

Proposed By-Laws for the West Shore Mixed Slo-Pitch Association

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Table of Contents

Preface Page
Title Page..... 1
Table of Contents..... 2
By-Laws
Article 1 – (name)..... 3
Article 2 – (purpose)..... 3
Article 3 - (membership)..... 3-4
Article 4 – (executive committee)..... 5
Article 5 – (officers)..... 5
Article 6 – (duties of officers)..... 6-7
Article 7 – (elections)..... 7
Article 8 – (meetings)..... 8
Article 9 – (discipline)..... 9
Article 10 – (disabilities)..... 9
Article 11 – (amendments)..... 9
Article 12 – (dissolution)..... 9
Article 13 – (penalties/suspensions)..... 10-12
Addenda
Exhibit “A” – Meeting Schedule (transition meeting)..... 14
Exhibit “B” – Registration and Team Selection..... 15-16
Exhibit “C” – Expectations of a Captain (game results/feedback)..... 17
Exhibit “D” – Welcome Dance/Picnic/Banquet..... 18
Exhibit “E” – Park Permits and Annual Tournament..... 19
Exhibit “F” – Rules and Regulations..... 20-25
Exhibit “G” – Fact sheets

By-Laws for the West Shore Mixed Slo-Pitch Association

Article 1 (name): The name of the organization is The West Shore Mixed Slo-Pitch Association and is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Article 2 (purpose): The purpose of the organization is:

- 1) To promote the development of mixed slo-pitch softball in the Town of Pickering.
- 2) To improve the quality of life in the area.
- 3) To meet people and socialize.
- 4) To generate money in the area.

Article 3 (membership)

Section 1: Membership shall be limited to those 18 years of age and older ~~by May 1st of current year.~~

Section 2: Membership shall consist of active members, which require that the member be registered with the league for that year. Membership is current from registration to the next registration, the following year.

Section 3: Annual dues shall be by cash, electronic banking transfer or cheque (~~payable to “West Shore Mixed Slo-Pitch Association”~~) and included with the registration form.

Section 4: Qualifications for admittance to this organization is that:

- ~~1) Membership shall not be disqualified because of sex, race, colour or creed.~~
- ~~2) Previous year’s members shall receive first opportunity to register (until March 15th being the registration date).~~
- ~~3) New members will be placed on a holding list until March 15 then new members will be included up to capacity.~~
- ~~4) Concerning new members – preferences will be given to residents of the Town of Pickering prior to considering applications from non-residents, capacity permitting.~~
- 5) A waiting list shall be kept after the league is to capacity.
- 6) Pickering residents who move out of the area may continue to play softball in the league, if on a continuous basis, however if they quit then they will be treated as a non-resident.
- 7) Past members can be absent for up to one year and be considered members, if for medical reasons only.

Section 5: Member refund policy: a twenty five dollar (\$25.00) administration fee will be deducted from the registration fee. No refunds will be issued after ~~the~~ June 1st or in the case of unreturned association equipment.

Section 6: ~~Cheques must be dated on or prior to the registration date (March 1st of the current year).~~ After the **posted** registration date, no post-dated cheques will be accepted. All bank service charges incurred by the association will be passed onto the applicant (returned cheques etc.). There is a charge of \$25.00 for NSF cheques.

Section 7: Members can request to play with any other specified member, limited to individual blocks of ~~four~~ **eight** (8) members only. Note: circumstances regarding the above shall be looked at on an individual basis and ~~voted~~ decided upon by the executive committee.

Section 8: Players are not allowed to change teams without executive committee approval. Substitution (with league members of equal caliber) will be permitted with executive committee approval to avoid defaults during tournament.

Section 9: Resignation, termination and removal of members: players who are absent for four consecutive games without notifying their captain can be replaced by a new player off the waiting list at the committee's discretion, with an attempt to continue consistency (man for man, woman for woman, couple for couple) and comparable softball ability.

Article 4 (executive committee):

Section 1: The executive committee shall consist of the elected members ~~and non-elected officers, and captains, as per Article 5, Section 1 and 2 inclusive.~~

Section 2: The executive committee shall handle the regular business of the organization.

Section 3: Regular meetings of the executive shall be held.

Section 4: A quorum for conducting business of the executive committee shall be not less than 51% of the members of the executive committee empowered to vote.

