



2024 League Policies

The purpose of Milton Coed Slo-Pitch League is to govern, improve, develop and promote a **non-competitive recreational softball for adults** in the Town of Milton. The following rules and regulations are in the spirit of this mandate and will be enforced by the League Executive and Team Representatives. **This is a FUN first league.**

No Alcohol, Cannabis or Illegal Drugs

The league has absolutely any tolerance for alcohol consumption, cannabis or drug use prior to, during or after a game. There is to be no alcohol, cannabis or drugs in the park, on the bench or in the field.

League Enforcement Policy (suspension system)

First Offense:

- Game where offense occurs; the game is forfeited and play is immediately ceased. The team receiving the win is required to notify the President and provide details within 48 hours. Team will receive a written warning discussing the enforcement policy.

Second Offense:

- Game where the offense occurs is immediately forfeited and the team receives an additional one (1) game suspension. Again, the team receiving the win is required to notify the President and provide details within 48 hours. The team will receive a second written warning advising that a further alcohol incident will result in the teams' suspension from the league for the remainder of the season.

Third Offense:

- Game where third offense occurs is immediately forfeited and the team will be suspended from the league for the balance of the season. Again, the team receiving the win is required to notify the President and provide details within 48 hours. All players on the offending team will not be permitted to return to the league for two (2) seasons and only as space becomes available. The team/players will NOT receive refunds of their registration fees.

Should Team Reps feel uncomfortable dealing with the situation at the diamond, they must immediately contact a member of the Executive to address the issue.

Inclement Conditions (Heavy Rain, Lightning, Fog or Unplayable Field)

- All players and teams must show up and be ready to play for ALL games unless otherwise communicated by the League Executive; failing to do so will result in a forfeit.
- If the game is experiencing inclement conditions (Heavy Rain, Lightning, Fog, Loss of Power to Lights or Unplayable Field) the game will be postponed and made up at another date.
- Should a game be postponed it is the responsibility of the designated home Team Representative to email the Director of Scheduling (schedules@miltoncoedspl.ca) within 24 hours who will reschedule the postponed game.
- Opposing Team Representatives do not need to agree to a decision. Should one Team Representative feel the game is under Inclement Conditions the game will be postponed. If both Team Representatives do not agree; a written account of why the game was postponed should be e-mailed by the Team Representative initiating the postponement to the League President within 24 hours. Failing to do so could result in a forfeit.
- If inclement conditions are occurring on the day of the game - the League Executive may cancel games upon the direction from the Town of Milton. This generally occurs by 2:00pm. The town also maintains a website with field condition updates (<https://www.milton.ca/en/play/sportsparks.asp>). If you have not seen an update via e-mail and your diamond is open your team must show up for your scheduled game time; failing to do so will result in a forfeit.
- If a game cannot be rescheduled due to a lack of diamond availability, each team will be awarded a tie for the game in question.
- A game called during play due to inclement conditions will be at the discretion of the Team Representatives. A game will be considered complete if five (5) full innings were played. Any games stopped before this will be rescheduled. Any games that do not complete the minimum five (5) innings and cannot be rescheduled will be considered a tie.
- Once an inning starts, it must be completed. If the inning cannot be completed for whatever reason and the game must stop, all scores will revert back to the last complete inning regardless of the incomplete inning in question regardless if the inning in question is an open inning

Minimum Age:

- All players must be 18 years of age or older prior to season start.

Insufficient Players (Game Rescheduling)

- If a team is unable to field sufficient players for a regularly scheduled game, they must advise the opposing Team Rep and the League Scheduler a **minimum of three (3) weeks** prior to the game.
- The League Scheduler will reschedule the game with the Town of Milton and advise both Team Reps of the date and location of the rescheduled game.
- Each team will be allowed a maximum of 1 game reschedule throughout the season. Each subsequent cancellation will be considered a forfeit.
- If a game cannot be rescheduled due to a lack of diamond availability, each team will be awarded a tie for the game in question.
- **Please forward requests to schedules@miltoncoedspl.ca**

Stats Submissions:

- Submit your scores at www.miltoncoedspl.ca and to go Score Submission page for more details.
- Please ensure all score sheets are signed off by both Team Reps at the end of each game for use in the case of a score discrepancy.
- The winning team rep is responsible for inputting the score. This should be done within 7 days of the completion of the game. You will be issued a reminder from the MCSPL website, after 7 days and have 24 more hours to submit your score. If this task is still not completed, then the game will be decided as a tie (no exceptions).

