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OFFICIAL SLO-PITCH HANDBOOK



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HANDBOOK

OUR MISSION

-  To institute and regulate the game of slo-pitch softball
-  To foster and improve the game of slo-pitch softball across the Province
-  To protect and promote the mutual interests of all Association Members
-  To develop and promote a minor slo-pitch program throughout the Province

SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

The Home of Slo-Pitch



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OFFICIAL SLO-PITCH HANDBOOK

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SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

Who We Are...

Slo-Pitch Ontario Association (known as "SPO") was formed in November of 1982 in an effort to create more awareness of the sport of slo-pitch and to better communicate with its participants throughout Ontario. In 1992, SPO became a member of Softball Ontario and affiliated with Softball Canada, the officially recognized slo-pitch/softball organizations. Slo-Pitch Ontario has one of the largest provincial memberships in Canada. Slo-pitch softball is one of the fastest growing adult team sports in North America. Over 2.5 million Canadians play this recreational grassroots game each season.

What We Are...

Our volunteer based, not-for-profit Association has worked extensively over the years to develop many programs and services to assist players, coaches, league executives, umpires and convenors/directors with their local programs. Our mission in part is to institute, regulate, foster and improve the game of slo-pitch and to protect and promote the mutual interests of all of our members.

How We Do It...

The Association has organized the Province into nine Zones to help administer our programs and services. Each Zone has representatives called Zone Directors who are instrumental to fulfilling our mission. Zone Directors are the key contacts to the teams and leagues and act as a liaison between the leagues and the SPO office. As delegates to our Annual General Meeting, they present local concerns and ideas to our Board of Directors and members.

What We Do For You

TEAM REGISTRATION

For an annual membership fee, registration includes \$5,000,000 liability insurance and secondary accident and health insurance coverage for each player. All registered teams are eligible to complete in any Qualifying Tournament held throughout the season.

FULL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

For an annual membership fee, registration includes \$5,000,000 liability insurance and secondary accident and health insurance coverage for each player, as well as \$2,000,000 liability insurance coverage for all members of the League Executive, Handbooks, scorebooks, free league banquet insurance, an Invitation to our Provincial Championships for each team in the league, Shop SPO benefits, and more.

INSURANCE

The insurance we offer covers each player for \$5,000,000 liability insurance and secondary accident and health coverage for any slo-pitch activity including travel, practice and related training. Our insurance program extends to our Members the most comprehensive secondary insurance coverage available - with **NO DEDUCTIBLE** paid by any Member. (Please Note: It is not a loss of wage and income policy.)

LIQUOR LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR TOURNAMENTS & BANQUETS

\$5,000,000 Liquor Liability Insurance coverage is available through the SPO Office for

tournaments and for league functions (including dances or banquets). Contact the SPO Office for special Member rates and an Application.

TEAM TRAVEL PERMITS

Teams traveling outside Ontario may have their liability insurance coverage maintained for a tournament by submitting a SPO Travel Permit to the SPO Office prior to their departure. Contact the SPO Office or visit slopitch.org to obtain a form.

YOUTH LEAGUES

Part of our mission is to develop and promote minor slo-pitch in Ontario. We register youth leagues at special rates and will offer assistance to promote all levels of youth slo-pitch.

SHOP SPO

Our on-line store offers our Members the highest quality gear and merchandise available by such manufacturers as Rawlings, Miken, Worth, Mizuno and New Era, at exclusive Member pricing. Unbeatable prices for fantastic items that allow our leagues and Tournament Directors to customize their awards to suit their needs and their budget.

TOURNAMENT ADVERTISING

A Tournament Director can utilize SPO's extensive Member list and Facebook to reach Team Contacts. Contact the SPO Office details on this service.

UMPIRE CARDING AND CLINICS

Anyone interested in Umpiring or attending a Clinic can obtain information by contacting the Softball Ontario office at 416-426-7150.

COACHING AND SCOREKEEPER CLINICS

Through our exclusive affiliation with Softball Ontario, our Members have access to Coaching and Scorekeeper Clinics. Contact the Softball Ontario office at 416-425-7150, or visit their website at www.softballontario.ca.

PROVINCIAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

We offer Provincial Qualifying Tournaments each season across the Province for all registered teams to compete for Awards and to qualify for our Provincial Championships.

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our Provincial Championships are held each year in mostly the London, Ontario area over numerous weekends in August and September. Over 300 teams compete each year in more than 20 divisions for distinctive Awards, Championship Rings, travel expenses, USSSA World Series berths, the title of "Provincial Champion", and all associated bragging rights.

ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

This exciting tournament brings the best slo-pitch players in the Province to compete in three divisions of play - Mens, Womens and Masters - with the winners earning the right to represent Ontario in the Softball Canada Canadian Championships.

SUPER SERIES

Exclusively offered for SPO Member teams, the SPO Super Series is a series of weekend tournaments to provide Mens A, B and C, and Womens A teams, an opportunity to play on a regular basis, earning points to determine the divisional Super Series Champions.

SENIOR CIRCUIT

Uniquely offered for our more mature and experienced SPO Member teams, the Senior Circuit is a series of weekend tournaments to provide teams of players 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+ years of age the opportunity to play on a regular basis, earning points to determine the divisional Senior Circuit Champions.

WOMENS B/C SERIES

Exclusively offered for SPO Member Womens teams, the Womens B/C Series offers women of this calibre a series of weekend tournaments, earning points to determine the Womens B/C Champions.

USSSA

As part of our affiliation with the United States Specialty Sports Association (“USSSA”), the premier softball organization in the US, we are able to offer Ontario teams various opportunities to compete in local state tournaments, as well as qualify to participate in the USSSA World Series Championships, most of which are held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Centre in beautiful Orlando, FL.

HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

SPO is pleased to host the Provincial High School Championships to promote youth slo-pitch. This event is OFSSA-recognized and is held each year on the Thursday and Friday following Victoria Day. Contact the SPO Office for more details.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the end of each season, SPO has its Annual General Meeting. Zone Directors, as delegates to the AGM, meet to discuss and vote on all rule changes, Constitution and By-law changes, as well as hold any necessary elections. This is an excellent opportunity for leagues and teams, through their Zone representatives, to voice their opinions and help guide and determine the direction of the Association.

SPO SOCIAL MEDIA

Find everything you need and stay up-to-date at www.slopitch.org. You can also like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @slopitchontario!

AND SO MUCH MORE... There are many services and benefits included with Membership in the Association too numerous to mention here. Contact us to find out more! We're the Home of Slo-Pitch, and you're always welcome at Home.



INSURANCE PROGRAM

FOR LEAGUES:

- \$5,000,000 General Liability Insurance Coverage for each player
- Secondary Accident and Health Insurance Coverage for each player*
- Liability Insurance for all League Executive Members
- Sport Accident Insurance covering participants, managers, coaches, Executives and field officials for practices, games and team travel
- Athletic Participant to Participant Liability Coverage
- FREE Certificate of Insurance
- Additional Insured(s) added at no cost
- Liquor Liability Insurance for Events available at low Member rates
- FREE League Banquet Insurance (a \$150 savings!)
- **NO DEDUCTIBLE** paid by our Members for accident OR liability claims
- Coverage is for any slo-pitch activity, including practices

FOR TEAMS:

- \$5,000,000 Liability Insurance Coverage for each player
- Secondary Accident and Health Insurance Coverage for each player*
- Free Travel Permits for continuation of coverage for out-of-Province tournaments
- **NO DEDUCTIBLE** paid by any of our Members for accident OR liability claims
- Coverage is for any slo-pitch activity, including practices

ATHLETIC ACCIDENT CLAIM PROCEDURES

- It is the responsibility of the insured to **notify** the SPO Office to request an Athletic Accident Claim Form **within thirty (30) days** of the accident.
- The insured player or parent/guardian must fully complete the Claim Form.
- For reimbursement of dental or medical claims, the insured shall have the attending dentist or physician complete the applicable portion of the Form.
- The insured shall submit the completed Claim Form to their League Executive or Team Manager for their signed certification.
- The insured shall be responsible to **forward the completed Form** along with any receipts or estimates **to the SPO Office** for approval and processing to the insurance company.
- **The SPO Office will add the Group Policy Number to the Claim Form prior to forwarding it to the insurance company.**
- For Claims requiring a report from a doctor, chiropractor, osteopath, etc., the insurance company will forward any necessary forms to you upon receipt of the completed Athletic Accident Claim Form.
- The SPO Office will forward all completed Claim Forms, together with any receipts/estimates to the insurance company.
- The insurance company will be in direct contact with the insured if anything further is required once the Claim Form has been received.

COMPLETED CLAIM FORMS WITH RECEIPT(S) MUST BE SENT TO:

Slo-Pitch Ontario Association

E-Mail: spoa@slopitch.org | Mail: 7-8 Hiscott Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 1C6

****PLEASE NOTE: Some reimbursements have limits and/or caps. This is NOT a LOSS OF WAGE or INCOME POLICY. For more information or assistance, please contact the SPO Office by calling 905.646.7773, or e-mail spoa@slopitch.org.***

CONSTITUTION OF SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

- 1.1 This organization shall be known as the SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION, sometimes abbreviated to "SLO-PITCH ONTARIO" or "S.P.O.A." or "SPO".

ARTICLE 2: AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The purpose/mandate of the Association shall be:
- ☒ To institute & regulate the game of slo-pitch softball.
 - ☒ To foster and improve the game of slo-pitch softball across the province.
 - ☒ To protect and promote the mutual interests of all the Association members.
 - ☒ To develop and promote a minor slo-pitch program throughout the province.

BY-LAWS OF SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I: GENERAL

- 1.1 Purpose – These By-laws relate to the general conduct of the affairs of the Slo-Pitch Ontario Association.
- 1.2 Definitions – The following terms have these meanings in these By-laws:
- a) *Act* – the Ontario Corporations Act or any successor legislation including the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (upon becoming law).
 - b) *Auditor* – an individual, partnership, or corporation appointed by the Members at the Annual Meeting to audit the books, accounts, and records of the Corporation for a report to the Members at the next Annual Meeting in accordance with the Act.
 - c) *Board* – the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
 - d) *Corporation* – the Slo-Pitch Ontario Association, which may also do business as Slo-Pitch Ontario, SPOA, or SPO.
 - e) *Days* – days including weekends and holidays.
 - f) *Director* – an individual elected or appointed to serve on the Board pursuant to these By-laws.
 - g) *Officer* – an individual elected or appointed to serve as an Officer of the Corporation pursuant to these By-laws.
 - h) *Ordinary Resolution* – a resolution passed by a majority of the votes cast on that resolution.

- i) Special Resolution – a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the votes cast on that resolution or signed by all the voting Members entitled to vote on that resolution.

1.3 Registered Office – The registered office of the Corporation will be located within the Province of Ontario.

1.4 No Gain for Members – The Corporation will be carried on without the purpose of gain for its Members and any profits or other accretions to the Corporation will be used in promoting its objects.

1.5 Ruling on By-laws – Except as provided in the Act, the Board will have the authority to interpret any provision of these By-laws that is contradictory, ambiguous, or unclear, provided such interpretation is consistent with the objects of the Corporation.

1.6 Conduct of Meetings – Unless otherwise specified in these By-laws, meetings of the Members and meetings of the Board will be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order (current edition).

1.7 Interpretation – Words importing the singular will include the plural and vice versa, words importing the masculine will include the feminine and vice versa, and words importing persons will include bodies corporate. Words importing an organization name, title, or program will include any successor organizational name, title, or program.

1.8 Affiliations – The Corporation will be accountable to the Softball Ontario Member Association Council and, ultimately, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (as may be amended) (the “Ministry”) in regards to base and Ministry funding programs. The voting Members of the Corporation will elect at the Annual Meeting on an annual basis three (3) Delegates to represent the Corporation as Directors of Softball Ontario.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATES

2.1 Categories – The Corporation has the following categories of Member:

- a) League Member – Any league that affiliates all Team Members within that organization registered as a member of the Corporation and has agreed to abide by the Corporation’s By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
- b) Executive Member - Any individual who is registered with the Corporation, who has agreed to abide by the Corporation’s By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, and who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- i. An individual who is elected or appointed to the Board
- ii. An individual who is appointed by the Board to serve as a Zone Director
- iii. An individual who is appointed by the Board to serve as a Tournament Director

2.2 Affiliates – The Corporation has the following categories of Affiliates:

- a) Teams – Any team that competes and plays slo-pitch softball that is registered as an affiliate of the Corporation and has agreed to abide by the Corporation's By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
- b) Associates – Agencies, groups, or individuals interested in the advancement of the sport of slo-pitch softball that is registered as an affiliate the Corporation and has agreed to abide by the Corporation's By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
- c) Individual – Any individual, who is an employee of the Corporation, or who is an affiliated participant, coach, or manager, who is registered with the Corporation, and who has agreed to abide by the Corporation's By-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.

2.3 Admission of Members – Any candidate will be admitted as a Member or Affiliate or renewed as a Member or Affiliate if the candidate:

- a) Makes an application in a manner prescribed by the Corporation;
- b) Was at any time previously a Member or Affiliate, the candidate was in good standing at the time of ceasing to be a Member or Affiliate;
- c) Completes the application form, confidentiality agreement and waiver;
- d) As applicable, is an Ontario resident as of May 1st;
- e) Has paid dues as prescribed by the Board;
- f) Agrees to uphold and comply with the Corporation's governing documents;
- g) Meets any other condition as determined by the Board;
- h) Has met the applicable definition listed in Section 2.1 or Section 2.2, as applicable; and
- i) Has been approved by Ordinary Resolution by the Board or by any committee or individual delegated this authority by the Board.

