

ST. THOMAS WOMENS SLO-PITCH LEAGUE CONSTITUTION





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The Slo-Pitch Ontario rules and regulations 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 to the STWSL 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 STWSL 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 STWSL 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.
- 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.
- d. All other game ejections and suspensions will be dealt with in accordance with the most recent St. Thomas & District Umpires' Association Ejection Policy.
- 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:
 - 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 she 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:



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- iii. The game shall be forfeited by the league executive in favour of the team not at fault; and
- iv. 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 she 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).)
- i. Suspended players are not permitted in the complex or at the diamond where their team is playing until their suspension has been either fulfilled or lifted. Any suspended player caught in the complex or diamond 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 Women'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>.

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 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. A forfeiture will result in \$75 being removed from the offending team's performance bond. The forfeit fee of \$75 must be replenished prior to the start of the next game, otherwise that game is forfeited (additional \$75) and so on, until the forfeiture fee(s) are paid.
- d. For all forfeits, as each team has already paid for the umpire fees for the regular season, the umpires fee is deemed paid.
- e. 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.
- f. Forfeit fees will be carried forward on a yearly basis. Forfeit fees can be returned to the team representative, upon request, and no more than one year from May 1 of the previous season.

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). When the city determines that the conditions shall result in the closure of the complex/diamonds they shall remain closed for the remainder of that day. A notice of the diamond closures by the Parks and Recreation



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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.

- 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.
- 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.
- c. The St. Thomas Women's Slo-Pitch league executive does not have the infrastructure to commit to monitoring diamond conditions. As such, the executive will do its best to contact a team if their game is cancelled. When a cancellation happens after 3:00 pm the executive may be unaware of and/or unable to contact teams before their games.
- d. Teams are encouraged to designate a player as their rain-out contact; that is someone who can keep their team representative updated regarding 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.
- f. The Executive will do their best to reschedule all rainout games, providing that they have an impact on the final regular season standings.

4. RESCHEDULED GAMES

- a. 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.

5. TIED GAMES – Amended in April 2024 to International Tie Breaker Rule

6. GAME TIME LIMITS

- a. 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.

7. MERCY RULE

- a. After five (5) or more complete innings, the team that is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs will automatically win.
- b. If the home team is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs after 4.5 innings, then the home team is declared the winner.



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8. TEAM ROSTER

- a. The roster will consist of 25 total players. All team rosters including coaches must be submitted via the STSPA.ca website preceding scheduled league opener. Each time a player is added before June 15th, the player's information must be submitted.
- b. Additional players may be added to the roster until midnight on June 15th. Adding and releasing players must be done through the website. This procedure must be done before a player is eligible to play in the league.
- c. A minimum roster of ten (10) players must be submitted at the first league meeting.
- d. After the roster lock date, 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:
 - 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 Women's Slo-Pitch League for the current season.

9. 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.
- b. Sponsor or team name will have no bearing on the definition of a new team.
- c. 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.
- d. It is the coach's responsibility to get an updated list to check and ensure players/ coaches eligibility of the opposing team.

10. EQUIPMENT

The City Parks and Recreation Department will provide home plates and bases.

- a. All home plate mats will be either the full mat or the "V" cut out mat.
- b. All teams must use a WORTH ELEVEN (11) inch Hot Dot ball or the balls approved as per SPN for that year.
- c. The home team must provide a ball in like new condition 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.



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- d. The St. Thomas Women'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 can be ejected from the game immediately.

11. UNIFORMS

- a. All team members must be wearing the same colour. If a team is non-compliant, this can be discussed at ground rules and a forfeit could result by the offending team.
- b. The league has no regulation as to the colour of pants or socks worn.
- c. Metal spikes and removable spikes are prohibited.

12. 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.

13. SCORE REPORTING

- a. Both teams are responsible for submitting the final score to the STATISTICIAN via the STSPA.ca score reporting form.



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- b. Team representatives are responsible for ensuring that the scores are being submitted and any missing scores are sent immediately once they are aware of them.
- c. 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 the game being recorded as a forfeit.

14. UMPIRE FEES

- a. Complaints about umpires will be submitted through the STPSA website and handled by the league executive.
- b. All umpire fees are included in the league fees that are collected prior to the start of the season.
- c. The amount payable per game to the umpire will be negotiated annually with the St. Thomas and District Umpire's Association.
- d. 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.

15. AWARDING OF PRIZES

- a. The team that finishes first in their division will be awarded a cash prize.
- b. The team that wins the playoffs for each division will be awarded a cash prize.
- c. The budget for such prizes shall be voted on prior to the season commencing.

