

2021 Southern Swing Spring League
League Rules – MIDDLE SCHOOL Division
April 11, 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. **All teams must leave the gym while they are not actively playing their scheduled matches. This includes players, coaches and spectators.** Coaches will be notified by text when their teams can re-enter the gym.
5. In weeks 1 - 3 of league play, each match will be 2 sets to 25 (rally scoring, cap 30). There will be a 45-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:
 - First – head to head results of the tied teams with the winner receiving the higher seed; if still tied then

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- 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 format for bracket play will be a single-elimination bracket.

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.

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

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the gym. We consider it a privilege to be able to use the facilities that we rent so please help us maintain that privilege by following these simple rules.

The above guidelines should be followed IN ADDITION TO the current Health & Safety Guidelines that are in place. A copy of both sets of guidelines have been distributed to all coaches and are posted on the “Spring League” page of our website. Please make sure to share these with all of your parents and players so that there are no surprises.

In order to allow unlimited spectators in the gym, we respectfully ask that spectators, coaches and athletes WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES while in the gym. In the event that this becomes an issue we will limit the number of spectators allowed inside for the remainder of the league. We realize that many of your players have friends and grandparents that love to see them play ... and we love to have them in the gym. Coaches, please help us protect the safety of our staff, athletes and guests by enforcing all of the safety guidelines that we have in place.