

Smithville Parks & Recreation



Revised: 6-10-16

Purpose

The purpose of this league is to create a healthy and safe environment that supports life lessons such as good sportsmanship, develop athletics, teach the fundamentals of volleyball, and to intertwine competition and cooperation.

PARD Mission Statement

The Parks and Recreation Department provides leisure opportunities for all citizens of Smithville and surrounding communities. We are committed to establishing a safe, fun, and relaxing environment for the public. Activities and programs within the department will promote community involvement and learning atmosphere. We encourage all citizens to be active and to pursue a higher quality of life.

Consent and Registration

In order to participate in the league, each player must complete a registration form including the parent/legal guardian's signed consent and pay the appropriate fee. Participants are responsible for their own primary insurance; Smithville PARD will NOT be responsible for any accidents that happen during the league.

Rules

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules shall apply for all divisions except where such laws conflict with the modifications made by the City of Smithville Parks and Recreation Department. League specific rules are listed on the following pages.

Volunteer coaches MUST read and understand these rules prior to the start of the season. If there are any questions, please contact the Smithville PARD so we can try to clear up any questions you may have.

Team Divisions

The league will be divided by grades. Participants will play in the correct division based on the current school year enrollment. In some cases, a child may "age out" of the grade selection in which case they will need to move up to the next division OR will not be able to participate. This will be determined by PARD staff and we will notify parents should their child fall into this situation.

<p>3rd and 4th Grade 5th and 6th Grade</p>
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Coaches, Parents, and Volunteers

We will NOT be able to start the season until we have enough volunteer coaches. Please complete a volunteer form at the Smithville Rec. Center if you would like to commit your time to this volunteer effort. If interested in volunteering other than coaching (ex. officiating) please contact the Recreation Supervisor at the Smithville Recreation Center. Head coaches must be at least sixteen (16) years old or older. All other volunteers such as assistant coaches or officials must be at least twelve (12) years old or older. If the PARD chooses to pay officials they MUST be at least sixteen (16) years of age. Coaches will be chosen by the Rec. Center staff on a first come basis and consideration of past volunteered experiences with the department. Teams will only be allowed to

have one (1) head coach and one (1) assistant coach. Head coaches shall submit their volunteer form to Smithville PARD forty-eight (48) hours before the registration deadline. Assistant coaches must also complete a volunteer form and be approved by Smithville PARD once chosen by a head coach following the draft.

Player Assignments

A protected player is a player assigned to a team because his/her parent is designated as the head coach. The registered child(ren) of a team's head coach will be placed on the designated team when the appropriate age is being drafted. Registration forms have an area for each player to make specific scheduling requests, be it a sibling in the same division. **We will do our best to honor such requests but are unable to guarantee each request. Names of the siblings requesting to be paired together for transportation purposes must have each other's names on their registration form** (Example: Sally's name is on Mary's form, and Mary's form has Sally's name on it as well). **Again, ONLY siblings in the same division will be allowed transportation requests, NO others will be granted. Once the form has been turned in there will be NO further requests allowed.**

Draft Procedures

A draft will be held at the Smithville Recreation Center. **Only volunteer coaches are able and required to attend this meeting (Absolutely NO parents or children)**. Team rosters and information will be determined, rules will be reviewed, and details regarding games and practices may be discussed. **Following draft night, coaches will receive their team rosters and be responsible for calling each child to inform them of their practice and game times.**

Please Note: There shall be NO changes made to team rosters after draft night.

The process for the draft is as follows:

Girls and boys will be separated according to their grade and years played. Coaches will take turns drawing from each group until all participants have been chosen.

