

Smoky Mountain Social/Tri Star Park Softball Rules



SMS TriStar Rule

This rule is the most important. Everyone is here to have fun, meet new people, play sports, and partake in events. Be respectful and conscious of your actions. We take this rule very seriously, as members of SMS we expect fun and inviting games full of sportsmanship and good will. Anyone found to be harassing, threatening, or otherwise a detriment to the TriStar Rule, will be removed from the game immediately, and further discipline will be enacted post game to the extent of suspensions or league banishment. Any player that is suspended or removed from the league will not receive compensations for games not played. Players may request a review of their status after season's end for the upcoming seasons. ***Harassing, threatening, or attitude detrimental to the TriStar Rule includes, but is not limited to unnecessary roughness, fighting, verbal confrontations, threatening harm, and excessive arguing causing play stoppage. Officials have the discretion to determine if any of the above or other situations might violate the TriStar Rule***

Park Rules

- Respect the Park, Respect our Family, Respect Yourself, Respect your Peers.
- Be Considerate of your surroundings.
- Clean up your trash.
- Watch your language.
- Vocalize warnings of Fly Balls.
- Underage Drinking is Strictly Prohibited!!
- Beer is allowed on Property with Proper Permits/Contracts.
- Violence will NOT be Tolerated.
- Drug Possession/Usage will NOT be Tolerated.
- Glass Bottles are Strictly Prohibited!
- No Outside Food or Food Deliveries.
- No Outside BBQ Pit or Open Fires outside of Approved Designated Areas.
- Supervise your Children At All Times.
- Dogs Must be on a Leash At All Times
- Clean up their Poop
- Avoid Indecent Exposure by Using Designated Restrooms
- Enjoy The Fresh Air And Your Time At Our Park.

General

- All players must be 18 years of age or older to be in the dugout or on the field of play during game times. Players must have registered and signed the waiver which will be approved on check in day.
- Game time will go as follows. You cannot start a new inning once 50 minutes has been completed. Meaning the umpire will start a 50 min clock and once the time has expired you will finish the inning currently being played.
- Games cannot end in a tie. We need a winner therefore you will need to play another inning till we have a winner. In the event a game has to go into extra innings; the first inning will be played as normal. The second extra inning will start with a runner on second which will be identified as the last batted out. Any further extra innings will as followed.
- For games that are shortened for any reason, 3 innings are required for a complete ball game. The score will be recorded at the time of stoppage.
- All games will start promptly at the designated time. There will be a 5 minute allowance for players on their way, or away from the field.
- Any stoppage in play due to official call review/discussion will not be taken out of time of play. Any stoppage of play that is caused by players will act on a continuous clock.
- All lineups must be completed and turned in to the Designated Bookkeeper before the coin toss.
- No metal cleats to avoid any injuries to other players. If found with metal cleats they will ask to be removed.

- Balls will be provided. Gloves, Bats and other equipment will be at the responsibility of the player and team.
- Any slowpitch softball regulation bat with ASA/USA or USSSA stamp is allowed. They must NOT be on the Banned List.
- NO SENIOR BATS.
- If an illegal bat is used in the game during a players at bat, that player will be considered out and base runners will return to their base before the illegal at bat. Once the player has swung the Banned/Illegal bat, the fielder can then protest. If the player steps in the box with an Banned/Illegal bat and takes a pitch, it is not deemed an automatic out. The automatic out happens after the player has made contact.
- NO TOBACCO will be allowed on the field or in the dugout for players and or umpires.
- Only ONE spokesperson is permitted for each team. This is the designated captain listed on the game cards signed before each game. The designated spokesperson will be responsible for the actions amongst the team and or its fans.
- Abuse of Umpires, Officials, Supervisors and/or Commissioners may result in suspension for one or more games. This includes after a game is complete. No player shall touch or threaten an Umpire. This penalty includes all action at Tri Star Park at Badgett Fields. If you are for any reason break Tri Star Park Rules and are thrown out of the park, NO REFUND will be permitted.
- In the event a player has been kicked out or removed from the game, the team DOES NOT take an out. The players batting spot will just be scratched out.