Article 5 (Executive Members):

Section 1: There shall be the following elected members ~~officers~~:

- President

- Convener
- ~~Secretary~~/Treasurer
- ~~Liaison/Tournament officer~~
- Sponsorship Director
- Social Director / **Secretary**
- Equipment manager

Section 2: ~~Non-elected officers included in the executive committee:~~ **League sub-committees:**

- ~~Past convener~~
- ~~Team Captains or representatives~~
- **Tournament committee**

All of the above ~~elected and non-elected officers~~ **executive members** are empowered to a single vote.

Note #1: The ~~Convener~~ **President** does not vote, unless to break a tie.

Note #2: ~~Additional helpers added to the executive committee~~ **Sub-committee members** are not empowered to vote.

Article 6 (duties of officers Exec Members):

Section 1: The ~~Convener~~ **President** shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the executive committee and general meetings of the organization and at any special meetings.
- Sign cheques with the ~~Secretary/~~ Treasurer.
- Sign all contracts with the ~~Secretary/~~Treasurer, after approval by the executive committee.
- Call meetings of the organization.
- Serve as ex-officio member on all sub-committees.
- Schedule and co-ordinate league activities and functions
- Ensure By-laws are made available to executive committee members.

Section 2: The ~~Secretary / Treasurer~~ **Convener/Communications** shall:

- **be in charge of the scheduling of all games / umpires**
- **be in charge of all communications within the league.**
- **manage of all web & social media platforms**

Section 3: **Treasurer** shall:

- Set-up an account accessible by the ~~Secretary/~~Treasurer and ~~Convener~~ **President**
- Keep **and distribute as required,** record of the leagues' finances.
- ~~Record the minutes of all proceedings of the executive committee.~~
- Sign cheques with the ~~Convener~~ **President**
- Sign all contracts with the ~~Convener~~ **President**, after approval by the executive committee.

Section 3 **4:** The ~~Liaison / Tournament officer~~ **Secretary** shall:

- ~~Establish good rapport with the Pickering Softball Association and Town of Pickering, and attend meetings with same.~~
- ~~Obtain parks for the organization.~~
- ~~Organize the league's annual tournament.~~
 - record minutes of all league proceedings of the executive committee
 - maintain all appropriate league documents, contracts and agreements
 - shall keep & maintain copies of all league correspondence including permits and insurance certificates etc.

Section 4 ~~5~~: The Sponsorship director shall:

- Obtain sponsors for the league.
- Obtain prizes for league functions.
- Keep sponsors informed of league activities (tournament, play-off, picnic, dances and season games).
- Acknowledgement of sponsors support by letter.

Section 5 ~~6~~: The Social director shall:

- Organize all social functions sponsored by the league, and make all necessary arrangement (~~Welcome Dance, Picnic and Banquet~~).

Section 6: The Equipment Manager shall:

- Take inventory of all stock and obtain necessary equipment for the season
- Obtain shirts for the league.

Section 7: The Past-Convener shall:

- Attend all executive committee meetings and ensure that the spirit and intent of the organization is followed.
- Act as the chairperson in the Conveners absence.

Section 8 ~~7~~: The Team Captain(s) shall:

- Be responsible for all equipment that it is available to the team for all games.
- Ensure that league games are played in compliance with the league's purpose and rules set out by the league.

Section 9 ~~8~~: Each member of the executive committee is responsible for their duties and responsibilities, attending all meetings, keeping the committee informed and updated, and act in the best interest of the organization.

Section ~~10~~ **9**: ~~The position of Convener can be held for on consecutive year only. This condition is waived for all other positions.~~ **All positions are voted on annually. Nominations will be open on the wsmisp.com website approximately two months before the AGM and closed approximately one month before the AGM. Only members of WSMSP are eligible to be nominated for any position on the executive. If there is only one member nominated for a position, then, at the AGM, that member will be awarded the position by acclamation.**

Article 7 (elections):

Section 1: All positions on the executive committee are open for nomination ~~for election~~ to all current members of the league, **closing date will be approximately one month before League Banquet, and will be voted on at the banquet.**

Section 2: Elections shall be by secret ballot and voting privileges shall be limited to active members of the year.

