

2025 ST. THOMAS MEN'S SLO-PITCH LEAGUE CONSTITUTION



St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League Constitution

2024 St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League Executive

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"C" Div. Convenor: vacant

"Rec" Div. Convenor: vacant

Masters Convenor: vacant/not applicable



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The PlaySloPitch rules will be adopted with the following amendments and additions:

1. EJECTIONS & SUSPENSIONS

- A. Any attempted contact or actual contact, intentional or not intentional, between an official and a player in any circumstance involving a member of the St. Thomas & District Umpires' Association will result in the offending player's indefinite suspension. The offending player will be eligible for reinstatement into the STMSPL at the end of the season following the one in which they were suspended. Additionally, in order to be reinstated, the offending player must submit a formal appeal for reinstatement to both the STMSPL and the St. Thomas & District Umpires' Association Executive. These two bodies will review the appeal and must jointly agree to reinstate the offending player. The decision to reinstate or not reinstate the player is binding for the upcoming season. If the appeal for reinstatement is denied, the offending player will be eligible to apply for reinstatement again prior to the start of the next season. Additionally, for a repeat offender, that player will receive an automatic lifetime ban from the STMSPL with no opportunity for reinstatement.
- B. Any player(s) involved in verbally threatening, abusing or harassing an umpire before and/or after a game will be immediately suspended from the league for a minimum of 30 days (non-negotiable) and further, for a repeat offender, that player will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the playing season. This would also include any threatening, abusing or harassing an umpire on any social media platform **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C. Any player(s) involved in fighting, threatening, or abusing another player, spectator, or league executive member before, during and/or after a game will be immediately suspended from the league for a minimum of thirty (30) days (non-negotiable). Further, for a repeat offender, that player will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the playing season. This would also include any threatening or abusing another player, spectator, or league executive member on any social media platform **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- D. All other game ejections and suspensions will be dealt with in accordance with the most recent St. Thomas & District Umpires' Association Ejection Policy. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- E. When a player is ejected, it is the responsibility of the ejected player's league contact and/or designate(s) to provide the umpire with the correct first and last name of the ejected player prior to the start of the next play. Failure to provide this information will result in the following action being taken:

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- i) The game shall be forfeited by the umpire/league executive in favour of the team not at fault; and
 - ii) An automatic one (1) game suspension will be served by the league contact of the at fault team during their next scheduled game.
- F. Any player caught playing on a team other than the one he has signed with will receive an automatic thirty (30) day suspension.
- G. Any team caught using players not listed on their eligible roster will be subject to the following action:
 - i) The game shall be forfeited by the league executive in favour of the team not at fault; and
 - ii) The at fault team's contact will receive an automatic thirty (30) day suspension
- H. Any player ejected from a game must be out of sight and sound of the Umpire and Diamond at which he was ejected from. An ejected player's eligibility to play their next game will be determined by the Umpire and if needed the Executive (subject to 1 (D).) **(Revision March 26, 2024)**
- I. Suspended players are not are not permitted in the Complex until their suspension has been either fulfilled or lifted. Any suspended player caught in the Complex and/or surrounding facilities (including spectator stands, concession area, parking lot, etc.) during their suspension will have one (1) game added to their suspension.
- J. The league executive reserves the right to issue sanctions above and beyond the guidelines as laid out in "Section 1: Ejections & Suspensions" St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League Constitution when it deems the conduct of a player or team reflects negatively on the league and/or does not comply with Slo-Pitch Ontario's "Code of Conduct" <https://slopitch.org/code-of-conduct>. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

2. FORFEITS

- A) A game shall be forfeited by the umpire in favour of the team not at fault when a team has less than eight (8) players to start a game or nine (9) to continue a game. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) A forfeiture will result in \$50 being removed from the offending team's performance bond. If a team forfeits more than three games and forfeits a forth game, a payment of \$50 must be paid prior to the start of the next game, otherwise that game is forfeited (additional \$50) and so on, until the forfeiture fee(s) are paid **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

