

# NHCA Slo-pitch League Rules 2015

## RULES

The official **NSA Slo-Pitch Rules** will govern play for the league. The following rules are in addition to these rules to promote fun and participation. The goal of the league is to promote fun and show good sportsmanship.

Please remember to clean up your area of garbage when your game is over.

**NSA RULES:** <http://www.nsanada.ca/rules/rule-book.php>

- If there is discrepancy between the NSA Slo-Pitch Rules and the League Rules, the League Rules will govern.

## PLAYING FIELD

- Base path is 60 feet
- Commitment line is 25 feet towards 3<sup>rd</sup> base from home plate
- Courtesy line (for female batters) is a radius of 140 feet from home plate
  - This is the distance outfielders must remain until the ball is contacted (excluding Rover)

## GAME DURATION

- All games start at 6:45 p.m. There is a 15 minute grace period to field a team
  - If one team is a no show or can't field a team, that team will forfeit the game with a score of 7-0.
- No new innings to start after 90 minutes.
  - Maximum of 7 innings.
  - Game is a Tie if the score is tied at the end of the last inning (no tiebreaker).
- Mercy rule is 15 runs after 5 or more innings.
- Maximum 5 runs per inning except the last inning which will be open (unlimited runs).
  - If the home team is leading at the bottom of the final inning, they do not bat.

## SCORE SHEETS

- Scores must be sent to the league coordinator immediately after the game. Failure to provide the Slopitch Coordinator in a timely manner will result in a 0-0 Tie game recorded.
- Please submit both team names and the scores when sending in your scores.
  - Email: [slopitch@northernhills.ab.ca](mailto:slopitch@northernhills.ab.ca)
  - Text SMS message to **403-703-1490**

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## PLAYERS

- All players must be 18 years of age and older.
- Maximum of 10 players on the field at one time – 7 males and 3 females.
- To start a game you must have 8 players, however, you must have 2 females or you will have an automatic out in the batting line-up each time a female comes up who is missing.
  - You cannot field a team with less than 8 players or less than 2 females.
- Late arrivals can be added as a player without penalty at the bottom of your line-up. As long as you have not gone through the batting order.
- You can only field a maximum of 7 male players at a time.
  - If you only have 2 females, you can only field 9 players.
- You may use one male and/or one female "DH" (extra player), who may be added **at the beginning of the game** to your batting order for a maximum total of 12 batters. The DH may field at any time for any defensive position as long as the batting order is maintained
  - You may use a Male DH without a Female DH
  - You may use a Female DH without a Male DH
- Substitute players may be added at any time during the game, batting and fielding for the person they have substituted in for only. You may not re-enter a substituted player in any other batting position other than their original spot. Players must play a defensive position before batting (Except DH players).
- Injured players may be excused from the game without constituting an out providing the batting order is maintained. There will be an auto-out if a substitute batter is not inserted in his/her place. A player may re-enter in this case.

## GAME PLAY

- Home Team
  - Is responsible for setting up bases prior to the start of the game.
  - Is responsible for supplying 2 balls for the game.
- The Batting team will supply an umpire for each inning.
- A pitched ball that touches any part of the mat before it touches the ground is a strike. If the ball contacts the plate, the pitch is a ball.

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- A runner is out if they contact any part of home plate while attempting to run home (they are to run behind the home plate).
- Any combination of male/female pitcher and back catcher may be used. ie: male/male, female/female
- A runner is safe if he is touched by any defensive player between the commitment line and home line.
- A runner cannot return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base if he touches or crosses the commitment line.
- All outfielders, except the rover will stay outside the courtesy line until contact is made with the ball. The batter should make an appeal if they feel the fielders are too close.
- Normal softball count applies.
- When a male batter is walked (with any combination of strikes and balls) and a female is on deck, he will proceed to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, The female on deck has the option to take 1<sup>st</sup> base or bat.
- The batter is out on a "foul ball" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
  - Runners may not advance on a caught 3<sup>rd</sup> strike foul ball
  - There is no out if a "foul tip" is caught
- No bunting allowed.
- No lead off or anticipation is allowed, this will be an out. The batter must make the contact in order for the base runners to advance. **Please use the honor system in the event of a lead off.**
- The arc of a pitch is minimum 6 feet and maximum 10 feet.
- Any pitch outside the minimum or maximum is an illegal pitch, counting as a ball and should be called in the air (by the umpire). The batter then has the option to take the pitch or not.
- Batters must make it to 1<sup>st</sup> base before they can receive a substitute runner. Unless agreed to by both coaches BEFORE THE START of the game. The substitute runner must be of the same sex.
- No sliding at 1<sup>st</sup> Base or Home, otherwise the runner is out.
- Safety Bag (orange bag) must be used by the runner at 1<sup>st</sup> base or the runner is out. Unless the runner is attempting to go to 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The back-catcher is the only one who can make the initial play at home plate. If the catcher misses the catch, any other player can make a play at home plate.
- Infield fly rule applies [An infield fly is a fair ball, not including a line drive, which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two (2) are out. Any fielder can catch an infield fly].
- Games should not be cancelled due to inclement weather until 7:00pm on game day.

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- The Slopitch Coordinator will NOT cancel games. Coaches and Players will determine if a game will be cancelled. Please use your best judgement on whether to cancel a game. We only have 1 rainout day in the schedule, the week before playoffs start.
- If possible, please wait 15-30 minutes prior to cancelling a game you haven't started yet. We do live in Calgary where weather changes rather quickly. Light rain is typically acceptable weather for playing slopitch it's just not ideal. Lightning is definitely a reason to cancel a game immediately.
- Any games you are unable to reschedule prior to the start of playoffs will be scored as a Tie.

### PLAYOFFS

- During Playoffs, International tiebreaker rules will apply in the event of a tie. The last out will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> base with none away. Full innings will be played by each team until the tie is broken.

### LEGAL BATS

- We will be using the NSA Approved Bat list, located here:
  - <http://www.nsacanada.ca/bats/approved.php>
- The League Coordinator reserves the right to ban bats at any time if it is deemed that a particular bat is unsafe for our league.

## NHCA Slo-pitch League Rules 2015

### Changes from last season:

- 1) Male : Female ratio changed from 6:4 to 7:3
  - a. To reflect the ratio of players registering
- 2) Home run rule removed
  - a. It was not enforceable and too subjective.
- 3) Walk rule for male batter with female batter following changed. 4 consecutive balls changed to any pitch count resulting in a walk.
  - a. This is to prevent pitchers from walking male batters intentionally
  - b. This also aligns with other leagues I play in so I don't give conflicting answers.
- 4) Clarification on Courtesy Line rule for female batters.
  - a. Original rule needed rewording to make it clear
- 5) We have 1 date for rainout games, it is the week just prior to playoffs.
  - a. There was no rainout week last season.