Section 3: Exec Members shall be elected for a term of one year, to serve from the time of installation until the succeeding AGM ~~installation of officers.~~

Section 4: If any executive committee member resigns their position, the position will be offered to ~~the runner-up in the voting for the position. Failing that, the committee will decide on a nomination.~~
a member of the league as selected by the Executive board, to act in that position until the next AGM.

Section 5: Slack executive committee members will receive a warning by the ~~Convener~~ **President** and if there is no improvement the committee shall vote on their dismissal.

Section 6: If no one is nominated for a position the present elected or appointed member is able to keep the position by acclamation for another term

Article 8 (meetings):

~~Section 1: There should be approximately 8 meetings per year open to all registered members. Notice of such meetings shall be given to each member of the executive committee at the transition meeting.~~

Section 2 **1**: There is to be a transition of administration meeting immediately following installation. It is to include both outgoing and incoming members ~~officers.~~

- all files, including financial books are turned over to the newly installed committee / ~~Convener~~ **President**, who then becomes presiding ~~Convener~~ **President**.

- This meeting should include the outline of the years schedule, functions, activities, budget and fees.

Section 3 **2**: Special meetings may be called by the ~~Convener~~ **President** or any member of the executive committee, upon notice of 51% of the committee.

Section 4 **3**: All elected executive committee members shall attend all meetings and give an update report or make their report available at all meetings, if unable to attend.

Article 9 (discipline):

Section 1: Charges of professional dishonesty working against the principles and purpose of the organization and/or injuring the professional standing of a member may be filed with the executive committee.

Section 2: The accused member shall be notified of the action and shall have the privilege of being present at a special meeting or regular meeting of the executive committee, at which the charges will be considered.

Section 3: The member may be suspended by a 51% vote or expelled by a 75% vote of the executive committee.

Section 4: Should the executive committee lose confidence in any executive officer, disciplinary action or dismissal will take place.

Article 10 (disabilities):

In the best interest of the association, it is the responsibility of members to disclose any disabilities, injuries or pregnancies in writing.

Article 11 (amendments):

The league By-laws may be amended or revised by an affirmative vote of 75% of all members of the association present at a meeting designed for that purpose.

Article 12 (dissolution):

Should the organization be dissolved, all material and possessions of the organization must be sold or donated to a charity in the Town of Pickering.

Article 13 (penalties/suspensions):

Player and/or team member penalties and suspensions: WSMSP will be adhering and enforcing the Code of Conduct as established by SPN.

~~As a result of incidents occurring at league parks during league games to league members that are in contravention of the intent of the league and/or bylaws:~~

~~Section 1: Verbal Abuse:~~

~~-First offence:~~

~~Penalty: Warning by the umpire~~

~~-Subsequent offence(s) in the same game:~~

~~Penalty: Incident reported to the core Executive Committee~~

~~-Any subsequent offence in any game:~~

~~Penalty: Executive issues a letter of warning~~

~~Section 2: Physical Abuse:~~

~~-Protest must be reported the same day to the Convener and/or acting Executive representative at headquarters no later than 9:00PM~~

~~-The Executive will set-up an investigative meeting attended by the Executive, captains and parties of the teams involved in the incident within 3 days of the incident to assess the incident and determine appropriate action to be in place prior to the following game~~

~~-Intent must be established that the altercation is deliberate~~

~~-Judgment will be applied as to the degree of deliberate intent~~

~~Penalty: Ranging from a verbal warning to a letter of warning to a 1 game suspension to a more than 1 game suspension to a suspension for the remainder of the season to a permanent lifetime suspension.~~

Section 3: Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Penalty: Same as Physical Abuse

Section 4: Any conduct considered by the West Shore Mixed Slo-Pitch Association or S.P.N. to be detrimental to the sport of slo-pitch softball:

Penalty: Same as Physical Abuse

Section 5: Any misuse of diamonds, surrounding facilities or accommodation facilities:

Penalty: Same as Physical Abuse

Section 6: Illegal sit-outs/runner:

-Protest must be reported the same day as the offense

Penalty:

-If the penalized team lost the game in question, it will be deducted two (2) points in league standings:

-If the penalized team won the game in question, the opposing team will be awarded two (2) points; the penalized team will receive zero (0) points:

Note: If an out has not been recorded, the last batter of the same sex in the lineup is designated as a courtesy runner:

Section 7: Illegal Substitution:

-Deliberate attempt to impersonate a valid member by a non-member

-Use of illegal, ineligible or fraudulently represented players

-Protest is open and may be reported at any time during the year

-The Executive will set up an investigative meeting attended by the Executive and parties involved in the infraction to assess the infraction and determine appropriate action:

Penalty:

-The captain or acting captains is suspended for the remainder of the season:

-The opposing team will be awarded two (2) points. The penalized team will receive zero (0) points and be deducted and additional four points in league standings effective immediately:

All penalties and suspensions may be subject to review by the executive and maximums may be extended upon severity of the case:

Any time a carded umpire is used in a game, he or she is responsible for the conduct on the field, any other infraction will be dealt with by the Executive:

Items 1 to 7 are at the discretion of the Executive/Disciplinary Committee:

Note: The executive/Disciplinary Committee will be comprised of five people. Two will be from the current Executive Committee; the other three will be current captains. None of the people chosen for the Executive/Disciplinary Committee can be personally involved in any way with the discrepancy.

The Convener **President** will chair the Committee and only be allowed to vote in case of a tie. The accused shall have the option of requesting an alternate(s) due to a possible conflict of interest.

ADDENDA

Exhibit "A" - Meeting Schedule

(Transition meeting)

Exhibit "B" - Registration and Team Selection

Exhibit "C" - Expectations of a Captain

(Game results/feedback)

Exhibit "D" - Welcome Dance/Picnic/Banquet

Exhibit "E" - Park Permits and Annual Tournament

(With Tournament Coordinator or Convener)

Exhibit "F" - Rules and Regulations

Exhibit "G" - Fact sheets (with Convener)

Exhibit "A"

Meeting Schedule

October: Rules Meeting (Executive & captains only). Only rules to be discussed and enacted for the following season.

November: Transition meeting of the past and present executives to transfer information and data, as soon as possible after the year end banquet.

- budget and fees (registration and sponsors)
- tentative schedule of games and events in the upcoming year
- update on all events

January/February and/or March

Update:

- registration
- shirts and equipment

April: Team selection and update.

May: Captains meeting and update.

~~**June:** Welcome Dance meeting and update.~~

~~**July:** Annual League Tournament and update.~~

August: Playoffs / Banquet meeting.

- Trophies
- Banquet

September: Banquet meeting if necessary.

Note: ~~Convener and Secretary/Treasurer~~ **The Executive** to meet before and after every major event.

Exhibit "B"

Registration and Team Selection

***Teams are decided year to year. These are just guidelines.**

Registration

Registration will be on a first come basis for previous year's members up to the registration date, being early March 15th of the current year. ~~New members will be placed on a holding list until the registration date and then new members will be included up to capacity. If capacity has not been filled as of the registration date, registration will continue on a first come basis up to capacity.~~

For a 16-team league, with 16 members on each team, capacity is 256 members (16 teams x 16 members per team = 256 total members).

~~Based on the same male/female ration on each team, with the optimum being a 9:7 male/female split on each team, registration will be filled to capacity consisting of 144 males and 112 females (on a first come basis) with the following breakdown:~~

Males: 16 teams x 9 males per team = 144 males
Females: 16 teams x 9 females per team = 144 females
Total: 16 teams x 16 members per team = 256 members

Team Selection Process:

The team selection process is crucial to the success of the league. Over the years the optimum method utilized to obtain parity has evolved into the following process:

1) Members are divided into categories:

- groups of **4 8**
- groups of **3 4**
- couples
- single males
- single females

Note: Groups larger than **4 8** are split into smaller groups with an effort to maintain fairness and equity. All categories are listed on separate pages (ie. The groups of **4 8** are listed on 1 or more pages, groups of **3 4** are listed on 1 or more pages, couples are listed on 1 or more pages and single males and females are listed on 1 or more pages).

2) The current ~~Convener~~ **President** reviews each player's personal ranking with the captain of the team played upon the previous year. The players and captains' ratings from at least the past two seasons are also available for comparison purposes. Players are rated as follows:

Men: A - Excellent	Women: B - Above Average
B - Above Average	C - Average
C - Average	D - Below Average
D - Below Average	E - Beginner
E - Beginner	

3) Sponsors are first placed on the teams they are sponsoring and designated with an "S" beside their name.

