

Tri-Cities Slo-Pitch Rules and Regulations

Last updated April 12, 2024



This league follows Slo-pitch National rules:

1. The rules outlined here will supersede or explain SPN rules. All final rule interpretations and decisions are within the jurisdiction of the league commissioner.
2. Each team must have a copy of the league rules. They shall be considered official game rules for our league.
3. Team captains are required to know the rules and should review them with their team members prior to all games.
4. If a player is ejected from a game they will not be allowed to play in the subsequent game (not limited to a single day). Any player that is ejected from a game you must leave the park and will be subject to the Disciplinary Committee.
5. No body contact is allowed. The umpire will resolve any disputes, which arise during a game. If the contact is considered to be deliberate, the umpire shall eject the player from the game. If any altercation arises during a game, the umpire may, at his/her discretion, eject any or all participants in the altercation. In any event, the umpire shall submit a written report on any such incident to the League Executive. The report will be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee, which will decide what further action, if any, is required. As part of their review, the Discipline Committee may require representations to be made by the players involved before making a decision.
 - a. The following guidelines will be used when issuing suspensions:
 - i. Verbal abuse of official, teammate, opposing player, or fan:
 - ii. 1st Offence - minimum one game suspension + review of Discipline Committee
 - iii. 2nd Offence - minimum three games suspension (player & team representatives) + review of Discipline Committee
 - iv. 3rd Offence - minimum five games suspension (player & team representatives)+ review of Discipline Committee
 - b. Physical abuse of official, teammate, opposing player, or fan:
 - i. 1st Offence - minimum five games suspension + review of Discipline Committee
 - ii. 2nd Offence – indefinite suspension pending review of Discipline Committee
 - iii. Reports for all ejections/suspensions will be retained by the League indefinitely and referenced by the Discipline Committee for any future altercations of similar nature or involving the same player(s).
 - iv. Player(s) cannot play for any other team until their suspension(s) have been served.
 - c. If ejected from a game, that ends the players ability to play for that day and the player must leave the park and cannot return. Player will not be reinstated until review by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - d. If the Executive is informed of an incident occurring outside of the duration of game play, the individuals will be immediately notified and sections 5(a) and 5(b) will apply, subject to review of the Disciplinary Committee.
6. All players must be 18 years or older, unless approved by the executive.
7. Players on the field will not be allowed to wear any type of electronic device.
8. Slo-Pitch National strongly recommends that all players wear protective equipment while playing both defensive and offensive positions. Protective equipment, including masks, headwear, catchers' equipment and soccer style shin guards, may be used by

- all players in any Slo-Pitch National sanctioned event.
9. Players and fans who broadcast amplified sound or music through any type of electronic system during the game, including between innings must reduce the level of sound or turn the device completely off when requested due to safety concerns for all participants.
 - a. Effect: For a first offense the violator should be warned that to repeat the offense will cause prompt ejection from the game. All flagrant offenses (including a first offense) will be cause for the offender to be immediately removed from the game and playing area. An ejected player must leave the park immediately.
 10. The mercy rule (12 runs) is in effect after five or more complete innings (or four and a half innings, if the home team has scored the 12 runs to mercy).
 - a. The mercy rule applies after 4-1/2, 5, 5-1/2,6, etc.
 - b. The home team must have as many opportunities to bat (to tie or win the game) as the visiting team.
 - c. In any inning where the mercy rule applies, a team is allowed to score enough runs to bring them inside the run spread. (example: A team that trails by 20 runs in the 5th inning will be allowed to score up to 7 runs to get inside the 12-run rule.)
 11. **After 75 min of play** the umpire will call time and announce “we will finish this inning and play one more which will be open”, unless a full 7 innings has been played. Then the 7th inning is open.
 12. All games must start from the scheduled game start time. If the game starts late that time will be deducted from the overall time.
 - a. If a team is late:
 - i. Has not set up the field in time
 - ii. Does not have enough players to play
 - A team may borrow a player for the full game so long as that player is active on the SPN roster of the borrowing team. As well the borrowed player must be in a lower division.
 - b. A 15 min grace period will be observed.
 - i. If the home team is the offender they will lose home field advantage
 - ii. At the end of the 15 min grace period the game will be written as a forfeit.
 13. All innings have a 5 run maximum with the exception of the last inning which is open.
 14. Maximum number of players on the field is 10.
 - a. There must be 6 men and 4 women and no less than 8 players of which 4 must be women.
 - i. If playing with less than 10 players auto outs occur for the missing players
 - ii. the empty slots may be filled at any point in the game.
 - b. The Batting order requires that at all times, no more than two men may bat consecutively.
 - i. Batting order must contain a min of 33.33% (1/3) female batters (with 12 players a team must have 4 females & 8 males, with 13 players a team must have 5 females & 8 males etc.)
 - c. Teams can elect to play the BC 9:
 - i. The team starts with 9 batters and can not add additional players
 - d. Players for the year-end tournament must have played **6 games** during the regular season. **Up to 20 players** are allowed on the year-end tournament roster.
 15. Height limit for pitches is 6 feet to 12 feet.
 - a. A pitch is considered a strike if it lands on home plate or the strike mat.
 16. Base distance is 65 feet.
 17. A Shoe shall be considered legal if it is made with either leather or canvas uppers

