

St. George Old Masters Slo-Pitch League Constitution

Revised May 7, 2024

1. General Organization

- a. The name of the league shall be the St. George Old Masters Slo-Pitch League.
- b. The purpose of the league shall be to provide enjoyment and recreation.
- c. League fees shall be established at the organizational meetings before league play begins.
- d. If for any reason the league should fold, all bills will be paid, and the balance will be donated to local charities or recreational activities as decided by the Executive.
- e. The league will not be responsible for any injuries sustained by any player during the season. Insurance must be obtained by the Executive at the beginning of each season. All participants of the league must sign the League Waiver before they are eligible to play.
- f. Team uniform colours must be approved by the Executive.
- g. The league has the option to operate its own year-end dinner/dance.

2. Executive and Officers

- a. The Executive of the league shall consist of:
 - i. **President** - Duties to include; Call and preside over league meetings and league business.
 - ii. **Vice-President** - Assist the President and assume the President's duties in his absence.
 - iii. **Secretary** - Record and produce copies of the minutes of the meetings, update rules and the constitution.

- iv. **Treasurer** - Keep and produce the financial records, pay bills and acquire game balls and umpires.
- v. **Statistician** - Keep up to date records of game results and rosters.
- b. Each Executive position carries a 2 year term. Executive members shall be elected at the Fall Annual General Meeting. Commencing in 2010, President and Secretary will be elected in even numbered years, and Vice-President, Treasurer and Statistician to be elected in odd numbered years as established at the April 23rd, 2009 League meeting.
- c. Team Reps - Each team must appoint team reps to attend league meetings.
- d. Each team shall have only one vote on any matter before the league. The President shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

3. **Players**

- a. The goal of each team should be to recruit players who are presently, or formerly residents of South Dumfries Township.
- b. Where the above article is broken, the decision of the Executive shall be final. Priority shall be given to residents of South Dumfries and the immediate area.
- c. To be eligible, players shall be 40 years of age or older during the calendar year.
- d. Each team will be allowed up to 5 underage players (minimum 35 years old) to complete their rosters.
- e. Any player entering the league shall use his driver's license to establish proof of age. Upon the request of the Executive, an original driver's license must be shown to establish a player's age.
- f. Where there is expansion, no existing team shall lose more than 3 players to an expansion team or any existing team.
- g. Players are not bound to this league alone.

4. Player Code of Conduct

- a. All participants are expected to, at all times, display respect towards the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, officials, other volunteers, media, friends and spectators and treat everyone equally regardless of gender, orientation, ethnic origin, religion or ability. Racism, bullying, sexism or bigotry will not be tolerated.
- b. No participant will make any disparaging remarks or actions towards other athletes, officials, spectators and others.
- c. No participant will cause any form of personal abuse, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse, towards other athletes, officials, spectators and others.
- d. No participant will engage in a continuous verbal attack upon an official or other participant or spectator after they have been ejected from a game or make a verbal threat of physical violence upon an official.
- e. All participants will be mindful of vulgar language used on the field while participating or spectating.
- f. Participants who do not abide by this code of conduct, will be subject to a review by the league executive including 1 rep from each league team. Disciplinary action for offenders are limited to but may not include 1 verbal warning only, or ejection from the league. Disciplinary action will be determined by vote (team reps) and the league President should there be a tie.

5. Field and Play

- a. The league will supply all game balls to each team at the start of the season.
- b. Brant County Parks and Recreation will line the diamonds. The home team at each game will supply and set up the bases.
- c. The base lines will be 65 feet.
- d. Commitment Line - A line 30' from home plate will be a force play line. A baserunner who touches the COMMITMENT LINE or makes contact with the ground past the COMMITMENT LINE with any part of the body must continue on towards the scoring line at the home plate. A player who has touched and/or crossed over the commitment line as described above and attempts to return to third base, shall be declared out. The ball is live and all baserunners are in jeopardy.

A baserunner may be tagged out between the commitment line and the scoring line. All baserunners 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. Baserunners are out if they touch the home plate or cross over the home plate in fair territory, whether a play is made or not.

Exception, Baserunners "CAN" touch or cross over the home plate to avoid a collision with the fielder, the baserunner should avoid all collisions or be subject to ejection, based on the umpire's judgement.