4) ~~Sixteen~~ (16) capable captains are selected and designated with a "C" beside their names for easy reference.

5) ~~Sixteen~~ (16) capable pitchers are selected and designated with a "P" beside their name.

6) ~~Each team selected will comprise of 9 males and 7 females consisting of the following balance of abilities:~~

- ~~= 2 A level Men = 2 B level Women~~
- ~~= 2 B level Men = 3 C level Women~~
- ~~= 4 C level Men = 2 D level Women~~
- ~~= 1 D level Man~~

The number of players per team will be decided annually by the Executive.

~~7) New members are designated with a "NP" (new player).~~

~~8) Members are designated as "M" (males) and "F" (females).~~

~~9) Other designations could be included to reach parity or a balance.~~

~~10) A number of knowledgeable members are chosen to select the teams (members can not pick themselves on the team they are selecting).~~

Then the actual team selection begins.

~~-Sponsors, Captains and Pitchers are selected first and designated with an "S", "C", and "P" for easy reference.~~

~~-Blocks of 4-8 are then selected, followed by groups of 3, followed by couples and then filled out with single males and females. As each group or individual is selected, the rankings are also listed for easy reference.~~

~~-Players with the least overall ability should be allocated evenly amongst the teams with a balance in the number of weak players on each team.~~

~~-Recapping team selections after about 6, 10 and 12-14 picks per teams is advisable to maintain equity and balance (at any one of these points some teams will be evaluated as strong or weak and adjustments can be made).~~

~~Try to maintain an equal number of groups of 4, groups of 3, couples and single males and females on each team, to prevent any one team being comprised of groups only or couples and singles only, as extreme examples.~~

The rosters to be established by Executive annually, details to be published on the website.

Exhibit "C"

Expectations of a Captain

To assist the captains and provide a degree of consistency throughout the league, the Executive expects each captain to perform the following:

- To behave in a responsible adult manner to promote a favorable image of the league.
- To attend all games/meetings or provide a knowledgeable substitute and to inform team members of league meetings.
- To be responsible for all equipment and its availability to the team for all games.
- To contact all team members and encourage attendance and participation in league games, functions and activities.
- To prepare line-ups for batting and fielding.
- To provide instruction of league rules to team members.

- To provide results of each game to the convener (**via web site only**) in a timely manner after the last game of the day at a designated location.
- To keep the convener **President** informed of significant events or concerns. If you are having any problems with a player, such as alcohol, poor attendance or not getting along with the team.

Remember, all players are an equally important asset to the team and the league!!

Exhibit “D”

Welcome Dance/Picnic/Banquet

Duties of the Social Coordinator

Right after the transition meeting, book halls for Welcome Dance and Banquet. Confirm with the convener **President** that dates will be on the schedules. Book D.J. for ~~Welcome Dance and Banquet~~ (try and work out a deal for both).

Welcome Dance

~~Before the first captains meeting:~~

- ~~Book caterer and bartender for dance (venue dependent).~~
- ~~Approximately 10 days prior to dance, obtain permit for liquor license and insurance (liquor liability =venue dependent).~~
- ~~At meeting prior to dance, hand out tickets (\$5 per person, non-refundable).~~
- ~~Get volunteers for: Setup/cleanup/door duty (1/2 hour shifts for captains)~~
- ~~Get an estimated count of attendance.~~
- ~~Check with sponsorship representative to get door prizes and request donations from players and captains.~~

~~Items required purchasing for welcome dance (venue dependent):~~

- ~~Beer, liquor (get count from treasurer of last years purchases), pop, juice, ice, garbage bags, snacks (chips), borrow tubs for beer, ice buckets, tongs, shot glasses, pitchers for water etc.~~

Banquet

At a meeting prior to the banquet give tickets to captains and advise them that all tickets or money must be returned prior to the final game. Confirm with the hall and decide on menu items. Get money from treasurer for door prizes and also check with the sponsorship representative to get prizes from sponsors. One week prior to banquet confirm number of people attending.