Players

- Each game will be played 10 vs 10 defensively.
- Must have a minimum of 3 males/females on the field at all times. In the event that there is less than 3, 1 out will be taken per player under the gender limit when that player is to hit in the batting order at the coaches choice.
- 9 is the minimum requirement to play with for an actual game. If there are less than 9 people, the game is a forfeit.
- In the event a team has to forfeit the score will go down as a 10-0 loss to the forfeiting team.
- Players/Teams have the choice of how they want to positionally defend. Meaning they can play with 4 Infielders and 4 Outfielders, 5 infielders and 3 Outfielders, etc.
- There is a COED LINE marked at 200ft. All outfielders must stay behind the COED LINE and cannot step through it until contact is made. The COED Line is in effect for Male and Female batters. If spotted that the Outfielder stepped over the line before contact was made, the batter will be given 1st base for free and all base runners advance safely.
- There is a COED LINE marked at 200ft. All infielders must remain in the dirt and cannot step through to the grass until contact is made. The COED Line is in effect for Male and Female batters. If spotted that the Infielder stepped through to the grass before contact was made, the batter will be given 1st base for free and all base runners advance safely.

Batting

- Everyone starts with one strike and one ball WITH a foul.
- No bunting is allowed.
- Create a batting order at the beginning of the game and submit it to the Bookkeeper. If a batter steps up to the plate and takes a pitch, at the umpires discretion, while the batter is out of order, the defensive team will be awarded an out and the correct batter in the order will step in the box to hit.
- Any ball that hits the plate or the orange mat behind home plate will be considered a strike at the umpires discretion. If a ball does not hit the strikezone it will be considered a ball.
- If the batter hits the ball into the net, it will be deemed a foul ball.
- A player who steps on the plate, or over, in an effort to swing will be called for an automatic out. All runners will return to their base.
- A player who's back foot is in front of the plate on contact of the ball, at the umpires discretion, will be called for an automatic out. All runners will return to their base.
- Not everyone has to play in the field, but everyone must bat.
- Mercy Rule/Survival Rule is set at 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 10 after 5 innings run lead at the start of a new inning.
- Each team is given a maximum of 4 out of the park home runs. Each over the fence home run after the maximum allowed will be treated as inning ending outs. Girl Homeruns do count as 1 of your 4 Homeruns.

Fielding

- Infield Fly Rule is in effect. If the team batting has less than 2 outs and has base runners in a force out position, and the ball is a hit as a pop fly to the infield in fair territory. Then the umpire will likely call Infield Fly meaning the batter is automatically out whether or not the ball is caught or not. If the ball is caught then the runners would have to tag up to advance just like any other fly ball, but if the ball hits the ground the force out is taken off the runners.
- Balls thrown out of bounds will initiate a stoppage in play, and will be considered an automatic base for the player. All other runners will advance accordingly. If the ball is thrown from the outfield, the batter advances 2 bases from the last touched base in play. If the ball is thrown from the infield, the batter advances 1 base from the last touched base in play. Runner must be past half way to the next bag to be granted that bag as "base of play." This is decided upon umpires discretion.
- Pitchers must not advance forward past the mound. If they are in front of the mound they must toe the rubber. If they are to the side of the mound, Pitcher must toe the rubber. Pitchers are not granted any distance behind the rubber. They must TOE THE RUBBER. In the event the pitcher throws a pitch and is not toeing the rubber, it will deemed as a NO PITCH.
- Pitches must hit the strike plate or home plate to be considered a strike, and be pitched between 6ft and 10ft high. All flat or high pitches will be called balls.

- Any obstruction or blocking of a base will be deemed safe, at the umpires discretion. The runner must have a path to the base while the ball is away. In the event the defensive player receives the ball and has it in their glove are they allowed to step in front of the runners path. This call is at the umpires discretion.
- The net must be strictly placed a foot's length away on either left or right side of the pitchers mound. Going forward and backwards, the end of the white pole must be even with the opposite side of the mound.
- Defensive substitutions are permitted.

Running

- The Tag Up rule is in effect.
- No stealing or leading off. If this rule is broken, it will be deemed an automatic out.
- Any player found to initiate unnecessary contact will be called out, and possibly ejected from the game under the TriStar Rule for unnecessary roughness.
- Runners running through home may use the home plate or the orange mat.

Other Policies

- All players will be notified if there is a rainout, or games are called due to extenuating circumstances.
- Any player that is injured to the point where they must be removed from active play on offense is not permitted to return to the game.