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- C) For all forfeits, as each team has already paid for the umpire fees for the regular season, the umpires fee is deemed paid. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- D) A forfeiture during a playoff series will require a payment of \$100 to the league and must be paid prior to the start of the next scheduled playoff game. Failure to make payment of the fee will result in a team suspension until the forfeiture fees are paid. In addition, the forfeiting team is responsible for the full umpire fee and this must be paid at the time the game is declared a forfeit. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

3. RAINED-OUT GAMES

The City of St. Thomas Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the cancellation of games, field conditions, and/or other inclement weather by no later than 3:00pm on that day (Monday to Friday) and shall remain closed for the remainder of that day. A notice of the diamond closures by the Parks and Recreation Department will be sent out to league representatives by the Parks and Recreation Department via email no later than 3:00pm on a game day. No email notifications will be sent by the Parks and Recreation Department for any game cancelled after 3:00pm **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

- A) After 3:00pm, any games cancelled due to rain, field conditions, and/or other inclement weather will be done so at the field of play by either the City staff and/or the umpire. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) The Executive will do its best to contact the team contacts via email and players via social media in the event that games are cancelled. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C) The St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League Executive does not have the infrastructure to commit to monitoring diamond conditions any time that the weather may be adverse. As such, the Executive will do its best to contact a team if their game is cancelled. However, it is possible that a cancellation may occur that the Executive is unaware of and/or unable to contact teams about.
- D) Teams are encouraged to designate a player as their rain-out contact; that is someone who ideally lives closest to Doug Tarry Complex and can keep their team representative updated regarding any unsafe playing conditions and/or games cancelled prior to the start of their own game.
- E) Any team that does not receive notification that their game has been cancelled, either from a league representative, or by visiting the City of St. Thomas Parks and Recreation website, must arrive at the diamond ready to participate in their scheduled game. Failure to do so may result in your team's forfeiture of that game.

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- F) The Executive will do their best to reschedule all rainout games, providing that they have an impact on the final regular season standings. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

4. RESCHEDULED GAMES

- A) If deemed appropriate by the Executive committee, games will be rescheduled based on first available date and will be rescheduled by the League President with notification of both home and visiting teams of the new date.
- B) The League President will notify the Umpires Association and City Parks and Recreation Department of all rescheduled games.
- C) Removed (March 25, 2025)

5. TIED GAMES

- A) International tie-breaker rule:
- Starting in the top of the 8th inning and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the last scheduled batter on second base
 - The player who is running can use a courtesy runner provided that the team still has an eligible courtesy runner

6. MERCY RULE

- A) After five (5) or more complete innings, a team that is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs will automatically win. If the home team is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs after 4 ½ innings, then the home team is declared the winner.

7. TEAM ROSTER

- A) Team rosters consist of a maximum of twenty-two (22) players and a minimum of fifteen (15) players. A non-playing coach does not count in the twenty (22) player list. **(Revision March 25, 2025)**
- B) A minimum roster of ten (10) players must be submitted at the first league meeting. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C) All remaining signed players must be submitted prior to the designated Roster deadline or "Roster Lock" date. **(Revision March 26, 2024)**

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- D) Players can be removed or added to a team roster up until the designated Roster Deadline or "Roster Lock" date. After Roster Deadline or "Roster Lock" date, all team rosters are frozen. **(Revision March 26, 2024)**
- E) 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:
- The injured player is unable to play for the remaining season due to their injury or inability to play; and
 - The player who is replacing the injured player has not played in the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League for the current season **(Revision April 12, 2024)**

8. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A) Players must be 18 years of age or may be between the ages of 16 and 17 and have a signed authorization form by their parents or guardians. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) A player may only play on one team in the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League. (for example, you can't play in men's Division 1 or Division 2 and play in Masters.) **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

9. UNIFORMS

- A) All members of a team must wear the same jersey or team sweater with a visible and different number on the shirt between 0 and 99. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the following:
- i) First violation will be a warning from the league executive
 - ii) Second violation will be a \$25 fine payable to the league
 - iii) Third violation will result in forfeiture of the game

It is the responsibility of the protesting team representative to contact the league executive immediately following the game in question. A league executive member will attend the next game of the violating team and take the appropriate action.