2.4 Year – Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the membership and affiliate year of the Corporation will be May 1st to April 30th.

2.5 Dues – Membership and Affiliate dues will be determined annually by the Board.

2.6 Duration – Membership and Affiliate duration is accorded on an annual basis and Members and Affiliates will re-apply annually.

2.7 Deadline – Members and Affiliates will be notified in writing of the dues at any time payable, and if the dues are not paid within sixty (60) days of the renewal date or notice of default, the Member or Affiliate in default will automatically cease to be a Member or Affiliate of the Corporation.

2.8 Transfer – Membership and Affiliate status in the Corporation is non-transferable.

2.9 Suspension – A Member or Affiliate may be suspended, pending the outcome of a discipline hearing in accordance with the Corporation's policies related to discipline, or by Special Resolution of the Board at a meeting of the Board provided the Member or Affiliate has been given notice of and the opportunity to be heard at such meeting.

2.10 Litigation Suspension – The Board of Directors of the Corporation may suspend any Affiliate or Member if the affiliate or member brings legal proceedings against the Corporation and the affiliate or members continued participation may impact the outcome of the legal proceedings.

2.11 Termination – Membership and Affiliate status in the Corporation will terminate immediately upon:

- a) The expiration of the Member's annual membership or Affiliates registration, unless renewed in accordance with these By-laws;
- b) The Member or Affiliate fails to maintain any of the qualifications or conditions described in Section 2.1 or 2.2 of these By-laws;
- c) Resignation by giving written notice to the Corporation;
- d) Dissolution of the Corporation;
- e) A decision made by a panel in accordance with the Corporation's applicable discipline policies;
- f) The Member's or Affiliates death if any individual; or
- g) By Ordinary Resolution of the Board or of the Members at a duly called meeting, provided fifteen (15) days' notice is given and the Member or Affiliate is provided with reasons and the opportunity to be heard. Notice will set out the reasons for termination of membership and the Member or Affiliate receiving the notice will be entitled to submit a written submission opposing the termination.

2.12 May Not Resign – A Member or Affiliate may not resign from the Corporation when the Member or Affiliate is subject to disciplinary investigation or action by the Corporation.

2.13 Arrears – A Member or Affiliate will be expelled from the Corporation for failing to pay dues or monies owed to the Corporation by the deadline dates prescribed by the Board. Any dues, subscriptions, or other monies owed to the Corporation by suspended or expelled Members or Affiliates will remain due.

2.14 Discipline – A Member or Affiliate may be disciplined in accordance with the Corporation's policies and procedures relating to discipline.

2.15 Dues Payable – Any dues, subscriptions, or other monies owed to the Corporation by suspended or expelled Members or Affiliates will remain due.

2.16 Definition – A Member or Affiliate will be in good standing provided that the Member:

- a) Has not ceased to be a Member or Affiliate;
- b) Has not been suspended or expelled, or had other restrictions or sanctions imposed;
- c) Has completed and remitted all documents as required by the Corporation;
- d) Has complied with the By-laws, policies, and rules of the Corporation;
- e) Is not subject to a disciplinary investigation or action by the Corporation, or if subject to disciplinary action previously, has fulfilled all terms and conditions of such disciplinary action to the satisfaction of the Board; and
- f) Has paid all required dues.

2.17 Cease to be in Good Standing – Members or Affiliates that cease to be in good standing, as determined by the Board or a Disciplinary Panel, will not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Members or be entitled to the benefits and privileges of membership or affiliation until such time as the Board is satisfied that the Member or Affiliate has met the definition of good standing.

2.18 Zone Directors - Appointed by the Board for the purpose of coordinating leagues and teams in a designated geographic area. The Board will provide guidelines and responsibilities for Zone Directors.

2.19 Tournament Directors - Appointed by the Board for the purpose of hosting a sanctioned tournament. The Board will provide guidelines and responsibilities for Tournament Directors.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

3.1 Annual Meeting – The Corporation will hold meetings of Members at such date, time and place as determined by the Board within the Province of Ontario. The Annual Meeting will be held within fifteen (15) months of the last Annual Meeting and

within six (6) months of the Corporation's fiscal year end. Any Member, upon request, will be provided, not less than twenty-one (21) days before the annual meeting, with a copy of the approved financial statements, auditor's report (if any) or review engagement report (if any).

3.2 Special Meeting – A Special Meeting of the Members may be called at any time by Ordinary Resolution of the Board or upon the written requisition of ten percent (10%) or more of the Members for any purpose connected with the affairs of the Corporation that does not fall within the exceptions listed in the Act or is otherwise inconsistent with the Act, within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the deposit of the requisition.

3.3 Participation/Holding by Electronic Means – Any person entitled to attend a meeting of Members may participate in the meeting by telephonic or electronic means that permit all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting if the Corporation makes such means available. A person so participating in a meeting is deemed to be present at the meeting. The Directors or Members, as the case may be, may determine that the meeting be held entirely by telephonic or electronic means that permit all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

3.4 Notice – Written or electronic notice of the date of the Annual Meeting of the Members will be given to all Members in good standing, Directors, and the Auditor (if appointed) at least ten (10) days and not more than fifty (50) days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice will contain a reminder of the right to vote by proxy or by absentee ballot, a proposed agenda, reasonable information to permit Members to make informed decisions, nominations of Directors, and the text of any resolutions or amendments to be decided.

3.5 Waiver of Notice – Any person who is entitled to notice of a meeting of the Members may waive notice, and attendance of the person at the meeting is a waiver of notice of the meeting, unless the person attends the meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting was not lawfully called in accordance with these By-laws.

3.6 Error or Omission in Giving Notice – No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the Members shall invalidate the meeting or make void any proceedings taken at the meeting.

3.7 New Business – No other item of business will be included in the notice of the meeting of the Members unless notice in writing of such other item of business, or a Member's proposal, has been submitted to the Board sixty (60) days prior to the meeting of the Members in accordance with procedures as approved by the Board. Copies of all such proposals together with copies of any amendments thereto then

proposed by the Board and copies of all resolutions put forward by the Board shall be sent to all Members with the agenda and the notice calling an Annual Meeting.

3.8 Quorum – Ten (10) voting Members present or by proxy will constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present at the opening of a meeting of the Members, the Members present may proceed with the business of the meeting, even if a quorum is not present throughout the meeting.

3.9 Closed Meetings – Meetings of Members will be closed to the public except by invitation of the Board.

3.10 Agenda – The agenda for the Annual Meeting may include:

- a) Call to order
- b) Establishment of quorum
- c) Appointment of scrutineers
- d) Approval of the agenda
- e) Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
- f) Presentation and approval of reports
- g) Report of Auditors (if any)
- h) Appointment of Auditors (if any)
- i) Presentation of Budget
- j) Approval of membership dues and related fees
- k) Business as specified in the meeting notice
- l) Election of new Directors
- m) Adjournment

3.11 Scrutineers – At the beginning of each meeting, the Board may appoint one or more scrutineers who will be responsible for ensuring that votes are properly cast and counted.

3.12 Adjournments – With the majority consent of the Members present and after quorum is ascertained, the Members may adjourn a meeting of Members and no notice is required for continuation of the meeting if the meeting is held within thirty (30) days. Any business may be brought before or dealt with at any adjourned meeting which might have been brought before or dealt with at the original meeting in accordance with the notice calling the same.

3.13 Attendance – The only persons entitled to attend a meeting of the Members are the Members, the Directors, the auditors of the Corporation (or the person who has been appointed to conduct a review engagement, if any), individuals possessing a proxy on behalf of a Member, and others who are entitled or required under any provision of the Act or the articles to be present at the meeting. Any other person may be admitted only if invited by the Chair or with the majority consent of the Members present.

3.14 Voting Rights – Members have the following voting rights at all meetings of the Members:

- a) League Members have one vote each.
- b) Executive Members have one vote each.

3.15 Eligibility of Votes – On a specific date, the Board will determine the list of Members who are eligible to vote at a meeting of the Members. The date will be no more than ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

3.16 Proxy Voting – Every Member entitled to vote at a meeting of Members may, by means of a proxy, appoint a proxy holder, or one or more alternate proxy holders, to attend and vote on behalf of the Member. The proxy holder need not be a Member. A proxy must:

- a) Be signed by the Member;
- b) Be in a form that complies with the Act;
- c) Comply with the format stipulated by the Corporation; and
- d) Be submitted to the Registered Office of the Corporation at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting of the Members

3.17 Proxy Holder – A proxy holder will only hold a maximum of one (1) proxies.

3.18 Determination of Votes – Votes will be determined by a show of hands, orally, or electronic ballot, except in the case of elections which require a secret ballot, unless a secret or recorded ballot is requested by a Member.

3.19 Majority of Votes – Except as otherwise provided in these By-laws, the majority of votes will decide each issue. In the case of a tie, the issue is defeated.

3.20 Written Resolution – A resolution signed by all the Members entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of the Members is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Members.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNANCE

4.1 Directors – The Board will consist of seven (7) Directors.

4.2 Composition of the Board – The Board will consist of the following:

- a) President
- b) Secretary/Treasurer
- c) Four (4) Directors-at-Large
- d) Past President

4.3 Directors-at-Large – Following their election, Directors-at-Large may be selected to serve as Directors of various portfolios related to the operations of the Corporation (e.g., Marketing and Promotions Director, Communications Director, etc.).

Directors-at-Large may have more than one portfolio and may be assigned and removed duties by Ordinary Resolution of the Board.

4.4 Past President – The immediate Past President of the Corporation will be appointed into the position of Past President for a term of two (2) years provided that this individual is interested in serving in the position and has been approved by Ordinary Resolution of the Board. The Past President does not vote at meetings of the Board but, as an Executive Member of the Corporation, does vote at meetings of the Members.

4.5 Eligibility – To be eligible for election as a Director, an individual must:

- a) Be a Member of the Corporation;
- b) Have completed at least two years as a Zone Director;
- c) Be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- d) Not have been found under the *Substitute Decisions Act*, 1992 or under the *Mental Health Act* to be incapable of managing property;
- e) Have the power under law to contract;
- f) Have not been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country; and
- g) Not have the status of bankrupt.

4.6 Nominations Committee – The Board will appoint a Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee will be responsible to solicit and receive nominations for the election of the Directors.

4.7 Nomination – Any nomination of an individual for election as a Director will:

- a) Include the written consent of the nominee by signed or electronic signature;
- b) Comply with the procedures established by the Nominations Committee; and
- c) Be submitted to the Registered Office of the Corporation fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting. This timeline may be extended by Ordinary Resolution of the Board.

4.8 Nominations from the Floor – An individual may be nominated from the floor of the meeting of the Members in accordance with the Act.

4.9 Circulation of Nominations – Valid nominations will be circulated to Members at the Annual Meeting prior to the elections.

4.10 Election – Directors will be elected at each Annual Meeting as follows:

- a) The President and two (2) Directors-at-Large will be elected at alternate Annual Meetings to those listed in sub-section b.

- b) The Secretary/Treasurer and two (2) Directors-at-Large will be elected at alternate Annual Meetings to those listed in sub-section a.

4.11 Elections – Elections for each non-Director-at-Large position will be decided by Ordinary Resolution of the Members in accordance with the following:

- a) One Valid Nomination – Winner declared by acclamation.
- b) Two or More Valid Nominations – The nominee(s) receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected. In the case of a tie, the nominee receiving the fewest votes will be deleted from the list of nominees and a second vote will be conducted. If there continues to be a tie and more nominees than positions, the nominee receiving the fewest votes will be deleted from the list of nominees until there remains the appropriate number of nominees for the position(s) or until a winner is declared. If there continues to be a tie then the winner(s) will be declared by coin flip.

4.12 Director-at-Large Elections – Elections for Director-at-Large positions will be decided by Ordinary Resolution of the Members in accordance with the following:

- a) Equal number of Nominations and Available Positions – Winners declared by Ordinary Resolution.
- b) More Nominations than Available Positions – The nominee(s) with the highest number of votes will fill the available positions until the all the available positions have been filled. In the case of a tie for the final available position, a second vote will be conducted between the tied nominees. If there continues to be a tie and more nominees than positions, the nominee receiving the fewest votes will be deleted from the list of nominees until there remains the appropriate number of nominees for the position(s) or until a winner is declared. If there continues to be a tie then the winner(s) will be declared by coin flip.

4.13 Post-Election Eligibility – An elected Director who does not meet the eligibility requirements for election as Director will have sixty (60) days to become eligible for the position or will be removed as a Director of the Corporation.

4.14 Terms – Directors will serve terms of two (2) years, and will hold office until they or their successors have been duly elected in accordance with these By-laws, unless they resign, or are removed from or vacate their office.

4.15 Resignation – A Director may resign from the Board at any time by presenting his or her notice of resignation to the Board. This resignation will become effective the date on which the notice is received by the Secretary or at the time specified in the notice, whichever is later. When a Director who is subject to a disciplinary investigation or action of the Corporation resigns, that Director will

nonetheless be subject to any sanctions or consequences resulting from the disciplinary investigation or action.

4.16 Vacate Office – The office of any Director will be vacated automatically if:

- a) The Director resigns;
- b) The Director is found to be incapable of managing property by a court or under Ontario law;
- c) The Director is found by a court to be of unsound mind;
- d) The Director becomes bankrupt or suspends payment of debts or compounds with creditors or makes an authorized assignment in bankruptcy or is declared insolvent; or
- e) The Director dies.

