervisor will be empowered to penalize an offending player, coach and/or team for any or all circumstances:

- warning to player and both teams

- ejection from current game

- recommend suspension from subsequent game(s)

- forfeit of game

1. Any team having three or more players ejected in one game will automatically forfeit that game.
2. Ejected players must leave the complex immediately for the remainder of the day.
3. Ejected player(s) may not play the next game of a double header.
4. Managers will be notified if their player’s ejection results in a suspension.
5. The Stephenville Parks and Recreation Department will enforce suspensions and reserves the

right to increase, decrease or overturn all ejections and suspensions.

\*Umpires/Supervisors may issue a post-game ejection for unsportsmanlike behavior that occurs after the last out, and before the umpires have left the field. If this does occur, normal ejection rules apply.

***G. Stephenville Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct***

 Stephenville Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct applies before, during, and after the game. A player is defined as a player, coach, manager, spectator, sponsor, or anyone affiliated with the team.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike or threaten any umpire or**

**Stephenville Parks and Recreation employee.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove the violator from the game. The player will automatically be suspended for one year. If the official or employee is struck, the player will draw a lifetime suspension in all Stephenville Parks and Recreation leagues.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike or threaten another player.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove the violator from the game. Player will automatically be suspended for a minimum of one playing season or a maximum of one year in all Stephenville Parks and Recreation leagues.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not physically attack, as an aggressor, any player, umpire, spectator,**

**or Stephenville Parks and Recreation employee.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or supervisor will remove the violator from the game. Player will automatically be suspended for a minimum of two playing seasons or a maximum of two years in all Stephenville Parks and Recreation leagues.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not use unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the**

**body and person of another player.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove the violator from the game. Player will automatically be suspended for a minimum of one additional game or a maximum of one year in all Stephenville Parks and Recreation leagues.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not refuse to abide by an umpire’s decision.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove the violator from the game. Player will automatically be suspended for one additional game.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not show objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an**

**umpire decision by throwing of gloves, bats, balls, or any other forceful action.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove the violator from the game. Player will automatically be suspended for a minimum of one additional game or a maximum of one playing season.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not verbally attack any player, umpire, spectator, or Stephenville**

**Parks and Recreation employee.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove the violator from the game. Player will automatically be suspended for one additional game or a maximum of one playing season.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not use profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner**

**or anytime while in the vicinity of any game.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will warn the violator and if player continues, they will be ejected from current game and suspended from the next game.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not appear upon field at any time in an intoxicated condition.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove violator from the game if deemed unsafe for play.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not smoke while on the field or coming off the field of play.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will warn the violator, and if it continues, the violator will be removed from the game.

- **A PLAYER SHALL not engage in “trash talking” in any manner or at any time\*.**

\*The umpires and complex supervisor have the right to determine language which is offensive\*

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will warn the violator, and if it continues, the violator will be removed from the game and may also be suspended for additional games.

* **A PLAYER SHALL not intentionally throw a bat or any piece of equipment.**

*Penalty:* Umpire(s) or the supervisor will remove the violator from the game.

***H. Suspension Process***

1. All ejections will be reported with staff completing a Stephenville Parks and Recreation

Sports Incident / Ejection Report. This report will be reviewed by the Stephenville Parks and Recreation program supervisor and penalties for the violation of the player code will be decided on individual basis.

1. All suspensions carry probations of no less than one game. Players violating the code of

conduct while on probation will receive additional penalties.

1. Player’s and their manager have a right to discuss their ejection to the program supervisor.
2. The final decision of the ejection and suspension will be determined by the program supervisor.
3. Any player ejected from the game must leave the field, dugout, and spectator area.
4. Failure to leave can result in a forfeit. Any further harassing of staff or umpires will

result in removal from City property by the police.

1. Anytime a game gets out of hand, the umpires, complex supervisor, or any Recreation staff

member has the authority to forfeit the game.

***I. Alcohol/Drug Policy***

1. SPARD does not condone or encourage consuming alcoholic beverages in our facilities and anyone doing so is subject to local laws enforced by SPD
2. NO alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the **field area.** Field area includes the playing field,

dugouts, score stands, bathrooms, and bleachers. SPARD staff reserves the right to ask anyone under the influence of alcohol or excessively consuming alcoholic beverages to leave the facility and/or prohibit said person and/or team from participating in future games.

1. If this person refuses or violates this policy again, the violator could be ejected and/or suspended.
2. Should any person(s) related to a team receive multiple violations and/or it escalates beyond

reason, games could be forfeited, or teams could be suspended from the league.

1. Anyone seen in the possession of drugs on City property will be asked to leave. If this person refuses, police will be called.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping everyone safe! We are looking forward to another great season of sports at Stephenville Parks and Recreation.

378 West Long | Stephenville, Texas 76401

*Open Monday – Friday | 8AM – 5PM*

(254) 918-1295

