

# **St. Thomas Coed Slo-Pitch League**

## **2008 Rules and Regulations**

***\*\*All SPO rule and regulations are adopted with the following additions and/or revisions.***

### **1/ Team Eligibility**

- a) All teams must pay in full at or before the second league meeting to be considered for entry into the league for the current season.
- b) All teams must submit a minimum of 15 players' names on an official roster and the remainder of the entry fee at or before the second league meeting.
- c) Any team that has not paid the full entry fee at or before the second league meeting will not be included in the schedule.

### **2/ Player Eligibility**

- a) All players must be a minimum sixteen(16) years of age as of May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season
- b) All players must be on the official team roster held by the league executive before participating in any game.

### **3/ Team Rosters**

- a) Initial roster (pink copy) with minimum fifteen (15) player names and a minimum five (5) female players must be submitted at or before the second league meeting or by electronic copy of your team roster via e-mail by the Friday before the second meeting. It can be sent to your division representatives, or to [coedscores@yahoo.ca](mailto:coedscores@yahoo.ca)
- b) Team rosters will consist of maximum twenty-six (26) players, minimum fifteen (15) players, and a minimum five (5) female players.
- c) Additional players may be added to official roster until the mid-season tournament.
- d) Final roster (white copy) must be handed in to your division representative or league statistician at or before the mid-season tournament or by electronic copy of your team roster via e-mail by the Friday before the mid-season tournament. It can be sent to your division representatives, or to [coedscores@yahoo.ca](mailto:coedscores@yahoo.ca) . A hard printed copy then must be handed in at the mid-season tournament **prior to playing your first scheduled game. NO EXCEPTIONS**
- e) Teams that do not hand in their final rosters at or before the mid-season tournament will be restricted to the players on their initial roster only. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- f) Any team playing with a player or players not on the roster held by the league executive shall result in forfeiture of the game and a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fine, if the opposing team protests the game. (See Protests)
- g) Teams are responsible to check and ensure that their current and final rosters are on file with the league executive, and are correct and complete.

### **4/ Protests**

- a) Any and all protests concerning rosters, unresolved score discrepancies, player eligibility or conduct of players, coaches, umpires, or league executive must be made in writing and submitted within forty eight (48) hours of the incident. A twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee must accompany the written protest, which is refundable only if the protest is upheld. During tournament play, protests must be submitted immediately following the game.
- b) Upheld protests may result in overturning game result (forfeiture), fines, suspension(s), warning(s) or other disciplinary action.
- c) Protests involving umpire judgment calls (ball/strike, safe/out) will not be accepted or considered.
- d) Protests of rule interpretation will be considered but may not result in overturning of game result.
- e) A designated league executive member and at least one other executive member will consider all protests.

- f) Any protest involving a league executive member will be considered by the remaining executive members.
- g) All protest rulings are final.

## 5/ Games

- a) All games are maximum 7 innings.
- b) There is a time limit of one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes from the time the game begins. **NO NEW INNINGS WILL BEGIN AFTER THE 1:10 min. TIME LIMIT. All innings will be completed.**
- c) Both teams must supply a suitable ball of the correct type to the umpire before the game.
- d) There is a ten (10) run mercy rule after any complete inning following the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning or after any complete inning, after the time limit has expired.
- e) Games with a tied score after seven (7) complete innings or any complete inning after the time limit will remain a tie, with one point being awarded to each team.
- f) Two (2) points will be awarded for each win.
- g) Winning teams must report the game score to league statistician by twelve noon (12:00pm) the Monday following the game. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- h) Scores must be reported to the E-mail address: coedcores@yahoo.ca

## 6/ Batting Order/Line Up

- a) Teams must have a minimum four (4) female players in the batting order and on the field at all times
- b) A maximum of five (5) men may be on the field at any time.
- c) Teams must alternate male/female or female/male in the batting line up at all times. There may be an uneven number of males and females in the lineup.
- d) If a team must begin the game with less than ten (10) players, they may add players, **to a maximum of ten (10)**, at any time during the game.
- e) If a game is started with ten (10) or more players, extra players may only be added up until the time that the team reaches the end of their batting order.
- f) If a player is injured and has to leave the game, the rest of the batting order may move up, and it will not result in an out (unless the player has been ejected from the game). Teams must still alternate male/female batting. If the team does not have a minimum eight (8) players or minimum four (4) female players, then the team must forfeit.
- g) Maximum number of players in a batting order is twenty-six (26).

