

Strathmore & District Mixed Slo-Pitch League

Bylaws and Regulations

Article 1 Name

The name for the not for profit society is the Strathmore & District Mixed Slo-Pitch League, hereinafter called the "League" or "SSP"

Article 2 Vision and Mission

Vision: The League (SPP) dedicates itself to foster an environment so that any individual wishing to participate in organized Slo-Pitch can do so in a safe, sportsmanlike, and fun manner.

Mission: To encourage, promote, coordinate, improve, and provide the means to enhance the experience of all those who wish to play or become involved in the sport of slo-pitch in Strathmore and the Strathmore district.

Article 3 Dissolution

In the event that the league should at any time be dissolved, the remaining assets after payment of all debts and liabilities shall be turned over to a recognized charitable organization in the province or elsewhere in Canada as directed by the members. This provision is unalterable.

Article 4 Affiliation

The League will be a member of Slo-Pitch National Softball Inc. (SPN)

Article 5 Membership

Section 1 – Existing Teams

1. Each new season, the League will consist of all teams that played in the League in the previous season, provided that they
 - a. Wish to retain their membership,
 - b. Agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws,

Section 2 – New Teams

1. New teams may join the League by attending Annual General Meeting. Applicants will be admitted by submitting the annual league fee and non-refundable deposit. Membership will be accepted until all vacant spaces are occupied. Those teams accepted into the League will have no voting privileges during their first season.

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2. New teams, following a one season probationary period, will be reviewed by the Executive on their participation, sportsmanship and overall conduct. This review will be presented at the Annual Fall Meeting, with the League deciding whether the new teams have to reapply. Teams will enjoy full voting privileges if accepted into the League.
3. New teams are required to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws, and agree to assume all other normal League duties as specified by the Executive.
4. No teams, new or existing, will be admitted after the Annual Spring Meeting, unless deemed necessary by the Executive. If a replacement team is necessary the Executive will contact the Team(s) who received the highest amount of votes at the Annual Spring meeting but were not asked to join the League.

Section 3 – Members in Good Standing

To be a member in good standing, a team must meet the following requirements:

- a. Have no outstanding monies owed and/or,
- b. Have not caused their own disbarment or suspension through disruptive actions in the League.

Article 6 Organization

Section 1 – Executive Positions

The League executive shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Special-Events Coordinator, and Past President. All but the Past President shall be elected to their positions on an annual basis.

Section 2 – Duties of the Executive

1. The President shall;
 - a. Chair all meetings,
 - b. Call meetings of the Executive and the League as he deems necessary and subject to the requirements of these Bylaws.
 - c. Represent the League at any functions requiring a representative from the League.
 - d. Ensure that all Executive members are fulfilling their obligations.
 - e. Assign additional duties to other Executive members as he deems necessary.
 - f. Receive, conduct and report on all League correspondence.
 - g. Be responsible for the scheduling of all games. This will include the regular season and the playoffs.
 - h. In the event he cannot attend a function or complete a duty, he may appoint any Executive member of his choice as “Acting President.”

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2. The Vice President Shall;
 - a. Be responsible to insure competent umpires when required.
 - b. Be responsible for rescheduling playing fields for game cancellations and rain outs.
 - c. Ensure accurate recording of standings on website each month.
 - d. Report all fines to the Treasurer at least one week before each general meeting.
 - e. Perform other functions as required by the League and the President.

3. The Secretary shall;
 - a. Record and distribute minutes of all League and Executive meetings.
 - b. Conduct the spring elections in terms of ballot distribution and voting procedures.
 - c. Maintain files with accurate records of all meetings, League correspondence, and eligibility lists.
 - d. Collect process and distribute team contact lists.
 - e. Where feasible, keep the membership informed of the League happenings.
 - f. Perform other functions as required by the League and the President.

4. The Treasurer shall;
 - a. Be responsible for all financial matters of the League.
 - b. Keep an accurate record of fines levied and inform Team Representatives of their bond balance at each League meeting. Collect new fine bonds as deemed necessary.
 - c. Keep accurate and updated records of League finances and report same to the Team Representatives at each League meeting.
 - d. Be responsible for the placement and payment of all ads with local media concerning League activities.
 - e. Submit an annual financial report for the previous year to the incoming Executive at the Annual General Meeting.
 - f. Perform other functions as required by the League and the President.

