

ST. THOMAS WOMENS SLO-PITCH LEAGUE CONSTITUTION





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Revised and Ratified: April 2024

- NOTE:**
- Maximum Arc- twelve (12) feet
 - Minimum Arc- six (6) feet
 - Seventy (70) foot base paths
 - Pitch Rubber- fifty (50) feet from plate

1. BATTING ORDER OPTION

- a. Minimum of nine (9) players to start a game and no maximum number of players in the batting lineup and you must finish with at least nine (9) players.
- b. New players may be added to the lineup at the bottom of the original batting order throughout the game or as a substitution for another player.
- c. Ejected player is scheduled to bat: if the previous batter in the lineup is walked (intentionally or otherwise) ejected player is NOT an out.
- d. If a player is injured and no substitution is available that player will not be a 3rd out, must finish with 9 players for rule to apply.
- e. If a substitute occurs, the player that is being substituted for will not be allowed to play the rest of the game.
- f. Any player whose name appears on the batting order may take position on the playing field up to a maximum of ten (10) players.
- g. Only three (3) courtesy runners per team per game will be allowed. Any person on the batting order may be the courtesy runner. If an injury occurs after three (3) courtesy runners have been used, they can only be replaced as a complete substitution. If no substitution is available then an out will occur.

2. CANCELLED GAMES

- a. The Executive will decide if the game should be cancelled and will be responsible for notifying the teams involved, no less than one hour before game time. If rain occurs after or during the first game the responsibility to continue further games are to be played lies with the home team representative. If the decision to cancel is reached, the home representative MUST notify the Vice President of the decision.
- b. After the first game has started or any game thereafter, only the Umpire or his designate can make the decision to cancel the game. A game is declared regulation when four and one half (4 ½) innings with the home team winning.
- c. In a deciding playoff game, in the case of inclement weather, a full game of seven (7) innings or six and one half (6 ½) must be played in its entirety. The suspended game will be continued from the point of inclement weather.

3. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS



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- a. Any constitutional amendments will be restricted to the first two (2) League meetings of the year.
- b. Any constitutional amendments must receive a 2/3 majority vote of those present at the meeting.
- c. Voting privileges will be restricted to one (1) vote per team.
- d. New teams have no voting privileges.

4. DIVISION FORMAT

- a. The first place team of each division through seasonal play will move up.
- b. The decision will be made by the League Executive including division format. The decision can be changed up to June 16th of regular season play.

5. EJECTIONS/ SUSPENSION

- a. First Ejection: player/coach will be removed from the game and automatically given a one (1) game suspension and declared an ineligible player/coach for the following game.
- b. Second Ejection: player/coach will be removed from the game with an automatic three (3) game suspension.
- c. Third Ejection: player/coach will be removed from the game with an automatic one (1) year suspension from the date of the ejection. The League Executive will notify the player/coach and his/her team representative in writing when this penalty is applied.
- d. **Suspension:** any act of violence prior to, or during, and/ or after a game directed at members of the Umpires Association will not be tolerated. Any such act must be immediately reported to the President. A written account of the incident to follow as soon as possible. The President shall arrange a formal hearing with the League involved. The minimum suspension for such acts shall be 30 days, enforceable from the date of the hearing.

6. ELECTIONS

- a. All elections will be held at the conclusion of the of the season, in conjunction with the final league meeting.
- b. Results of these elections will stand for the following season.
- c. Elections will be held online via Facebook, Google Forms, or another voting platform.
- d. All league members of the league will have an opportunity to vote for each position.
- e. Executive Self-Nomination: if they wish to return to their position held during the previous season, Executive members are not required to receive nominations to be considered for the election.
- f. In order to be considered for a position, a non-Executive nominee must receive one (1) nomination from a member of the league from the previous season, not including their team from the previous or upcoming seasons.
- g. Out-Going Executive Nomination: If a member of the Executive from the previous season is opting to step down from their position, they have the option to nominate a



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candidate for their position. If this occurs, the nominee will be exempt from Rule F (listed above).

- h. A potential nominee must accept their nomination in order to be considered for the election. A nominee can decline the nomination in order to be removed from consideration.
- i. If there is only a single (one) nominee- they will be acclaimed and automatically awarded the position.
- j. After a set length of time, the nomination period will close, and the voting process will begin.
- k. During the voting period, no additional members will be allowed to join the Facebook group.
- l. All voters must be a member of the league, having occupied a spot on a team's final roster during the previous season.
- m. After a set length of time, the voting period will close, the votes counted, and a winner for each position announced.
- n. Once the Voting process for all positions is complete and the new Executive committee is finalized, preparation for the upcoming season will begin.

7. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Must be female and over the age of sixteen (16) as of December 31st of the current year.
- b. A player/coach is not eligible for play until an updated roster has been submitted online via the STSPA.ca website. If a team plays an ineligible player/coach they will lose the game(s) in which the player/coach participated.
- c. It is the coach's responsibility to get an updated list to check and ensure players/coaches eligibility of the opposing team.

8. EQUIPMENT

- a. All teams must use a WORTH ELEVEN (11) inch Hot Dot ball.
- b. All teams must wear a matching team colour shirt by June 15th of the playing season. Any player not wearing matching team colour shirt by June 15th will be ineligible to play that game unless previously discussed by both team reps before the game.
- c. Teams shall treat all equipment with care. Abusive treatment will result in the responsible replacement value has been remitted to the League Treasurer.

9. EXECUTIVE POSITIONS AND DUTIES

All members of the Executive must be a member in good standing of the St. Thomas Womens Slo-Pitch League for the duration of her office and are elected in by fellow team representatives.

During an Executives Member's scheduled game, she may not be actively involved in any dispute involving her team.



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President

- Minimum of two (2) year term- then can continue but must be re-elected.
- No voting or nominating privileges except in the event of a tie in League or Executive decisions.
- Call League meetings and act as official over the same.
- Handles questions and concerns that arise from team representatives.
- Sets agenda items for meetings.
- Presides over committees formed during the year.
- Schedules Umpires and advises them of rules.
- Obtains baseball diamonds.
- Has signing authority.
- Aids in setting the schedule.

Vice President

- Attends all meetings (Executive and League)
- If President resigns or is incapable of performing her duties, assumes said responsibilities until President's return or a new election occurs.
- Voting member of Executive.
- Schedules rain out games and Umpires.
- Aids in setting the schedule.
- Presides over meeting in place of President in her absence.
- Checks diamonds for cancellations
- Has signing authority.

Secretary/ Treasurer

- Attends all meetings (Executive and League)
- Voting Member of the Executive
- Records all records.
- Types minutes, agendas, and the constitution and emails them out to all team representatives.
- Receives any written notice and materials that are to be brought to the Executive's attention.
- Attends all meetings (Executive and League)
- Keeps account of monies collected and dispersed.
- Presents the financial status at meeting and prepares budgets.
- Voting member of the Executive
- Has signing authority.

Statistician



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- Receives team rosters by email and once completed compiled she will email the final rosters for the League to the team representatives.
- Voting Member of the Executive.
- Receives and records player release cards by email.
- Prepares final verifications of stats per (20b)
- Keeps track of spares.

Team Liaison

- A mediator and communicator between among Executive and Teams.
- Updates social media with important information.
- Relays or directs all questions/information/issues from the team representatives to the appropriate executive member.
- Answers any and all questions from team representatives.
- Expert in the rules of the league and answers all questions about rules that are brought forward.
- Aid in conflict resolution

Team Representatives

- Attends all League meetings.
- Ensure team members receive League information.
- Check diamonds during inclement weather (make necessary calls)
- Acts as SOLE contact person with Executive.
- Assumes responsibility for team roster.
- Keep record of team's wins and losses.
- Fills out lineup card each game returns to umpires.

Should a member of the Executive not carry out their responsibilities, the Executive committee has the authority to remove them from their office. Should an Executive member resign or be removed from their office, it will be the responsibility of the remaining Executive to find a suitable replacement.

10. FINES

- a. A fine must be paid prior to the next scheduled game or forfeit will result until the fine is paid.
- b. All fines must be paid to the League Treasurer or her named designate.
- c. The Treasurer will notify team representatives that they have been fined for missing League meetings.

11. FORFEITS



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- a. A game shall be forfeited by the Umpire in favour of the team not at fault when a team has less than nine (9) players to start at the designated game time.
- b. A game shall be forfeited by the Umpire in favour of the team not at fault when a team has less than nine (9) players to continue a game.
- c. For all forfeits, the forfeiting team will pay the full Umpire fee and will forfeit all subsequent games until fee is paid.
- d. If neither team has enough players to start a game, it will be considered a double forfeit, and both teams will pay the Umpire fee and the home team will notify the Statistician.

