

NCAA SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT 2024

**Wednesday May 22, 2024 (Rain date May 28th)
McCaffery Park, 61 Vansickle Rd, St.Catharines**

Players and coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which reflects positively on their school, on the game of Slo Pitch and on themselves. Profanity will not be tolerated. Any profanity or inappropriate behaviour directed at the convenor, umpires, spectators or opposing players and coaches will result in an automatic suspension from the tournament and may be reported to your school's administration. Please refrain from arguing with the umpires. They have been instructed to be objective, fair, and unbiased. Mistakes may be made. Set an example of good sportsmanship for your teammates and fellow ball players.

COST per team for umpires and field rentals will be determined after the tournament. Jenn will collect team fees directly from financial secretaries

TOURNAMENT FORMAT:

- 3 games guaranteed in round robin play.
- Teams will be awarded two points for a win, 0 points for a loss and 1 point for a tie. We will use the NCAA tie breaker rule to determine 1st and 2nd place in pool play, should it be required.
- Top two teams cross over to semi-finals and finals.
- We are on a time frame. You must ensure that your players are ready to play according to the times on the schedule. No new inning can start after **50 minutes from the first pitch**. Both coaches and the umpire should note the time of the first pitch.
- We do not have very long breaks between games so have your team ready to play. Please note: A short break has been added around lunch.
- Each team must provide a new (or gently used) 11" Optic Yellow Worth Green or Gold Dot Elite ball for each game. Clearly mark your school's initials on the balls so that they are returned to your team afterwards.
- Convenor(s) have the right to shorten any game if necessary.
- All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's name, colours and logos. **Please Note: at SOSSA teams will be required to have numbers on the back of the uniform shirts.**
- Washrooms are available on site. Please keep them tidy. Any damage to the park washrooms or park facilities should be reported immediately.
- Pack your own lunch. The snack bar will likely not be open. If necessary, there is a plaza with an Avondale and The Pie Guys Pizzeria at the corner of Vansickle and MacTurnbull.
- Please encourage your players to pick up their own garbage and water bottles.
- NO DOGS allowed at the park.

NCAA Slo-Pitch Tournament 2024 Rules

1. GENERAL RULES

- 4 balls 3 strikes
- If the batter hits a foul ball while she has 2 strikes, she is OUT
- A scoring line at home plate and a commitment line 21 feet from home plate shall be used.
- No stealing or lead offs. Anticipation step is permitted at umpire's discretion on a swing only.
- No sliding, but the runner can dive back to the base; if you slide feet first you are automatically out
- A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.
- Any foul tip caught by the catcher is an OUT, regardless of how high it goes
- All jewelry must be removed. Piercings may be taped if they cannot be removed

2. GAME

- **SOSSA, OFSAA, then** the Official Rules of Slo-Pitch Ontario shall govern Zone play with the following exceptions and/or reminders:
- A coin flip will determine the home team.
- Each team should verify the score after each inning.
- All round robin games are a maximum of **6 innings** with the exceptions listed below due to permit allow
- **Maximum of 5 runs per inning. Last inning is open.**
- **Mercy of 10 runs after 4 innings or 15 runs after 3 innings.**
- If a game is tied after **6 innings** or at curfew, the game remains a tie in round robin play.
- **Curfew:** No new inning can begin after **50 minutes** from the first pitch. Teams are encouraged to hustle on and off the field so the complete game can be played.
- Warm-ups to begin a game, pitcher is allowed 5 pitches and the team is allowed to throw the ball around.
- Warm-ups between innings, pitcher is allowed 2 pitches and the team is not allowed to throw the ball around.
- If the home team is winning in the last inning, they do not take their last at bat.

3. PITCHING

- A 2'X3' mat will be used for the strike zone. Pitches must have an arc between 6' and 12' from the ground.
- A "ball" or "illegal pitch" will be called by the umpire if the pitch is not within the range. A player can swing at a ball that is not within the range.
- A strike is called when the pitch follows an arc of 6 feet to 12 feet and comes into contact with any part of the plate.
- The distance between the pitching rubber (or marked line) and home plate is 45-55 feet at the discretion of the pitcher, measured from the back of the plate. The rubber mat (2X3) is to be placed on top of the home plate.
- Pitchers must wear a face mask during play.

4. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

- Each team **MUST** have a minimum of 10 girls in the batting rotation. If less than that number appears then an automatic out will be recorded for each batter less than 10 when they were to appear at the plate.
- You can have more than 10 girls in the batting order if you wish.
- If a girl leaves the game for any reason, she must be replaced in the batting order with another girl. If a substitution is not available an automatic out is recorded when she was to appear at the plate.
- Pinch running is not allowed. If a girl needs a pinch runner due to injury while running the bases, the last out will run for her. If a sub is not available to replace her in the rotation, an automatic out will be recorded the next time she appears at the plate.
- There shall be 10 players on the field. Unlimited substitutions in the field after each inning.
- ~~Players do not have to be in the batting lineup to play the field.~~

5. REGULATION

- Bases are 65 feet apart.
- All bats used must adhere to the USSSA Licensed/Approved Bat Policy. See <http://www.slo-pitch.com/>.
- The catcher **MUST** always wear a catcher's mask.
- All batters and base runners **MUST** wear a helmet and strapped properly.
- Batters are not to throw bats; first offense = warning; second offense = automatic out.