16. PROTESTS

- a. Protests must be made when the infraction occurs, prior to the next pitch and you must formally inform the Umpire that the protest is being lodged. The Umpire must sign both scorebooks to acknowledge the protest.
- b. Where a member of the League Executive is involved in a protest, she will be replaced by another member of the League Executive "The Umpire must sign both scorebooks to acknowledge the protest."
- c. All protests must be submitted online 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.

17. LEAGUE MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

- a. The league executive will make best efforts to hold the first league meeting in the February prior to the season starting.
- b. The league executive 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. Payments can be made by EMT, cash or cheque.



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- c. 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 the team will not take the field.
- d. During general meetings, each team will be granted one vote per team.
- e. 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 the executive of the problem with a meeting scheduled with other league representatives. Failure to attend the meeting will result in an automatic removal from that position.

18. 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.
- a. 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.
- b. Games will start as scheduled unless the preceding game is still being played. No grace period allowed for any reason.
- c. If games are running behind schedule, no infield warm-up will be allowed for either team.
- d. There is no batter's box. A batter will be called out if she steps on or over the mat when making contact with the ball. Stepping in front of the mat is allowed.
- e. Visiting team gets infield for warm-up first, if time permits. Infield warm-ups should last no longer than five (5) minutes.
- f. Teams are responsible for retrieving any balls hit out of play or over the fence by their own players.
- g. 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.
- h. Maximum Arc- twelve (12) feet



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- i. Minimum Arc- six (6) feet
- j. Seventy (70) foot base path

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, where one exists. The team that wins the playoffs for their division has the option of moving up to the closest higher division, where one exists.
- b. The team that finishes in last place of their respective division has the option of moving down to the closest lower division, where one exists.
- 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.
- 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 prior to the upcoming season. The final decision to move a team to a lower division will rest with the league executive team.
- e. The decision will be made by the League Executive including division format. The decision can be changed up to June 15th of regular season play.

20. PLAYOFF FORMAT

- 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. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. Weather Impacted Playoff Games
 - i. All playoff games must complete a full 7-innings, excluding games that are ended by a mercy scenario.
 - ii. 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



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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.

- f. 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 courtesy runners used in the suspended game.
 2. Any ejected players from the suspended game.
 3. 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 executive will make additional decisions, if required, regarding the restarted of the suspended playoff games.

21. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

- 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.

22. 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.



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- 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 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. All time frames mentioned below will be communicated to all members ahead of the election process.
- k. After a set length of time, the nomination period will close, and the voting process will begin.
- l. During the voting period, no additional members will be allowed to join the Facebook group.
- m. All voters must be a member of the league, having occupied a spot on a team's final roster during the previous season.
- n. After a set length of time, the voting period will close, the votes counted, and a winner for each position announced.
- o. Once the Voting process for all positions is complete and the new Executive committee is finalized, preparation for the upcoming season will begin.

23. LEAGUE EXECUTIVE

- a. All positions on the executive are a two (2) year term.
- b. To ensure a smooth transition in the event of a leadership change, elections will be held on a rotating basis. In one year, the positions of president and treasurer/secretary will be up for election, while the following year, the positions of vice president, statistician, and team liaison will be up for election. This staggered approach ensures continuity in leadership and operations.
- c. League executive elections will take place at the final (3rd) meeting, to be held at the conclusion of the season.



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- d. The league executive is to be compensated for expenses incurred during the slo-pitch season, including room rentals, office expenses, storage, etc. with the overall total not to exceed \$1000.00 for the year. Any additional expenses will be voted on prior to the expense.
- e. Role descriptions as follows:

President

- 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.
- Assists the team liaison in the management of any 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.
- All scheduling and communication with City of St. Thomas Parks and Recreation.

Vice President

- Attends all meetings (executive and league)
- If president resigns or is incapable of performing their duties, assumes said responsibilities until president's return or a new election occurs.
- Voting member of executive.
- Presides over meeting in place of president in their absence.
- Fields electronically filed complaints regarding players, teams and umpires and works alongside the STPSA executive to rectify or address valid concerns.

Secretary/Treasurer

- Attends all meetings (executive and league)
- Voting member of the executive
- Types minutes, agendas, and the constitution and provides them out to all team representatives.
- Keeps account of monies collected and dispersed.
- Presents the financial status at meetings and prepares budgets.
- Voting member of the executive
- Has signing authority.

Statistician

- Receives team rosters and once compiled will provide the final rosters for the league to the team representatives.
- Voting member of the executive.
- Receives and records player release cards
- Prepares final verifications of stats.
- Oversees and enforces player eligibility requirements for playoff participation.



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Team Liaison

- A mediator and communicator between among executive and teams.
- Updates social media with essential information.
- Relays or directs all questions/information/issues from the team representatives to the appropriate executive member.
- Fields 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.
- Acts as sole contact person with executive.
- Assumes responsibility for team roster.
- Reports scores and rosters to statistician.