

# Smithville Parks & Recreation



Revised: 9/22/11

## 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.

## 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, present the players' birth certificate, and pay the appropriate fees. 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.

## Age Divisions

The league will be divided by grade. The player's grade is determined by the current grade in which they will be enrolled for during the August 2011-May 2012 school year. A birth certificate providing the child's age is required at the time of registration. The birth certificate must have the state seal (the birth certificate will be viewed only and will not be copied). **Please Note:** Players are NOT guaranteed to be placed in the division of your choice. **Below are the divisions that will be used for the league this season; however, they are likely to change based on the number of registered players. Currently, the Little Bumpers program is a co-ed league.**

<p>Third &amp; Fourth Graders Fifth &amp; Sixth Graders</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 or Parks and Recreation Director 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 which MUST be approved by the Smithville PARD forty-eight (48) hours before draft. Assistant coaches must also complete a volunteer form and MUST be chosen as an assistant for their child to qualify as a "protected"**

player (Please be sure to note which Head Coach or Assistant Coach you plan to work with on the volunteer form).

## Player Assignments

A protected player is a player assigned to a team because his/her parent is designated as either the head coach or assistant coach. The registered child(ren) of a team's head coach and the assistant coach will be placed on the designated team when the appropriate grade level is being drafted. A maximum of three (3) coach's children are allowed to be protected (example: a head coach has two (2) children and the assistant coach has one (1) child; or vice versa). Registration forms have an area for each player to make specific scheduling requests, be it a sibling, transportation or other special requests. **We will do our best to honor such requests but are unable to guarantee each request.** *Please Note:* We maintain a two (2) family, three (3) child maximum for transportation requests and players must be in the same age bracket. You may only choose one (1) child for transportation purposes. A maximum of three (3) children may be placed on the same team only if two (2) of the children are siblings. **Names of the children that are requesting to be paired together due to transportation requests must have each other's names on their registration form.** (Example: Billy's name is on Joe's form, and Joe's form has Billy's name on it as well). **If you write more than one (1) name on your transportation request, it will NOT be considered. Once the form has been turned in there will be NO further requests granted.**

## Mandatory Skills Assessment

A skills assessment will be held for all grade divisions. The skills assessments will be held at the Smithville Recreation Center. Parents are welcome to stay and watch the skills assessment but those not helping must stay seated and off the court. Participants that do NOT attend the skills assessment will NOT have a skill level score and therefore will NOT be placed on a team until after all the scored participants in their grade have been drafted on a team. **Coaches are required to attend the skills assessment. Please refer below to the drafting procedures for more details.**

<p><b>The Skills Assessment will be on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Rec. Center for all grades.</b> <b>6PM-3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade                      7PM-5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p>
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Coaches are required to attend; ranking participants will help when choosing a team. Everyone will use the same ranking system (ex. Scale of 1-5; minimal ability-strong ability). The skills assessment will allow each coach to observe the height, skills, and other variables that make a strong player to try to make teams as equal as possible.

## Draft Procedures

A draft will be held following each skills assessment 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 level. Coaches will take turns drafting the top ranked players of each grade level to divide each team fairly. Coaches will be provided a list of all the registered participants with space to rank each player. The list will serve as an aid for the coaches to use during the draft as well. All of the third graders will be chosen, and then all the fourth graders. The same will be done for the fifth and sixth graders. This process is intended to level the playing field, allowing each team to have relatively equal abilities and experience levels.