- or similar materials.
- a. The soles may have soft or hard rubber cleats or replaceable cleats, provided they meet all the legal requirements.
 - b. The use of shoes with metal cleats, exposed metal, or toe pieces is prohibited.
 - c. Shoe sole or heel projections other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited.
 - d. The all-purpose molded plastic cleat softball shoe is legal.
 - e. Shoes must be worn by all players and coaches on the diamond.
18. No stealing or lead-offs allowed.
- a. **No anticipation step is allowed.** If a base runner loses contact with the base before a batted ball the base runner is out.
- 19. The Batter is out if he hits a foul ball or foul tip after two strikes.**
- a. Foul tip is any tipped ball that is caught by the catcher (with no min height).
20. Bunting is only allowed by females.
- a. If a female tries to bunt with 2 strikes, and the ball rolls foul the batter is out and the play is dead.
 - b. **a. Bunting is only permitted if the female batter is wearing a helmet. Bunting or attempting to bunt without a helmet will be called an out by the umpire immediately and the play will be dead.**
21. Sliding is permitted at 2nd and 3rd bases only.
- a. Sliding into 1st or home bases is strictly prohibited and will be called out.
 - b. A player deliberately trying to injure another will be kicked out of the game. Umpire's call is final.
22. Females cannot be thrown out at first base on a hit that makes it out of the infield (unless it is relayed through an infielder).
23. THE COMMITMENT LINE is drawn 20 feet from the front corner of the home plate (corner closest to third base) and perpendicular to the third base line and shall extend a minimum of 6 feet or more from the baseline into foul territory.
- a. There is to be no sliding while attempting to touch and/or cross the commitment line at any time.
 - b. A base runner who touches the COMMITMENT LINE or makes contact with the ground past the COMMITMENT LINE with any part of the body between third base and home plate must continue on towards the scoring line (at home plate).
 - c. A base runner may be tagged out between the commitment line and the scoring line.
24. THE SCORING LINE is drawn from corner "1" of the original home plate (corner closest to the third base) and perpendicular to the third base line and shall extend a minimum of 6 feet or more from the base line into foul territory.
- a. There is to be no sliding while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line at any time.
 - b. A base runner may be tagged out between the commitment line and the scoring line.
 - c. All base runners attempting to score a run must do so by touching the SCORING LINE with one foot or by placing one foot on the ground past the SCORING LINE in foul territory, in order for it to be counted as a run.
25. Runners are out if they touch home plate or cross over home plate in fair territory, whether a play is made or not
26. Courtesy runners may be used at any base.
- a. Only after the batter has reached 1st base safely and time is called.
 - b. A max of 3 courtesy runners are allowed per game.
 - c. The courtesy runner can be anyone listed on the lineup card and the same runner cannot be used more than once per game.
27. If a batter is walked he\she must take their base.

28. If a male batter followed by a female batter is walked, intentionally or otherwise (4 balls no strikes), he will be awarded first and second bases, the female must bat.
 - a. If the following female is not in the batting circle (or around the circle or has not made the umpire and pitch aware she is up next) at the time of the first pitch, 2 bases will not be awarded to a male batter.
29. A fair or foul ball shall be judged according to the position of the ball, relative to the FOUL LINES including the FOUL POLE, and not whether the fielder is on or over either fair or foul territory, at the time the ball is first touched. (Foul Lines and Foul Poles are in fair territory).
 - a. When a batted ball passes out of the field over a fence, the umpire shall declare it fair or foul, according to the position of the ball, as it leaves the playing field.
 - b. When a batted ball hits any object including a fielder and is ruled a fair ball under the above rules, it is always treated as a fair ball regardless of what happens to the ball, or where it may subsequently settle or land. A fly ball landing beyond first or third base is judged at point of the first contact.
30. GAME ATTIRE must be worn on the field and in the dugouts during game play.
 - a. Game attire must include, at a minimum, shorts and either a jersey, shirt, or tank top, for both males and females. Sports bras will not qualify as a jersey, shirt, or tank top.
31. See SPN website for a list of approved bats.
 - a. All bats must possess an approved stamp.
32. Fines
 - a. **Any game forfeited will result in a \$50 fine. If the team cancelling notifies the commissioner and opposing team by the Wednesday prior to the weekend of the game (s), the fine will be reduced by 50%.**
 - i. **An email must be sent to the Commissioner AND the opposing team notifying of the cancellation.**
33. **Any team that does not return the field keys at the year-end will not be allowed to participate in the year end tournament and will be charged the cost of rekeying all locks (\$200)**
 - a. Any fines that are outstanding at the time of the year-end tournament will cause the offending team to forfeit their right to play.
34. Umpire feedback must be submitted to the online form.
 - a. No verbal feedback will be acted upon.
35. Team line up cards must be presented to the umpire at the beginning of the game
 - a. First and last names must be on the card
36. Team rosters must be sent in to the executive by April 8th
 - a. Roster may be changed up to July 1st
 - i. All changes must be emailed to the executive.
 - b. After July 1st no roster changes will be allowed unless approved by the executive (only under extenuating circumstances).

SLO-PITCH NATIONAL BAT POLICY

As of January 1st, 2012, Slo-Pitch National will be recognizing and accepting the New USSSA bat testing methods for use in the SPN program.

All 2012 USSSA Bats marked with the "NEW (1.20 BPF) USSSA STAMP ON THE TAPER OF THE BAT" will be allowed in the SPN program.

ALL new bats manufactured after January 1, 2012 "MUST CARRY THE NEW USSSA STAMP".

SPN will also continue to use the 2000, 2004 ASA and ISF stamps and the [Non Approved Bat List](#)

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