5. The Special Event Coordinator shall;
 - a. Be responsible for all aspects of the Preseason Kick-off.
 - b. Be responsible for coordinating the League events with the team(s) responsible for managing and staffing the event.
 - c. Be responsible for the purchasing and engraving of all League prizes and awards.
 - d. Upon completion of an event, a full accounting, complete with backup vouchers, along with profits, will be turned over to the Treasurer. This accounting will be prepared within fifteen (15) days of the event. Failure to submit reports and profits in a satisfactory manner within the stipulated time frame will cause the Executive to investigate immediately.
 - e. Work together with the Executive on all matters pertaining to League functions.
 - f. Perform other functions as required by the League and the President.

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6. The Past President shall;
 - a. Act in an advisory capacity on all League matters.
 - b. Perform other functions as required by the League and the President.

Section 3 – Team Representatives

1. Each team will submit the name, address and telephone number of two (2) Team Representatives at the Annual General Meeting. The Team is responsible for keeping the President current on changes that on the status of Representatives as well as their contact information. These Representatives shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Act as liaison between the teams, the players and the Executive.
 - b. Ensures that all members of their Team are aware of the contents of the Bylaws and Regulations.
 - c. Carry their team's vote at all League meetings (one vote per Team).
 - d. Distribute information concerning League rules to their players.
 - e. Signs all protests made by his Team and submit such to the Executive.
 - f. Attends all League meetings, or if unable to do so, appoint an alternate Representative from their Team.
 - g. Be responsible for all duties associated with game cancellation and rescheduling for games involving their Team.
 - h. Submits information to the Secretary concerning their Team, which they feel is worthy of public exposure via local media.
 - i. Perform other functions as required by the League and the President.

Section 4 – Notice to Teams

1. Notice may be given to a team's representative, either personally or by mail to the representative at the representative's registered address.
2. The Executive must give proper notice to all teams for any general meeting. Proper notice being no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting time.

Section 5 – General League Meetings

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held between March 15 and April 15 of each year. At that meeting, new teams must make a non-refundable deposit toward their entry fee. This amount will be recommended by the Executive and put to a vote at the Annual Fall meeting. As well, the admission of any new Team to the League will be voted upon.
2. The league opener, or any event held in its place, will be on the weekend immediately prior to the start of the regular schedule with the schedules of the regular season, and any other material necessary, distributed. The balance of the Teams' entry fees will be due at this time.

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3. A General Meeting may be called at any time by the President, provided proper notice is given.
4. Failure to attend the Annual General Meeting (ASM) may result in the Team's ejection from the League.
5. Any Team Representative more than thirty (30) minutes late for the start of a meeting will be deemed absent.
6. Only Team Representatives and Executive Committee members are to sit in League meetings. The President may at his discretion, invite guest(s) to sit at the meeting, for observation or input. If certain members present, feel some League matters should be kept private from invited guests, the President may request the guest(s) to absent themselves from the meeting during that discussion period.

Section 6 – Voting

1. A quorum at any General Meeting is 2/3 of the Teams with voting privileges is and must include the President or his designate, but shall never be less than three (3) teams present.
2. Business, other than the election of a chair and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, must not be conducted at a general meeting at a time when quorum is not present.
3. If at any time during a general meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress must be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.
4. All votes will be taken after a reasonable discussion of the issues.
5. At a General meeting, each Team with voting privileges will have one vote.
6. Votes may not be cast by proxy.
7. A quorum of 3/4 of the Teams in attendance (with voting privileges) is required to deal with Constitutional and Bylaw issues, but shall never be less than three (3) teams present.

Section 7 – Elections

1. All positions, except Past President, shall be elected annually.
2. Nominations for all positions will be submitted to the President prior to the AGM.
3. Nominations can be for any number of positions and must be made by a Team representative in good standing and seconded by same.
4. A majority on the Executive cannot be from one Team.
5. Voting will occur at the AGM. For each position being voted upon, Team Representatives will cast one (1) vote, with no Team being able to cast more than one vote.
6. In the event no nominations are received for a position, the Executive will seek volunteers for acclamation. If the position cannot be filled with volunteers, the Executive will seek to appoint individuals and the League will have no recourse.
7. In the event that the positions cannot be filled by any of the above means, the Executive will call an emergency meeting to discuss the feasibility of the continued existence of the League.