4.17 Removal – An elected Director may be removed by Ordinary Resolution of the Members at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting provided the Director has been given reasonable written notice of, and the opportunity to be present and to be heard at, such a meeting.

4.18 Vacancy – Where the position of a Director becomes vacant for whatever reason and there is still a quorum of Directors, the Board may appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy for a term expiring not later than the close of the next Annual Meeting.

4.19 Call of Meeting – A meeting of the Board will be held at any time and place as determined by the President, or by written requisition of at least two (2) Directors.

4.20 Chair – The President will be the Chair of all meetings of the Board unless designated by the President. In the absence of the President, or if the meeting of the Board was not called by the President, the Vice-President (or designate) will be the Chair of the meeting.

4.21 Notice – Written notice, served other than by mail, of meetings of the Board will be given to all Directors at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting. Notice served by mail will be sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. No notice of a meeting of the Board is required if all Directors waive notice, or if those absent consent to the meeting being held in their absence. If a quorum of Directors is present, each newly elected or appointed Board member, without notice, hold its first meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

4.22 Board Meeting With New Directors – For a first meeting of the Board held immediately following the election of Directors at a meeting of the Members, or for a meeting of the Board at which a Director is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board, it is not necessary to give notice of the meeting to the newly elected or appointed Director(s).

4.23 Number of Meetings – The Board will hold at least three (3) meetings per year.

4.24 Quorum – At any meeting of the Board, quorum will be a majority of Directors holding office.

4.25 Voting – Each Director is entitled to one vote. Voting will be by a show of hands, written, or orally unless a majority of Directors present request a secret ballot. Resolutions will be passed by Ordinary Resolution.

4.26 No Alternate Directors – No person shall act for an absent Director at a meeting of the Board.

4.27 Written Resolutions – A resolution in writing signed by all the Directors is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board.

4.28 Closed Meetings – Meetings of the Board will be closed to Members and the public except by invitation of the Board.

4.29 Meetings by Telecommunications – A meeting of the Board may be held by telephone conference call or by means of other telecommunications technology. Directors who participate in a meeting by telecommunications technology are considered to have attended the meeting.

4.30 Standard of Care – Every Director will:

- a) Act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Corporation; and
- b) Exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

4.31 Powers of the Corporation – Except as otherwise provided in the Act or these By-laws, the Board has the powers of the Corporation and may delegate any of its powers, duties, and functions.

4.32 Empowered – The Board is empowered, including but not limited to:

- a) Make policies and procedures or manage the affairs of the Corporation in accordance with the Act and these By-laws;
- b) Make policies and procedures relating to the discipline of Members, and have the authority to discipline Members in accordance with such policies and procedures;
- c) Make policies and procedures relating to the management of disputes within the Corporation and deal with disputes in accordance with such policies and procedures;

- d) Employ or engage under contract such persons as it deems necessary to carry out the work of the Corporation;
- e) Determine registration procedures, determine membership dues, and determine other registration requirements;
- f) Enable the Corporation to receive donations and benefits for the purpose of furthering the objects and purposes of the Corporation;
- g) Make expenditures for the purpose of furthering the objects and purposes of the Corporation;
- h) Borrow money upon the credit of the Corporation as it deems necessary in accordance with these By-laws; and
- i) Perform any other duties from time to time as may be in the best interests of the Corporation.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

5.1 Composition – The Officers will be comprised of the President, Secretary/ Treasurer, Chief Executive Officer, and Past President.

5.2 Term – The term of the elected Officers will be two (2) years or until they or their successors are elected or appointed.

5.3 Duties – The duties of Officers are as follows:

- a) The President will be the chair of the Board, will preside at the Annual and Special Meetings of the Corporation and at meetings of the Board unless otherwise designated, will be the official spokesperson of the Corporation, will be a member of the Board of Directors of Softball Ontario, and will perform such other duties as may from time to time be established by the Board.
- b) The Secretary/ Treasurer will be responsible for the documentation of all amendments to the Corporation's By-laws, will ensure that all official documents and records of the Corporation are properly kept, cause to be recorded the minutes of all meetings, will prepare and submit to each meeting of the Members and other meetings a report of all activities since the previous meeting of the Members or other meetings, will give due notice to all Members of the meeting of the Members of the Corporation, will keep proper accounting records as required by the Act, will cause to be deposited all monies received by the Corporation in the Corporation's bank account, will supervise the management and the disbursement of funds of the Corporation, when required will provide the Board with an account of financial transactions and the financial position of the Corporation, will prepare annual budgets, and will perform such other duties as may from time to time be established by the Board.

- c) The Chief Executive Officer will devote full or part time work as the administrative officer and general manager of the Corporation. The Chief Executive Officer will:
- i. Be in charge of the headquarters of the Corporation
 - ii. Act under the immediate direction of the Board
 - iii. Recommend plans of action and conduct day-to-day business including financial responsibility of the Corporation
 - iv. Hire, and determine the salaries of, other staff members, with the approval of the Board.
 - v. Present a yearly budget and business reports to the Board for approval
 - vi. Be spokesperson for the Corporation at all public gatherings or designate an alternate in his/her or the President's absence
 - vii. Have authority to call a meeting of the Board at any time provided each Director is given adequate notice of such meeting
 - viii. Be appointed or hired by Board, and may be dismissed at the discretion of the Board should just cause for dismissal be shown. If the Chief Executive Officer is appointed, a term of office will be at the discretion of the Board
- d) The Past Chair will be the Chair of the Nominations Committee and perform such duties as may from time to time be established by the Board.

5.4 Delegation of Duties – At the discretion of the Officer and with approval by Ordinary Resolution of the Board, any Officer may delegate any duties of that office to appropriate staff or committee of the Corporation, or to another Director.

5.5 Removal – An Officer may be removed by Ordinary Resolution at a meeting of the Board or of the Members, provided the Officer has been given notice of and the opportunity to be present and to be heard at the meeting where such Ordinary Resolution is put to a vote. If the Officer is removed by the Members, his or her position as a Director (if applicable) will automatically and simultaneously be terminated.

5.6 Vacancy – Where the position of an Officer, excluding the President, becomes vacant for whatever reason and there is still a quorum of Directors, the Board may, by Ordinary Resolution, appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the vacant position's term of office. If the President position becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall become President and the Board may appoint a replacement for the position of Vice-President from among the Directors.

5.7 Other Officers – The Board may determine other Officer positions and appoint individuals to fill those positions. Other Officers need not be Directors.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

6.1 Appointment of Committees – The Board may appoint such committees as it deems necessary for managing the affairs of the Corporation and may appoint members of committees or provide for the election of members of committees, may prescribe the duties and terms of reference of committees, and may delegate to any Committee any of its powers, duties, and functions.

6.2 Standing Committees – The Board will have the following standing committees composed of Directors as follows:

- a) Super Series
- b) Masters
- c) Softball Ontario

6.3 Vacancy – When a vacancy occurs on any Committee, the Board may appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the Committee's term.

6.4 President Ex-officio – The President will be an ex-officio non-voting member of all Committees of the Corporation.

6.5 Removal – The Board may remove any member of any Committee.

6.6 Debts – No Committee will have the authority to incur debts in the name of the Corporation.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 Fiscal Year – Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the fiscal year of the Corporation will be January 1st to December 31st.

7.2 Bank – The banking business of the Corporation will be conducted at such financial institution as the Board may determine.

7.3 Auditors – At each Annual Meeting the Members may appoint an auditor to audit or conduct a review engagement of the books, accounts and records of the Corporation in accordance with the Act. The auditor will hold office until the next Annual Meeting. The auditor will not be an employee, Officer, or Director of the Corporation and must be permitted to conduct an audit or review engagement of the Corporation under the *Public Accounting Act*, 2004, as amended.

7.4 Annual Financial Statements – The Directors will approve financial statements (evidenced by signature of one or more Directors) of the Corporation of the last fiscal year of the Corporation but not more than six (6) months before the Annual Meeting and present the approved financial statements before the Members at every

Annual Meeting. A copy of the Annual Financial Statements will be provided to any Member requesting a copy of the Financial Statements not less than twenty-one (21) days before the Annual Meeting. The Financial Statements will include:

- a) The financial statements;
- b) The auditor's report or review engagement (if any); and
- c) Any further information respecting the financial position of the Corporation.

7.5 Books and Records – The necessary books and records of the Corporation required by these By-laws or by applicable law will be necessarily and properly kept. The books and records include, but are not limited to:

- a) The Corporation's articles and By-laws;
- b) The minutes of meetings of the Members and of any committee of Members;
- c) The resolutions of the Members and of any committee of Members;
- d) The minutes of meetings of the Directors or any committee of Directors;
- e) The resolutions of the Directors and of any committee of Directors;
- f) A register of Directors;
- g) A register of Officers;
- h) A register of Members; and
- i) Account records adequate to enable the Directors to ascertain the financial position of the Corporation on a quarterly basis.

7.6 Signing Authority – Contracts, agreements, deeds, leases, mortgages, charges, conveyances, transfers and assignments of property, leases and discharges for the payment of money or other obligations, conveyances, transfers and assignments of shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, or other securities, agencies, powers of attorney, instruments of proxy, voting certificates, returns, documents, reports, or any other instruments in writing to be executed by the Corporation will be executed by at least one (1) of the Officers or other individuals, as designated by the Board. In addition, the Board may direct a manner in which the person or persons by whom any particular instrument or class of instruments may or will be signed.

7.7 High Value Contracts – All financial instruments and contracts with a value larger than \$10,000 must be signed by two (2) Officers or other individuals as designated by the Board that hold the signing authority of the Corporation.

7.8 Property – The Corporation may acquire, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of securities, lands, buildings, or other property, or any right or interest therein, for such consideration and upon such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.

7.9 Borrowing – The Corporation may borrow funds under such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, as permitted by the Act.

7.10 Borrowing Restriction – The Members may, by Special Resolution, restrict the borrowing powers of the Board but a restriction so imposed expires at the next Annual Meeting.

7.11 No Remuneration – All Directors, Officers and members of Committees will serve their term of office without remuneration (unless approved by at a meeting of Members) except for reimbursement of expenses as approved by the Board. This section does not preclude a Director or member of a Committee from providing goods or services to the Corporation under contract or for purchase. Any Director or member of a Committee will disclose the conflict/potential conflict in accordance with these By-laws.

7.12 Conflict of Interest – A Director, Officer or member of a Committee who has an interest, or who may be perceived as having an interest, in a proposed contract or transaction with the Corporation will disclose fully and promptly the nature and extent of such interest to the Board or Committee, as the case may be, will refrain from voting or speaking in debate on such contract or transaction, will refrain from influencing the decision on such contract or transaction, and will otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act regarding conflict of interest.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

8.1 Voting – These By-laws may only be amended, revised, repealed or added to by:

- a) A Special Resolution of the voting Members present at a meeting duly called to amend, revise or repeal these Bylaws. Any amendments, revisions, addition or deletions will be effective immediately.
- b) The Board of Directors by way of Ordinary Resolution. Any amendments, revisions, addition or deletions will be effective until the next Members meeting at which the Members will by Special Resolution amend, revise or delete the Bylaws approved by the Board.

ARTICLE IX: NOTICE

9.1 Written Notice – In these By-laws, written notice will mean notice which is hand-delivered or provided by mail, fax, electronic mail or courier to the address of record of the individual, Director, Officer, or Member, as applicable.

9.2 Date of Notice – Date of notice will be the date on which receipt of the notice is confirmed verbally where the notice is hand-delivered, electronically where the notice is faxed or emailed, or in writing where the notice is couriered, or in the case of notice that is provided by mail, five (5) days after the date the mail is post-marked

9.3 Error in Notice – The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting of the Board or of the Members, the failure of any Director or Member to receive notice, or an error in any notice which does not affect its substance will not invalidate any action taken at the Meeting.

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION

10.1 Dissolution – The Corporation may be dissolved in accordance with the Act and its assets will be distributed to another not for profit corporation with similar objectives.

ARTICLE XI: INDEMNIFICATION

11.1 Will Indemnify – The Corporation will indemnify and hold harmless out of the funds of the Corporation each Director and any individual who acts at the Corporation's request in a similar capacity, their heirs, executors and administrators from and against any and all claims, charges, expenses, demands, actions or costs, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, which may arise or be incurred as a result of occupying the position or performing the duties of a Director or and any individual who acts at the Corporation's request in a similar capacity.

11.2 Will Not Indemnify – The Corporation will not indemnify a Director or any individual who acts at the Corporation's request in a similar capacity for acts of fraud, dishonesty, bad faith, breach of any statutory duty or responsibility imposed upon him or her under the Act. For further clarity, the Corporation will not indemnify an individual unless:

- a) The individual acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Corporation; and
- b) If the matter is a criminal or administrative proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that his or her conduct was lawful.

11.3 Insurance – The Corporation will, at all times, maintain in force such Directors and Officers liability insurance.

ARTICLE XII: ADOPTION OF THESE BY-LAWS

12.1 Repeal of Prior By-laws – In ratifying these By-laws on January 22, 2017, the Corporation repeals all prior By-laws of the Corporation provided that such repeal does not impair the validity of any action done pursuant to the repealed By-laws.



OFFICIAL LEAGUE & TOURNAMENT SOFTWARE OF SPO



HALL OF FAME

Est. 1996

Purpose: To honour and remember those men and women who played a significant role in the development and growth of slo-pitch in a number of categories:

Player: Outstanding Ontario amateur slo-pitch athletes who have represented slo-pitch softball with distinction in athletic competition or whose example has brought great credit to slo-pitch softball and high respect for the individual, participated at the Provincial/National level.

