

E-mail: [hlssaleague@gmail.com](mailto:hlssaleague@gmail.com)

Web: [www.hlssa.ca](http://www.hlssa.ca)

# H.L.S.S.A

## Hamilton Ladies Slo-pitch Softball Association

# 2024 League Rules & Information

### Scores to be reported by BOTH TEAMS

Send scores and copy of gamesheet by e-mail to  
[hlssa.scoresheets@gmail.com](mailto:hlssa.scoresheets@gmail.com)

Within 24 Hours of game conclusion

# HLSSA

## League Fees & Fines

League **Fees** and **Fines**, along with their payment schedule, will be set yearly by the Executive Board.

A team is only eligible to play, if all Fees have been paid per the Fee Schedule, **and/or** a Fine that has been levied during the season has been paid before the next scheduled game.

I.e. Forfeitures, Bond, Protest Fee, NSF Cheque Fee

No Refunds will be provided.

### **Ladies Fee Schedule 2023**

April 15<sup>th</sup> Deposit due

May 15<sup>th</sup>

League Fee, First Instalment

June 15<sup>th</sup> League Fees.

League Fee, Second Instalment

Total \$2200.00

### **Forfeitures ( Not Applicable at this time)**

\$40.00 per occurrence to be paid to the league, prior to your next game.

### **Score sheets ( Not Applicable at this time)**

\$25.00 per occurrence, if you DO NOT submit your score sheets.

### **SPN Insurance**

Levied yearly by Slo-pitch National (SPN) and is included in Team Registration.

### **SPN Affiliation**

Levied yearly by SPN.

**Executive Committee or Annual General Meeting Absentee Fee ( Not Applicable at this time)**

\$25.00 per occurrence, if no representative is in attendance. This will be subtracted from the Bond Money.

**Bond ( Not Applicable at this time)**

A \$100.00 bond is required to pay for any fines levied. Any remaining Bond Money will be returned to the team at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Teams that fail to attend the AGM will be solely responsible to make arrangements to pick up any remaining Bond Money (less the fee for failure to attend the AGM). If this is not done by December 31<sup>st</sup>, the team will forfeit the entire remaining amount to the Association.

**At the discretion of the Executive Board, the Bond Fee may be entirely forfeited if a League Fee instalment is not paid by the due date.**

**Please Note:** Once a team's Bond Money has been consumed (due to fines or forfeitures) another \$100.00 must be submitted prior to the next scheduled game otherwise forfeiture will be levied. The league Executive Board reserves the right to suspend any team for unpaid Bond Money.

**Protest Fees**

A \$75.00 fee is required per protest. Bond money may not be used to pay for Protest Fees. Protest Fees are paid in cheque or money order at the same time the protest is delivered (in writing).

**Valley Park Light box key (Not Applicable at this time)**

(Vicki Turcotte division only – if applicable)

A \$25.00 fee will be assessed/charged, for not returning the key, at the end of the season. This will be subtracted from the Bond Money.

**NSF Cheque Policy**

A \$50.00 fee will be assessed/charged, for any cheque returned as NSF (not sufficient funds). This fee will be added to the amount owing and must be paid in full in advance of the next scheduled game in order to be eligible to play.

**Reminder: All fees paid to the Association (HLSSA) must be in the form of a cheque or EFTS. Special consideration to accept EFT will be available where required. Funds are counted while you are present and funds are receipted.**

# HLSSA

## League Rules

### The Official SPN Rules for the Current Year is the Standard for the League

*The following league rules are exceptions to the existing Slo-pitch National rules, in order to more accurately reflect the style of game played in the Hamilton Ladies Slo-pitch Softball Association. Where a conflict exists between the league rules and SPN, the Official SPN Rule Book for the current year will be the used to decide the outcome.*

**These rules are non-negotiable, regardless if both teams agree to adjustments**

### **Players and Teams**

#### **1. Batting Order**

Teams do not have to finish a game with the same number of players in the batting order that they started with, but the order must not drop below 10 players or 9 players with an automatic out (as long as there is still a minimum of 4 girls).

Teams may add players to the bottom of the batting order, up until such time as the team has gone through the order completely once.