- B) The league has no regulation as to the colour of pants or socks worn.
- C) Metal Spikes and removable spikes are prohibited. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- D) After June 1st, if a player does not have a matching team jersey/shirt as his teammates, the player will not be eligible to play. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

10. EQUIPMENT

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- A) The City Parks and Recreation Department will provide home plates and bases. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) All home plate mats will be either the full mat or the "V" cut out mat. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C) Removed previously
- D) All teams will use the balls provided by the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch league. Those balls will be the approved balls as per SPN for that year. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- E) All Pitchers are required to wear a protective cage, mask, or mask/helmet combination. **(Revision March 25, 2025)**
- F) The home team must provide a new ball for the game, and the visiting team must provide a suitable ball of the same type. The best ball at the end of the game will be given back to the home team who supplied the new ball. If a new ball is not provided by the home team, they are subject to a \$25.00 fine payable to the league
- G) Removed **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- H) Removed **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- I) The St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League prohibits the use of any multi-wall or titanium bat that does not carry a BPF (1.20) and "Thumbprint"3 stamping on the bat. All bats that are stamped with a BPF factor that exceeds 1.20 will be considered an illegal bat. Any multi-wall bat that does not exceed a BPF of 1.20 will be considered a legal bat. All bats must comply with current ASA bat standard, listed on the Slo-Pitch Ontario website at www.slopitch.org . Umpires will check all bats prior to game time. Any player caught using an illegal bat in a regular season or playoff game will be ejected from the game immediately.
- J) Removed **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

11. BATTING ORDER OPTION

- A) Minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of twenty (20) players may be in the batting lineup at the start of the game. A team 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. If a team starts with eight (8)

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players and a ninth (9th) player arrives later, and that team is on defense, that player can enter the playing field and take up a position as soon as they are ready. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

- C) If a player is injured and must leave the game, their batting order position is not considered an out. An ejection is considered an out. If the previous batter is walked (intentionally or otherwise), the ejected player is not an out if there are two outs. However, the game cannot continue if there are only eight (8) players after the first inning. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- D) If a substitution occurs, the player that is being substituted for will not be allowed to play or re-enter for the remainder of the game.
- E) Any player whose name appears on the batting order may take a position on the playing field (up to a maximum of ten (10) players).
- F) The batting order must be maintained and followed throughout the game.
- G) Any player who goes on the field or up to bat must be put in the lineup as an addition to the lineup or substitution for another player and indicated as such before he goes on the field or up to bat. The scorekeeper must notify the umpire and the other team. If a pitch is thrown and the added player is not in the lineup, he will be removed from the game immediately and not permitted to play. Another player not in the lineup must replace him, and if no other player is available, his turn will be counted as an out.
- H) A maximum of three (3) runners per game may be used. They can be used at any time during the game and can be anyone on your league roster. This rule does not apply in Masters over 45 Division.

12. SCORE REPORTING

- A) The winning team is to submit the result of their game via the score reporting form at www.STSPA.ca. This must be done within 24 hours of that scheduled game. Failure to comply with this will result in a game not being played in the standings. **(Revision March 26, 2024)**

13. UMPIRE FEES

- A) All regular season umpire fees are included in the league fees that are collected prior to the start of the season. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

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- B) In the playoffs, all umpire fees are payable directly to the umpire by cash before the game begins. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C) The amount payable per game to the umpire will be negotiated annually with the St. Thomas and District Umpire's Association. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

14. AWARDING OF PRIZES (Revised April 2, 2020)

- A) A cash award is presented to the teams that finish first and second in their division during the regular season. The amount of money paid out is directly related to the number of the teams entered in the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch league each year. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) The team that wins the playoffs for each division will receive a team prize as chosen from the SPN catalog by the league committee. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

15. PROTESTS

- A) All protests will include a \$50 bond to be put up by the protesting team within 48 hours of the protest. If the protest is upheld, the bond will be refunded. If the protest is turned down, the bond is forfeited to the league. The protest must be made to the umpire before the next pitch.
- B) All protests must be in writing and given to the President to be reviewed by the League Executives, Executives of the Umpire Association, the umpire of the game, and the opposing team representatives where a final decision will be reached. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C) Where a member of the League Executive is involved in a protest, he will be replaced in the discussion and voting by a league representative from another team from a neutral division and chosen on a random basis

