

CONSTITUTION OF THE MITCHELL DISTRICT SLO-PITCH LEAGUE (most recent update April 2011)

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the Association shall be **The Mitchell District Slow Pitch League.**

ARTICLE II - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the League shall be:

1. To promote, encourage and govern Men's' Slow Pitch in Mitchell and Area.
2. To participate in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
3. To protect the mutual interests of all players in a harmonious fashion.
4. To provide a League for competition and recreation.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section I- Members

The league will consist of all returning previous year teams of the Mitchell and District Slow Pitch league plus any new approved teams.

Section II- New Teams

1. New Teams will be discussed and decided by Executive and Team Representatives each year at the Annual Spring Meeting.
2. A new team will be deemed as one not maintaining 50% of previous year's Roster.
3. No teams shall be admitted after Spring Meeting unless deemed necessary by Executives and Team Representatives.

Section III- Entry Fees

1. Entry fees will be established each year by the Executive.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

Section I- Executive

The Executive shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President and umpire in Chief (non voting). No team shall have more than one executive member.

Section II-Duties of the Executive

1. President

- a. Shall preside at all meetings of the Executive and League. If unavailable the president must appoint the Vice-President to handle his duties.
- b. Shall call meetings of the Executive or general meetings whenever he deems it necessary.
- c. Shall cast the deciding vote in event of tied ballots.
- d. Shall be responsible for all League Awards/Trophies in terms of purchase, engraving, collection and distribution.
- e. Shall assign duties to the Executive members in addition to duties listed in this Constitution if deemed necessary.

2. Vice-President

- a. A person that holds the position of Vice-President will fill the position of President during the following year.
- b. Shall act as Chairman in the absence of the President.
- c. **Collect and keep official record of all team rosters for the current year and** pass on to the secretary at the end of the season.

3. Secretary

- a. Shall keep an accurate record of the proceeding at all Executive and General meetings.
- b. Receive, record and conduct all official correspondence and team roster records.
- c. Provide all team representatives with a copy of this Constitution and a copy of additional rules and bylaws as they become available.
- d. The position of Secretary will be a two-year position, elected on an alternate year than that of the position of Treasurer.

4. Treasurer

- a. Shall be responsible for all financial matters of the League.
- b. Shall keep an accurate and updated record of League finances.
- c. Shall keep an accurate record of all fines levied and inform teams of levied fines.
- d. Shall report the financial status of the League at each Executive and General Meeting.
- e. Shall draw up an annual financial statement to be submitted to the new executive before the start of the new season.
- f. Shall be responsible for purchase of game balls and distribution of such to all teams.
- g. The position of treasurer will be a two-year position, elected on an alternate than the position of Secretary.

5. Immediate Past President

- a. Advisory capacity from previous year, with voting rights to current year.
- b. Perform other duties as required by the league.

6. Umpire in Chief

- a. Shall be a non voting executive member
- b. Shall schedule all umpires for league and playoff games
- c. Shall assist the executive with any umpire problems

Section III- Team Representatives

Each team will submit the name, address, e-mail address, and phone number of their team representative with their registration. This representative will have the following responsibilities.

- a. Act as a liaison between the teams, players and Executive.
- b. Have voting power (one vote) at all general meetings.
- c. Shall sign all protests made by his team and submit such to the Executive with appropriate fees.
- d. Will distribute information to his team as provided by Executive and League.
- e. Will be aware of all parts of this Constitution and inform his team members of such.
- f. Will attend all general meetings called and if unable to do so will appoint an alternate representative from his team.

Section IV- Meetings

1. **The Annual Spring Meeting** will be held one month prior to the first regular season game for the purpose of discussing changes to the Constitution, distributing information to team representatives, and Scheduling.
2. An **Annual Fall General Meeting** will be held at least one week prior to Playoffs.
3. General meetings other than above may be called as deemed necessary by the president during the season to discuss major revisions/questions of the Constitution.
4. A general meeting requires the attendance of all team representatives and Executive members. Absence of team representatives shall result in loss of vote for that meeting.
5. A member of the Executive does not qualify as a team representative and will

not act as one for the team at any time.