**Coed Division:** SIX (6) male and FOUR (4) female players will be considered a "normal" line up

- A. In the six and four grouping, the batting order must always alternate sexes, with the exception that no more than 2 males may ever bat back to back (only twice in the first ten (10) batters)
- B. If an unlimited batting order is used with the 6 males and 4 females, it may become 7 males and 5 females, or 8 males and 6 females, etc...
- C. A female player may be used as a substitute for a male player, but a male player may not substitute for a female player.
- D. A female player may be substituted for a male player and a male player may be legally substituted or re-entered into that position in the batting order.
- E. There must always be a minimum of four (4) females defensively and offensively and a maximum of six (6) males defensively.
- F. If a female player is removed from the order for any reason (injury or otherwise) the following options apply, if the player cannot be substituted for:
  1. The male player that bats after her is also removed from the batting order and is not eligible to substitute in the order.
  2. Her position in the batting order becomes an automatic out.

\*\* The above conditions apply only if there is still a minimum of 4 girls in the line-up.

## **2. Courtesy Runners**

Each team will be allowed to use up to three (3) courtesy runners per game. There is no limitation on how many times an individual player may be used.

**\*\*new 2018\*\*** Any player age 60+ will be allowed an unlimited supply of courtesy runners per game.

## **3. Defensive Substitution**

There are no limits on Defensive substitution.

*Coed Division:* The number of males playing defensively cannot exceed six (6) and the number of girls cannot drop below four (4).

There is no maximum number of females that can play defensively. All subs must be listed on the game sheets prior to the start of the game.

## **4. Roster**

Each team is allowed to carry a maximum of twenty-five (25) players.

Ten (10) players are required on the field to play a game.

### Exception

Teams are allowed to field and bat with nine (9) players where the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order is an automatic out, as long as the number of girls does not drop below four (4).

**\*\*\* The team roster must be submitted to the league, by no later than the June 15, at which time it is considered final \*\*\***

## **5. Roster Replacement**

Ladies Division: A Team roster must not fall below 14 players to qualify.

Coed Division: A Team roster must not fall below 8 male and 6 female players to qualify.

If a team roster falls below either of these standards (according to division), due to injury, teams may only add enough players to bring the numbers back to the lowest standard, but not exceed it. Teams are not allowed to add players beyond the standard in order to return to the original number submitted in June.

Any player being replaced must sign the Replacement Form and include their phone number where they may be contacted. This must be done and approved prior to playing.

**No Player Fees will be refunded or transferred to replacement players.**

## **6. Forfeitures**

A team will be allowed a maximum of **four (4) forfeitures** per season (regular season and playoffs).

If a team reaches the maximum number of forfeitures, they will be **suspended** from further play, while the Executive Board adjudicates whether the team will be allowed to complete the season. The team will **not** be allowed to play in the playoffs. After the season is complete, a **review** will be conducted to determine whether this team should continue to play in the HLSSA League.

A team must contact the league (via text or email), not less than 24 hours before the scheduled game start time, to report that they will not be able to field a team. Under these conditions, the team will not be charged a forfeiture fee, but will still be recorded as forfeiture.

**Exceptions can be granted, at the discretion of the Executive Board.**

Any team that fails to play a scheduled or re-scheduled game, or fails to take the field when directed to do so by a game official, will receive a forfeiture and possible fine.

## **7. Outfielders Position During Batting**

Once the ball reaches the outfield (with the exception of a caught fly ball) in fair territory, the batter will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base. The outfield is defined in our league, where the grass starts beyond the infield.

You are **NOT** permitted, to even attempt to throw the batter/base runner, out at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

You are permitted, to throw any other base runner out.

**Exception: Ladies Division**

## **8. Player/Team Ejections**

Players that are ejected during a game will also be suspended from play in the next scheduled game, as a minimum. When an ejection occurs, a team representative must immediately provide the ejected player's name to the home plate umpire, if requested to do so by a game official. The player's name must be recorded on both team score sheets. The player's name must also be reported to the league (via text or email), following completion of the game.

The Executive Board will review each ejection, for further disciplinary action.

*The player will not be allowed to play or participate in the game, in any manner, during this review period. All ejection incidents will be reported to SPN at the earliest convenience.*

To completely serve their ejection, the ejected player must personally identify themselves to the plate umpire and both team representatives, with picture identification, and sign the score sheets, at the start of each game during their suspension.

**Please take note:**

- Any player receiving more than 2 ejections in a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season, including the playoffs.
- Any player ejected for fighting, will be permanently suspended from the league.

All ejection incidents will also be reported to SPN, which may result in further sanctions.

An appeal of an ejection, and/or the associated penalties, may be made **in writing** by the player/team who received the ejection/penalty. The Executive Board will review each instance after receiving all appropriate reports. The player(s) may not play, while an appeal is under review.