## 7/ Forfeits

- a) Teams must have a minimum eight (8) players and minimum four (4) female players present to play a game without forfeiture.
- b) Teams may not start or continue a game with less than four (4) female players or less than eight (8) players total. There is no minimum of male players.
- c) Teams forfeiting games must pay umpire fees for both teams (\$22) to the umpire if the game has not started.
- d) Teams forfeiting games must pay a fifty-dollar (\$50) fine to the league.
- e) Forfeiting teams who do not pay the full umpire fee (\$22) to the umpire at the diamond, must pay the umpire fee (\$22), and a fifty-dollar (\$50) fine to the league.
- f) Forfeit fines and umpire fees must be paid to your division representative by twelve noon (12:00pm) the following Friday or the next game will be canceled with additional fines, and so on.
- g) Any team committing a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) forfeit will be removed from the league.
- h) All forfeit rules apply to regular season and tournament games.

## **8/ Fines and Fine Deposits**

- a) All teams will submit a fifty-dollar (\$50) forfeit fee and a twenty-two dollar (\$22) forfeit umpire fee deposit as part of their entry fee.
- i) All fine and fees must be paid to your division representative before twelve noon (12:00pm) the following Friday or the next game will be canceled with additional fines, and so on.
- b) Fine and fee deposits will be returned to teams in good standing at the end of the season meeting. The deposits may remain with the executive for the following season at the team's option.

## **9/ Base Runners**

- a) "Safety bag" at first (1<sup>st</sup>) base – infield hit runners must use the orange safety base and infielders must use white base. Outfield hits may use white base.
- b) Sliding is allowed at second (2<sup>nd</sup>) base and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base only.
- c) "Safe line at home – base runners must cross the line behind home plate (perpendicular to third base line), before infielder with the ball touches the home plate mat. Runners touching the home plate mat are an automatic out.
- d) Commitment line twenty feet (20 ft) from home plate. Once runners cross the commitment line they must go home. If runners cross back over to the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base side of the commitment line they are an automatic out.
- e) Base runners may be tagged out anywhere on the base path including at home.
- f) Three (3) courtesy runners per team per game are allowed. Teams must substitute male for male runner and female for female runner. Courtesy runner does not have to be last out. However, if the substituted runner comes to bat while they are on base, they must be re-substituted with another courtesy or they will be ruled an out at bat.

## **10/ Walk Rule**

- a) If a male batter walks on four (4) consecutive pitches (4 balls), he is awarded second (2<sup>nd</sup>) base and the female batting next has the option of batting or taking first (1<sup>st</sup>) base.
- b) If one strike is called or the male player swings at any pitch (strike or foul ball strike) and then is walked, he is awarded first (1<sup>st</sup>) base only and the female must bat.

## **11/ Home Run Rule**

- a) Home runs will be limited to a maximum of five (5) per team / per game.
- b) For each team, any "out of the park" home run after the limit of five (5) has been attained will be ruled as a "double".
- c) These rules apply to all divisions in the league.

## **12/ Uniforms & Equipment**

- a) No metal spikes are allowed
- b) Team shirts are optional
- c) At Doug Tarry Sports Complex - bases, home plate mat and first (1<sup>st</sup>) base "safe" base are provided and will be set up for the league
- d) Teams are not allowed on the diamonds before **4:45pm** unless otherwise stated in the schedule.

## **13/ Umpires**

- a) A single umpire will be supplied, by the league, for each game at a cost of eleven dollars (\$11) per team.
- b) A single umpire will be supplied, by the league, for each tournament game at a cost of ten dollars (\$10) per team.

## **14/ Winning Teams**

- a) Winning teams must report the game score to league statistician by twelve noon (12:00pm) the Monday following the game. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Both teams are encouraged to report tied scores to ensure they receive the point.
- b) Scores must be reported to the E-mail address: coedscores@yahoo.ca

## **15/ Rain Outs**

- a) The league executive will decide if the game(s) should be canceled due to rainout or field conditions and will notify the teams and umpire in chief before game time.
- b) After a game has started, only the umpire can make a decision to cancel a game if unfavorable playing conditions exist.
- c) If your game is rained out, your division representative will call you. If you have NOT received a call, **GO TO YOUR GAME**. The umpire then has the decision whether to continue with the game or not.
- d) If the first game(s) are rained out, not all games are automatically rained out. If you have NOT received a call, **GO TO YOUR GAME**. Games are considered separately for rainouts.
- e) The executive will reschedule rain out games whenever diamonds are available. Rescheduling rainouts may result in double headers. If you are unable to field a team for the rescheduled game then you must forfeit the game. Fines and fees apply.
- f) In the event a rain out is called while a game is in progress and less than five (5) innings are completed, the game will be rescheduled and restarted as a new game. If five (5) innings are completed, it is considered a complete game and the score will stand. (Regular Season Only)
- g) Tournament games interrupted by rain will be completed when possible.