Section V - Voting

1. A quorum at any Executive meeting shall be 3/5ths and must include either the President or Vice President.
2. At any Executive meeting, each member has one vote, except the President (or Vice-President while acting as chairman) who shall vote only in the event of a tie. Simple majority rules. Votes may not be proxy.
3. A quorum at a general meeting shall be 2/3rds and must include either the President or Vice-President.
4. At a general meeting, each team representative and Executive member has one vote, except the President (or Vice-President while acting as chairman) who shall only vote in the event of a tie. The President, in such event shall be given 24 hours to make his decision. Simple majority rules. Votes may not be proxy at a general meeting.
5. All voting to be done by Ballot or show of hands. No proxies.

Section VI - Elections

1. All positions, except Immediate Past President, shall be elected by the League.
2. Elections will take place at the Annual Fall Meeting. Anyone wishing to run for Executive should attend the Fall Meeting to accept nomination. **The new executive will assume office on November 1st.**

ARTICLE V - RULES OF PLAY

Section I - M.D.S.L. Rules

1. **SPIKES** - Steel spikes permitted.
2. **BALLS** - Only balls stipulated by the League will be used. The home team will provide the one new and all agreeable extra game balls. Balls used in a game must be the same kind.
3. **BATS** - Only Official C.A.S.A, A.S.A., or O.A.S.A Softball bats may be used (BPF of 1.20 or MPH of 98 OR LESS). **All bats listed on the ASA banned list are not acceptable for use in the league.**
4. **HOMEPLATE** - Will be of wood construction - 2ft X 3ft.
5. **20 FOOT RULE** - A twenty foot rule will be in effect for all regular and playoff games.
6. **NO LEAD OFFS** - If a runner steps off before bat makes contact with pitched ball, he is OUT.
7. **GAME START** - Team may start and finish a game with 9 players, but a tenth batter will be counted as an out until a tenth player arrives.
8. **DEAD BALL** - Ball batted hitting home plate is a Dead Ball. Runners do not advance. Foul strike called.
9. **FOUL TIP** - Any type of foul tip caught is an out. A third strike foul will be declared out.
10. **LINE UP** - Every player on Players List and present at game must bat. **Excluding injured.** Players do not have to play in the field.
11. **RUNNER SUBSTITUTION** - Each team shall be allowed 3 substitute runners per game. Replaced base runner may be on any base and does not have to be injured. Substitute runner can be anyone not on base. If the substitute runner is due up to bat then another substitute runner can be used as per this rule (Counts as a second runner). If this cannot be done then the runner due up is out and the next batter in the line-up is due up.
12. **PITCHING** - A pitch must have minimum arc of 6 feet above ground. No maximum. **Pitching distance is 50' but pitchers may pitch from any spot within a two foot wide chute and 50-60 feet from home plate.** Any pitcher that has pitched in the game will be allowed only one pitch between innings.
14. **BATTERS BOX** - There will be no Batters Box. A player may step anywhere but on the plate.
15. **BASES** - 65 foot bases will be used. A double base will be used at first base with all Softball Canada rules in effect for its use.
16. **PLAYER LINEUPS** - Lineups must be presented to the opposing team before the first pitch of the game. A player listed in the lineup and unable to bat in his turn will be removed from the lineup for the rest of the game. Common sense

will be used in cases of emergency (e.g. firecalls etc.)

ARTICLE VI - ELIGIBILITY

Section I

Each Team Roster may include a maximum of 3 (import players) players that also play in another slow pitch, **super series slow pitch**, fastball, **slingshot**, or baseball league (co-ed slow pitch players are exempted). **Once a player has been designated as a player playing in the league for three consecutive years he will be deemed a regular player and not an import (i.e. has played enough games to be eligible for playoffs in three consecutive years in the league).** Import players must be designated on the official team roster as per section II.