Manager/Coach: Person who has rendered prolonged or meritorious service to slo-pitch softball for a minimum of 10 years.

Umpire: Person who had an active umpiring career for a minimum of 10 years (including 5 Provincial/National Championships).

Organizer/Builder: Sportsmen/women of Ontario who have rendered prolonged and meritorious service to slo-pitch softball with a minimum of 15 years of active involvement. (Could also be a team sponsor, convenor or director.)

Team: A team having an outstanding record over a minimum of 3 years.

General Provisions

Additional information and Nomination Forms are available from the SPO Office or from our website. Nominations must be in the hands of the Committee no later than October 1st for consideration that year. All candidates must be a Member in good standing.

Slo-Pitch Ontario officially opened its Hall of Fame at the 1996 Annual General Meeting, held in St. Catharines, Ontario. In its inaugural year, the Selection Committee symbolically chose only one person to induct into the Hall... That person was Chuck Peet, the founding father of Slo-Pitch Ontario.

SPO HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

1996	Organizer/Builder	Chuck Peet, St. Catharines
1999	Organizer/Builder	Danny Adamson, Stoney Creek
	Organizer/Builder	Don Bowers, St. Catharines
	Organizer/Builder	Bill Cowie, Brampton
	Organizer/Builder	Jim Vlaikov, Hamilton
	Organizer/Builder	Bob Weedon, Chatham
	Organizer/Builder	Labatt Breweries Ontario
2000	Organizer/Builder	Ken Benjamin, London
	Player	Sue Regan, London
2001	Organizer/Builder	Irv Fast, St. Catharines
2002	Organizer/Builder	Dana McKiel, Toronto
	Organizer/Builder	Peter McKiel, Toronto
2003	Organizer/Builder	Bob Hanson, Windsor
2005	Organizer/Builder	Fred Ward, Dorchester
2006	Organizer/Builder	Bernard White, Ottawa
2007	Organizer/Builder	Nick Owen, Barrie
2008	Organizer/Builder	Bernie Hough, Kearney
	Team	Toronto Orioles, Toronto
2011	Organizer/Builder	Randy Beatty – Rawlings Canada
2012	Player	Mike McColman, Thessalon
2013	Umpire	Jack Van Bynen, London
2015	Builder	Gary Baker, Kingsville
2016	Builder	John Ariss, Burlington
	Builder	Ron Hawthorne, Kanata
2017	Coach	Neil Teague, Milton

We extend our sincerest congratulations to each and every Member on this remarkable and very honorable achievement!

SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

MENS A

2017	HR Sports ... Era 67 O's	Barrie
2016	Mizuno Canucks	Toronto
2015	Sniper / Battalion Sports Canucks	Ancaster
2014	HR Sports ... Era 67 O's	Barrie
2013	Ting's Moving/HR Sports Orioles	Barrie

MENS B

2017	Unleashed	Toronto
2016	Biosweep/Millwood Diamondbacks	Whitby
2015	Angels	Guelph
2014	The Crane	Sault Ste Marie
2013	D2E / R U Kiddin' Me	St. Thomas

MENS C

2017	Lycans	Elmira
2016	Bisons	Owen Sound
2015	For A Joke	St Thomas
2014	Pop A Top	London
2013	No Stars	Amherstburg

MENS D

2017	The Bowery	Windsor
2016	Cramdons BS	Tecumseh
2015	Merchants	Allison
2014	Lycans	Elmira
2013	Blitz	Toronto

MENS E

2017	Platinum – The Zone Benders	Tecumseh
	Gold – Thundercats	Markham
	Silver – Ball Busters	Belle River

	Bronze - Spartans	Guelph
2016	Barrie Rebels	Barrie
2015	MasterBatters	Virgil
2014	North Stars	Campbellville
2013	Zoomers	Brantford

MENS MASTERS 70+

2017	Brantford Nissan 70	Brantford
2016	Windsor Chiefs 70	Windsor
2015	Dorchester Canadians	London
2014	Windsor Chiefs 70	Windsor

MENS MASTERS 65+

2017	Carr's Shell	London
2016	Windsor Chiefs 65	Windsor
2015	Windsor Chiefs 65	Windsor
2014	Windsor Chiefs 65	Windsor
2013	Windsor Chiefs 65	Windsor

MENS MASTERS 60+

2017	Windsor Chiefs 60	Windsor
2016	Windsor Chiefs 60	Windsor
2015	Windsor Chiefs 60	Windsor
2014	Windsor Chiefs 60	Windsor
2013	Windsor Chiefs 60	Windsor

MENS MASTERS 55+

2017	Hewcor Bandits 55	Burlington
2016	Hewcor Bandits 55	Burlington
2015	Windsor Chiefs 55	Windsor
2014	Windsor Chiefs 55	Windsor
2013	Windsor Chiefs	Windsor

MENS MASTERS 50+

2017	Intermediate – The Edge 50	Chatham
	Recreational – Wal-Tech Drainage	London
2016	Competitive – Homerlovers	Whitby
	Intermediate - Posse	Lasalle
2015	Competitive – Homerlovers	Whitby
	Intermediate – Basher Boyz	Dutton
2014	Fog 50	Windsor
2013	Competitive – Bandits	Toronto
	Recreational – Durham Silver Stix	Whitby

MENS MASTERS 40+ INTERMEDIATE

2017	RODJ Masters Cardinals	Kitchener
2016	Enercare	London
2015	Watford Huskies	Walkerton
2014	Oshawa Bulldogs	Oshawa
2013	Watford Huskies	Waterloo

MENS MASTERS 40+ RECREATIONAL

2017	No Competition Held	-
2016	No Competition Held	-
2015	No Competition Held	-
2014	Ultimate Sports Bar	Chatham
2013	No Competition Held	-

MENS MASTERS 35+ COMPETITIVE

2017	Homer Lovers Masters	Kitchener
2016	Homer Lovers Masters	Kitchener
2015	Hammerheads	Ajax
2014	Cardinals Masters	Aylmer
2013	Hammerheads	Ajax

MENS MASTERS 35+ INTERMEDIATE

2017	Silver Stix	Toronto
2016	Wild Wing Beerbellies	Barrie
2015	RODJ Cardinals	Kitchener
2014	Tillsonburg Astros	Tillsonburg

MENS MASTERS 35+ RECREATIONAL

2017	Gong Show	Janetville
2016	NUX	Mississauga
2015	Kelsey's Three Baggers	Woodstock
2014	Angry Jacks – Vipers	Brampton
2013	Gym Class Heroes	Belleville

WOMENS A

2017	Lady Mets Battalion	Scarborough
2016	Lady Gryphons	Guelph
2015	HR Sports Mizuno Lady Birds	Toronto
2014	HR Sports Mizuno Lady Birds	Toronto
2013	HR Sports/Mizuno Lady Birds	Toronto

WOMENS B/C

2017	Womens B – Phoenix	St Thomas
	Womens C – Caught Looking	Kitchener
2016	Womens B – Unleashed	Woodstock
	Womens C – Jabb	Cottam
2015	Womens B – Pop A Top	Belmont
	Womens C – Weekend Pass	Peterborough
2014	Lady Nationals	Mississauga
2013	WhoozeUp	Dorchester

WOMENS D

2017	Lady Rookies	Mississauga
2016	Sommerville's	Port Hope
2015	Crazy Pitches	Emeryville
2014	Tornadoes	Chatham
2013	Sommerville's	Port Hope

WOMENS E

2017	Paul Davis	North Bay
2016	Aggressive Flamingos	Amherstburg
2015	Sweet Escape	Barrie

2014	Vixens	Cambridge
2013	2 Extreme	St. Catharines

WOMENS MASTERS 35+

2017	Fury	Niagara Falls
2016	JABB	Cottam
2015	Sticky Fingers	Victoria Harbour
2014	Competitive - Neilson Dairy	London
	Intermediate - Cougar Town	Kitchener
2012	SPC WhoozeUp	Dorchester

COED COMPETITIVE

2017	Garden Gnomes	Whitby
2016	No Competition Held	-
2015	No Competition Held	-
2014	No Competition Held	-
2013	No Competition Held	-

COED C

2017	Jack'd Up	Innisfil
2016	Purple Cobras	Hamilton
2015	Happy Endings	Brampton
2014	Whiskey Tango Foxtrot	Millbrook
2013	5/5 – Thundercats	Brampton

COED D

2017	Ganaraska Gladiators	Cobourg
2016	Louisville Chuggers	Harrow
2015	Wingnuts	Hamilton
2014	The Leftovers	Woodbridge
	5/5 – Karma	Kitchener
2013	6/4 – That's What She Said	Milton

COED E

	Gold – Extreme Jays	Brampton
2017	Silver – Make It A Double	Guelph
	Bronze – I'd Hit That	Fergus

	Platinum – Last 2 Leave	Brampton
	Gold – Enchanted Unicorns	Windsor
2016	Silver – Make It A Double	Guelph
	Bronze – Avengers	Campbellcroft
2015	Wellington Pharmacy	Picton
2014	Shredders	Cambridge
	5/5 – Juiced	Kitchener
2013	6/4 – Bean Flickers	Cambridge

NO-HIT GAMES

The following players have achieved the rare accomplishment of pitching a no-hit game in a slo-pitch tournament:

John Cammelia

Boots Tavern, St. Catharines
June 28, 1986

John Nagtzaam

Ayr Feed Bags, Aylmer
October 18, 1986

Jim Simmons

Carey's Brew Jays, Simcoe
August 6, 1988

Ken Meloche

Phase One Rockies, St. Catharines
September, 1994

Mike Power

Dr. & His Patients, Oshawa
August, 2002

Iain McGlade

Gandrians, Mississauga
August, 2007

Ron McGarvey

Owen Sound Bears, Owen Sound
July 6, 2014

SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

PLAYING PROCEDURES

Slo-Pitch is a variation of the game of softball. Softball was originally played as an indoor version of baseball. Formalized rules were set up in 1923 and softball has become an international game played by both men and women, and boys and girls around the world. It is basically a stick and ball game played on a field with four bases in a square pattern called a diamond. Each team gets an equal number of chances (called an inning) to earn runs. Each team's inning continues until three players have been dismissed (called "out"). The winning team is the team that records the most runs. A run is earned by each runner that successfully advances, in the proper progression, around all four bases. Slo-pitch is intended as a game of hitting, base running, and fielding, conducted in a friendly, sportsmanlike competition.

The playing rules for all slo-pitch games in Ontario shall be the current edition of the Softball Canada Rules with certain exceptions as may be included below. Any exceptions that are **bolded** (not including subtitles, headings, etc.) are changes made to the last edition of this Handbook. The following procedures are not intended to fully constitute the Rules of the game, but simply help list the special SPO rule differences, as well as outline some of the basic concepts of the game of slo-pitch. Any protests must refer to the official Softball Canada playing rules. *(The masculine form of personal pronouns is used to assist readability. All masculine pronouns (except when referring to male categories) represents both males and females.)*

Playing Field

Bases are 70 feet apart (all divisions).

Pitching distance is 50 - 60 feet.

Pitching Box: 2 feet wide by 10 feet long. Its front edge shall be in a line between home plate and second base and 50 feet from the back corner of home plate.

Batter's box is 7 feet by 3 feet.

Double base shall be used at first base.

Coaches' Box is 15 feet by 5 feet and 12 feet back from the foul line.

Strike Mat / Home Plate: A mat 2 feet by 3 feet.

All Masters / All Seniors / All Coed / All D & E: A **scoring line** at home plate and a commitment line 21 feet from home plate shall be used.

Equipment

Minimum uniform shall be identical shirts with identifiable ten (10) cm high numbers on the back.

Gloves may be worn by any player. Trappers may be worn by the catcher, pitcher and first baseman only.

Shoes may not have metal cleats.

Caps, if worn, must face forward.

Bats: Must be approved by SPO. See SPO website for Approved Ball list.

Balls: Mens: Restricted flight 12". See SPO website for Approved Ball list.

Womens: Restricted flight 11". See SPO website for Approved Ball list.

Optic yellow colour is recommended, but white is also acceptable.

Helmets: Approved helmets may be worn by any player.

NOTE: In the interest of player safety, SPO strongly recommends the use of approved helmets for all offensive players to include batter, baserunner and on-deck batter.

Facemasks: Facemasks with head protection may be worn by any pitcher.

NOTE: In the interest of player safety, SPO strongly recommends the use of facemasks with head protection by all pitchers.

Approved equipment cannot be unnaturally altered or changed, for example icing, cooling, warming or heating of any equipment. Warming devices for bats are not approved.

A flare or cone grip may be attached from the factory, or a commercially-produced flare or cone may be attached to the bat by the player, provided it is installed properly to the bat. The flare or cone must be permanently attached, or attached with safety tape. The bat must meet all requirements of Rule 3, Sec. 1 (Softball Canada) after installation to be considered legal. Any tape applied to the safety grip must be a continuous spiral. An attachment may not extend beyond the end of the bat. The grip must demonstrate that the bat will not slip through the hand. Officials may deem unacceptable any grip and attachment they feel is unsafe.

Team

The batting order shall consist of a minimum of 10 players.

Extra Players: Teams may use unlimited "EXTRA PLAYERS(S)". The total number of regular players (10) and extra players may not exceed the number of players on the team's legal roster (maximum 20). If more than 10 players are on the batting order, any 10 may play defense.