At any moment, Smithville PARD feels that a coach has compromised the integrity of the league by trying to protect players other than stated by rule; that coach will be asked to leave the draft and may NOT be allowed to coach for two (2) seasons (Example: Coach says, "Sarah is my daughter's best friend, so no one pick her okay")

The first round of the draft will be determined by a draw and each round thereafter will alternate chronographically taking turns starting the drafting round (Example: (Rd 1) 1, 2, 3, 4 – (Rd 2) 2, 3, 4, 1 – (Rd 3) 3, 4, 1, 2...). Protected players will be assigned to designated teams at the appropriate time. Protected players are: (1) child(ren) of the head coach or (2) siblings in the same division that must be paired together for transportation purposes. Teams will only be allowed to have one (1) head coach and one (1) assistant coach which have submitted a volunteer form and been approved by Smithville PARD. Smithville PARD will approve transportation requests before the draft. In order, to keep the rosters as equal as possible we will divide the ages of players amongst the teams and protected players will be automatically assigned to teams when the appropriate age level is being drafted (Example: if the 8 year olds are being drafted and the coach's child is nine (9) years old, the coach will be assigned his/her child automatically when their first available nine (9) year old slot opens and it will count as that rounds pick). If a coach chooses a child that is paired with a transportation request, that coach will be skipped on the next age appropriate round (Example: Sarah is paired with Lisa. Sarah is eight (8) and Lisa is nine (9). Sarah is picked so therefore the coach will be automatically assigned Lisa at the first available nine (9) year old slot). Once, all the participants from one age group have been picked we will do the same process for the next age group until all the players in that division have been drafted.

Minimum Player Requirements and Playing Time

A game is played between two (2) teams consisting of six (6) players on the court at a time. A minimum of five (5) legal uniformed players are needed to start and continue a game. If a team does NOT meet the minimum number of players, that team will forfeit the game. Only players on the official team roster are eligible to play.

A roster shall have a minimum of six (6) players and no more than twelve (12).

Players shall receive an equal amount of playing time as they are to rotate constantly in the same order throughout all matches. Players/coaches shall remember who follows who in the rotation.

Length of Games

- Games will consist of three (3) matches – best two (2) out of three (3) will win (If a team wins the first two (2) games, a third game will NOT be played).
- Each game will be scored to 25 points with a win by two (2) points; a 30 point cap will be observed.
- If a third game is played it will only be scored to 15 points.

Equipment

GAME DAYS: Game day equipment and materials for keeping records will be provided by Smithville PARD. Participants will be required to have their own kneepads for game days & wear the appropriate game day attire.

- Volley-Lite balls shall be used for 10U & 12U divisions during games and practices.
- The net will be set at approx. 7-1/2 feet for 10U & 12U divisions during both games and practices.

PRACTICES: The Smithville PARD will provide a limited amount of practice balls that must be checked out at the front desk. Coaches are responsible to make sure the same number of volleyballs checked out, are returned. Players are more than welcome to bring their own volleyball for practices if they choose to do so. Smithville PARD equipment may NOT leave the Rec. Center premises. Kneepads are highly recommended for practices.

Everyone must respect all property and equipment used for the league. Failing to follow this policy can result in immediate removal from the premises and/or league participation. **NO hanging on the net at any time.** Coaches and parents are responsible for overseeing behaviors. Parents, coaches, and players can be financially responsible for equipment damages if unacceptable behavior is being permitted. Only player's registered in the league shall be on the court during practices and games. Please keep siblings seated so they don't interfere or distract players.

Practices and Games

Practice days and times will be determined by the coaches and gym availability. **Coaches will be responsible to inform players of their practice time immediately after the draft and receiving their team roster from the Smithville PARD.** Practice times will be discussed with the coaches on draft night. Teams will only be allotted one (1) hour a week to practice and/or scrimmage at the designated time for the duration of the season. **Smithville PARD allows parents to choose one (1) day a week that is *absolutely awful* for their child to attend practice at the time of registration.** During draft, this information will be available for coaches to see and they shall do their best on scheduling a practice time and/or picking a team so that the majority can attend; however, requests are NOT guaranteed and refunds will NOT be granted if your child is unable to attend practices. **Coaches will choose a practice time for the season. Changes to practice schedules are strictly prohibited unless approved by the Smithville PARD Recreation Supervisor/Director. Our gym is very limited on availability. If you must cancel a practice, please let the Rec. Center know in advance, prior to contacting your team. We advise rescheduling practices if at all possible.**

Games will be held on Sunday's. A game schedule should be available following the week of drafts (please follow the game schedule unless changes are made and otherwise noted). The length of the season will be determined by the number of registrations and how many teams are formed. However, the league will last approximately six (6) weeks.