**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. Protected players are: (1) child(ren) of the head coach, (2) child(ren) of assistant coach, with only one (1) transportation request allowed to one (1) coach. Teams will only be allowed to have one (1) head coach and one (1) assistant coach which must be approved by Smithville PARD forty-eight (48) hours before the draft. By rule, transportation requests are limited to two (2) families with a maximum of three (3) kids. Smithville PARD will approve all transportation requests before the draft. In order, to keep the rosters as equal as possible we will divide the grade levels amongst the teams and protected players will be automatically assigned to teams when the appropriate grade level is being drafted (Example: if the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade draft is in progress and if the coach’s child is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the coach will be assigned his/her child automatically when the first available 4<sup>th</sup> grade slot opens and it will count as that rounds pick). Those in each division which attended the skills assessment will be chosen first, followed by those in the same division that did NOT attend the assessment. Children with NO skills assessment scores will be automatically assigned to teams by alphabetical order to the next available team. If a coach chooses a child that is paired with a transportation request, that coach will be skipped on the next appropriate round (Example: Tammy is paired with Tyler. Tammy is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Tyler is 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Tammy is picked so therefore that same coach will automatically be assigned Tyler when the first 4<sup>th</sup> grade slot comes up). Once, all the participants from one grade have been picked we will do the same process for the next grade 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.

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.

Games are normally allotted/last 40 minutes with a 5 minute break before the next game of matches.

## Equipment

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

- Volley-Lite balls shall be used during games and may also be used for practices.
- The net will be set at 7-1/2 feet for each division 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.

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 player's behaviors. Parents, coaches, and players can be financially responsible for equipment damages due to improper usage such as hanging on the equipment.

## **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. **Changes to practice schedules are strictly prohibited unless coaches receive approval by the Smithville PARD Recreation Supervisor/Director.**

**Games will be held on Sunday's beginning in October.** 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 volunteers officiating. 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 Rec. 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. Participants will be responsible for purchasing their own photos.

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 start time is forfeit time, NO grace period.
- 2) Teams should show up 10-15 minutes prior to their scheduled game start time.
- 3) The Rec. Center gym will open at 2PM for pre-game warm-ups and games.
- 4) If time allows, teams will be allowed one side of the court and have up to five (5) minutes of warm up time before their first match. Teams will be limited to two (2) balls per team for pre-game warm ups.
- 5) **ABSOLUTELY NO** warm-ups may take place in the gym while a game is being played.
- 6) **GAMES WILL START ON TIME!!! Your team will need to be present early for pre-game warm-up time. Teams will ONLY have this time, if there is time to be allotted.**
- 7) Intermission between matches shall NOT exceed three (3) minutes if time is available; play will begin when the official signals.
- 8) Due to the nature of the game sets, there may be instances where the first game ends early. If this occurs, the following games can begin “early,” if both coaches agree.
- 9) 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.).
- 10) Coaches, officials, and team captains should meet briefly, prior to the start of each game for any instructions, questions, or ground rules.
- 11) Each team is required to have parents available to assist the league. Teams may be responsible for providing scorekeepers, scoreboard operators, etc. for each game, if needed.
- 12) 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.
- 13) A designated game day official is recommended for all divisions. If an official is NOT assigned to the game, either a Smithville PARD employee, volunteer, or parent may be asked to officiate (Smithville PARD uses volunteers or paid officials that may NOT be certified; but everyone MUST be respected!!!)
- 14) 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 and the player must be substituted in like everyone else (late players do NOT account as a player for minimum player requirements at game starting time).
- 15) If, once a game has started, a team CANNOT maintain the minimum number of legal uniformed players, the officials will call the game and that team will have to forfeit.
- 16) 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 with the original first game receiving team serving first. The third game will begin as the first game began.
- 17) Players can serve either over or underhand.
- 18) Rally scoring will be used, that is every time the ball hits the floor a point will be awarded.
- 19) Only three (3) hits will be allowed per side.
- 20) NO double hits or consecutive hits will be allowed.
- 21) Catching the ball will NOT be allowed.
- 22) **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.
- 23) **TIMEOUTS:** Each team is limited to one (1) 30-second time out per match. 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.
- 24) **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 try to serve from the regular serving line.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> graders serving line is the thick blue line.
  - 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders serving line is the thin red line behind the thick blue line.
- 25) **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.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> graders boundary line is the thick blue line.
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders boundary line is the thin red line behind the thick blue line.

26) **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Players shall rotate constantly in the same order (players/coaches shall remember who follows who in the rotation). 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).

27) **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.
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. 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***