

2021 Southern Swing Spring League
League Rules – MIDDLE SCHOOL Division
June 7, 2021

1. All matches in the MIDDLE SCHOOL division of league will take place at the following location:

Victoria College Sports Center Gym
2200 E. Red River Street
Victoria, TX 77901

2. Each team must have one adult coach present on the bench during all games. No additional assistant coaches, parents or players not listed on the team roster are allowed on the bench. In addition, each team must provide an adult scorekeeper and line judge for each match.
3. Teams are responsible for their own practice facilities if they desire to practice. Southern Swing will provide all warm-up balls and game balls. Game balls will be disinfected between sets and matches. Warm-up balls will be disinfected between matches. **Teams SHOULD NOT bring their own balls into the gym.**
4. **There will be no limit on the number of spectators allowed in the gym for each team; however, spectators are encouraged to wear a mask at all times while inside the gym. Players are not required to wear a mask while actively participating in their matches but are encouraged to do so when off the court.**
5. In weeks 1 - 3 of league play, each match will be 2 sets to 25 (rally scoring, cap 30). There will be a 40-minute time limit for each match. In the event of a tie score when the designated time period runs out, the next point wins the set.
6. No formal warm-up period will be provided. Teams should be ready to begin at the conclusion of the previous match – we will not wait to begin if matches are running ahead so please be ready. A Southern Swing staff member will notify coaches when we are ready for their team to enter the gym.
7. Seeding for week 4 (play-off bracket) will be based on the percentage of SETS won during weeks 1 – 3 of league play. In the event of a tie at the end of week 3 the order of seeding will be determined as follows:

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- First – head to head results of the tied teams with the winner receiving the higher seed; if still tied then
- Second – comparison of the total point spread between the tied teams with the higher point spread receiving the higher seed; if still tied then
- Third – comparison of the total point spread over all opponents during the first 3 weeks of league play

ALL TEAMS will play in week 4 regardless of their seeding. The TOP 3 teams in each pool will advance to the GOLD bracket while the remaining teams will advance to the SILVER bracket. Both brackets will be a single-elimination format.

8. Teams may play with a minimum of five players. Teams playing with five will observe a “ghost” spot for the sixth player resulting in a loss of serve when that position reaches the server’s spot. Teams with less than five players may still play but will be required to forfeit the match for purposes of league standings.

Teams with less than five players may still play but will be required to forfeit the match for purposes of league standings. To avoid a forfeit, teams may use a substitute player or players **but may not exceed a total of 6 players including the substitutes**. Subs must pay an entry fee of \$10 for the week that they play and must have a completed release of liability on file. **If a team chooses to use a substitute player even though they have 6 players available they will forfeit the match for purposes of league standings.**

Teams using players in weeks 1 - 3 that are not on their rosters by “borrowing” jerseys or failing to register those players as substitutes will be required to forfeit those matches for purposes of league standings. Teams cannot use substitute players during any play-off bracket games in Week 4.

9. If a team is 10 minutes late, they will forfeit the first set. If they are 15 minutes late, they will forfeit both sets. Time will begin immediately after the conclusion of the previous match. If a team must forfeit for any reason, they should contact Southern Swing immediately by phone at **361-210-6876** or by email at **ssvball@yahoo.com**. Please give as much advance notice as possible so that other teams can be notified and schedules can be revised.

Game cancellations will not be made up. The canceling team will be credited with the losses.

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10. Please remind your players and parents to dispose of any empty water bottles or other trash in the lobby, bleachers and bench areas of the gym before they leave. No outside food or drinks other than water in containers with secured, screw-on lids are allowed in the gym.

11. Children should not be left unattended in the lobby area or outside the Sports Center. Everyone should remain inside the gym at all times and use only the public restrooms in the rear hallway of the building. The sand court and any areas marked as restricted by Victoria College are absolutely OFF LIMITS.

We consider it a privilege to use the Victoria College Sports Center as the location for our events and we respectfully ask that you share this information with all of your players and parents and help us follow these simple guidelines so that we are able to maintain that privilege.