Team Shirts:

- It is each team's responsibility to have matching jerseys.

Roster Additions, Pregnancy and Insurance:

- All players **must be** on the roster submitted to SPN/PLAY SLO-PITCH prior to their first game played.
- Roster changes will be submitted to SPN/PLAY SLO-PITCH weekly on Fridays until the end of May. If a player pays and registers mid-week, they will be unable to play until the following week as they will not be covered by insurance. It is the Team Reps responsibility for enforcing this league policy and notifying **League Secretary & Treasurer** of ALL roster changes.
- Only two (2) roster changes per team ending June 15 or as indicated on the SPN/PLAY SLO-PITCH website.

- Any player who knowingly plays while pregnant will be banned from the league.
- Any team rep who knowingly allows an unregistered player to play will be suspended from the league for the balance of the season and potentially future seasons.

Payments & Refunds:

- No refunds after season start.

Equipment:

- Regular season equipment bins have been keyed the same and are located at the following fields: Lions #1, Drumquin #2, Drumquin #1 and Omagh. Additional bins are located at Brookville and Lions #3 for rainout game rescheduling.
- Keys must be returned to the League Executive at the end of each season on the final tournament weekend.
- If you arrive at a game and notice the equipment/ice packs, etc., in the bin is damaged or missing, please contact the Equipment Manager to arrange for replacements. (equipment@miltoncoedspl.ca)
- **Please be respectful of the equipment, and if you know of any abusers of the MCSPL equipment, please let the League Executive know.**

Protective Equipment

- Any player who has a concern about an injury occurring from being struck with a ball during play should address that concern by the use of protective equipment.
- For safety reasons, Milton Coed Slo-Pitch League strongly recommends that all players wear protective equipment while playing both defensive and offensive positions. Protective equipment including masks, headgear (helmets), catchers' equipment and soccer style shin guards may be used by all players in any Milton Coed Slo-Pitch League.

On Field Injuries:

- If there is an injury during a game, the Team Rep should email the President (President@miltoncoedspl.ca) with details of the injury and how it happened. There will have to be a report filed with SPN/PLAY SLO-PITCH within 24 hours. There is a PDF form that can be accessed at www.slo-pitch.com/content/incident-report. It would be advisable for each Team Rep to be familiar, in case the need arises.



Banned Equipment

Shoes:

- Metal Cleats
- Open toed shoes / sandals

Bats:

- Milton Coed Slo-Pitch League now follows the new USSSA bat testing methods for use in the league.
- All 2012 USSSA Bats marked with the "NEW USSSA stamp", as shown, on the taper of the bat will be permitted.
- MCSPL will also continue to use either the ASA approved 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 certification mark as shown below, provided the bat is not listed on an ASA non-approved list.
- Any bats manufactured prior to 2000, in the sole opinion and discretion of the team reps, if tested, would comply with the current bat performance standards will be permitted in play.
- Please visit the SloPitch National website for further information and restrictions on bats.
- In addition to the above, the league reserves the right to implement further restrictions on equipment if there are concerns for player safety.
- **IMPORTANT** - If at any time a bat is in question; then it must **NOT BE USED** and removed from the field of play for the entirety of the game. The Team Rep must call time and ask for the bat to be removed from the game and the BATTER/OPPOSING TEAM must comply; failing to do so may result in a forfeit.



Rules of Play

Diamond Setup:

- Pitcher's mound must be at least a minimum of 45' from home plate to a maximum of 50' aligned 3-to-5 feet of centre

- 1st base 65' from home plate, red bag on foul side of foul line
- 2nd base is 91'11" from home plate
- 3rd base is 65' from home plate, bag must rest along inside of foul line
- Commitment line is 21' from top left corner of home plate
- Pylons along foul lines at 150' from home plate.
- Home plate safe line is from the top left corner of plate; parallel to the right foul line
- Once lights are on do not turn them off. They are on a timer system and will not come back on.
- The Home Team is responsible for setting up the diamond however, to avoid potential game delays it is encouraged the first team reps in attendance begin preparing the diamond.
- The Home Team Rep must ensure the FIRST AID KIT is on the bench during the game.

