



## **St. Petersburg Parks & Recreation Department**

# **Flag Football League Rules**

All games played in accordance with the current FFFL Rule Book except as modified herein:

### **ROSTERS**

Each manager is responsible for the integrity of his/her roster. Maximum of 15 players. If the manager intends to play, he/she must be listed on the team roster as a player as well as the manager. The "Official City Roster" is to be filled out completely in pen, legible and turned into the score keeper prior to the first scheduled game time. Play will not begin until the rosters are turned in, but the game clock could start if teams are not prepared and ready to go at GAME TIME. **Players are not legal until they have signed the roster. Illegal players will result in game forfeit for each game played in and player suspension and team manager suspension.** All roster changes must be made by the end of the third played game. Roster changes can be made by adding and deleting from the official team roster with the scorekeeper. If adding to the roster, the new player must sign the roster prior to playing. A player must be removed from one roster before they can be added to another, if playing in same league and may only change one time. Changes to the roster may be made at the league director's discretion after the third game played.

**WE STRONGLY SUGGEST** having at least 15 players or more on your roster to allow for unforeseen circumstances (i.e. – injuries, players quitting, scheduling conflicts, etc.). You may have "back up" players on your roster, up to the 15 available roster spaces. These players must sign the roster before the rosters close at the end of the sixth played game.

**If you play on more than 1 league the same night, it is YOUR responsibility to be at your field of play at game time.** Managers, if you have a player that plays another league the same night, it is your responsibility to be aware of this and make changes as needed. (Please see additional rule added to game procedure).

**PROCEDURE FOR PROTESTING PLAYER NOT ON TEAM ROSTER:** A check in the amount of \$50.00 payable to the City of St. Petersburg must be submitted to the score keeper at the **time of protest**. Manager may request player picture ID through score keeper and umpire. Player must provide picture ID which will be compared with the lineup and roster to make sure the player is not playing under another person's name. If ID and players name match, the game is continued. If no picture ID, the game is forfeited. The score keeper will circle the player(s) in question and indicate in the remarks section the reason for the protest. The Athletic Office will check the records and determine the outcome.

If protest is upheld, the check will be returned. If protest is not upheld, the check will not be returned. All protests need to be made before the end of the 2nd inning for softball OR when a new player enters the game. **Scorekeepers and/or city staff reserves the right to check IDs at any time.**

### **FORFEITS**

Any team forfeiting three times within the same season may be removed from the program and will lose their right to priority registration. **No refunds will be given.** If you know before your scheduled game time that you will not be able to field a team, call the Athletic Office at (727) 892-5224 so we can notify the other team and umpires. The sooner you call the better. Any team forfeiting during the season will be eliminated from all league tie breakers.

**PICK UP PLAYERS NO** teams are allowed to pick up players

### **GAME PROCEDURE**

**The manager will be responsible for completing a lineup card and turning it into scorekeeper prior to start of game. Lineup will need to be filled out with players full legal names who are present for the game. If a manager is late turning it in, the clock may be started by league director.**

Head official has the official time. No grace period, team must be ready to play at scheduled game time. Teams will kick off to start each half only. After each score, the ball will be placed on the 20-yard line.

**GAME EQUIPMENT:**

- BALL: Teams are required to supply their own football.
- FLAGSL The City will provide “triple threat” style flags.

**NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** Seven players. A team can start with six players. If the seventh player arrives, he can begin play at any time.

**DEFENCE:** The rusher cannot touch the center for any reason when they are rushing. If they do, it is a defensive charge.

**OFFENSIVE:** Touchdown is 6 points. **Extra point:** 3-point conversion when the ball is placed on the 20- yard line. A 2-point conversion from the 10-yard line and 1-point conversion from the 5-yard line.

**TIME:** Games will consist of four, ten-minute quarters. The clock only stops within the final two minutes of each quarter for incomplete passes, out of bounds, penalties, time outs and a first down. Time will start with “play whistle”.

## LEAGUE TIE BREAKER RULE & PLAYOFFS

If teams have a tie record at end of season, the tie breaker rule will be in effect as follows: If tie between any teams -record head-to-head, if still tie greater number of runs scored against each other, if still tie it will be over all over run differential. (Runs for/runs against). Any team with a forfeit is eliminated from all league tie breakers. They may still be part of playoffs.