Section II

- a) A player must be on players list before they may play any games. Players list must be forwarded to the Vice President (or secretary) before the first game. Players may be added to the list until May 31st. Players can be added to the list by contacting the Vice president (or secretary in the absence of the vice president) before playing in a game. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of a protested game by the non offending team (within 24 hours of game time). **Teams are encouraged to use e-mail so records can be properly kept. Each roster should be copied and sent to the whole executive.**
- b. A team may carry a maximum of 20 players. If a Coach or Manager wants to play, he must be on the 20 player list.
- c. There will be no exchange or pick-up of any player after the eligibility list due date. Subject to Executive decision.

Section III

All players must be **19 years of age as of eligibility list due date of May 31** of the current year.

ARTICLE VII - REGULATION GAMES

- a. Two points for a win. All games are to be played out in event of a tie. An official tie game called because of darkness or rain shall result in one point to each team.
- b. Regulation games will be **seven innings. If both teams agree before the start of the game then the game will be nine innings.** A mercy rule shall be in effect, if after seven complete innings (six and a half if home team is winning by 12) or any inning after, one team has a 12 run advantage the game will be officially over.

ARTICLE VIII - PROTESTS

- a. Questions involving official rules of play shall be dealt with immediately (i.e. before the next pitch) by the Umpires.
- b. Protests shall be made in writing by the team representative and put in the hands of the President within 48 hours and accompanied by a cheque for \$50.00 (refundable if upheld). Protests re violations of the Constitution only shall be submitted to the President, and any fines shall be submitted to the Treasurer.
- c. Decisions as to protest requiring Executive decision will be forwarded to all parties involved, stating their decision and reason for such.

ARTICLE IX - GAME REPORTS

- a. Game Reports when mandated by the league must be used properly. Full names, dated and signed by a team representative from the opposing team after game.
- b. Game reports when mandated by the league **MUST** be submitted to a designated Representative after every four games.
- c. **Game scores are to be e-mailed within 48 hours to the website statistician for updating.**

ARTICLE X - DISCIPLINE

1. Umpires will be required to discuss, in sportsmanlike fashion, disputed calls

with the Coach and/or Captain and/or Manager ONLY.

2. The disciplinary committee consisting of the league executive will deal with any player or coach ejected from a game. (Executive members that participate on the offending player's team or the opposing team in the game that the infraction occurred shall not be part of that hearing).
3. Although the disciplinary committee will make final ruling on the length of any suspensions the following guidelines shall be used:
 - a) arguing calls with umpires – minimum 2 games
 - b) physical contact with umpire – minimum 5 games
 - c) unnecessary rough play – minimum 2 games
 - d) physical altercation with opposing player – minimum 5 games
 - e) fighting will result in an indefinite suspension pending a hearing

In all cases above the suspensions are minimum and any suspension will increase with severity of infraction or with repeat offenders.

ARTICLE XI - BUDGET/FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. As per Treasurer's duties.
2. All Bank accounts in the League name will have co-signing power only (i.e. two of President, Treasurer, and secretary must sign all cheques).

ARTICLE XII - FORFEITURE OF GAMES

Section I - Due to Lack of Players

1. Teams will be given 15 minutes grace from starting time. A team with at least nine players must start game on time **without** the 15 minute grace time.
2. Teams must review their full schedule and any changes must be made by May 31 of the current season. Games shall be played as scheduled (other than those changed by May 31) and any team cancelling games other than for weather or mutually approved reasons will forfeit the game.
3. A forfeit will result in the awarding 2 points to the opposition and a fine.
4. A fine for forfeiture will be \$25.00 to the League and \$50.00 to cover the umpires' fee.

ARTICLE XIII - RAIN GAMES

- a. **Rain Out** - The Home Team must notify the opposition a minimum of TWO hours before the game of cancellation due to diamond conditions, if possible.
- b. Rain delays and cancellations after both teams have arrived will be the responsibility of the Umpires. All teams should consider safety of players.
- c. **Within 14 days**, the home team of a cancelled game must give the opposing team two open non weekend dates to reschedule the game. Penalty - Forfeit 2 points. Weekend dates are permissible if agreeable to both teams.