12. GAME TIME LIMITS

- a. 6:30pm
- b. 7:45pm
- c. 9:00pm
- d. Time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes in all divisions for seasonal play, ties will be broken if time permits to a maximum of (two) 2 completed innings.

13. LEAGUE MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

- a. The first league meeting of the year will be scheduled by the Executive and notification sent out by email two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.
- b. Teams are asked to bring a post-dated cheque, cash, or e-transfers amounting to \$500 to the first meeting for their deposit of the entry fee. All final monies owing will be collected no later than the 1st game of the regular season, unless otherwise stated by the Treasurer. **NO LATE TEAM ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- c. Once entry is paid, and any team withdrawing from the League before March 31st will forfeit \$250.00 of their entry fee. After March 31st, they will forfeit the entire entry fee.
- d. Voting privileges during general meeting will be decided by the majority present.
- e. During general meetings, each team will be granted one vote per team.
- f. Addition of EMT.

14. NEW TEAMS

- a. Sponsor or team name will have no bearing on the definition of a new team.
- b. All players will be rated according to their previous years' divisional play and final regular team standings.
- c. Unrated player will be rated by the League Executive.

15. PLAYOFFS

- a. All teams will be eligible for the playoffs, regardless of the final standings. One (1) Umpire will be used for quarter-final and semi-finals and two (2) Umpires will be used for the finals.
- b. The quarter-final and semi-final series will be the best two (2) out of three (3), and the final series will be the best three (3) out of five (5). There are no time limits on playoff games.



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- c. A tie occurring at the end of the season if it affects a playoff position will be decided standing tie breakers as listed on the STSPA.ca website.

16. PROTEST

- a. All protests will include a \$50.00 bond from the protesting team within forty-eight (48) hours of the protest. If the protest is upheld, the bond is refunded. If the protest is turned down the bond is forfeited to the League.
- b. Protests must be made when the infraction occurs, prior to the next pitch and you must formally inform the Umpire that the protest is be lodged. The Umpire must sign both scorebooks to acknowledge the protest.
- c. Where a member of the League Executive is involved in a protest, she will be replaced by another member of the League Executive.
- d. All protests must be in writing and given to the League SECRETARY and a hearing involving a representative from each team and the Umpire's Association will be granted. Upon completion of the hearing, a decision shall be reached by the League Executive.
- e. If requested, an appeal to a decision will be heard by the members of the Executive. Any decision at this point is final.

17. RESCHEDULED GAMES

- a. Games will be rescheduled if unfavorable weather conditions exist or at the discretion of the League Executive.
- b. The VICE PRESIDENT will notify the assigning Umpire of all rescheduled games.

18. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WINNING TEAM

- a. Both teams are responsible for submitting the final score to the STATISTICIAN via the STSPA.ca score reporting form.
- b. Team representatives are responsible for ensuring that the scores are being submitted and any missing scores are sent immediately once they aware of them.
- c. Winning team must report their score within a week or that team loses their two points.

19. TEAM ROSTERS

- a. The roster will consist of 30 total players. All team rosters including coaches must be submitted to the league Statistician via the STSPA.ca website preceding scheduled league opener. Each time a player is added before June 16th, the player's information must be submitted to the Statistician via the website.
- b. Additional players may be added to the roster until midnight on June 16th. Adding and releasing players must be done through the league Statistician via the website. This procedure must be done before a player is eligible to play in the league. Statistician will verify the player's eligibility if questioned.
- c. After the Roster Lock, a player may be added to the roster only to replace an existing player who has become injured or no longer capable if playing, if:



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- i. The injured player is unable to play for the remaining season due to their injury or inability to play; and
- ii. The player who is replacing the injured player has not played in the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League for the current season.

20. TWELVE RUN RULE

- a. After five (5) or more complete innings, the team that is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs will automatically win- 12 RUN MERCY RULE.

21. TIED GAME/ COMPLETE GAMES

- a. After a complete game or seven (7) innings, tied games will result in a single (1) point being awarded to each team.
- b. If time remains after seven (7) complete innings and the score is tied then extra innings will be played until the time limit has been reached. If the tie has not been broken at this point the game will remain a tie.
- c. Playoff game must be played out until the tie is broken.
- d. Scores should be submitted to Statistician by 6:00pm the following day. If not submitted on time discretion will be left to the Executive.

22. UMPIRE FEES

- a. Complaints about umpires will be submitted in writing to the PRESIDENT and handled by the Executive.
- b. The league Executive has the authority to request any additional umpires at the game due to the importance of the game and/or potential conflicts.