**9. Tag at Home**

A player may be tagged between the “Commitment Line” and the “Scoring Line”. Refer to SPN Rule #3, Section #78.

**10. Player Eligibility**

Players must be a minimum of **16 years of age by March 15** of each playing year, to qualify for participation in the HLSSA. Any player under the age of 18 (prior to the start of the season), must complete the ‘Parental Consent Form’ for underage players, prior to any games played. The link to the SPN “Parental Consent Form” for the underage player is as follows,  
<http://slo-pitch.com/content/parental-consent-form>

Score sheets must be completed by each team rep to ensure that all present players are in the batting line-up, and/or listed as subs. Please also ensure that the opposing team has subs listed accurately. Players arriving late must announce themselves to the Home Plate Umpire, as well as to the opposing team. We will be relying on the opposing teams score sheet, to verify eligibility, so it is up to you to make certain that your score sheet matches your opponent’s score sheet.

When forfeiture occurs, the entire “winning” team will be recorded as present, for the purpose of eligibility.

Each player must participate in at least 40% of the regular season games to be eligible to play in the playoffs.

**Note:** The executive board reserves the right to grant exemptions, where special circumstances exist and they deem it prudent to do so.

To receive eligible credit for games missed due to an injury, the injured player must immediately report the injury to the league (via text or email) and promptly provide a **Doctors’ Report** to substantiate the claim. If not notified, the player will not receive credit for the games missed.

**Players who are present but not on the batting order or playing defense** must still be listed on the score sheet as a **sub** to receive eligibility for playing in the game.

Each team representative will receive the names of all eligible players for all teams in their division for regular season (within a week of roster deadline) and playoffs (prior to the first game played). Every team has the right to question the eligibility of an opposing player, in the following manner:

1. When that person comes up to bat and only after the first pitch has been thrown, you call time (or if the player is on the field and only after the first pitch has been thrown)
2. Approach the umpire and advise that you are questioning the eligibility of a particular player
3. The player in question **must produce valid ID** to confirm their identity
4. If it is identified that the player in question is not an eligible player (or they cannot produce valid ID), they are to be removed from the batting order (not replaced) and an automatic out is inserted in their place (regardless of the total number of players in the lineup)

\*\* the Executive will *not* entertain any complaints of ineligible players after the game has been played

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

### **11. Uniforms**

After roster deadline, each player on the field **must** wear a team uniform. This uniform shall as a minimum consist of a team shirt and/or sweater, similar in colour, for all players on the field. Numbers and player names on the shirt are preferred, but optional. Note that failure to wear such uniform could result in forfeiture.

The Executive Board when requested in writing by a team may grant exceptions.

At the Umpires' discretion, players may be allowed to cover their uniform when playing in difficult weather.

### **12. Equipment**

The home team is responsible to provide a new softball for each game (balls will be supplied to each team, at the start of the season).

*Coed Division:* Worth Hot Dot, 52 COR, 12" (optic style).

*Ladies Division:* Worth Hot Dot, 52 COR, 11" (optic style) will be used.

The home team shall also provide the bases (to be set at 65 feet) as described in the Official SPN Rule Book for the current year and a home plate board measuring 22" wide by 40" long. At the discretion of the Home Plate Umpire, failure to provide the required equipment, in good condition, by the scheduled game start time, will constitute forfeiture for the home team.



## Games and Parks

### 13. City of Hamilton

Teams are to take note, of the No Alcohol and No Smoking By-Laws at all City Parks.

### 14. Grace Period ( See exceptions)

Teams are allowed a 10-minute grace period for **all games**. The grace period is from the scheduled game start time (6:15, 7:45 or 9:15 p.m.), as administered by the Home Plate Umpire. The grace period does not apply to teams with the minimum number of players on-site and available to play. This means that as soon as you have enough players to start the game, the game must begin (I.e. - if you can field a team at 6:18, you are required to start the game and not wait until 6:25 to gain additional players). Failure by either or both teams to provide sufficient players and/or not start the game when instructed to do so by the Home Plate Umpire, will constitute forfeiture.

**Note:** As noted previously, ALL games are a maximum of 90 minutes. *Therefore, no new inning will start 75 minutes after the scheduled game start time.*

*(I.e. if your scheduled game starts at 6:15 pm, regardless if you start the game at 6:15 pm or 6:20 pm or 6:25 pm. No new inning would start after 7:30 pm. So it is in your best interest to get the game under way, as soon as possible.*

### 15. Game – Times / Curfew / Suspended

All regular season and playoff games have a strict **80 minutes MAXIMUM** playing time.

