



## *Ontario Provincial Championships*

# **TOURNAMENT RULES - COED**

1. All games will be governed by Softball Canada Rules with SPO Amendments and SPO Tournament Operating Rules and Guidelines. All Team Members and supporters must adhere to the SPO Code of Conduct.
2. All Players MUST have Photo ID with them AT ALL TIMES. Any Player found playing without proper ID will be removed from that game and subject to a further review. ID's may be checked at any time.
3. No practice on the infield before game. Start Game - 3 pitches. Between Innings - 1 pitch, no infield ball.
4. Teams must be prepared to play up to 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time. Any grace period permitted is at the discretion of SPO site personnel. Teams should check the official drawboards located at the Complex after each game to check for time and location of their next game.
5. Teams must have a minimum of 10 Players (Coed 6/4 – Minimum 4 females) to start and continue the game. **The Short-Handed Rule is NOT used in Coed.**
6. ***NEW! Batting Order 6/4***
  - (i) ***A female may be substituted for a male and a male may be legally substituted or re-entered into that position in the batting order.***
  - (ii) ***Defensively, a minimum of 4 females and a maximum of 6 females, and a maximum of 6 males and a minimum of 4 males, must be maintained.***
  - (iii) ***If an unlimited batting order is used, there must be an equal number of males and females added to the batting order (i.e. a 6/4 team may become a 7/5, 8/6, etc.).***
  - (iv) ***There is no limit to back-to-back female or male batters.***
7. 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).

8. 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 leaves the game (for any reason), leaving the team with less than ten (10) players, the team must have a substitute available to replace the absent Player or that team will forfeit the game. *Exception: A Player who has left the game under the Blood Rule may return.*
9. Lineup cards will be used in all games and must be presented to the umpire at the pre-game meeting. FULL NAMES are to be used. They become official when accepted by the umpire at the pre-game meeting. Only Players listed (starters and substitutes) are eligible to play in that game. Names may NOT be added after the lineup becomes official. The score sheet must use the FULL NAME of the Players as listed on the lineup card. **Substitutes must be listed on the line-up card. A male may substitute for a male, and a female may substitute for a female or a male.**
10. ***NEW! If a male batter receives ANY walk, he is awarded first base. If followed in the batting order by a female, the male batter will be awarded second base and the female must take her turn at bat. If an incorrect batter is standing in the on-deck position, indicating he or she is the next batter, a male batter that is walked is awarded first base only.***
11. There must be a minimum of four outfielders. No outfielder may make a direct throw force out at first base.
12. Home Team will be decided by the flip of a coin. Home Team score sheet will be deemed as the official score sheet for the game. If round-robin used, for playoff games the Home Team will be the higher placed team.
13. Mercy Rule is 12 or more runs after 5 innings (4½ if home team is ahead). A team may voluntarily withdraw if down by 15 or more runs after 3 innings (2½ if home team is ahead). **E Divisions:** A maximum of 5 runs per inning may be scored. (Exception: 7th inning, and, in the event of a tie after the 7<sup>th</sup>, any subsequent inning.) A team 17 or more runs ahead after 4 innings (3½ if home team) shall be declared the winner.
14. Games tied at the end of 7 innings will use the Tie Breaker rule at the start of the 8th inning. The offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the Player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base, **and there will be no outs (0).**
15. Games suspended by weather or darkness will be continued from the point where they were suspended. *Exception: If the game cannot be resumed within two hours of stopping time, regular complete game rules may apply.*
16. After each game, the Coach of the winning team is responsible to ensure that the score is reported in to the Headquarters within 15 minutes of the completion of the game. If there is any question regarding the result, no argument will be accepted if the score has not been reported via this procedure.
17. All Rule interpretation Protests must be reported to the umpire before the next pitch or before all defensive players have left the playing field. These Protests will be dealt with immediately before continuing the game. For other Protests (eligibility, etc.) the protesting team must notify the Umpire of their intent prior to the Umpire leaving the playing field. Upon notification the game will continue. The protesting team must present a completed official Protest Form to an SPO Official immediately following the game. All Protests must be accompanied by a \$150.00 Protest Fee. See pages 55-57 of the Slo-Pitch Ontario 2018-2019 Official Slo-Pitch Handbook for full procedural details.

18. 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.) Participants are expected to follow the SPO Code of Conduct.
19. 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 SPO 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.
20. ***In the interest of player safety, protective face gear is mandatory for all pitchers in all divisions of the SPO Ontario Championships. SPO strongly recommends the use of protective headgear as well, but it is not mandatory.***
21. Jewellery – A Player is solely responsible for any injury/damage caused by his/her wearing of jewellery. An Umpire may request any exposed jewellery be removed. Refusal to comply is an immediate removal. Knee braces must be covered.
22. All teams are required to have matching uniform tops with identifying numbers no less than 4 inches in size. Players are to wear appropriate clothing. This is non-contestable.
23. Legal bats must have the USSSA Thumbprint logo or the new NTS Stamp on the taper of the barrel. Use of a non-approved bat will result in the ejection of the Player from the game, and suspension from the Tournament. Bats may be compression tested at any time during the Tournament.
24. Courtesy Runners - 3 per game in all divisions. May be any Player on the official Roster and listed on the official line-up. The courtesy runner must be announced to the home plate umpire before taking their place on the base. **It must be male for male, or female for male or female.**
25. A 2' x 3' mat will be used for the strike zone. Pitching distance is 50' – 60'.
26. **All Coed divisions will use the Commitment Line and Scoring Line.** Sliding into the Scoring Line is permitted. Tagging of a runner in between the Commitment Line and the Scoring Line is permitted.
27. The Ontario Championships are played over multiple weekends, but are considered one Tournament. A Player may participate in ONE Mens or Womens team only in the Ontario Championships. They may also play on ONE Masters or Seniors team, and/or ONE Coed team. Note: Players playing in a second category may only play in the same division/level or one division lower. Certain conditions may apply.

28. Home Run Rule is in effect (over the fence home runs only). Walk off homerun rule will be in effect.

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+: Competitive – 5; Intermediate – 3; Recreational – 1.

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

Womens Masters and Seniors: 2.

Coed: A – 5; B – 5; C – 3; D – 2; E – 1; 3-Pitch – 0.

29. **In Ontario Championship play, all batters in all divisions will start with a count of 1-1 (1 ball and 1 strike).**

30. Tournament organizers reserve the right to make decisions perceived to be in the best interest of the Tournament.

31. Alcohol may not be present in or near the team area and players may not consume alcoholic beverages during a game.

32. IT IS ILLEGAL TO CONSUME ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OUTSIDE THE LICENSED AREAS. ANYONE CAUGHT DRINKING OUTSIDE THE LICENSED AREAS WILL HAVE THEIR TEAM SUSPENDED FROM THE TOURNAMENT WITH FURTHER REVIEW BY SPO. ALL COACHES SHOULD MAKE SURE YOU IMPRESS THIS UPON YOUR TEAMS AND FANS.

