



2023 Super Series Rules & Standards

1. Teams must be prepared to play up to 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time. Teams must have a minimum of 10 players. The Short-Handed Rule as described in the Playing Procedures found in the SPO Handbook and on the website will be used. If a team has less than 12 players in attendance at an Event, they may use their registered Coaches (maximum 2) as Emergency Players. This must be declared prior to the start of the game. If a Coach participates in more than 2 Events he/she must be added to the Team's Roster.
2. 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. The undefeated team in the first game of a Final will be the Home Team. If there is a second game, there will be a coin flip.
3. No practice on the infield before game. Start of game - 3 pitches. Between innings - 1 pitch, no infield ball.
4. Line-up 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.
5. **Pre-Game & Post-Game Procedures:** At the start of the game, when the Umpires start the pre-game meeting, all practice ends and the players go to their bench. As soon as the pre-game meeting is over, the home team should take the field. At the conclusion of the game, players are to go to their bench area and clear their equipment out as quickly as possible to allow teams for the next game to occupy their bench. Any post-game meetings of teams should be done off the playing field after their dugout is cleared.
6. **Mercy Rule:** 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 (2½ if home team is ahead).
7. **1-1 Count:** Batter will start with a 1-1 count in ALL divisions. 3rd strike foul is an out and the walk-off home run procedure will be used.
8. **Tie Games:** Games tied at the end of 7 innings will use the Tie-Breaker rule at the start of the 8th inning.

9. **Scores:** After each game, the Coach of the winning team is responsible to ensure that the score reported 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. We would appreciate if the losing team also reported the score.
10. **Player Ejection:** Any player or team representative ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike behaviour will be immediately suspended for a minimum of one (1) additional game. If the offence is flagrant or is a second offence, the suspension is for the remainder of the tournament, and subject to further review by SPO. Participants are expected to follow the SPO Code of Conduct.

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.

11. **Profanity Rule:** See [SPO Profanity Policy](#).
12. **Protective Equipment:** Protective face gear is mandatory for all pitchers. Protective headgear with face protection is strongly recommended. In the interest of player safety, we would also encourage all batter/base runners to wear helmets.
13. **Jewellery:** A player is solely responsible for any injury 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.
14. **Bats:** For the 2023 Super Series season, all bats used must adhere to the USSSA Licensed/Approved Bat Policy. A bat must bear the "USSSA BPF 1.20" mark on its taper to be legal. This mark is known as the "Thumbprint", and is shown below.



Old USSSA Stamp ("Thumbprint"): Not permitted in the 'A' Divisions starting in the 2023 season.

This bat standard was introduced for bats made from 2012 to 2020 that met the 220lb compression testing, in order to address the problem of composite bats "breaking in" (either naturally, or by mechanical means) to a level beyond the legal limit. Manufacturers can make still bats to meet the 220lb compression standard, but they can no longer have the USSSA Stamp on them.

New NTS Stamp: For 'A' Divisions starting in 2023.

Beginning with 2021 Models, USSSA began using the new 240lb compression standard with the NTS stamp (left). Moving forward, 240lb compression standard bats are all that can be approved to have a USSSA Stamp on them.

SPO will also be using an aggressive Random Bat Testing Program.

15. **Bats in Bags:** All bats must be out of the bags and on the fence prior to inspection by the Umpire. **Bats left in bat bags will not be permitted.** If you are not going to use a bat, it is to be left in your vehicle. This will be closely monitored and strong sanctions will be issued to player(s) and team(s) who do not adhere to this Policy.

1st Offence – Written Warning.

2nd Offence – Player and Coach Ejection.

3rd Offence – Team Ejection from the Event, with further review by SPO.

16. **Courtesy Runners:** 3 per game.

17. **Temporary Runner:** A temporary runner must be used for a pitcher who is on base with two out and the following provisions apply:

1) It is not optional.

2) There must be two out.

3) If the pitcher is on base with less than two out, the Temporary Runner must be used after the second out occurs.