## MISC. RULES

**IF YOU'RE TEAM REGISTRATION IS NOT PAID BY THE THIRD WEEK OF SEASON, (RAIN OR SHINE), THAT GAME AND EACH AFTER UNTILL PAID WILL BE A FOREIT.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Minimum age is 18.
- Players cannot have pockets, belt loops, jewelry or any other clothing or bodily attachments that could interfere.
- All players are required to have the same color jersey. It is requested that teams also carry a second jersey to avoid conflicts on the field. Jerseys must be cut off at the solar plexus or be tucked securely into the pants/shorts.
- For league information concerning rules, schedules, rosters, and standings, please visit our adult sports website at [www.stpeteparksrec.org/sports](http://www.stpeteparksrec.org/sports).
- Fighting before, during or after the game and on or off the field, will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely.
- All players must wear closed toed athletic shoes. Metal spikes and steel toes **are not** permitted in league play.
- A team trophy will be awarded to the LEAGUE winner. In playoffs a team trophy and individual award will be given to first and second place will receive a team trophy.
- Foul language and verbal/physical abuse directed at a player or umpire will be just cause for player suspension.
- The League director reserves the right to move teams within the various league held on the same night.
- The League director reserves the right to monitor and move individual players from leagues in which they are not of level play.
- All players must always have ID with them.

## WEATHER CANCELATION

We will attempt to makeup all cancelations at the end of the schedule. It is the team MANAGER's responsibility to contact the Athletic office for times and dates of rain outs. For any games not made up prior to the start of the next program, a refund (per game) will be submitted, and the team will receive a credit for the upcoming season or the City will mail out a check for the amount due if the team is not returning.

**LIGHTNING:** League Director will be watching the weather conditions. If lightning is seen, the League Director will determine the proximity of the lightning as followed; lightning seen, begin counting the seconds (one thousand one, one thousand two...) until thunder is heard. If the count is under a count of thirty, ALL activities will be stopped IMMEDIATELY and ALL players and participants, etc. must leave the fields/dug outs and move to a safe location. After 30 minutes the League Director will determine if it is safe to resume play.

**Sign up for FREE automated texts or emails to be sent to you (and your players) when a rain out occurs.**

Rainout Line: Sign up at [www.stpeteparksrec.org/adultleagues](http://www.stpeteparksrec.org/adultleagues) or call 727-877-2236.

## UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Players, coaches, managers, or other team members (**this includes spectators**) will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, officials or spectators or commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. Penalty could result in player ejection, removal of spectator and if needed, forfeit of game. Any use of cursing/swearing/profanity of any kind during league play may result in immediate ejection from the game. THIS is your warning:

### EJECTED PLAYER

An ejected participant must leave the grounds immediately and have no contact with the umpires or participants in the game. Failure to comply may result in forfeit or the player may be POLICE TRESPASSED from the park. No substitute is allowed in the ejected player's position and their batting spot will be an automatic out. Once ejected from a game, a two-week suspension will follow automatically. The two-week suspension includes all sports and all nights for two weeks of scheduled games. This ejection could carry over into the following season if applicable. If the player ejected is not a legal player on the roster (all players must SIGN the roster), the coach will also be suspended for two games. **The League Direct has discretion to add a longer suspension due to severity of player actions or if have prior ejections.**

### ALCOHOL AT CITY FACILITIES

It is **ILLEGAL** to have alcohol on City owned property. City Ordinance Section 21-38A. Any team found with alcohol in the dugout could result in forfeiting the game. Players, coaches, team affiliates may not leave the dugout during the game to drink alcohol. Team and/or player penalty will be at the umpire's and/or city representative's discretion.

If any team is found drinking alcohol in the park, to include the surrounding parking lots, any City representative may forfeit a future game. If a team has TWO forfeits due to drinking alcohol, they will be removed from priority registration. This includes but is not limited to spectators, players, coaches, managers, any team affiliates.

### PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Facilities are centrally located on Woodlawn Sports Complex. Anyone caught outside and not using the restrooms will receive an immediate ejection and a two-game suspension.

If you have any questions, concerns, compliments or just want to talk softball, please call us at (727) 892-5224.  
Thank you for your continued support of the softball program in the City of St. Petersburg.