- a. If a player is unable to continue in the game and no legal substitute is available when he is due up to bat, he is declared out and play continues with the next batter in the batting order. If, with 2 out, the batter before the missing player is walked (intentional or unintentional), the automatic out is waived and the next batter will bat. (This does not apply if the player is declared unable to continue just prior to the team's offensive half of the inning.)
- b. The manager of the player unable to bat is responsible for notifying the plate umpire of this situation. Failure to do this will result with the manager being ejected.
- c. A team must have a minimum of ten (10) players to start and to continue the game. If a team has less than ten (10) players the game is forfeited.

- d. Short-Handed Rule (optional): Teams may start a game with a minimum of nine (9) players. However, an out shall be declared when the tenth position in the line-up is scheduled to bat. A tenth player may be added to the tenth position any time before the end of the game. Any team that starts a game with ten (10) or more players may drop to the minimum of nine (9) players to finish the game. All vacant spot(s) in the line-up will be declared an out every time that line-up position is due to bat. Exception: If a player is ejected from the game, leaving a team with less than ten (10) players, the game is forfeited.
- e. A team may not add extra player(s) at a later time. Any player that leaves the game for any reason may not return to the game. If a player is ejected from the game for any reason leaving the team with less than ten players, the ejected player's team must have a substitute available to replace the ejected player or that team will forfeit the game. Exception: A player, who has left the game under the blood rule, may return.

Substitutions: Any player in the batting order may be replaced during any stoppage of play with a legal rostered player not already in the batting order. Each starting player may re-enter the game once in the same position in the batting order. Substitutes must be listed on the lineup card.

Blood Rule

Any participant (player, coach or umpire) who is bleeding or has blood on his uniform may not participate until the bleeding is controlled and his soiled uniform changed. The replacement uniform need not conform to the official team uniform. If the cleanup and/or uniform change can be accomplished quickly, play would be suspended until the participant is ready to play. If this cannot be done quickly, the player is removed from the game and replaced by a Replacement Player (may not be a player listed in the batting order.) who may act for the removed player for the remainder of the inning in progress and the following complete inning. When the player has had the bleeding controlled and the soiled uniform replaced, he **must** resume his place in the game. Should he not be able to return to the game within the time described, an official substitution must be made. The use of a replacement player is not counted as an official substitution, meaning, the player may leave the game again and be re-entered (if a starting player) and also the player that was used as the replacement for him is still a legal substitute and may be used later in the game. If a player is removed due to blood and the team does not have a legal substitute/replacement available when needed, his place in the batting order is simply missed and there is no penalty.

Courtesy Runner

- a. A team may use a maximum of three (3) courtesy runners per game.
Exceptions: 35+, 40+ & 45+ (4); 50+ & 55+ (7 – The same runner may not run twice.); 60+, 65+ & 70+ (Unlimited – A runner may run only once per inning.).
- b. The courtesy runner may be any player on the official roster and listed on the official lineup.

- c. The courtesy runner must be announced to the home plate umpire before he takes his place on the base. Failure to do so will result in the courtesy runner being removed from the base and the loss of that courtesy runner. This must be appealed after a pitch has been thrown.
- d. If the courtesy runner is due up to bat, the team may:
 - i) use another courtesy runner and have the original courtesy runner come to bat; OR
 - ii) use a substitute or utilize the re-entry rule (if applicable) to go up to bat leaving the original courtesy runner on base; OR
 - iii) if i) or ii) is not implemented, the batter is ruled out but remains on base as the courtesy runner and the next batter in the lineup comes to bat.

Starting The Game

A coin toss, with the winner determining which team will bat second.

Duration

A game consists of seven (7) innings. The game ends if the team batting second has scored more runs in six innings or before the third out in the last half of the seventh inning than the other team has scored in seven innings. A tied game will continue with extra innings until one side has scored more runs at the end of a completed inning, or until the team batting second scores more in their half inning before their third out. A game stopped by the umpire will be considered complete if five innings (4½ innings if the second batting team is leading) have been completed.

Mercy Rule

A team shall be declared winner if they are 12 or more runs ahead of the opposition after five (or six innings if the visiting team) or after four and one half, five and one half or six and one half innings if the home team. A team may voluntarily withdraw from the game if they are losing by 15 or more runs any time after 3 innings (2½ innings if visiting team).

NOTE: All E divisions & Seniors 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ & 70+: A maximum of 5 runs per inning may be scored. (Exception: 7th inning and, in the event of a tie after the 7th inning, any subsequent inning). If, with runners on base, a player hits an over the fence home run which scores more than the allowable 5 runs per inning, the home run will count towards the team's Home Run total. A team 17 or more runs ahead after 3½ (if the home team) or 4 innings (if the visiting team) shall be declared the winner.

Forfeits

A game shall be declared a forfeit if a team fails to field the required number of players prior to or during the game, refuses to continue the game after a suspension of play, intentionally tries to delay or hasten the game, or intentionally violates a rule of the game after being warned by the umpire. A forfeit shall be declared if a player, ejected from the game by an umpire, does not leave the park when directed to do

so. When a player is ejected and must leave the ball park, that player must move far enough away so that they may not be seen or heard by the participants of the game and may not participate with the game in any manner.

Profanity

Any team member openly using profanity during a game shall be ejected from further participation in that game.

Jewellery

(Youth Only) A batter or runner is ruled out immediately if discovered wearing exposed jewellery. Any advance by other runners as a result of this player batting the ball is nullified. If, after making a play, a defensive player is discovered wearing exposed jewellery, the manager of the offensive team may take the result of the play or have the play nullified, and have the batter return to bat with the same count as before the infraction and all runners must return to their previous base. In all cases, the player must remove the jewellery.

NOTE: Facial jewellery may not be covered with tape.

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that no jewellery of any type be worn in any SPO play. If worn, each player is solely responsible for any injury/damage that may be caused by this jewellery. The umpire may have any player removed any jewellery or equipment that he deems dangerous.

Scoring

A run is scored when a player safely touches, in order first base, second base, third base and home plate. A runner may not score ahead of a preceding runner who has not been retired. A run may not score if the last out of an inning is a force out or a preceding runner declared out. The score of a forfeited game shall be 7-0 in favour of the team not at fault.

Home Run Rule

A limit of over the fence home runs will be used in all divisions. A batter hitting a ball over the fence in a game in excess of the limit shall be ruled out. Any ball touched by a defensive player which then goes over the fence in fair territory shall be a four base award and not considered a home run. **A fair batted fly ball, untouched by a fielder, that makes contact with the ground, or an object beyond the outfield fence, or with a foul pole above the outfield fence line, shall be a home run.** If a player hits an over the fence home run but then misses a base and/or does not score it will count towards the team home run total. If a batter is ruled out because of the excessive home run rule, the ball is dead, no runs may score and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

Mens: A – 7; B – 5; C – 3; D – 2; E – 1.

Womens: A – 7; B – 5; C – 3; D – 2; E – 1.

Mens Masters 35+, 40+, 45+: Competitive – 5; Intermediate – 3; Recreational – 1.

Mens Seniors 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+: 3.

Womens Masters and Seniors: 2.

Walk Off Home Run - On any fair-batted ball hit over the fence (touched or untouched) for a home run, the batter and all runners are credited with a score. The batter and any runners do not run the bases but go directly to their team area.

Pitching

Before each pitch, the pitcher must stand with one foot (pivot) in contact with the pitcher's box, facing the batter with the ball held in one hand. This position must be maintained for 1 - 5 seconds.

The delivery starts when the pitcher makes any motion of his windup after the required pause. A step may be taken in any direction simultaneous with the release of the pitch provided the pivot foot remains in contact with the box until the pitch is released.

The pitch shall be delivered with an underhand motion and at a moderate speed. Any type of windup is legal provided the ball is pitched immediately after the pitching motion, there is no stoppage or reversal of motion, there is not more than one revolution in a "windmill" pitch, and the windup does not continue after the delivery of the ball. Any infraction of these rules shall constitute an illegal pitch. No pitch is declared if the pitcher pitches:

- during a dead ball;
- before the batter and/or umpire are ready;
- when a runner is out for leaving a base too soon.

The ball is dead after a strike or ball is called. (Runners may not advance.)

Batting

Players must bat in the order listed on the batting order. If a player's turn at bat has not ended when his team's half-inning ends, he is the first to bat in the next half-inning. The batter must take his position within the batter's box within 10 seconds. Substitutes must bat in the position in the batting order of the person they replace. A strike is a legally pitched ball that makes contact with the mat, any pitched ball swung at and missed by the batter, or a batted ball that is ruled foul. A ball is a legally pitched ball that lands outside the strike mat and not swung at by the batter or an illegally pitched ball that the batter does not swing at. All batters in Mens A, B and C, Womens A, B and C, Mens Masters 35+ and 40+, 50+ (Competitive and Intermediate) and 55+, and Coed A and B shall start with a 1-1 (1 ball and 1 strike) count.

A batted ball may be classified as one of the following:

- fly ball - a batted ball that has not yet touched the ground or any object other than a fielder;
- line drive - a fly ball that is batted sharply and directly into the playing field;

- bunt - a tapped ball not swung at but met with the bat;
- chopped ball - a batted ball intentionally directed downward so that the ball bounces high into the air;
- ground ball - a batted ball that touches the ground, an umpire (in fair territory), or a runner (after a fielder has had a chance to make a play on it);
- infield fly - a fair fly ball that can be caught by an infielder with a normal effort.

Batted balls are ruled fair (batter and runners may advance) or foul (a strike) by the umpire.

An illegally batted ball occurs when the batter steps on the mat or has his foot on the ground completely in front or behind the mat when the bat contacts the ball.

A batter shall be ejected from the game if he is discovered to be using an altered bat or a non-approved bat after entering the batter's box. The ejected player is suspended for the remainder of the tournament with a review by the Disciplinary Committee. A second offence will result in a minimum of one year suspension.

NOTE: An altered bat is one that has had its physical structure changed, including, but not limited to:

1. the bat has had the surface of the barrel or the taper changed in any way such as by sandpapering or applying a solvent to the surface such as fingernail polish remover or by any other means;
2. the bat has had the plug or the knob removed/replaced or changed in any way;
3. the bat has had anything removed or added or inserted to the inside or outside of the bat other than tape at the handle or knob;
4. the bat has been repainted.

Other examples of an altered bat would be changing or replacing manufacturers' markings or replacing the handle of the metal bat with a wooden handle.

Cracked, worn, or damaged bats are not altered bats, but will be removed from play. Such cracked, worn, or damaged bats will not result in a player suspension unless the player returned the offending bat into play after it has been removed.

Running

The batter may proceed around the bases:

- when he hits a fair ball;
- after four balls or an intentional walk;
- after interference by the catcher.

When the batter runs to first, he may overrun first base and safely return to the base provided he does not try to advance to second base. In Seniors 60+ and older, the runner may overrun all bases.

On the batter's first attempt at first base and a play is made a first, he must use the orange portion of the Double Base. Once the batter has safely reached first base, he must now use the white portion. The defensive player always uses the white portion.

A runner may run the bases:

- when a fair ball is caught;
- when a caught fly ball is first touched;
- when the ball is overthrown and remains in play.

A runner is advanced:

- when a fair batted ball goes out of play (2 bases awarded from the time of the pitch);
- when a thrown (2 bases) or batted ball (3 bases) is contacted by a thrown glove (awarded from the time of the pitch);
- if forced when the batter is awarded a base on balls;
- when a live ball is carried or dropped out of play (1 base awarded from the time the ball became dead);
- when the ball is overthrown and goes out of play (two bases awarded from the time of the throw);
- when a defensive player obstructs the runner as he progresses around the base path; The umpire will award the placement he felt the runner would have made had there been no obstruction.

All awarded bases are from the last base legally touched and must be touched in the proper order.

A runner must return to the base:

- when the pitcher is ready to pitch. (If he is not in contact with the base, he is declared out for a leadoff);
- when a foul ball is hit;
- when the batter or another runner interferes with the defensive team (unless forced by the batter being awarded first base);
- when the ball is batted illegally;
- when a fly ball is caught. He may advance when the ball is first touched by a fielder;
- during a live ball, a runner may return to touch a base unless he has left the field of play or a succeeding runner has scored. He must proceed in reverse order touching all intervening bases;
- during a dead ball, a runner may return to touch a base.

Dismissals

A batter is out. The ball is dead and no runners may advance if:

- he has three strikes;
- he illegally bats the ball;
- he bunts or chops downward on a pitch;

- a fielder deliberately drops a fly ball with at least a runner on first base and less than two out;
- he enters the batter's box with an illegal or altered bat;
- the batter before reaching first base, retreats towards home plate to avoid a tag;
- the batter hits an over the fence homerun in excess of the team limit;
- the batter is discovered to be wearing exposed jewellery (Youth only).

A batter is out. The ball is alive and runners may advance if:

- his fly ball (fair or foul) is legally caught;
- on a fair ball not caught on the fly, the ball is held by a fielder while touching first base before the batter touches first base;
- he hits an infield fly with less than two out and runners on first and second or first, second and third.

A runner is out, and the ball is dead if:

- on a pitched ball, he leaves the base before the ball has reached the plate, hits the ground or is swung at by the batter;
- he fails to return to his base following a halt in play;
- while off the base, he is hit by a fair batted ball before it has passed an infielder;
- he deliberately runs into a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to tag him;
- he interferes with an attempt to field a ball or with a thrown ball;
- the runner is discovered to be wearing exposed jewellery (Youth only).