4) **The Temporary Runner can be anyone on the line-up card and no longer needs to be designated by the Manager during the pre-game meeting.**

5) If the pitcher is the runner in the tie-breaker situation, they will be considered the same as if they had batted and would be replaced by a Temporary Runner with two out.

6) **Re-entry and substitution rules are waived for the Temporary Runner.**

7) **If a Temporary Runner is due to go to bat, any other player on the line-up card can be used for the Temporary Runner without penalty.**

18. **Home Runs:** A batter hitting a ball over the fence in a game in excess of the limit shall be ruled out. Any fly ball touched by a defensive player which then goes over the fence in fair territory shall be a home run.

Home Run Limits: Mens A – 7; Mens B – 5; Mens C – 3; Womens A – 7; Womens B/C – 5.

19. **Ball Retrieval:** We will again be using the ball retrieval program. We ask that all Teams support this endeavour and work with the Umpires. Be sure to have your team ballbag and sufficient balls to hang on the fence. If your team hits a ball out of play, the Umpire will ask for a ball from your ballbag. You then can go and get the ball that went out of play and place it in your bag.

20. **Forfeits:** Any team that intentionally forfeits the start of a game during a tournament may be suspended from the remainder of the tournament and receive no points.

21. **Defensive Conferences:** There shall only be 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.

22. **Smoking:** In accordance with the **Smoke-Free Ontario Act** and its Regulations, no smoking or vaping of tobacco or cannabis will be permitted within any of the confines of Slo-Pitch City, which area starts from the archway entrance of Slo-Pitch City and includes the entire parking lot. A holder of a medical cannabis certificate is not exempt to this. **Anyone that is smoking anywhere inside the facility will be asked to leave for the remainder of the weekend. There will be zero tolerance on this.**

23. **Batting Practice:** The Dorchester diamonds are off limits without a Permit. To inquire about a Permit, contact Slo-Pitch City at 519-268-7976.

24. **Draw Boards:** While the schedules are posted on-line no later than Wednesday at noon, there may be a few adjustments to games in the day or so after. Your first game time will not change. The Official Draw Boards will be the ones posted at the Complex(es). If you want to print a copy, we would suggest that you wait until later on Friday to do so.
25. **Player Registration:** All Team Contacts, Players and Coaches must be registered and **Active** SPO Members and paid the 2023 Super Series Program Fee prior to playing.
26. **Alcohol Consumption:** This a reminder that there is **NO DRINKING OUTSIDE OF ANY LICENSED AREA, INCLUDING ANY PARKING LOT**. We will have **ZERO TOLERANCE** for this. Any alcoholic beverage being consumed in the parking lot will result in the suspension of the involved teams. Even if only one person in the group is drinking, all involved teams will be penalized. If someone near you is drinking, either stop them or leave the area. Please make sure this Policy is clear to your Players and friends, families and fans. Thanks to everyone for your anticipated cooperation with this matter.
27. **Accommodations:** We have again negotiated special rates for SPO Super Series teams at various London hotels and lodging facilities. A complete list can be found on the Super Series website under Accommodations. Be sure to tell them you are a Super Series team when booking. You must call direct to get the SPO rate - please do not book on-line! As always, we appreciate and thank you for your support of the businesses who support SPO and our Tournament Programs.

We remind you that the following hotels are not businesses in good standing with SPO and we are asking teams to not support these property locations:

- 1) ***Ramada London (Exeter Road, London);***
- 2) ***Quality Suites London (Dearness Drive, London)***

Teams insistent on staying at these locations will not be welcome in any SPO Events. Should you have any questions, or require any further information with respect to this matter, please contact Tom Buchan directly at (905) 646-7773.

28. Series organizers reserve the right to make decisions which they perceive to be in the best interest of the Tournament and the Program.

**We wish everyone a safe and successful 2023 season and
THANK YOU for your continued support of our Association.**

Let's Play Ball!