- e. Pitching Box - 2 feet wide by 10 feet long. Its front edge shall be in a line between home plate and second base and 50 feet from the back corner of home plate.
- f. The batter's box will be 7'x 3', 4' in front of the plate and 3' behind the plate. Both batter's feet must be inside the batter's box while batting.
- g. The strike zone will be a board 24" x 36", placed at the front of the plate.
- h. A strike is achieved when the ball lands on any part of the board.
- i. One foul on the third strike is an out.
- j. The 6ft minimum height, and unlimited maximum height pitching rule will be enforced by the umpire.
- k. Lead-offs are not allowed. Baserunners are OUT if they fail to keep contact with the base to which they are entitled, until a pitched ball has reached or passed or bounced in front of the home plate / strike mat or is batted.

Baserunners who have left the base legally (after a pitched ball has bounced in front of, reached or passed the home plate / strike mat) but the ball has not been hit, are not declared out but must immediately return to their base and the ball is dead.

- l. Safe sliding will be permitted on 2nd and 3rd base only.
- m. A team may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning. The last inning is open. In addition, a team may withdraw from the game if trailing by 15 or more runs after 6 innings have been played.
- n. Gentleman's Rule - A batter cannot be thrown out at 1st by an outfielder fielding

the ball, assuming the batter is making a reasonable effort to run to first and touches the orange bag.

- o. Catch Up Rule - Any team losing by more than 5 runs in any regular inning, may continue to score runs until the game is tied. The last inning still remains open.
- p. Last Inning Flip/Flop Rule - To streamline the game, if the home team is losing the game at the start of the last inning, they will remain at bat for the top of the last inning. (all bases will be cleared beforehand) Should the home team overcome the score deficit and take the lead, then the away team will have last bats. If the home team does not overcome the score deficit, then the game will end.
- q. A team must put a minimum of 9 players onto the field.
- r. There shall be a team fine of \$40 for any team that forfeits a game. This shall be enforced by the Executive.
- s. A team must have a minimum of 7 roster players to have an official game. When a team does not have enough players for a league game, they may:
 - i. borrow players from the opposing team, or
 - ii. borrow players from the opposing team or borrow players from other teams in our league, to a maximum of 3 players to bring team to 10 players, or
 - iii. have the option to reschedule the game.
- t. There will be a 5 minute grace period after the scheduled start time of each game. After the grace period has expired, the team without the minimum number of players must forfeit the game.
- u. A player arriving late for a game may join the team after putting his name at the bottom of the line up on each score sheet.
- v. A courtesy runner shall be allowed for any injured base runner. There will be no courtesy runner allowed for players that have gone past first base, unless the base runner requesting the runner was injured after leaving first base. The courtesy runner must be the previous out. If there is no previous out, then the courtesy runner will be the last man in the batting order.
- w. All regular games will be nine innings, and double headers will be seven innings.

If tied, extra innings will start with the last at bat starting at 2nd base. (International Rules) Coaches will also have the discretion to agree on either playing extra innings where time allows, or taking 1 point each for a game ending in a tie.

- x. Field Specific Rules - (Diamond A) A hit ball which remains fair and rolls onto the roadway is considered out of play. (Diamond B) A batted ball which lands or rolls into the bushes at the tennis course is considered out of play. (Harrisburg Diamond) A hit ball which rolls under the outfield fence will be considered out of play. The result will be a Ground Rule Triple for each instance.
- y. Postponed games: It shall be the responsibility of the home team captain to inform the visiting team captain if it appears likely that the game will be rained-out. Team captains must come to an agreement to postpone any game. It will be the responsibility of the home team at rained-out games or postponed games, to contact the umpire and re-schedule. This call should be made at least 1 hour before game time. A fine of \$40.00 will be charged to a team not abiding by this rule.
- z. All rain-out/postponed games shall be made up at the next meeting of the two teams. If meeting on a Wednesday game, this shall be played for a total of 4 (four) points. If meeting on a Sunday, the two teams can agree on either playing two games for 2 (two) points each or playing one game for 4 (four) points.

If an agreement cannot be made, the umpire shall flip a coin and he shall make the final decision. If both teams come to an agreement to reschedule a game at the time that it is rained-out or postponed, they may do so. This must be reported to either the President or Vice-President before the make-up game is played.

All make-up games between two teams must be played before their final scheduled league game, if possible, on the "make-up date" inserted in the schedule. If it comes to the final game unresolved, then that final game must be a multi-point game. If the game cannot be played, then no points shall be awarded.

aa. No game can be played for more than 4 (four) points.

bb. Play-off Format:

The playoff format will be established at the beginning of each season by agreement of team reps and the Executive. Subject to an official vote if changes are to be made.

cc. No steel spikes are allowed.

- dd. All teams will have a batting helmet available for all games. It is recommended that catchers wear a helmet and that batters use a helmet until safe at first base.
- ee. Team sweaters must be worn during all games.
- ff. Slo-Pitch National rules are in effect wherever league rules are not covered.