Both practices and games will be held at the Recreation Center. **Coaches will be responsible for notifying players of the date and time for practices and games, and all other team activities.** Game schedules can also be picked up at the Rec. Center or found on the City of Smithville website under the Park & Recreation tab.

Coaches/parents of teams/players that arrive while games are in progress are responsible for keeping their team/child together and under control. **Please DO NOT let your child run around the gym, under the bleachers or in the foyer and hallways.** Please keep a diligent eye on all children to ensure that they are always supervised and safe. Siblings of participants **MUST** remain in direct and constant supervision of their parents or legal guardians and remain seated in, **NOT UNDER**, the chairs or bleachers for the entire game.

Standings

Smithville PARD league standings will be established using a ranking system (Example: Win 5, Tie 2, Loss 1, Forfeit 0). The order of determining the ranking will be by total points; in case if ties then the following order of measures listed in order will serve as a deciding factor on determining the final rankings-head to head, total wins, then by finding the winning average (total games / total wins-often used when one team had more games than another), then playoff game added to the end of schedule.

Sportsmanship, Conduct, and Discipline

A goal of the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department is to develop good sportsmanship within the program. Coaches must display the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. Players and parents tend to emulate the example set by the coaching staff. Coaches should address the team's sportsmanship standards at the first player/parent meeting and/or practice. Smithville Parks and Recreation Department staff reserve the right to ask any parent, coach, or spectator to leave the Rec. Center if they are displaying un-sportsmanlike conduct.

All games are in the hands of the official(s). Each coach, player, parent, and team is required to respect the official's authority. Un-sportsmanlike conduct, including but **NOT** limited to profanity, threatening language, gestures, apparent indulgence in alcoholic beverages before or during the game, verbally abusing, roughing up, or fighting with anyone will **NOT** be tolerated.

Any un-sportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, parents, or spectators will result in automatic removal from the Recreation Center and may be subject to additional sanctions for any conduct detrimental to the recreation program, which will be appropriately imposed by the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department. Sanctions range from oral abomination to termination from the league.

Uniforms and Appropriate Attire

Only Smithville Parks and Recreation Department provided team shirts may be worn during matches. Shirt numbers are **NOT** required for volleyball. Teams with paid sponsorship, may request to add the sponsors' name to the shirt but must check with the Recreation Supervisor and/or Parks and Recreation Director and make the request prior to the shirts being ordered. Any business, organization, or individual desiring to sponsor a sports program should contact the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department and preferably submit in writing the desire to sponsor team shirts. Shirts will become the property of the athletes at the end of the season.

- Players must wear non-marking athletic shoes and may **NOT** play barefoot.
- Jewelry may **NOT** be worn by any uniformed player at any time during a match.
- We recommend players to wear black athletic shorts/pants (normally a spandex/polyester material).
- Participant will need to purchase their own kneepads required during games.
- **NO** hard casts are allowed.
- Hard plastic or metal containing devices such as pins, berets, clips, etc. will **NOT** be permitted. **ONLY** soft, non-abrasive, elastic, cloth or rubber hair restraining devices sweat, and head band permitted.

Video Photography, Picture Taking, and Closing Ceremonies

The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department, parent and coach concerns for participant privacy dictate the following: Video photography may only be taken by those directly associated (parent, guardian, relative, etc.) with the team(s) participating in the practice or match at hand. Video recording participant activities for use by distant relatives or as a parent keepsake is encouraged. Coaches, being most familiar with persons having valid reasons for recording their team's volleyball events, should address anyone unfamiliar to them and if appropriate, request that person to stop recording. As with any incident, please notify Smithville Parks and Recreation Department as soon as possible (512) 237-3282 Ext. 7 and/or contact the local police department.