16. LEAGUE MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

- A) All teams must have one representative, and not more than two unless otherwise notified, at each league meeting. Their responsibility is to attend the entire meeting. Should a representative arrive at a meeting more than fifteen (15) minutes late or a team not send a representative, or a representative leaves (unless there is an emergency), there will be a \$25.00 fine assessed for all above cases which must be paid before the next game or forfeiture fees are paid.
- B) The League committee will make best efforts to hold the first league meeting in the February prior to the season starting. The

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- C) League committee will make best efforts to determine the entry fee at that time. Unless otherwise notified, each team must provide a \$500 deposit at this meeting, as well as a minimum ten (10) player roster, to show their commitment to participating in the upcoming season. The balance owed for the season will be payable at the second meeting. **(Revised April 2, 2020)**
- D) Failure to meet entry fee payments (i.e. first and final installments) will result in a \$50.00 fine payable to the league. If for some reason the final installment is not paid by the second meeting, that payment must be made prior to the first game. If the final payment is not made prior to the first game, that game will be considered a forfeit, and subject to a \$25.00 fine. This procedure will continue until the balance is paid in full.
- E) The League Executive may not be a representative of a team nor attend a league meeting as a replacement for a representative of a team.
- F) Team representatives and coaches who do not co-operate with the league in regard to completing duties required or who flagrantly violate the league constitution will be notified in writing by senior member of the Executive Committee of the problem with a hearing scheduled with other league representatives. Failure to attend the hearing will result in an automatic removal from that position. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

17. SLO-PITCH DIAMOND RULES

- A) Teams using diamonds for other than regular games must book the diamond with the City Parks and Recreation Department and pay the city directly where lights are used. Gorman Rupp also falls under this clause.
- B) Any batting practice prior to the games must be done on the outfield grass. No batting practice is allowed on the infield for any reason.
- C) Games will start as scheduled unless the preceding game is still being played. No grace period allowed for any reason.
- D) If games are running behind schedule, no infield warm-up will be allowed for either team.
- E) There is no batter's box. A batter will be called out if he steps on or over the mat when making contact with the ball. Stepping in front of the mat is allowed.
- F) Visiting team gets infield for warm-up first, if time permits. Infield warm-ups should last no longer than five (5) minutes.

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- G) Teams are responsible for retrieving any balls hit out of play or over the fence by their own players.
- H) Every year, the home run rule over the fence for each division will be reviewed. Regardless of the number of home runs over the fence permitted for each division, any additional over the fence home runs after that team has hit the limit will be considered a single. **(Revision March 25, 2025)**
- a. Division 1 (D1)- 7 Home Runs
 - b. Division 2 (D2)- 5 Home Runs
 - c. Division 3 (D3)- 4 Home Runs
 - d. Division 4 (D4)- 3 Home Runs
- I) All “over the fence” Home Runs hit in excess of the Division specific Home Run limit (see 17. H) will result in the batter counting as an out. **(Revision March 25, 2025)**
- J) A 2ft wide by 5ft long pitcher’s box is used. The front edge shall be in line between home plate and second base and 50ft from the back corner of home plate. Before each pitch, the pitcher must stand with one foot (pivot) within the pitcher’s box, facing the batter with the ball held in one hand. This position must be maintained for 1-10 seconds. If a pitching rubber exists on the diamond, then the pitcher may also continue to pitch from it, provided that it falls within the pitcher’s box. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- K) Divisions 1, 2, & 3 have an unlimited per inning run cap. Division 4 will be capped at 7 total runs scored per inning. The 7th or Umpired declared time based “last inning” will be unlimited in all divisions. **(Revision March 25, 2025)**
- L) Coaches/managers must provide their name to the umpire prior to the start of the game. Coaches/managers are responsible for their team’s actions and players both on and off the field. If the coach/manager fails to provide his name to the umpire at ground rules prior to the start of the game, the game is then forfeited immediately.