Picnic

~~Get liaison to book Alex Robertson park when requesting permits:~~

At the meeting prior to the picnic recruit volunteers to help run events. Eg. Volleyball, football, races, tug-of-war (get rope from fire hall), water balloons, egg toss, 3 legged race, dunk tank etc
Get prizes from dollar store (small token prizes eg. Tattoos, bubbles etc)
Get ribbons from trophy store (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, participation, etc)
Advise captains at meeting to whether food will be available for purchase or to bring their own.

Exhibit “E”

**Park Permits and Annual Tournament
(with Tournament Coordinator or ~~Convener~~ President)**

Rules

S.P.N. Rules Apply with exception of below

The following highlights some of our association's rules and regulations. For further detail see the By-Laws of the West Shore Mixed Softball Association and the West Shore Mixed Softball Association.

Regulations

1. The Association promotes sportsmanship and enjoyment.
2. Age limit – 18 year and over.
3. Vacancies will be filled from a waiting list maintained by the Association. Teams must take a person from the waitlist with an attempt to continue consistency (male for male, female for female, couple for couple) and comparable softball ability.
4. Player should notify their team captain if a game or games are to be missed. A player missing four (4) games in succession, without reasonable cause may be removed from the league. (Revised Apr.16 2014)
5. All equipment remains the property of the Association. Team jerseys remain the property of the Association until the end of the playing season. Players leaving the Association **before the end of the season** shall surrender their shirts to their team captain.
6. During the regular season, rain out games will be rescheduled by the ~~team captains~~ **Convener** for the following Sunday, prior to that week's game if possible. The original park should be used if the Association has the required park permits.
7. Both teams **MUST HAVE** the minimum number of players (9 **8** minimum – 3 of which must be female) to field a team.
8. Each team is to provide their own score-keeper. The winning **Each** team is responsible for providing the Convener with the score sheet at the league headquarters after the game: **submitting their scores. All scores must be submitted through the website.**
9. No alcohol or drugs are allowed at **or near** the ballpark.
10. No new inning will start after 1 hour and 15 minutes from start time.

Umpires

Umpires are provided by SPN but if they do not show up each team will **may** select umpires prior to the start of the game. **If so, the following rules are in place**

Specific Duties of the Plate Umpire

- Will have full responsibility for the proper conduct of the game and is the crew chief.
- Will call each pitch a ball or strike.
- Will call batted balls fair or foul and all illegally batted balls.
- Will call the plays at third and home plate.

Specific Duties of the Base Umpire

- Will assist on calls in outfield decisions.
- Will call the plays at first and second base.

RULES

Rules of Play - SPN rules except for the following:

1. The playing field

- The bases will be ~~60~~ **65** feet apart (from the rear portion of the plate).
- ~~Pitching distance is from 46-50 feet, in a direct line from home plate to second base.~~
- ~~Commitment line is 25 feet from home plate perpendicular to the third base line.~~
- ~~A safety line will be drawn at home plate perpendicular to the third base line from the front left corner of home plate.~~
- Team captains **and umpires** will ~~discuss and agree~~ review on-ground rules prior to the game. Umpire is to announce to captains and players the start of the game and no new inning after a specific time. Captains have been advised to write times down.
- ~~No more than six players will be in the infield until the ball is batted and no defensive player can cross the baseline until the ball is hit.~~
- An outfield defensive line consisting of an arc ~~150~~ **130** feet from home plate shall be used and delimited by the use of orange cones in foul territory . No outfielder (minimum **maximum** of four) is allowed in front of the 130 foot line until the ball is hit. If this rule is violated, the team at bat has the option of taking the result of the play or an award of one base to the batter and all runners.
- The defensive team must have at least one girl in the outfield at all times (i.e. LF,CF,RF,Rover in each inning.) (Revised Apr 26 2010)
- ~~Catcher, First baseman, and Pitcher may use a trapper style gloves.~~ (Revised Apr 2014)

2. Equipment

- Equipment (bases, mat, cones, balls etc) will be provided by the Association.
- Personal bats may be used if properly sanctioned by SPN "~~Official Softball~~".
- Metal spiked shoes are not allowed; one piece molded rubber soles are acceptable.
- Home plate is ~~a 24x48" board~~ **an Orange SPN sanctioned matt** (the entire ~~board~~ **matt** is in fair territory).
- ~~First base is a double (safety) base and the following rules apply:~~
~~-White portion is fair territory and orange is in foul territory.~~

- Defensive player must use white portion only, if any portion of the orange is used the runner is safe.
- If a play is being made at first base, the runner's first attempt must be to the orange portion, otherwise the runner will be called out.
- Once first base is attained, the runner must use the white portion only.