ARTICLE XIV - PLAYOFFS

Section I - Teams in Playoffs

1. Playoff format is subject to review each season dependant upon teams in League and will be determined at Spring Meeting.

Section II - Ties for Positioning

1. In the event of a tie for position at the end of regular season play
 - a. If an unbalanced scheduled has been played use only the balanced scheduled games
 - b. Results of play between the teams during the season will determine position.
 - c. If still tied, the run difference between the two teams will be used.
 - d. If still tied, a flip of a coin will determine positioning.
2. The higher team in regular season standings shall have choice of home or visiting team for each game in the playoff tournament.

Section III - Playoff Structure

1. The playoff format will be decided at the annual spring meeting. Currently a playoff tournament is used to determine the championship.
2. When a round robin format is used for playoffs the following tie breaker will be used to determine standings at the completion of the round robin.
 - a) all games in the round robin that are tied at the end of seven innings

- will result in each team receiving one point
- b) the home team will not complete its final turn at bat if leading in the game in the final inning
 - c) the team with the most wins when teams end tied in points will be placed higher in standings
 - d) the winner of the game(s) between tied teams only will finish higher in standings
 - e) the best plus minus using all games between tied teams will determine placings (maximum plus/minus of 10 per game)
 - f) the best plus minus using all games of the round robin will determine placings (maximum plus/minus of 10 per game)
3. For all games in the playoff tournament a mercy rule of 12 runs after 5 innings will be in effect with no time limit.

Section IV - Player Eligibility for the Playoffs

1. A player must have played a minimum of 10 regular season games to qualify for the playoffs. An injured player (excluding import players) must be present at the start of the game and sign the appropriate spot on game report in witness of the opposing team member in order to count as a half game credit. Two injured game credits will count as one game played. Import players must play in 10 games to be eligible for playoffs and will not be allowed any injured game credits.
2. A team may apply to the executive for special status to any player on their roster who has played for the past three years on that team and has failed to qualify for the current season playoffs by the ten game rule. No exemption will be considered for an import player. This will be dealt with at the Fall General meeting prior to the playoffs.
3. The Executive shall have the final decision regarding any player's eligibility for playoffs.
4. All teams "Playoff eligibility lists for playoffs" will be approved at the Annual Fall General Meeting. Only those players that were on the teams players list as of May 31 and meet "played games stipulations" (regular or import players) or "special status regulations" as set out in these rules will be eligible for approval. Any disputes will be settled at this meeting. Teams should bring their regular season score sheets to this meeting to help solve any disputes.

ARTICLE XV - PLAYER INJURY

1. The League **will NOT** be responsible for any injury incurred by any player, coach, manager or Executive member at any time at any location.
2. Players have understood that they play in this League at their own risk.

ARTICLE XVI - GENERAL

Section I - Grounds keeping

1. The home team is responsible for lining the diamond and properly securing bases and any other grounds keeping duties necessary for a safe and legal game.
2. It is expected that players will clean up after themselves, as these are public properties.
3. Players should encourage spectators to clean up after themselves as well.
4. Alcohol is not permitted on the ball diamond playing area or dugout area at any time.

Section II - Changes/Amendments to this Constitution

1. It is expected that all players in the League are aware of all points in this Constitution. It is the responsibility of team representatives to ensure this.
2. Changes or amendments to this Constitution will be dealt with at the Annual Spring General Meeting.
3. Alterations during the season in order to maintain harmony with the League will require a General meeting called by the President. Executive members and team representatives must be in quorum attendance at such.

ARTICLE XVII - UMPIRING

1. An umpire in chief will be appointed to assign all umpires for league and playoff games. The home team will be responsible to pay the umpires the approved set fee before the start of the game. The home team is responsible to contact the

umpires when games are cancelled or switched to another night or time. Failure to do so will result in the team paying the umpires at a full game rate.