Team photos may be scheduled during the league. Coaches will provide schedules and further information during the season. Photos will be available to order.

An informal award ceremony will be held at the end on the season. All teams will need to be present the last game day for awards to be distributed (This date will change if the season is extended or ends early for any reason). Be sure to bring your camera to get pictures of your Little Bumper(s)!!!

Petitions

Petitions must be submitted by a coach or team manager. Any contested rulings or incidents that are NOT handled by the official(s) or Parks and Recreation staff immediately or correctly can be communicated to the Parks and Recreation Director and Recreation Supervisor by filling out a petition form. In order to submit a petition, the form must be turned in with a \$10.00 petition deposit which will be forfeited if the petition is NOT approved. A petition form can be picked up at the Smithville Recreation Center. The petition fee along with a completed form must be turned into the Smithville Rec. Center within 24 hours, or the next business day (Monday-Friday/8AM-5PM) from when the contested issue occurred.

The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department staff has the final say over any appeal of the rules and has the ability to make decisions on any rule that is not covered.

General League Rules and Regulations

- 1) Scheduled game time is forfeit time, NO grace period. If you're late, you're causing others to be late.
- 2) Teams should show up 10-15 minutes prior to their scheduled game start time.
- 3) The Rec. Center gym opens at 2PM on Sundays. You may use this time for pre-game warm-up.
- 4) If time allows, each team will be allowed one side of the court and have up to five (5) minutes to warm up before their first match. Teams will be limited to two (2) balls per team for pre-game warm up.
- 5) **ABSOLUTELY NO warm-ups may take place in the gym while a game is being played.**
- 6) Games are allotted 45 minutes with intermissions no more than three (3) minutes between each match; play will begin when the official signals.
- 7) Due to the nature of the game sets, there may be instances where a game ends early. If this occurs we may start the next scheduled game early if both coaches agree.
- 8) Only coaches and players listed on the roster are allowed on the court and/or in the team's bench area (seating will be available for parents, relatives, friends, etc. on the other side of the court).
- 9) Coaches, officials, and team captains should meet briefly, prior to the start of each game for any instructions, questions, or ground rules.
- 10) Teams shall be able to provide parent volunteers if needed for scorekeeping, operating scoreboard, line judges, etc. for each game, if needed.
- 11) Prior to the games, coaches are responsible to make sure each player is wearing the appropriate attire and they have the minimum number of players required to start a game.