3. Definitions

- See SPN rule book.

4. The Game

- Seven innings is a complete game, 3½ innings with the home team leading or 4 innings constitutes a game if necessary to be called.
- ~~All regular season games should be completed regardless of time. If 4:30 runs late the 6 o'clock games will start right after. The 6 o'clock game should be completed as well.~~ (revised June 1st 2008)
- No new inning will start after 1 hour and 15 minutes from start time. **Start time and no new inning times to be announced at start of game/inning.** (revised June 12th 2008)
- If the home team is winning by less than 7 runs, the home team will continue to bat in order to achieve a maximum of 7 runs.
- To end the inning there must be three outs or the batting team scores **the 7th run** in that inning. (revised Apr.16 2014)
- **Regular season: tie games are allowed**
- **TIEBREAKER for Beerfest Summer Slam and Playoffs only.** The tiebreaker method starts in the top of the eighth (8th) inning and continues each inning thereafter. The offensive (at bat) team shall begin its half inning with one out and with the last batter from the previous inning starting as a runner at second base. Regular substitution rule will apply to this runner (Tiebreaker Rule). The defensive team will use the defence lineup starting from the 1st inning. (revised June 1st 2008) **The International tie-breaker rule will be utilized.**
- ~~MERCY RULE: During regular season play; innings 1 through 6 are subject to a 7 run limit, inning 7 is an open inning whereby three outs must be achieved to end the inning.~~ (Revised Apr 2011)

Inning 1-6: 7 run limit: **mercy rule**

Inning 7 **(or declared last inning):** Open inning. **no mercy rule**

Rules of Play

5. The Players and Team

- A team must have a minimum of 9 **8** players, of which 3 must be females ~~to be eligible to play.~~
- ~~Each team must have three females in the line-up in order to have a valid game.~~
- If a team is playing with only three female players then a female player must be in the outfield at all times and a male ~~back~~ catcher must be used for the entire game. ~~Teams must~~

~~follow batting order accordingly. (revised April 16 2014)~~ **Maximum of 7 male defensive players permitted on the field at any time.**

- A **maximum of 15** minute grace period **is allowed prior to default** ~~from regulation start time will be allowed only in default situation.~~
- All players in the game must be registered with ~~the association~~ **SPN and WSMSP** and on the team roster, **to be eligible to play. Captains are responsible to ensure registration is accurate and complete.**
- A late arriving player may be added to the bottom of the batting order provided the team has not restarted its batting order. **A player may be added to the roster provided no player has batted a second time. If a player is added, they must be entered at the bottom of the batting order**
- All players should get equal playing time (defensive lineups, if more than 10 players, will start by sitting the top of the order and rotate through the subsequent innings. **All teams must use one of two approved WSMSP defensive chart appropriately.**
- When in the field, better players should play their positions and only cover up for, but not play the position of weaker players.
- Teams may borrow up to ~~four (4)~~ **two (2) league** players, with a maximum of ~~two (2)~~ males, to bring the total to 9 **10** players on the team. **Borrowed league players may only play catcher, right field or rover. Borrowed players must be entered only at the bottom of the batting order. ***Please remember this is a fun league, and to keep things fair, stronger players should not be used to fill in for missing weaker players.*** ~~(revised March 26 2012)~~ **Borrowed player(s) may remain in the game if/when regular roster player(s) arrive and enter the game (see above rule re: timing)**
- A player, who is asked to be a “borrowed” player for another team and is a pitcher, is only permitted to pitch if the team does not have an available regular pitcher. ~~(Revised Apr. 16 2014)~~
- ~~A “borrowed” player must leave the game if a “regular” player arrives in time to meet above requirements and take their proper place in the batting order~~

6. Pitching

- Strike-pitch must satisfy delivery rules as stated in the rule book and land on a portion of the board **matt** with a minimum arc of 6 feet and a maximum of 12 feet (spinning is allowed). ~~Refer to SPN rule book.~~

Rules of Play

7. Batting

- The infield fly rule will be in effect. ~~Revised: April 20, 2009~~
- The following is not allowed and the batter will be called out:

- bunting or chopping downward at the ball.
- stepping on or in front of the board while making contact with the ball.
- for safety reasons, if they throw their bat.
- pinch hitters are not allowed.

