

Rueger Softball Complex Guidelines

Players, coaches and spectators must abide by the following guidelines while visiting the complex to ensure a positive sports environment for athletes and fans. Violations may result in suspension of play and/or expulsion from the facility. Please ask staff for assistance, as we want your visit here to be enjoyable.

- Teams should stay together. Coaches, parents, assistant coaches and team counselors are responsible for the safety of players and must know where their players are at all times. Players are encouraged not to wander in and out of the complex.
- Vehicles must utilize the paved parking lot only. Vehicles may not be driven into unauthorized areas or on parkland without written permission.
- SCPR or tournament affiliates are not responsible for damage or theft to vehicles, personal property, or lost items on the property. Keep personal items and vehicles locked up at all times. Please bring "lost and found" items to the main concession stand.
- Persons with disabilities should check in with staff for accommodations. No skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, scooters or other forms of wheeled personal transportation are allowed inside the complex.
- No pets (exception: service dogs). Do not leave your pet(s) in your vehicle, parking lot or parkland.
- No climbing or sitting on fences, buildings, statues, dugouts, light poles, landscaping, or railings.
- No soft toss, kicking or hitting balls of any kind into fencing.
- No practicing or ball playing on the game fields until official game time.
- No warm up, practice, or catch allowed on paved areas or between fields. Warm ups may take place south or west of the complex in our open areas.
- Please keep restrooms clean and free of personal items. No roughhousing of any kind is permitted. No washing uniforms in the restrooms.
- Tobacco free complex includes smokeless. Serious violation may result in suspension or expulsion.
- No fighting or profanity. All violations WILL result in suspension or expulsion.
- Illegal drugs are prohibited at all times and will be confiscated. Anyone possessing or suspected to be under the influence of any drug will be arrested. Violations will result in team disqualification.
- Outside coolers are not permitted. Team water coolers, any type of handbags, team bags, coolers, backpacks or camera cases are subject to search.
- Teams, individuals, spectators and umpires will be held responsible for any facility damages.
- All foul balls should be returned to a concession stand or umpire on the game field.
- In the event of severe weather, teams may be directed to their vehicles or restroom areas until further notification.
- Staff will gather information from all parties for all accidents or incidents at the complex, please abide.
- Park hours are 6am-11pm. Contact staff if Park Police are needed immediately.
- No recreational vehicles are permitted to park overnight.
- Practices, rentals, events, facility use must all be scheduled through Shawnee County Parks and Recreation.
- Charcoal must be disposed of properly in designated locations.
- Temporary tents or shade structures must be placed in approved areas only, contact staff for details.
- We ask that you assist us with keeping our complex clean by utilizing recycling containers, trash receptacles, and reporting concerns to staff immediately.
- Coaches, umpires, players, family and spectators assume all risks and danger of personal injury, losses, damages to person or property and all hazards arising from or related in any way to games, activities and events at the complex. We ask coaches, spectators, and players to use common sense at all times. SCPR Staff reserves the right to refuse admission or eject any person whose conduct is deemed to be disorderly or who fails to comply with the guidelines. Any conduct or language that is not promoting a positive sports environment will not be tolerated. Shawnee County Code may or may not apply to additional circumstances. Code viewable online at www.snco.us.

Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct Rules as adopted by the Sunflower State Games

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Shawnee County Parks & Recreation is to provide quality parks, golf courses and recreational facilities and opportunities to meet the recreational needs and interests of rural and urban residents throughout Shawnee County. Shawnee County Parks & Recreation does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap in the operation of any programs, activity, or facility.

SPORTSMANSHIP EMPHASIS

A few years ago, Shawnee County Parks & Recreation Athletics revised and updated their existing Youth Sports Guidelines to address many issues facing the sports environment today. We began to stress a safe and quality sports environment for everyone involved by screening and credentialing volunteers, coaches and officials. In 2014, we will continue to improve by having professional staff, invite parents to meetings, encourage feedback from participants and anyone participating in any venue will be held accountable and respect the sports environment. SCPR will put forth our best effort to make programs and facilities safe and enjoyable. We are proud to cooperate with local organizations and offer the public a positive sports environment meeting our mission. Serving the public in a viable manner promotes the development and growth of quality sports especially for youth. Our goal is for everyone to understand that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Help us educate and create the ideal sports environment for everyone. Each coach is responsible to get information and forms to participants, parents, fans and other interested parties. When registering as an individual or team in any of our sports leagues, clinics or visit our facilities and parklands you should respect the game, opponents, officials, facilities and fans. SCPR will not tolerate excuses for lack of rule or code knowledge. By your individual or team participation you agree to abide by County Code and all rules contained herein.