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8. If at the AGM called to discuss the lack of nominations, or if during the season an Executive member resigns voluntarily or otherwise, then it will be at the President's discretion to operate the League with one or more of the Executive positions unoccupied. The President will have the option of assigning the duties of the vacant positions to other executive members. The only position which must be filled is that of President.
9. The members may, by special resolution, remove an executive member, before the expiration of his term, and may elect a successor to complete the term of office.
 - a. The notice of special resolution for expulsion must be accompanied by a brief statement of the reasons for the proposed expulsion.
 - b. The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion must be given an opportunity to be heard at the general meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.

Section 8 – League Committees

At the discretion of the President, a committee may be struck to deal with any issue or function the President or executive feels is necessary. The committee Chair will report to the President

Section 9 – Executive Meetings

1. Executive meetings will be called at the discretion of the President.
2. A quorum at any Executive meeting shall be 2/3 of the Executive and must include the President or his designate.
3. Any member of the Executive, who absents himself from two (2) regular and/or Executive meetings, without having been granted a leave of absence by the Executive Committee, shall cease to be a member of the Executive.
4. The Executive Committee shall be allowed a maximum promotional allowance of one hundred and fifty (\$150) dollars per executive member per year.

Article 7 League Finances

Section 1 – Entry Fees

1. The entry fee will be recommended by the Executive and put to a vote prior to the AGM.
2. The entry fee is to cover the operating expenses of the League for the upcoming season. The Treasurer will give his best estimate for the revenues and expenses to be covered. Team Representatives will have a chance to study and question the estimates at the AGM.

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Section 2 – Game Forfeit / Fine Bond

1. A game forfeit/fine bond recommended by the Executive and agreed upon at the AGM shall be added to the entry fee and payable with the entry fee.
2. Should the bond be exhausted, the Treasurer will inform the Team Representative and a new game forfeit/fine bond will be posted prior to the next game or within 72 hours, whichever is later. Game forfeiture will be assessed until the new bond is paid and at the discretion of the Executive the team may be ejected from the League.
3. The Treasurer will have a list of penalties levied against each team and will distribute this list at each League meeting. Such listings shall include each Team's balance and the reasons for any fines.
4. All fines owing to the League must be paid on or before the AGM. Failure to do so will result in the Team being ejected from the League.
5. Any team having outstanding monies owing to the League at the time of the AGM will not be permitted to pay their entry fee until such monies are paid.

Section 3 – League Accounts

1. All League accounts will have co-signing power. All cheques issued by our League must be signed by the Treasurer and Secretary or President.
2. No cheques may be signed blank. When signed, the cheque must be filled out completely, containing the date, amount, payee and encoded to indicate the reason for the payment.
3. The Treasurer's report will be submitted at regular and other League meetings and shall be a formal accounting document. Failure to do so will cause the Executive to immediately investigate.
4. It is advised that all League financial transactions be conducted in cheque form. Receipts should always be expected and should be filed for future reference.
5. No members, directors or executive may, on behalf of or in the name of the League, borrow monies for the purposes of the league.

Section 4 – Constitution or Bylaw Amendments

1. Amendments can only be made at the AGM by special resolution.
2. Proper notice must be given for any proposed amendments.
3. Each amendment, whether separately or in block form, shall be put to a General League meeting vote. Acceptance of such amendment shall require 3/4 majority of those voting members in attendance at a meeting called for this purpose.
4. In order that the League be maintained, seasonal amendments may be put forward by the Executive during the year at any League meeting. Acceptance of these amendments shall not form a part of the Constitution or bylaws until it has gained the 3/4 League majority (teams with voting privileges only) vote at the AGM. The approved amendments will not take effect until filed and registered by the Registrar of Companies.

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5. A Team Representative can suggest an amendment but only the Executive can put it before a meeting for a vote.
6. It is understood that the Constitution and bylaws will be enforced to the letter. Ignorance of any part(s) of the Constitution or bylaws shall not be considered valid grounds for infractions.