A runner is out, and the ball is alive if:

- he runs more than 1 metre outside the established basepath to avoid a tag;
- on a force out, the fielder, while holding the ball, touches the base before the runner;
- while off his base, he is touched with the ball held by a fielder;
- he overtakes a preceding runner;
- a coach physically assists him.

A runner is not out if:

- he is touched by a fielder who does not have or does not maintain control of the ball;
- he runs outside the baseline to avoid interfering with a fielder fielding a ball;
- he is unintentionally hit by a batted ball while on a base;
- he is unintentionally hit by a batted ball while off a base, if no fielder has a chance to field the ball.

Note: A batter or runner is not out if the fielder making a play on him uses an illegal glove or (Youth only) is discovered to be wearing exposed jewellery.

Explanations:

Basepath - An imaginary line from the runner to the base to which he is advancing.

Catch - A catch is not completed until the fielder securely holds the ball in his hand or his glove (which is properly worn on his hand) long enough to prove he has control of the ball and any release of the ball is voluntary or intentional. If the ball has hit anything other than the fielder or another fielder, it cannot be a caught fly ball.

Commitment Line - A line in foul territory drawn 21 feet from the back of home plate and perpendicular to the third base line. When a runner crosses this line by touching the ground beyond the line but does not reach home plate, he shall be called out when the ball is legally held by a defensive player in contact with home plate. Runners, who have not crossed the line or who cross the line but must tag up on a caught fly ball, may return to third base.

Fair Ball - A batted ball that is touched while on or above fair ground, stops on fair territory within the infield, contacts a base, bounces over first or third base, or first lands on fair ground beyond the infield.

Foul Ball - A batted ball that is not fair.

Inbounds - The ball or a player is in bounds until they touch the ground or an object that is outside the designated playing area.

Interference - An offensive team player may not do anything to confuse, distract or hinder a fielder making a play.

Obstruction - A defensive player may not hinder or restrict a runner from progressing from base to base unless fielding a batted ball or in possession of the ball.

Scoring Line - A line drawn in foul territory starting at the top left-hand corner of home plate perpendicular to the third base line. A runner attempting to reach home must do so by touching the ground in foul territory on or beyond the **scoring line**. **Sliding into the scoring line is permitted. Tagging of a runner in between the commitment line and the scoring line is permitted.** The runner is out if he touches home plate, whether or not a play is being made. A runner is not out if the plate is touched in an attempt to avoid a collision or touched by any incidental contact after he has crossed the **scoring line**.

COED PLAYING PROCEDURES

The following are additional regulations to the general rules, designated for Coed play only.

Playing Field

A defensive line consisting of an arc of 175 feet from home plate shall be used. No outfielder (minimum of four) is allowed in front of this line until the ball is hit. If this

is violated, the offense has the option of taking the result of the play or an award of one base to the batter and all runners.

No outfielder may make a **direct throw** force out at first base.

A **scoring line** at home plate and commitment line 21 feet from home plate shall be used.

Bases are 70 feet apart.

Ball

All divisions: Restricted flight 12 inch. See SPO website for Approved Ball.

Optic yellow colour is recommended, but white is also acceptable.

Batting Order

The batting order consists of a minimum of 10 players (*minimum 4 males and 4 females*). Any 10 (*maximum 6 males and minimum of 4 females*) may play defense. The batting order must alternate sexes with the exception that no more than 2 males may ever bat back to back. This will happen twice in the order. In the event of a team playing 5 males and 5 females, the batting order will alternate sexes. If there are 6 females and 4 males then the batting order must alternate sexes with the exception that no more than 2 females may ever bat back to back. Again, this will happen twice in the order.

Extra Players: Additional players, up to the number of players on the team's legal roster (maximum 20), may be used. They must be added in pairs, one male and one female. (Teams must be 6/4, 7/5, 8/6, etc.) If more than 10 players are on the batting order, any 10 (minimum 4 females) may play defense.

If a player is unable to continue the game and no legal substitute is available when he/she is due up to bat, the batter is declared out. Play continues with the next player in the batting order coming to bat. If, with 2 out, the batter before the missing player is walked (intentional or unintentional), the automatic out is waived and the next batter will bat. (This does not apply if the player is declared unable to continue just prior to the team's offensive half of the inning).

A team may not add extra player(s) at a later time. Any player that leaves the game for any reason may not return to the game. If any player leaves the game for any reason, leaving the team with less than ten players, the team must have a substitute available to replace the absent player or that team will forfeit the game.

Substitution

Substitutes must be listed on the lineup card. A male may substitute for a male and a female may substitute for a female or a male.

Walks

When a male batter who is followed by a female receives ANY walk, he is awarded second base and the female batter must take her turn at bat. When a male batter who is followed by a male batter receives ANY walk, he is awarded first base only.

Courtesy Runners

It must be male for male, or female for male or female.

Home Run Rule

A home run limit will be used in all Coed divisions.

Coed A – 5; Coed B – 5; Coed C – 3; Coed C – 3; Coed D – 2; Coed E – 1.

3-PITCH RULES

The game of 3-pitch uses the regular slo-pitch rules with the following additional regulations:

- The batting order consists of a minimum of 10 players (Coed: Minimum 4 females). Any 10 (Coed: Maximum 6 males and minimum of 4 females) may play defense. Coed: Batting order must alternate sexes with the exception that no more than 2 males may ever bat back to back.
- The offensive team supplies the pitcher who must pitch from between 40 feet and 50 feet in line with second base. The pitcher may be any legal rostered player.
- Each batter is allowed a maximum of three (3) pitches to hit a fair ball.
- If a batted ball contacts the pitcher, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and the runners return to last base legally possessed at the time of the pitch.
- Runners must maintain contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- The pitcher may not touch the ball while the defense is making a play. Balls from the outfield must go to an infielder who will return it to the pitcher when play has ceased. If the pitcher interferes with a play by the defensive team, the ball is dead and the runner nearest home plate is out.
- Home Run Rule: No out of the park home runs are allowed.
- Coed: A defensive line consisting of an arc 175 feet from home plate shall be used. No outfielder (minimum of 4) is allowed in front of this line until the ball is hit. If this is violated, the offense has the option of taking the result of the play or an award of one base to the batter and all runners.
- No outfielder may make a **direct throw** force out at first base.

SPORTSMANSHIP

*"For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name,
He writes - not that you won or lost - but how you played the Game."
(Grantland Rice, 1880-1954)*

It seems in sports today, the concept of good sportsmanship has been lost. While winning at all costs and poor sportsmanship may be condoned and even promoted in professional sports, this does not mean it is the proper way for athletes to behave. The image you project as an athlete is a product of your character. Good sportsmanship is not just what you do on the field, it is hopefully the way you conduct yourself off the field as well. Unsportsmanlike behaviour (acts that are unfair, dishonest, disrespectful or against the rules) are unsportsmanlike because they are unethical and if you are unethical in sports, can you be ethical in the other areas of your life - your business dealings, your treatment of others, your family?

SPO expects all participants to follow the basics of sportsmanship. Some general rules to be a good sport are as follows:

RULES OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

1. The "Golden Rule" - Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Show respect for them if you expect it for yourself.
2. Have an understanding and an appreciation of the rules. The spirit of good sportsmanship depends on conforming to the intent of the rule and not looking for a loop hole. (Example - all players present must bat so several weak hitters are asked to stay home for an important game.)
3. Enjoy yourself and encourage enjoyment for others. We play sports for recreation so let's make it that.
4. Take responsibility for your actions. Don't blame others for your mistakes or find excuses for poor behaviour.
5. Recognize and appreciate good performances, especially by the opponent. Applause for an opponent's good play demonstrates generosity and courtesy. It shows a true awareness of the game and athletic ability.
6. Exhibit respect for the officials. Umpires are impartial arbitrators who perform to the best of their ability to make sure the game is played fair and within the rules. Mistakes made by all those involved are part of the game and must be accepted.
7. Expect proper behaviour from your teammates. If you allow a teammate to cheat, to play dangerously, to argue and scream at officials, you are condoning that behaviour.



CODE OF CONDUCT

All slo-pitch participants are expected to, at all times, display respect the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, officials, other volunteers, media, friends and spectators and treat everyone equally regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability. This will be demonstrated by following the Code of Conduct.

- **No Team Member or Fan** will conduct themselves in behaviour contrary to this Code both on and off the field.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will cause any form of personal abuse, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse, towards other athletes, officials, host personnel, spectators and others.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will refuse to abide by an official's decision, threaten an official, or at any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or make incidental physical contact with the body or kick dirt or other matter on the official or attempt to cause physical contact when disputing a decision. This includes causing or attempting to cause physical contact another participant at the tournament.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will make any disparaging remarks or actions towards other athletes, officials, host personnel, spectators and others.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will react in a violent manner to any incident nor use any form of profane, vulgar, obscene or abusive language or gestures, whether it is directed at an official, opponent, playing colleague, team official, tournament official or spectator. Neither will they tolerate profane, vulgar, obscene or abusive language or gestures from any supporters and other members of their team.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will use intimidating or threatening behaviour towards officials, opponents, playing colleagues, team officials, tournament personnel or spectators nor will they permit any others to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass, or threaten an official.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will make objectionable demonstrations by throwing bats, gloves or other equipment in a forceful manner.

- **No Team Member** will discuss publicly with participants and spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner any decision by the officials or any opinions of players.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will cause the destruction of property belonging to others.
- **No Team Member** will use any intoxicating substances during the course of the game, or appear to be in an intoxicated condition.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will harass, heckle, insult, jeer, or use verbal tactics to embarrass or insult an association representative, employee or other participant at the site before, during or after a game.
- **No Team Member or Person** involved with any team in any capacity will make derogatory, disdainful or disparaging comments or remarks regarding any person or program connected to the Association on any public forum, message board, bulletin board or social media.
- **No Team Member** will use any improper and unapproved equipment.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will give false or misleading information or fail to cooperate with a legitimate request from a Slo-Pitch Ontario official in the discharge of his/her official duties.
- **No Team Member or Fan**, when requested by the game official, will refuse to assist him/her in the enforcement of this Code of Conduct and the control of players making threats.
- **No Team Member or Fan** will engage in a continuous verbal attack upon an official or other participant or spectator after they have been ejected from a game or make a verbal threat of physical violence upon an official.

SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

In this Policy, the term *SPO Official/Director* refers to Board Members, Zone Directors, Tournament Directors, game Umpires, Tournament UICs, or Umpire Program personnel.

The term *Discipline Committee* refers to a 3-person committee appointed by the CEO and comprised of the President or a designate, a Director from the involved Zone, and one other individual. The Committee will appoint its own Chair.

The term *Discipline Appeal Committee* refers to a 3-person committee appointed by the CEO and comprised of three SPO Directors who have not been involved with the discipline process or the incident. The Committee will appoint its own Chair.

All Members of Slo-Pitch Ontario (SPO) and all participants in the activities of SPO are expected comply at all times with the By-laws, policies, rules and regulations of SPO and to abide by the SPO Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary Policy Involving Individuals at SPO Sanctioned Events

Any incident at a SPO-sanctioned event that is deemed by a SPO Official/Director associated with the event to warrant disciplinary action will be reported to the SPO Office by means of an Incident Report. In addition, any individual may report to a SPO Official/Director a complaint of an infraction. Such complaint must be in writing and must be made within 14 days of the alleged infraction.

Upon receiving the report, the CEO will review the report and may:

- Dismiss the report if he or she considers it is trivial or vexatious;
- Determine that the incident does not fall within the jurisdiction of this Policy and refer it to the appropriate body having jurisdiction;
- Direct that the incident be dealt with informally by the person having appropriate authority;
- Determine that the incident is so serious that the Member should be suspended immediately, pending resolution of the incident using this Policy;
- Refer the matter to the Discipline Committee to deal with as a major infraction.

If the incident is referred to the Discipline Committee, the person(s) named in the report will be notified that a Discipline Committee Meeting is being held. The Chair of the Discipline Committee will inform the person(s) named in the report that they may submit a written statement as to their role in the incident, to be received at the SPO Office within 10 days.

The Discipline Committee Chairman will gather the necessary information from appropriate sources, including the person(s) named in the report, and will designate a time and location for a meeting of the Discipline Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee will review all information received and, if it feels sufficient information is available, a decision will be made. The Disciplinary Committee may also determine that it should convene a hearing of the parties and witnesses to obtain further information to ensure a fair decision.

The Disciplinary Committee may determine that no further action should be taken in regard to the incident, in which case the matter will be closed. If the Discipline Committee determines that further action should be taken, it may decide to impose a Reprimand, Probation or Suspension, using the SPO Tournament Operating Rules Section 2: Penalties and Suspensions as a guideline.

A person disciplined may appeal the decision of the Discipline Committee. The appeal must be made within 14 days to the Discipline Appeal Committee, who will review the matter using fair procedures, and may uphold, modify or overturn the Discipline Committee decision.

Any person who is suspended under this Policy may request a review of the suspension on or after its anniversary. Such a review will be conducted by the Discipline Committee that imposed the suspension.

Disciplinary Policy Involving Individuals Suspended by a League

When a league suspends a person, they may forward the report to the SPO Office with a request that the league suspension be recognized by SPO and be extended to all SPO-sanctioned events.

Upon receiving the request, the CEO will refer it to the Discipline Committee. The Chair of the Discipline Committee will notify the person suspended that a Discipline Committee Meeting is being held, and will invite the person suspended to submit a written statement as to the request, to be received at the SPO Office within 10 days.

The Discipline Committee will review all information received from the league and from the person suspended, and will make a decision to deny or agree to the request. If the decision is to agree to the request, the person suspended may appeal this decision as described in Section 7. This process does not change the original league suspension.