TOPEKA PREMIER UMPIRE ASSOCIATION

Shawnee County Parks & Recreation contracts officials/umpires through the local organization known as Topeka Premier Umpire Association. They are required to be certified, attend trainings and workshops for each sport annually, and respect the game as well as participants and facilities. We work diligently with the officials to create a positive sports environment no matter what the sport or location in which it is played. The officials of all sports are evaluated and held accountable for their actions on and off the court. Unsportsmanlike behavior or contact by officials will not be tolerated and they will be held to the same expectations as players.

FLAGRANT & UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any foul or abusive language, gestures, fighting, or disruptive behavior directed at or performed by a participant, opponent, official/umpire, scorekeeper, spectator, facility, and/or SCPR staff may result in the immediate ejection and/or suspension of the person(s) in question. This will include not abiding by guidelines or County Code set forth. Continued behavior will result in the game being forfeited. The official's decision in this matter is not protestable. Managers/coaches and parents are reminded that they are responsible to control their players' and spectators' actions, before, during and after participation in any SCPR sponsored program on or off County property. Any person ejected from a game shall leave the FACILITY immediately (90 seconds), NO SIGHT/NO SOUND, failure to do so will result in the game being forfeited by the offending team. Any ejected person is suspended from all SCPR activities and facilities for a minimum of

two (2) additional games/matches. A second ejection in any sport within a year results in a one (1) year suspension and the team will be placed on probation for the same amount of time. Only DESIGNATED captains, coaches, managers may address officials or staff in a respectable manner prior, during, or after the game [each team shall have only two (2) designated per game]. Anyone else will be ignored once the game begins. This includes any rule interpretations, game calls or actions, special requests and/or questions. SCPR staff may eject offending parties as well. Unsportsmanlike conduct may include tactics employed or designed to delay or make a mockery of any game or team. In any case the person involved and the coach/manager face possible ejection/probation.

SUSPENSION

Any person, players or team ejected from a game shall leave the FACILITY immediately (90 seconds), NO SIGHT/NO SOUND, failure to do so will result in the game being forfeited by the offending team. Any ejected person is suspended from all SCPR activities and facilities for a minimum of two (2) full games/matches. A second ejection in any sport within a calendar year results in a one (1) year suspension and the team will be placed on probation for the same amount of time. Minors shall be escorted by their parent/guardian who are responsible for their actions and safety. Failure to leave may result in the player(s) or team being suspended from further participation and charges being filed with the authorities. Individual league rules further dictate penalties.

PARTICIPANT CONTACT

If it is determined that any participant/coach is deliberate in their actions such as inflicting harm, threatening words or action, striking or hitting someone (even if the opponent initiates), deterring any official or SCPR staff from their assigned duties or any actions deemed inappropriate will result in an immediate ejection and one year suspension from SCPR programs and facilities.

BLOOD RULE

If at any time an official/umpire ceases play because of blood on the uniform, body, or facility, the person involved should seek immediate attention. The area should be clean prior to resuming play by staff and/or officials. Once the bleeding stops or a change of uniform is provided the participant may resume play. There is no penalty for alternate colored uniform or lack of a number in this case. It is the official's discretion if the game is delayed so as to ask the player to leave the game and provide any substitute. Regular re-entry may occur and a team may play short-handed if necessary in the short term. We recommend coaches carry a first aid kit.

SPORT SPECIFIC CONDUCT - The following Sport Specific Conduct policies will be in effect January 2015.

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

Any player who receives ONE (1) UNSPORTSMANLIKE violation will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of two (2) additional games from all SCPR activities or facilities. Any player receiving TWO (2) ejections during the season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player and team will be on probation for a full year from the date of the most recent incident and any ejection will result in expulsion from SCPR programs and facilities. Unsportsmanlike behavior may include hitting the ball back up the middle, throwing at an opponent's body or head, or tactics employed noticeably designed to delay or make a mockery of the game or team or inflict harm. In any case the person involved and the coach/manager face possible ejection/probation.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

Additional rules or penalties may apply to each individual or team pertaining to the sport in which they are participating. Some rules and penalties carry over from one sport to another including facilities. Individual circumstances may be evaluated separately. Violating conduct or rules may warrant further action by Shawnee County. All questions and comments should be directed to SCPR Athletics at prathletics@snco.us, 785-286-3358 or 785-368-3808. We will assist and direct those in question to the appropriate rules, individual or board, policy, or County resolution. No refunds or credits are issued to a team or player for any unsportsmanlike behavior. A team with two player ejections in the same season will forfeit eligibility for post season certificates.