#### Coed & Ladies Division

Game start times and time limits will be administered by the Home Plate Umpire and are not subject to debate. No new inning will commence after **65 minutes** from the scheduled game start time. If the active inning cannot be completed within the remaining 15 minutes, the game is considered complete and the score reverts back to the last completed inning.

The Home Plate Umpire can suspend and/or call a game at any time, due to weather conditions. For a regulation game, the final score will reflect the score at the end of the last full inning.

All Division games will commence as follows:

Park	Game Times
Heritage	6:15 – 7:35 pm/7:40 – 9:00 pm
Turner	6:15 – 7:35 pm/7:40 – 9:00 pm

**\*\*Note, there will be a 5 minute break in between games\*\***

#### Exceptions

In order to facilitate and ensure the season is complete, the Executive Board reserves the right to schedule games at times different than these.

If the game curfew time and weather permits, games are allowed to continue to break a tie using the “Tie Breaker” rule from the Official SPN Rule Book for the current year.

## **16. Home Runs**

A home run is a fair-batted fly ball that clears the home run fence.

Designated allowances per team by division are as follows:

<b>Vicki Turcotte Division</b>	Unlimited
<b>Les Leitch Division</b>	Max two (2) per game
<b>Don Street Division</b>	Max three (3) per game

Any home run hit in excess of the allowable limit, will constitute a strike for the batter.

## **17. Mercy Rule**

There is a 6-run mercy rule *per inning*, for the entire league.

The mercy rule (12 runs) is in effect after 5 or more complete innings (or 4½ innings if the home team has scored the 12 runs to mercy). The home team must have as many opportunities to bat (to tie or win the game) as the visiting team. The 7<sup>th</sup> inning or last inning (if designated, “the last inning” by the umpire) would be an unlimited run inning.

## **18. Game Scores**

Prior to the start of the game, opposing Team Managers (Representative) will share score sheets to record the line-up including subs. Any late arrivals **MUST** then see the opposing Team Manager to be added to the score sheet, prior to entry into the game. **At the conclusion of the game, the Team Managers are responsible for scratching out any vacant spots AND adding the total number of players on the score sheet.**

Both team managers will ensure that the score is recorded properly on both score sheets and that the line-ups and subs match. The Team Manager will hand the score sheets into the league for processing. This **MUST** be done prior to and no later than the dates specified in the League Fees and Fine Section.

Both teams will report the game score to the League by detailed email within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. If this is not done, the League and/or the League Statistics Coordinator will not be able to provide an up to date set of stats. (See page one, for email address.)

## **19. Game Schedule**

*Ladies and Coed Divisions:* The actual schedule (including playoffs) will be determined annually by the Executive Board, taking into account the division size and number of teams.

During the playoff games, teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. The first team to 4 points shall advance, in the Quarter and Semi-Finals. The first team to 6 points shall win the Championship.

**Note:** The schedule shall be set annually by the Executive Board and may be subject to change.

## **20. Tie Breaking Rules**

This is the standard used in our league to break ties for play-off positioning,

1. Most Wins
2. Least Losses
3. Record against each other during season
4. Best Plus/Minus runs in games with tied teams
5. Most runs scored in games with tied teams
6. Least runs allowed in games with tied teams
7. One (1) game play-down (1st elimination from playoffs)
8. Flip of Coin

## **Protests, Appeals & Meetings**

### **21. Protests**

All protests must be submitted in writing, to the Executive Board and must include the Protest Fee. When a rule interpretation protest occurs, the Home Plate Umpire will record the protest (including where in the game it occurred), on the home team scoresheet. Both team representatives and the Umpire will sign this. The Umpire will collect the scoresheet at the end of the game and submit it to the Umpire-In-Chief for review by the Executive Board.

### **22. Appeals**

All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board.

### **23. Executive Committee or Annual General Meetings**

A team representative must be present at all scheduled Executive Committee or Annual General Meetings. Failure to attend will result in a fine.

The most up to date meeting dates/times/locations are posted on the league website [www.hlssa.ca](http://www.hlssa.ca) . Since these are subject to change the onus is on the team representative to remain up to date.

An Executive Committee meeting exemption will be provided for teams playing a regularly scheduled league game the night of the league meeting. Absent teams are responsible to contact the league (via text or email), to deal with the business of the meeting.