## **16/ Mid Season Tournament**

- a) All teams are eligible to play in the mid-season tournament.
- b) Teams may use players on their official league roster only.
- c) Teams must sign in and submit their final roster (white copy) before their first game.
- d) These games do not count for the league standings or statistics
- e) All game times will be as set out in ***Item 5 b)*** with the exception of the Final Games which will be played to a complete seven (7) innings per game.

## **17/ Final Tournament**

- a) All teams are eligible to play in the final league tournament.
- b) Teams may use players on their official league roster only.
- c) All game times will be as set out in ***Item 5 b)*** with the exception of the Final Games which will be played to a complete seven (7) innings per game.

## **18/ Divisions**

- a) All teams will be placed in a division, based on their ability.
- b) Teams finishing first (1<sup>st</sup>) in their division standings or final tournament may be required to move up to a higher division for the following season.
- c) Teams finishing last in their division standings or final tournament may be required to move down to a lower division for the following season.
- d) Each division has a division representative on the league executive, and all questions and concerns must be directed to your division representative. The executive will consider all questions and concerns, and all decisions will be final.

## **19/ Ejections**

- a) This league is considered to be recreational and teams should keep this in mind.
- b) Any intentional physical contact between a player or coach and another player, coach or spectator or intent to injure another player, coach or spectator will result in the offending player ejected from the game plus a two (2) game suspension and further at the discretion of the league executive. A subsequent offense will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of the season and removed from the league.
- c) Any player or coach involved in fighting, threatening, or abusing another player, coach, spectator or league executive member will be immediately suspended from the league for a minimum two (2) games and further at the discretion of the league executive. A subsequent offense will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of the season and removed from the league.
- d) Any intentional physical contact between a player or coach and an official (umpire) in any circumstance will result in the player receiving a minimum of a thirty-day suspension and further at the discretion of the league executive. A subsequent offense will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of the season and removed from the league.
- e) All other game ejections will be dealt with according to the following guidelines:
  - 1) First (1<sup>st</sup>) ejection -- player to be removed from the game plus a further automatic one game suspension.
  - 2) Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) ejection -- player to be removed from the game and an automatic suspension until the league executive reviews the incident with their decision to be binding. Player may be suspended for the remainder of the season.
  - 3) Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) ejection – player to be removed from the game with an automatic suspension for the remainder of the season and removed from the league.
  - 4) Any player receiving a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) ejection may be declared ineligible for re-entry into the St. Thomas Co-ed Slo-pitch League in subsequent seasons.
- c) Obviously intoxicated players, coaches or spectators will be ejected and must leave the game.
- d) If any player is ejected from a game, the player must be substituted with another eligible player of the same gender (male for male, female for female) from their official roster. If no substitute is available, that spot in the batting order becomes an automatic out. If no substitute is available and the team has less than eight (8) players or four (4) female players, they must forfeit the remainder of the game.
- e) All ejected players, coaches or spectators must leave the ballpark and/or complex immediately. Refusal may result in forfeiture of the game to the non-offending team. Police intervention will be used if necessary.

## **20/ League Executive Elections**

- a) All elections will be held at the final league meeting of the season in September. Results of these elections will stand for the following season. It is in your best interest to attend this meeting to express your opinions and exercise your right to vote. A maximum of two (2) team representatives per team may attend this and all league meetings. It is suggested that your team be represented by at least one person at the final meeting.
- b) All nominations from the floor must be recognized and seconded to be included in the vote.
- c) All nominees must be present at the meeting to accept or decline the nomination.
- d) All teams are allowed one vote in favor or against each nominee.
- e) Nominees are not eligible to vote for the position that they are nominated for.
- f) The standing executive at the meeting has no voting or nominating privilege unless there is a tied vote.

**Note: The above rules supersede all SPO and SPN rules and regulations**