



New Rules and Guidelines

The following were passed at the Annual General Meeting of Slo-Pitch Ontario Association, held Saturday, November 23, 2019, with the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of eligible votes cast.

➤ **Reference: Equipment – Page 35**

Now Reads, In Part: “Caps, if worn, must face forward.”

ADD: “Only caps and visors are permitted as decorative headgear. Such headgear must match team uniform colour.”

➤ **Reference: Batting – Page 39**

Now Reads, In Part: “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.”

ADD: “In Provincial Championship play, all batters in all divisions will start with a 1-1 count.”

➤ **Reference: Running – Page 40**

Now Reads, In Part: “In Seniors 60+ and older, the runner may overrun all bases.”

REMOVED.

➤ **Reference: Coed Playing Procedures - Batting Order – Page 44**

Now Reads, In Part: “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 player’s 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.”

CHANGE TO: “The batting order consists of a minimum of 10 players (minimum 4 males and 4 females. The batting order must alternate sexes. If more than 10 players are on the batting order, any 10 (maximum 6 males and minimum of 4 females) may play defense.”

➤ **Reference: Pitching – Page 39**

ADD: “There shall only by three (3) charged conferences with each pitcher during the game. A fourth charged conference shall result in the pitcher being declared an illegal pitcher who may not pitch again for the remainder of the game.”

➤ **Reference: Player Eligibility – Page 52**

Now Reads, In Part: “Players are eligible to compete in SPO sanctioned tournaments as per the guidelines below: ...”

ADD: “2. (i) 8) Any player, coach, manager or team representative who is ejected from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct will be immediately suspended for a minimum of one (1) additional game. If the offence is flagrant, or a second offence, the suspension is for the remainder of the tournament, and subject to further review by SPO.

If the ejected person is registered to participate with another team, they may not participate for any other team until they have served their automatic suspension. (Note: The automatic suspension for the next scheduled game applies only to ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.)

➤ **Reference: Player Eligibility – Page 52**

Now Reads, In Part: “Masters/Senior program players must adhere to the following SPO age requirements: ...”

ADD: “2. (ii) 5.1) Minimum age of a SENIOR 70+ will be 70 years old. Players who reach 70 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.”

ADD: “2. (ii) 5.2) Minimum age of a SENIOR 75+ will be 75 years old. Players who reach 70 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.”

ADD: “2. (ii) 5.3) Minimum age of a SENIOR 80+ will be 80 years old. Players who reach 80 during the calendar year would be eligible to play.”

ADD: “2. (ii) 5.4) EXCEPTION: Grandfather/Grandmother Age Rule: A maximum of two (2) players that are one (1) calendar year younger than the division age will be permitted on each 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+ and 65+ team; A maximum of three (3) players that are one (1) calendar year younger than the division age will be permitted on each 70+ team; A maximum of four (4) players that are one (1) calendar year younger than the division age will be permitted on each 75+ team. In all instances, the players cannot have an A or B rating.

➤ **Reference: Equipment – Page 35**

ADD: “No electronic device, including, but not limited to, a camera, cell phone, audio or video device capable of creating, recording, transferring, receiving or sending text or data (which may or may not include pictures, images, clips, or recordings of any kind) may be worn or used by a player, coach, manager or team representative at any time while on the field of play, which area shall include the player benches or area. Any such individual found to be wearing or using such a device will be immediately removed from the game.”

➤ **Reference: Player Ejection**

ADD: “If there is an incident on the field of play (including foul territory) that causes a player or coach on the bench to join into the altercation, then all involved players and coaches will be ejected immediately from the game and also be given a minimum three (3) game suspension. The Disciplinary Committee can also add to the suspension if the incident is deemed as a major infraction. If a second offence occurs, it will result in the removal of the player or coach from the balance of the tournament.”

➤ **Reference: Playing Field – Page 34**

ADD: “Further to any provision contained in the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* and its Regulations, or any policies or restrictions imposed on any private property, no smoking or vaping of any substance, either legal, illegal or prescription, or consumption of any alcohol or liquor, or any other substance that may induce impairment, shall be allowed within 100 feet of the benches or on the playing field area.”