Article 8 League Rules

Section 1 – Reporting Results

1. Both teams are required to report the game scores on the web page using the game score sheet provided. If this is not done by the end of the next business day the game will not count towards the standings and will be recorded as a loss.
2. Point system: 2 per win, 1 per tie, 0 per loss

Section 2 – Team Rosters

All players will be registered with the SSP and cannot play for more than one team (first and last names). If a player plays with any team, other than the one he/she has registered with, he/she will be disqualified from the league for the remainder of year.

Section 3 – Equipment

1. No metal cleats allowed under any circumstances.
2. SPN Bat Rule in effect. If a team is caught playing with an illegal bat the first and second infraction will result in forfeits of those games, if a third infraction the team will be banned from playing any further games in the league. A list of non-sanctioned bats will be provided at the start of the season, available on the website, and posted in all the Strathmore dugouts.

Section 4 – Cancellations

1. If weather is questionable, both teams must be present in dugout and remain there until 7 pm when game must be either postponed to a later date or agreed upon by both teams to be played that night. Any team that cannot decide (within 2 weeks of scheduled) upon a date for playing make-up games, will be given a time and a place by the league executive for playing, if notified by teams involved.
2. Any rained out or cancelled games are to be made up by the last week of the schedule. Each team is responsible for making arrangements for any make-up games.

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Section 5 – Game Play

1. No limits on homeruns per team, but teams are only permitted to have a maximum of a 2 homerun difference between them at any given time during the game. For example, if a team hits 2 homeruns, that team cannot hit another one until the opposition hits at least 1. Homerun violations count as an out against the batter.
2. All games are double headers. The first game will start at 6:30 pm sharp and will be 1 ¼ hour time limit. All teams for the second game of the evening shall be ready to start immediately. No warm-ups on the playing field will be allowed. All games are 7 innings. If losing team wishes to forfeit after 5 innings it is their choice. No ten run rule applies to the league.
3. A team may start with less than ten players. After 15 minutes the team that is short then forfeits the game. Second game to start at 7 pm. If unable to field ten players at 7:00 pm then second game is forfeited.
4. SPP runs a standard 6 and 4 (6 males and 4 females). A team may play with more than 4 females. Minimum age is 16 years. A team can bat an unlimited roster as long as one of each sex is added to the lineup.
5. A maximum of 7 runs per inning will be allowed, with the last inning being open.
6. First Base Rules:
 - a. If a batted ball hits any part of the white portion, it is a fair ball and if it hits on the orange portion, it is a foul ball.
 - b. If a play is being made at first base on a ball hit to the infield, the batter – base runner must touch the orange part of the base, otherwise will be called out.
 - c. A defensive player shall use only the white portion of the base at all times.
7. Females only ARE permitted to bunt the ball at any time during their at bat. A foul bunt is considered a strike.
8. ANY 4 straight balls to a male with a female behind him in the order is a double. The female must then bat. For example, 2 strikes to start, then 4 straight balls is a double.
9. Umpires will not be provided for any league games. Each team will be required to provide an umpire while they are at bat.
10. Any pitched ball within regulation height landing on any white part of home plate or any portion of the mat will be considered a strike.

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Section 6 – Fines

These fines will be enforced by league executive and will be deducted from the non-refundable deposit in the case they are not voluntarily paid at the time of the offence. All teams have shown commitment to the league by paying their registration fees and by doing so agree to:

1. Field a full team at all league scheduled games.
 - a. Teams that forfeit will be required to pay the league \$50 for a first offence, \$75 for a second offence and \$100 for a third offence with possible league suspension.
 - b. Teams that no show without letting the other team know at least 2 hours prior to game time will pay an additional \$50.
2. Use league approved equipment.
 - a. If a player is found using an illegal bat in any capacity during any league sanctioned event the player is to be ejected from that days games immediately and the team will incur a \$100 fine for a first offence and a possible team suspension for a second offence.
3. Adhere to all ball park policies while representing Strathmore Slo-pitch league and ensure respectful usage of equipment, facilities, and management and parking areas.
 - a. Teams or players found bringing in outside liquor where prohibited, damaging property, leaving trash in dugouts, or being vulgar or abusive to employees will be required to pay \$50 for a first fine, \$75 a second fine and \$100 for a third fine with possible team suspension.