Team Setup:

- Minimum four (4) girls on the field
- Teams must register with a minimum of 12 players on their roster. It is highly recommended that teams carry more than 12 players in order to avoid unnecessary forfeits.
- A team should consist of as many Milton residents as possible. It is recommended that each team have no more than two players who reside outside of Milton on their roster. This is in line with our commitment to maintain a 90% resident rate per the Town of Milton's user requirements for diamond usage.
- If a team is short female players, the team is required to prepare a separate batting order for the females and males. The girls will alternate batting so there are no more than two males batting in a row. Female batters will not always follow the same male batter. An out is required in the batting order only when all female batters are unavailable to hit (ie. on the bases). The team is also required to play with one less fielder for every girl they are short. As per softball rules, a team will have to forfeit if they have less than 8 players. Therefore, a team is required to forfeit the game if they have less than two female players.
- A separate batting order is not permitted when a single batting order with no more than two males in a row can be prepared. For example, if a team has 3 girls and 6 males, a single batting order must be used.
- Maximum 2 males in a row in the batting order.

- Substitutions - if required, teams are permitted to use substitute players with the following limitations:
 - Maximum four (4) substitutes, of which no more than two (2) can be male; and
 - Rosters can be brought to a maximum of 11 players, of which no more than seven (7) can be male; unless a team is short female players.
 - In a situation where a team is short female players, they are permitted to exceed the 11 player roster maximum with female substitute players only within the above restrictions. (for example, if a team has 8 or greater male players and 3 female players, they are permitted to use 1 female substitute.)
- Game start time as per the schedule is 8:30 pm. A 15 minute grace period is provided for teams short players. Should there be insufficient players at 8:45 pm, Team Reps are to discuss playing short players as laid out above or consider calling the game a forfeit.
- Should an early game of another league run late, please advise both the Scheduler (schedules@miltoncoedspl.ca) and League President (president@miltoncoedspl.ca) so the issue can be dealt with appropriately.

General Rules of Play:

- Pitch height is six (6) feet to twelve (12) feet unless batter allows otherwise. Pitch height outside this approximate range is to be called "ILLEGAL" within a reasonable time frame by the designated umpire to alert the batter they have the option not to swing and the pitch will be counted as a ball.
- Calling "**NO PITCH**" indicates pitch is not counted and ALL PLAY must STOP IMMEDIATELY.
- Games will be played to 7 innings (*if the designated home team is leading, then the bottom half of the inning is not played*)
- Maximum 5 runs per inning; runs unlimited in innings 6 & 7 innings
- **OPTIONAL MERCY RULE:** is to be called at the end of any inning following the completion of the 5th inning when one team has 15 or more runs than the other. The 5th inning is not an open inning even when mercy may be called.
 - Only the losing team may call the mercy rule
 - Should the losing team decline a full seven inning game must be completed
- **No infield fly rule during regular season play.** Note that the *Infield Fly Rule* will be called for all Tournament Games in which a professional umpire is present (*ie not a member of a league*)
- No outfielder can make a direct play against a batter to first base as per SPN/PLAY SLO-PITCH rules.
- Only the catcher can play home plate.

- Any ball hit fair that leaves the playing field unassisted is ruled a "Ground rule double".
- Defensive player must always use the white portion of first base or it is considered interference with the runner.
- A run is scored when a runner safely crosses the home plate line (foot on ground).

Courtesy Rules:

- Home runs are a walk-off. Player is to **immediately** retrieve ball.
- No intentional walking of a batter; this is a fun, recreational league.
- Outfielders must start play at 150 foot line which will be marked. They must NOT advance past the line until the ball is hit. The umpire needs to call this rule **prior** to the ball being hit; NOT after the ball has been fielded. It will be ruled a No Pitch. (AT OMAGH - is to be judged using fence).
- Infielders must start play behind baseline and on the gravel.
- No more than two infielders may start the play on either side of second base (with the exception of the pitcher). The spirit of this rule is designed to prevent teams from playing a "shift" defense whereas the infield is overloaded with three or more infielders. Thus the shortstop or second baseman must start the play an arm's length away from their side of second base.
- Injured Players:
 - There will be unlimited substitute runners for batters with injuries.
 - The substitute runner is required to be the last out and must be the same gender
 - The substitute runner may only be taken at **first base** unless the injury happens during the play (if a player hits a double or triple – they must stay in the game unless they are injured during the play)
 - If player is injured prior to the start of the game, the team rep must notify the opposing team of the injury prior to the 1st pitch. Injured players are still required to reach 1st base before a substitute runner is taken.
 - **NO** substitute runners from the plate; a player must be able to reach first base to obtain a runner.
- If opposing team provides a catcher, the two teams must decide in advance if the catcher will play home plate. If No, there is to be no play at home plate. Another defensive player is not permitted to play the plate. The offensive team must stop running at 3rd when play is halted.
- **NO SMOKING** on the field (this includes players who are umpiring or coaching a base as well as no smoking directly behind the backstop at home plate).

Batting/Running Rules:

- The ball is dead and a strike recorded if the hit ball makes contact with home plate.
- On the batter's first attempt at first base, they must use orange portion of the safety base. Once the batter has safely reached first base, they must now use the white portion.
- 4 straight balls to male batter who is followed by a female batter: Male takes 2nd base and the female player has the OPTION to take 1st or hit.
- 4 straight balls to any other batter will advance to 1st base.
- Runners may overrun first base and safely return to the base provided they do not turn into fair territory towards 2nd base.
- When the ball is overthrown and goes out of play, runner advances 1 base.
- A batter is out, the play is dead and no runners may advance if the batter:
 - Illegally hits the ball (BUNTS)
 - Hits a fair ball with a foot on home plate
 - Hits the 2nd home run in that inning.
 - Hits the 4th strike foul.
- Defensive player CANNOT TAG RUNNER ON WAY TO 1st base; the white bag must be played.
- A runner is out and the play is dead if :
 - On a pitched ball, they leave the base before the ball has been in contact with the batters bat. (NO LEAD OFFS or ANTICIPATION)
 - While off the base, they are hit by a fair batted ball; other runners advance one base.
- A runner is out and the play is live if:
 - They carry their bat and touch 1st base.
 - The runner slides into 1st base or home plate.
- The runner touches home plate.

Umpires

- The batting team will provide an umpire who is knowledgeable about the rules of slo-pitch in addition to the specialized league rules and regulations as they pertain to Milton Co-Ed Slo-Pitch found in this document.
- Any disagreements regarding umpire conduct should be discussed only by the Team Representatives.
- Team Representatives can ask for an individual not to umpire and the opposing team must comply with said request; this request must come in between innings and can only happen once per game.
- To eliminate confusion an umpire should call foul balls "FOUL" loudly for batter, base runner and defending team giving them time to react.

- For tournament games, Milton Co-Ed Slo-Pitch may use paid umpires. They are to conduct and manage the rules of the game during the course of play. All on field rulings made by these umpires are final.
- Umpire should not lean on fence - and be available to move out of play



Settling Conflict

Procedure for Settling On Field Disputes

- It is the responsibility of the Team Representatives from **both teams** to confer and try to obtain a resolution on any and all game matters that occur during a Milton Coed Slo-Pitch game.
 - Team Representatives should know the rules and regulations and try to use these as guidelines in settling disputes.
 - This is a recreational league and both teams should try to keep that in mind when settling disputes.
 - Should an adequate resolution not be found; the game can be played under protest

Protests

- A protest can be issued on any matter to the Executive and must come after a 24 hour cooling off period but within 48 hours of the incident.
- A protest must accompany a non-refundable cheque of \$150.00 made payable to Milton Coed Slo-Pitch League.
- The Executive will launch an investigation and will rule on the decision after considering all the facts by both parties.
- Protests should be directed towards the League President.

Team Rep Responsibilities

The Team Reps need to be aware of the aforementioned rules. They also need to make sure that their teammates are aware of the rules. This will allow each individual to better understand their part and better appreciate that this league is a recreational league. We are all here to have fun.

The Team Rep position is held to a higher standard and because this position makes decisions that can affect the league as a whole, especially in the area of insurance.

The League Executive want to make sure that each Team Rep has read and understands the rules and are aware of the responsibilities of their role. Please be aware that you be asked to sign the Team Rep Acknowledgement Document prior to the start of the season.