18. MASTERS DIVISION RULES

- A) All players in the Masters division must be 45 years of age or older. Each team may sign up to a maximum of three (3) players between the ages of 40 and 44, meaning the player must turn 40 years of age on or before December 31st of the year or the current season. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) Batting order option is the same as the rest of the league.

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- C) If a player is injured, he is to be removed from the game completely and cannot return. When his time to bat comes, he will be passed over and not considered an out.
- D) A commitment line will be used and measured out as per SPO rules. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- E) If a runner crosses the commitment line, he must continue to home plate. If he stops and returns over the commitment line, he is called out. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- F) Deleted in its entirety. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- G) In Masters division, one (1) courtesy runner per inning can be used. The courtesy runner will be the player occupying the last batting position to make an out. If it is the first inning and no outs have been made, the courtesy runner will be the last position in the batting order
- H) In Masters division, a safe line is 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 safe line. Sliding into home plate or touching home plate is not permitted. If a player touches or slides into home plate or the mat, the runner will be called out 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. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**

19. DIVISION FORMAT

- A) At the first league meeting prior to the start of the season, the League Executive will review the final standings from the previous season. The team that finished in first place of their respective division must move to the closest higher division. The team that wins the playoffs for their division has the option of moving up to the closest higher division. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) The team that finishes in last place of their respective division has the option of moving down to the closest lower division. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C) If there is a team seeking on their own accord to enter a higher division of play, they must request this at the first league meeting prior to the start of the season. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- D) Teams that did not finish in last place of their respective divisions seeking to drop to a lower division must seek the approval of the league executive team at the first league meeting

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prior to the upcoming season. The final decision to move a team to a lower division will rest with the league executive team.

20. PLAYOFF FORMAT

- A) All teams make the playoffs. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- B) The playoff format will be reviewed and established each year based on the number of teams in each division. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- C) The playoffs matchups will be reseeded after each round, with the highest remaining seed facing the lowest remaining seed, until only the final two teams remain. **(Revision March 26, 2024)**
- D) If a tie occurs at the end of the season, and if it affects a playoff spot or first place, ranking will be decided by way of head to head records of the tied teams. If that record is a tie, then run differential between the two teams will be used to determine ranking. **(Revision April 2, 2020)**
- E) If a three-way tie occurs, the League Executive will meet and break the tie, with the first criteria being the team with the best record against the tied teams.
- F) Weather Impacted Playoff Games
 - a. All playoff games must complete a full 7-innings, excluding games that are impacted and ended by a mercy scenario.
 - b. Any playoff game that is called by the officiating Umpire or Senior Umpire on duty due to weather conditions, that has not completed a full 5-innings, or 4.5-innings if the home team is ahead, will be cancelled. The game will be restarted in its entirety, starting from a 0-0 score in the first inning, at a rescheduled date provided by the League President.
 - c. Any playoff game that is called by the officiating Umpire or Senior Umpire on duty due to weather conditions, after completing 5-innings or 4.5 if the home team is ahead, will be suspended and restarted at a rescheduled date provided by the League President.
 - i. Upon the suspension of a playoff game, the team representatives from both teams will immediately take a picture of their respective scorebooks and send the images to the League President.
 - ii. Both team representatives will also provide the following information.
 - 1. # of Home Runs hit in the suspended game.
 - 2. # of pinch runners used in the suspended game.
 - 3. Any ejected players from the suspended game.

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4. Any other pertinent information that will impact the remainder of the game.
- iii. Teams will be required to use the same batting order as used in the suspended game, substituting in a new player(s) for a player(s) that is unable to attend the rescheduled game.
- iv. Any additional new players will be added to the bottom of the lineup.
- v. The restarted game will begin from the exact moment (score, inning, base runner(s), batter, strikes, balls, and outs) from where it was suspended.
- vi. The League President and Executive committee will make additional decisions, if required, regarding the restarted of the suspended playoff games.

(Revision March 26, 2024)

21. LEAGUE EXECUTIVE

- A) The League Executive is to be compensated for expenses incurred during the Slo-Pitch season, with the overall total not to exceed \$1000.00 for the year.
- B) League Executive Elections will take place at the final (3rd) meeting, to be held at the conclusion of the season.