Helmets - all batters/runners must wear a league approved batting helmets at all times. This includes batters, runners & on deck batters. WSMSP will supply helmets for the 2018 season.

➤ if a pinch/courtesy runner is needed, the batter must reach 1st base safely before the pinch runner can be used. The pinch runner will be the last person out, of the same sex. **A batter may use a “runner from the fence”. The umpire must be notified. Once the runner from the fence is used, they must be used by that batter for all subsequent at bats.**

➤ a foul ball over 6 feet, caught by the catcher is an out.
 ➤ If the first 4 pitches are balls (no strikes recorded) the batter will be awarded 2nd base. All runners on base are awarded two bases. (Revised Apr.16 2014) **Any runners on base at the time will advance as per force play rules.**

- Third strike foul is an out. Revised: April 20, 2009
- First homerun over fence by team is homerun after that all other balls over fence are doubles. Revised: April 20, 2009
- Any ball hit that the pitcher is forced to field defensively or forced to vacate the pitcher's “box” the batter shall be declared out and the ball and play is dead. (Revised Apr.16 2014)

HOME RUN RULE – One Plus One. Once a team has scored a home run, any additional home runs will be counted as a double, until the other team has scored their own home run. At this point the rule resets and carries on.

8. Base Running

- First base is a double (safety) base (see rule 3, equipment).
- After a play has been made and the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitcher's area, two rules are in effect:
 - a) if the runner is on a base, they must remain there.
 - b) if the runner is not on a base, they have the option of advancing or returning to a base, at their own risk.
- no base stealing is allowed, runners must keep in contact with their base and may leave ONLY when the pitch has reached or passed home plate or is batted (anticipation will be allowed but lead-offs will be called out).
- if a ball is thrown out of the play area, each runner is awarded two bases from the last base occupied at the time of the throw; the award is governed by the lead runner.
- if a runner passes the commitment line, they must continue to home plate and are not allowed to return to 3rd base.
- the runner is not allowed to step on home plate when running home. The runner must cross the safety line with a portion of their body touching the ground in order to score. All plays at home shall be considered force plays. A defensive player must have control of the ball while making contact with home plate before the runner reaches safety line to be an out. A tag may be made between the commitment line and home only on an errant throw. Verbal interference is not allowed and is considered an out.

9. Other

➤ ~~Catchers and first base player may wear a glove or mitt of any size. All other players are restricted to a 3 or 4 finger type glove. The webbing shall not be constructed to form any type of net or tray:~~

➤ ~~Multicolour gloves are legal:~~

➤ ~~Any participant (player, coach or umpire) who is bleeding or has blood on his/her uniform may not participate until he/she is treated and his/her uniform changed. When a participant is bleeding, the bleeding must be controlled and all blood removed from his/her body. This would include cleaning and covering the wound:~~

➤ ~~If a player has been removed from the line-up because of injury they are allowed to miss one at bat only to allow them sufficient time to decide if they are able to continue playing.~~

~~The missed at bat will be counted as an out. (Revised Apr.16 2014)~~

➤ ~~If a ball is hit safely into the outfield, ie. It touches the ground. Outfields are NOT permitted to throw the ball to first base in a attempt to get the batter/runner out. This is for safety reasons. An infielder may run into the outfield to get the ball and make a throw, but an outfielder (including a rover) may not. If a fly ball is hit in the air and caught by an outfielder and an out is recorded and a runner on first has left early, then the outfielder may throw to first to attempt to put the runner out. a double play.~~

➤ ~~The following bats can NOT be used in the WSMSP league as of 2014:~~

~~http://www.slo-pitch.com/sites/slo-pitch.com/files/ASA_Non-Approved%20Batlist.pdf(Revised Apr.16 2014)~~

➤ ~~Please see the SPN website for further information on approved bats:~~

~~<http://www.slo-pitch.com/content/slo-pitch-national-bat-policy-0>(Revised Apr.16 2014)~~

Refer to the latest SPN illegal bat list

~~*NOTE* In case of any discrepancies or the rule is not covered in the above mentioned list we will refer to the SPN rule book.~~