Any person who has had a league suspension extended to all SPO sanctioned activity may request a review of the suspension on or after its anniversary. Such a review will be conducted by the Discipline Committee that extended the suspension to all SPO activity.

SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

TOURNAMENT OPERATING RULES & GUIDELINES

1. TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS

- 1.1 No team shall be allowed to compete in Slo-Pitch Ontario Association events without paying a Membership fee to the Association.
- 1.2 A team may be composed of not more than twenty (20) eligible players. Coaches or managers must be included in the twenty (20) in order to be eligible to play.
- 1.3 Teams requesting changes to the registered roster must have these changes into the SPO Office, in writing, by the 3rd Monday of July in each year.

1.4 *Categories and Divisions of Play*

There shall be 8 categories of play:

- (i) Mens
- (ii) Womens
- (iii) Masters
- (iv) Seniors
- (v) Minor
- (vi) High School
- (vii) Coed
- (viii) Specialty Groups.

A team will be classified in one of the following divisions:

- (i) **Mens** - Open, A, B, C, D, E, or 3-Pitch.
- (ii) **Womens** - Open, A, B, C, D, E, or 3-Pitch.
- (iii) **Mens Masters** - 35+, 40+ and 45+ - Competitive, Intermediate, Recreational, or 3-Pitch. **Womens Masters** - 35+ (Competitive, Intermediate, Recreational), 40+, 45+, 50+, or 3-Pitch.
- (iv) **Mens Seniors** - 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ and 70+. **Womens Seniors** - 60+.
- (v) **Minor** - U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, or U21 (Boys, Girls or Coed).
- (vi) **High School** - Boys, Girls or Coed (ages to be consistent with O.F.S.S.A. Constitution).
- (vii) **Coed** - Open, A, B, C, D, E, 3-Pitch, Masters (Ladies 30, Men 35) or Masters (Ladies 35, Men 40) - Competitive, Intermediate, Recreational.
- (viii) **Specialty Groups** - Aboriginal, Church, Military, Corporate or Emergency Services (911).

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players are eligible to compete in SPO sanctioned tournaments as per the guidelines below:

- (i) Players are eligible to compete in any single sex program, Masters/Seniors program, and Coed program (*one category per sanctioned event*), with the following restrictions:
 - 1) A player in one division can play only in that division and one division lower. *Exception: A player who appeals their rating and the appeal is granted, cannot play in a division lower for the season in which the appeal is granted.* This includes both single sex and Coed divisions.
 - 2) Mens Masters 35+ and 40+ Competitive teams may have a maximum of 8 Mens A and B players, with a maximum of 4 Mens A players, on their roster.
 - 3) Mens Masters 35+ Intermediate and 40+ Intermediate teams may have a maximum of 2 A and B players, with a maximum of 1 A player, on their roster.
 - 4) Mens Masters 35+ Recreational and 40+ Recreational teams will not be allowed any A, B or C players.
 - 5) Womens Masters 35+ Competitive teams may have players of any calibre on their roster; 35+ Intermediate teams will be for teams of a B or C calibre and only 1 A player and 1 B player, or 2 B players, will be allowed on their roster; and 35+ Recreational teams will be for teams rated D or E, and only players rated at the D or E level will be allowed on their roster.
 - 6) Player ranking will be determined by their highest level played in the current or preceding year. If a player did not play in the program in the preceding year they will retain the ranking of their last recorded highest level anywhere played in the past five years.
 - 7) Any player on a team whose division is reclassified to a higher division based on a performance review will maintain the reclassified rating for a minimum of one (1) year.
- (ii) Masters/Senior program players must adhere to the following SPO age requirements:
 - 1) Minimum age of a MASTERS 35+ will be 35 years old. Players who reach 35 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.
 - 2) Minimum age of a MASTERS 40+ will be 40 years old. Players who reach 40 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.
 - 3) Minimum age of a SENIOR 50+ will be 50 years old. Players who reach 50 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.
 - 4) Minimum age of a SENIOR 60+ will be 60 years old. Players who reach 60 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.

- 5) Minimum age of a SENIOR 65+ will be 65 years old. Players who reach 65 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.
 - 6) Minimum age of a MASTERS COED (30-35) will be 30 years old for females and 35 years old for males. Players who reach 30 (female) and 35 (male) during the calendar year would be eligible to play.
 - 7) Minimum age of a MASTERS COED (35-40) will be 35 years old for females and 40 years old for males. Players who reach 35 (female) and 40 (male) during the calendar year would be eligible to play.
- (iii) A player may not participate on both a Mens team and a Masters Competitive team at the Eliminations.
 - (iv) Players may be requested to provide proof of identity. Sufficient proof of identity is considered to be two (2) pieces of identification (one of which must have a photograph attached, both bearing the player's signature for comparison purposes. These two pieces of identification should be recent, with the player's current name as used on the team roster. **NOTE: I.D.'S MAY BE CHECKED AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT PROTEST, BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE.** If no I.D. is produced, the player is considered illegal and the team is subject to immediate dismissal from the tournament without compensation. The team will also be ranked last in the tournament standings, and all awards and travel expenses will be confiscated.
 - (v) To compete on an adult team, a player between the ages of 16 - 19 must have a letter of permission signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

3. TEAM RATINGS

The only common ground by which team ratings can be established are by effective use of the general fundamentals of the game. Some team fundamentals may be: utilizing the various cut-off procedures, base running skills, hitting behind runners, and utilizing proper game situations as they occur. A team rating is based on the ten (10) best players (five best male and five best females on a coed team) on a team's legal roster. Fairness to all teams must be considered when evaluating a team's division of play.

4. TEAM AND PLAYER RATING APPEALS

- (i) Team Rating Appeal – A team may appeal its classification by submitting an on-line form at any time in between December 1st to April 30th, provided the team is eligible to make such an appeal.
- (ii) Player Rating Appeal – Any player may appeal his or her rating by submitting an on-line form at any time in between December 1st to April 30th, provided the player is eligible to make such an appeal.

All decisions on ratings and classifications made by the Chief Executive Officer in review with the Rating Committee and Zone Director(s) will be final.

5. PENALTIES AND SUSPENSIONS

(a) Player or Team Member

A Player and/or Team Member (Coach or Manager) may be suspended for the following acts:

- (i) Falsification of Records;
- (ii) Attempted Fraud
 - a) applying to a tournament or in a tournament sanctioned by SPO in a division lower than the team's classification;
 - b) applying to a tournament and not showing up without paying the entry fee;
 - c) a player who plays on a team contrary to any requirement set out in these Guidelines.
- (iii) Verbal Abuse to tournament administrative personnel, officials or host;
- (iv) Physical Abuse to tournament administrative personnel, officials or host;
- (v) Unsportsmanlike Conduct to tournament administrative personnel, officials or host (including, but not limited to, infractions of the SPO Code of Conduct);
- (vi) Any conduct considered by SPO to be detrimental to the sport of slo-pitch softball;
- (vii) Any misuse to diamonds or surrounding facilities or property.

(b) Team*

The Tournament Committee may disqualify any team, without compensation, (and put in last place for that division) from a tournament for:

- (i) Using an illegal player, cheating, attempting fraud, NSF cheques or any other flagrant act(s) that make a mockery of the game and/or the tournament;
- (ii) Abuse (verbal or otherwise) to umpires, directors, organizers or Executive Members of the tournament, the organizing committee, SPO personnel or a tournament sponsor(s);
- (iii) Using players who have not resided in Ontario prior to May 1st of the playing year involved in a sanctioned event;
- (iv) Any team knowingly applying for a division lower than their classification;
- (v) Any team, after competing in a tournament, fails to field a team for a subsequent game.

***SPO will review all team suspensions at the tournament level and further action according to Section 5(a) above may be applied.**

- (c) **Umpires** – For conduct deemed detrimental to slo-pitch. [Penalty: Softball Ontario registration card will be revoked.]
- (d) **Tournament Directors** – For conduct deemed detrimental to slo-pitch. [Penalty: Permission to conduct SPO sanctioned tournaments and/or events will be revoked.]

6. FITNESS OF GROUNDS

In tournament play, the Tournament Director, with the advice of the Umpire-in-Chief, makes the decision as to the fitness of the ground to commence play. After a game has been started, the Plate Umpire shall be sole judge as to the fitness of the grounds, or the intensity of the weather or other factors governing in the game as to whether or not the game shall continue.

7. UNIFORMS

While participating in tournaments:

- (a) Players should be uniformly dressed and individual numbers should identify each participant.
- (b) Managers and coaches should be uniformly dressed to conform to team uniform with the adopted full uniform or a cap and jacket which includes the team's emblem and colours which can readily identify them as a member of the team.

8. PROTESTS

- (a) **PROTESTS BASED ON MISINTERPRETATION OR MISAPPLICATION OF A TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULE**

The following procedure is mandatory for the protest to be accepted for consideration by the Tournament Committee. A protested game can result when there is a difference of opinion, on the field, between the protesting team and an umpire regarding the application or interpretation of either Official Printed Playing Rules, or Specially Adopted Ground Rules or Specially Adopted Tournament Rules.

- (i) Any rule protest must be made before the next legal pitch, intentional walk, illegal pitcher action or before all fielders have left fair territory.
- (ii) The protesting team must advise the plate umpire that the game is under protest and the plate umpire shall advise the opposing team.
- (iii) The umpire will advise the Tournament Protest Committee who will proceed to the field.

- (iv) Upon arrival, the protesting team will supply the Committee with the protest fee of \$150.00 (cash or certified cheque). Failure to do this will nullify the protest and the game shall continue immediately.
- (v) The protesting team will state the exact rule and decision that they are protesting and will supply any further details that the Committee requests.
- (vi) The Committee will determine their ruling on the protest and state this to the Plate Umpire who will convey this to both coaches after the Committee has left the playing field.
- (vii) The decision of the Committee is final. If the protest is upheld, play shall resume from the point of the protest with the decision corrected. If the protest is denied, the game is continued with the protested decision standing.
- (viii) If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned after the game.

In regular league play, the league executive may wish to allow written protests to the league after the completion of the game. In such cases, they should use the Softball Canada Rule 11 Section 4-7 as their guidelines.

(b) PROTESTS BASED ON PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The following procedure is mandatory for the protest to be accepted for consideration by the Tournament Committee.

- (i) A formal protest must contain specific information as outlined in the Softball Canada Official Rule 11 Section 6 PLUS the official game-ending time (signed by umpire).
- (ii) The protesting team must notify the plate umpire of their desire to protest any time prior to the umpires leaving the playing field who shall immediately notify the tournament committee. The game shall not be suspended in order to settle the protest.
- (iii) A formal written protest may be lodged with the Protest Committee (at Tournament Headquarters) any time during the game but no later than immediately following the game, **ALONG WITH PROTEST FEE (CASH, MONEY ORDER OR CERTIFIED CHEQUE)** in the amount of \$150.00.
- (iv) Supporting documentation shall be provided, along with the formal written protest and protest fee, which shall include **FULL (First and Last) NAME** of player(s) whose eligibility is in question **PLUS** documented proof of the player(s) participation in the game under protest. **DOCUMENTED PROOF MAY CONSIST OF LINE-UP CARD SUBMITTED BY TEAM FOR WHICH THAT PLAYER PLAYED, OR COPY OF OFFICIAL SCORESHEET, WHICH SHOWS FULL NAME OF PLAYER(S) INVOLVED, THAT PLAYERS ACTION IN THE GAME AND THE UMPIRE'S SIGNATURE ON THE DOCUMENT REFLECTING CONFIRMATION OF THAT PLAYER(S)' PARTICIPATION IN THE GAME.**

- (v) The Protest Committee will meet immediately to decide the protest. Games involving the teams will not begin until a ruling has been made.
- (vi) If a team's ineligible player is discovered and verified during the game, the offending team forfeits the game immediately and is eliminated, without compensation, from further play in the tournament.
- (vii) If a team's ineligible player is verified after the completion of the protested game and before further games are played, the team deemed to have the illegal player(s) will be eliminated from further play, without compensation, and the non-offending team will be awarded the win by forfeit.
- (viii) When a player is deemed to be ineligible, it is at that point in the tournament at which the decision of ineligibility is made. All previous game results will stand.
- (ix) If the eligibility question cannot be resolved before the next games are begun or until after the tournament is completed, and it is subsequently found that the involved player(s) is ineligible, the team deemed to be at fault shall be placed last in tournament standings and standings shall be adjusted accordingly. All awards and travel expenses shall be held in trust until a final decision is made. If awards and travel expense has been given to the team with an ineligible player(s) it must be returned to the tournament committee within two (2) weeks or further suspensions of up to 3 years may be implemented.

NOTE: IN ALL CASES WHERE A PROTEST IS FOUND VALID AND IS UPHELD, PROTEST FEE SHALL BE REFUNDED (AND SIGNED FOR) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE DECISION IS RENDERED. TEAMS ENTITLED TO REFUND OF PROTEST FEE SHALL CONTACT TOURNAMENT PROTEST COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO RECEIVE REFUND.

9. ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

In tournament play where initial games or the entire Tournament, uses a round robin format with advancement or placing based on the plus-minus run factor, the following procedures shall be used to decide final standings:

- (a) Win/Loss/Tie Record - Total Points (Win-2, Tie-1, Lose-0) *Exception: Provincials, Eliminations & select special Series events, a winner must be determined in each game. No tie games are allowed.*
- (b) If team standings are tied, their placement shall be determined using the SLO-PITCH ONTARIO TIE BREAKING FORMULA.