- 12) A designated game day official is recommended for all divisions. If an official is NOT assigned to the game, either a Smithville PARD employee or non-paid volunteer may be allowed to officiate (Smithville PARD uses officials that may NOT be certified; but everyone MUST be respected!!!)
- 13) Players that arrive late can still play after the game has started; however, the official scorekeeper should be notified that a player is arriving late. The late player must wait until the end of the rotation comes up and then may be substituted in like any other player (late players do NOT account as a player for minimum player requirements at game starting time).
- 14) If, once a game has started, a team CANNOT maintain the minimum number of legal uniformed players throughout all matches, the officials will call the game and that team will have to forfeit.
- 15) First serve will be awarded to the winner of the coin toss. The other team will have choice of courtside. The second game will begin opposite of the first. Then, if a third game is played we will hold another coin toss, the same as for the first game.
- 16) Players can serve either over or underhand. Once, a player has successfully mastered underhand serving, coaches shall encourage them and teach them overhand serving.
- 17) Rally scoring will be used, that is every time the ball hits the floor a point will be awarded.
- 18) Only three (3) hits will be allowed per side.
- 19) NO double hits or consecutive hits will be allowed.
- 20) Catching the ball will NOT be allowed.
- 21) **SCORING LIMIT:** NO player will be able to score more than five (5) points in a row. After, five (5) points the official will call for an automatic side-out with NO point, and the players must rotate.
- 22) **TIMEOUTS:** Each team is limited to 1- one minute time out during the first and second game. If a third game is played only 1 – 30 second timeout will be given. The time-out will begin once recognized by the official and end when the official signals. Time-outs shall NOT carry over to the next match or game to be played.
- 23) **SERVING:** Players will be allowed to serve from five (5) feet in front of their division's regular serving line. After two (2) weeks of play, players who still need to serve in front of their regular serving line may do so, but advance players shall really try to serve from the regular serving line.
 - 8-10 year olds - Serving line is the thick blue line.
 - 11-12 year olds - Serving line is the thin red line behind the thick blue line.
 If the server does a bad toss, the ball must be caught or let it drop to the floor. The server may only let the ball drop once during her time of service.
- 24) **BOUNDARIES:** The volleyball must hit outside the boundary lines to be considered out of bounds, if the ball hits the line it is still in bounds.
 - 8-10 year olds - Boundary line is the thick blue line.
 - 11-12 year olds- Boundary line is the thin red line behind the thick blue line.
- 25) **ROTATION:** Players shall rotate constantly in the same order (players/coaches shall remember who follows who in the rotation and specifically who serves first). When your team receives the ball, rotations will go to the left on the back row and to the right on the front row (*example:* substitutions will be made on both sides of the court; the front right will sub out before serving and the left back will sub out before returning to the front row). The first team to serve will not have to rotate; however when the other team receives the ball for their first serve, that team will have to rotate before service.
- 26) **Food shall NOT be in the gym. Snacks can be enjoyed in the lobby and ONLY water or sports drinks (ex. Gatorade) will be allowed in the gym.**

The Smithville Little Bumpers league rules are subject to update without prior notice. Please be reminded this is a recreational league. The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to add, delete, or amend its rules, regulations, and policies for the betterment of the program.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING A GREAT SEASON WITH YOU!

~Little Bumpers~

Additional Coach's Information

1. The intent of this youth sports program is for players to have fun and learn the fundamentals of the sport. The goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide quality recreational activities for all of our youth. Our youth sports programs will assist in the development of social skills within our kids!!!
2. Volunteers and coaches must read the rules packet. Rules and guidelines may be discussed the night of draft, but we ask for everyone to be familiar with the rules prior, leaving opportunity to clear up any questions. Questions should be addressed before the first game day and during our normal business hours.
3. Games are set to be held on Sundays. You are responsible for letting your team know when practices and games will be held, where, and what time.
4. Coaches and officials should meet briefly, prior to the start of each game for any instructions, questions or ground rules.
5. Coaches must advise all parents and players of conduct and discipline rules.
6. Coaches, officials, and parents should all work together to achieve the positive experience we desire for our children. Arguing in front of the players sends the wrong message and will NOT be tolerated.
7. Running the players, when used as a disciplinary measure, is prohibited.
8. If a problem arises with a player, parent, official, or spectator the Smithville PARD should be notified as soon as possible, so the problem may be resolved efficiently and effectively.
9. Parents are part of the team and are great assets in helping with the team. You should stay in good standings; keep them informed, involved, and up to date.
10. Team medals will be handed out on the last game day (all teams shall be present that day).
11. Team pictures shall be scheduled and coaches will be notified of the date/time/location to share.
12. Coaches shall host and take scheduled weekly practices seriously, as they are a huge part of the program and where players develop their skills.
13. A successful season is NOT determined by score records or team standings. Success should be measured with three simple questions. 1) Did the players have fun? 2) Did the players learn? 3) Do the players want to continue playing?

These guidelines are provided as an addition to help you succeed at your endeavors in coaching, if you have any questions please contact Smithville Parks and Recreation Department at 512-237-3282 Ext. 7