NOTE: In determining run differential a limit of seven (7) PLUS or MINUS per game is allowed. Tied games will stand. The team batting second, if leading, does not bat in the bottom of the 7th inning.

10. SUSPENDED GAME

A suspended game can result in tournament play, if the umpire stops play for any reason such as power failure of the lights, protested game in accordance with these rules, any act of God, etc. that precludes immediate continuance of the game to the normal conclusion of the full seven innings or required.

- (a) In all elimination and provincial championship tournament play, the game must be completed.
- (b) When a suspended game is resumed, it must be started at the point of interruption with the identical situations (as per the official scorebook) as when the game was suspended.
- (c) If the game cannot be resumed at the field within two (2) hours of stopping time, regular complete games may apply. Five innings (4½ if home team leading) will constitute a complete game.



TEAM RECLASSIFICATION POLICY

In order to develop equity of competition within each division, SPO “rates” each team and places each team in their appropriate division. This job has been assigned to the Rating Committee.

The Rating Committee may reclassify a team at any time during the year. They shall meet on or about the dates of the AGM to evaluate the performance of the teams during the previous season. These re-classifications for the upcoming year will be determined by December 31 of the current year.

Mandatory Reclassifications: Teams finishing in the top 10% of each division (except A, B and Competitive) at the Provincial Championships shall be reclassified to the next higher division with no right of appeal. Teams in the next 10% (11% - 20%) shall be reclassified to the next higher division, but may appeal. Placement in any Qualifying Tournament may result in teams being re-classified with the right to appeal.

Reclassified teams with five (5) or more players from the previous year’s roster must participate in their new classification for a period of one (1) year; however, teams reclassified with the right to appeal may make an appeal to be reinstated to its former classification only after the team has played a minimum of two (2) tournaments at their new division. Appeals must be submitted using the proper on-line form. Teams requesting re-classification appeals for participation in the current year’s Provincial Championships must submit their appeal prior to July 15.

If a reclassified team re-organizes and desires to compete in their previous division, only five (5) players from teams (current or re-classified) at that level may play on that team. These teams must submit an appeal to be allowed to stay in the same classification.

Any team with any combination of five (5) or more players from a team (current or re-classified) one division higher must register and play in the higher classification. A team wishing to have one player that is classified two (2) divisions higher must submit a request to the Rating Committee.

If a “C”, “Intermediate”, “D”, “E” or “Recreational” Division Team has any combination of five (5) or more players who meet the following criteria, the team must participate in

the new division for a period of one (1) year with the same requirements as described in this Policy:

- (a) Players from any combination of teams moved up within the same classification. **Example:** Team One, Team Two and Team Three have been reclassified by the SPO Rating Committee from Division “D” to “C”. A team comprised of 2 players from Team One and 2 players from Team Two and 1 player from Team Three must participate in Division “C” or higher for a period of one (1) year.
- (b) Players from any combination of teams moved up within the same classification, plus players from the previous season of the same or higher classification of the team’s new classification. **Example 1:** Team One and Team Two have been reclassified by the SPO Rating Committee from Division “E” to “D”. A team comprised of 2 players from Team One, plus 2 players from Team Two, plus 1 player who played “D” the previous season, would be required to participate in Division “D” or higher for a period of one (1) year. **Example 2:** Team One has been reclassified Division “D”. A team comprised of 2 players from Team One, plus 3 players who played “D” the previous season, would be required to participate in Division “D” or higher for a period of one (1) year.

All players on a re-classified team shall be considered as a player of the higher classification. If an individual player from an upgraded team leaves his team, he/she may only participate at the same or higher division for the following year, subject to any appropriate team restrictions. **Example:** If your team participated in “D” and is a mandatory upgrade to “C” for next year, individual players from this team can only participate in the “D” or higher division programs next year, provided there are not more than 4 other similar players on the team.

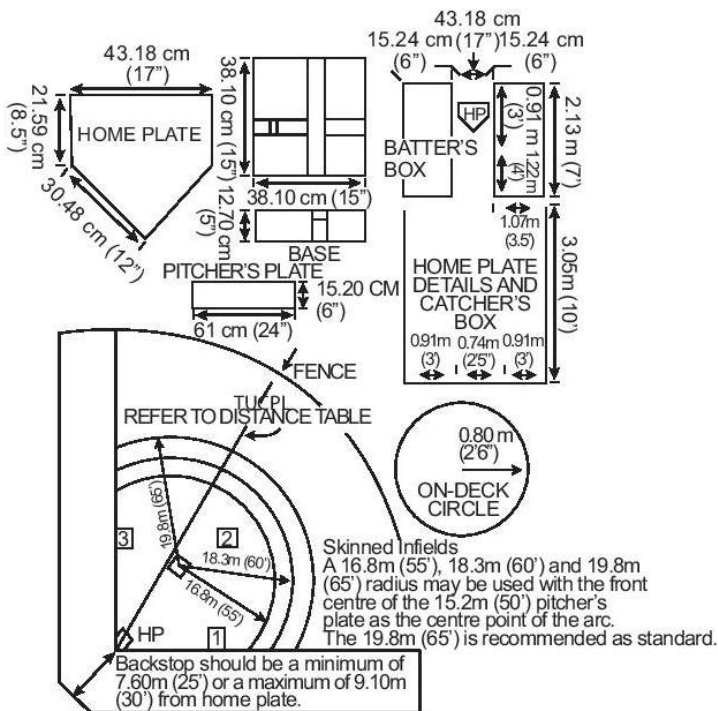
Players and/or teams not participating in the SPO program for one (1) or more seasons will retain the classification they were upgraded to prior to taking the absence from Slo-Pitch Ontario.

SPO makes every effort to be fair to all teams when considering the evaluation of a team's division of play and is committed in its efforts to maintain competitive divisions and insure that teams play at the appropriate level for their ball playing skills.

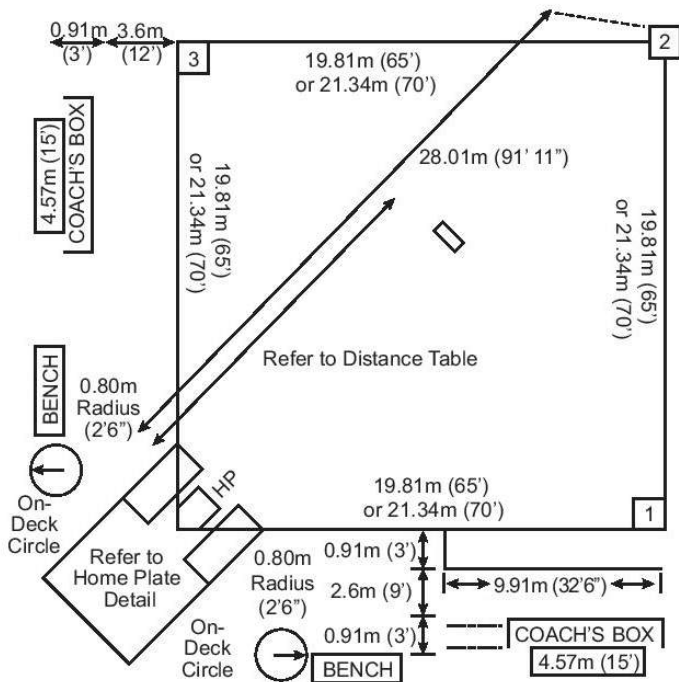
Age Categories & Distance Table

	Category	Age	Ball	Pitching	Baselines	Fences
MALE	Adult		12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'
	Masters	35 - 49	12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'
	Seniors	50 or over	12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'
	U19	Under 19	12"	50'	65'	275'-300'
	U16	Under 16	12"	46'	65'	275'-300'
	U14	Under 14	12"	46'	65'	250'-275'
	U12	Under 12	11"	40'	60'	175'-200'
	U10	Under 10	11"	35'	55'	150'-175'
	Adult		11"	50-60'	70'	225'-275'
	Masters	35 or over	11"	50-60'	70'	225'-275'
FEMALE	U19	Under 19	11"	50'	65'	225'-275'
	U16	Under 16	11"	46'	65'	225'-275'
	U14	Under 14	11"	46'	65'	225'-275'
	U12	Under 12	11"	40'	60'	175'-200'
	U10	Under 10	11"	35'	55'	150'-175'
	Adult		12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'
	Masters	35 or over	12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'
	U19	Under 18	12"	50'	65'	275'-300'
	U16	Under 16	12"	46'	65'	275'-300'
	U14	Under 14	12"	46'	65'	250'-275'
COED	U12	Under 12	11"	40'	60'	175'-200'
	U10	Under 10	11"	35'	55'	150'-175'
	Adult		12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'
	Masters	35 or over	12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'
	U19	Under 18	12"	50'	65'	275'-300'
	U16	Under 16	12"	46'	65'	275'-300'
	U14	Under 14	12"	46'	65'	250'-275'
	U12	Under 12	11"	40'	60'	175'-200'
	U10	Under 10	11"	35'	55'	150'-175'
	Adult		12"	50-60'	70'	275'-325'

OFFICIAL DIMENSIONS FOR SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL DIAMONDS



OFFICIAL DIMENSIONS FOR SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL DIAMONDS



DIAGONALS

BASEPATH

16.76m (55')

18.29m (60')

19.81m (65')

DIAGONAL

23.57 m (77' 9.25")

25.86m (84' 10.25")

28.01m (91' 11")

UMPIRE PROGRAM PERSONNEL

Softball Ontario Slo-Pitch Umpire Committee

Provincial Umpire-in-Chief

Scott Williston, Chatham

(519) 350-9444 / willistonscott102@gmail.com

Deputy Provincial Umpires-in-Chief

Lenny Galbraith

(705) 516-0250 / rookieump01@gmail.com

David Jones, Grimsby

(905) 870-5009 / davidj55@sympatico.ca

Robert (Bob) Smith, Ajax

(647) 449-2583 / rs17315@outlook.com

Zone Umpires-in-Chief

ZONE 1

Counties: Essex, Kent, Lambton

Jan Hakker, Chatham

(519) 437-7563 / jhakker@ymail.com

ZONE 2

Counties: Middlesex, Elgin, Huron, Oxford, Haldimand-Norfolk

Jim Hasson, Aylmer

(519) 765-1812 / jimandkim@amtelecom.net

ZONE 3

Counties: Perth, Wellington, Waterloo, Brant, Grey, Bruce

Jeff McKay, Brantford

(519) 755-0133 / jeff.mckay@granderie.ca

ZONE 4

Counties: Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth, Halton

Steve Helwig, Welland

(289) 228-7774 / steve.helwig213@gmail.com

ZONE 5

Counties: Peel, York, Durham

(East) Mike Carrington, Oshawa

(905) 697-1832 / mcarrington72@gmail.com

(West) Howard Kornbluth, Mississauga

(905) 568-8142 / howardkornbluth@hotmail.com

ZONE 6

Counties: Dufferin, Simcoe, Muskoka

John Blanchette, Angus

(705) 551-0202 / johnblanchette50@gmail.com

ZONE 7

*Counties: Peterborough, Northumberland, Haliburton, Hastings,
Victoria, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac, Prince Edward*

Terry Gavas, Kingston

(613) 217-7458 / umpytg@gmail.com

ZONE 8

*Counties: Renfrew, Lanark, Carleton, Prescott & Russell,
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, Leeds-Grenville*

Mark Trepanier, Ottawa

(613) 725-2556 / prescotthockey@gmail.com

ZONE 9

*Counties: Algoma, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Parry Sound,
Nipissing, Thunder Bay, Cochrane, Rainy River, Kenora*

Brian Mackenzie, Sault Ste Marie

(705) 575-2037 / skimacker41@yahoo.ca

SLO-PITCH ONTARIO ASSOCIATION TIE-BREAKING FORMULA

TWO-WAY TIES

1. Best won/loss record
2. Head to head (if applicable)
3. Best plus/minus *
4. Least runs against *
5. Most runs for *
6. Coin toss

THREE-WAY TIES

1. Best won/loss record
2. Head to head (if applicable)
3. Best plus/minus *
4. Least runs against *
5. Most runs for *
6. Coin toss

Once the 3-way ties is broken, the entire Tie-Breaking Formula will again be used for the remaining teams.

If head to head applies, it will be the determining factor.

Maximum run differential will be +7 / -7 runs in each game.

*NOTE: All games will be used in tie-breakers 3, 4 and 5.

A four-way tie will use the same format.



ZONE DIRECTORS

Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Derek Chapman <i>Windsor</i> dchapman@slopitch.org	Linda Eckert <i>London</i> leckert@slopitch.org	Steve Brown <i>Owen Sound</i> sbrown@slopitch.org
Bob Weedon <i>Chatham</i> bweedon@slopitch.org	Ian Johnston <i>London</i> ijohnston@slopitch.org	Bruce Collett <i>Guelph</i> bcollett@slopitch.org
		Ron Dickinson <i>Cambridge</i> rdickinson@slopitch.org
		Brad Geil <i>Kitchener</i> bgeil@slopitch.org
Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
Glenn Anthony <i>Thorold</i> ganthony@slopitch.org	Sam Fenech <i>Brampton</i> sfenech@slopitch.org	Don Buchanan <i>Barrie</i> dbuchanan@slopitch.org
John Ariss <i>Burlington</i> jariss@slopitch.org		Roger Gillespie <i>Barrie</i> rgillespie@slopitch.org
Robert Bortolotti <i>Hamilton</i> rbortolotti@slopitch.org		
Jon Horbach <i>Niagara-on-the-Lake</i> jhorbach@slopitch.org		
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