



Infield Configuration

MANITOBA SENIORS SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT LEAGUE SPECIAL PLAYING RULES

(As of September 27, 2018)

(Changes highlighted in Red)

1 THAT APPLY TO BOTH RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

- 1-1. **Softball Canada Rulebook:** Softball Canada Slo-Pitch rules with the amendments below will apply to all Manitoba Seniors Slo-pitch Tournament League competitions except as otherwise noted.
- 1-2. **Standardized Strike Zone:** A strike zone size of 36 X 20 inches (a combination of a mat and home plate) shall be used and any legally pitched ball that touches any part of the mat and home plate shall be a strike. The pitcher may pitch from anywhere between 50 and 60 feet in a direct line between home plate and 2nd base.
- 1-3. **Base Paths:** The distance between the bases shall be 65 feet.
- 1-4. **(a) Game Length:** The length of each game shall be 7 innings, time permitting. A new inning will not be started after 90 minutes of play.

(b) Mercy Rule:

In any games where runs for and against have no bearing on the standings, a team losing may concede defeat any time after $3\frac{1}{2}$ innings in a 7 inning game. The losing coach/manager must inform the plate umpire of the decision to concede. Games may end after $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ innings of play if there is a difference of 15 runs.

1-5. Scoring Runs:

(a) Scoring Plate (a second home plate at least 6 feet perpendicular to the third base line) shall be used for scoring a runner. Any runner touching the batter's home plate shall be called out (exception avoiding collisions).

(b) Safe Line: In the absence of a second plate, a line shall be drawn in foul territory starting at the front corner of home plate closest to 3rd base perpendicular to the 3rd baseline. It shall extend 10 feet from the 3rd baseline into foul territory. When a runner touches the ground on or beyond the safe line prior to a defensive player holding the ball while in contact with the home plate, the runner will be declared safe.

1-6. Commitment Line: A line shall be drawn 21 feet from the back of home plate, perpendicular to the 3rd baseline. Runners crossing or touching this line must continue home.

1-7. Courtesy Runners: Each batter must reach 1st base on their own. A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at any time, but the same courtesy runner may not be used more than once per inning. Any runner found running more than once per inning shall be called out. A courtesy runner may not be replaced by another courtesy runner, except in the case of injury causing removal of the original courtesy runner permanently from the game. A courtesy runner on base when it is his/her turn at bat is ineligible to bat and shall be declared out as a batter. A player who has been replaced with a courtesy runner cannot himself/herself be used as a courtesy runner for the balance of the game. A female player may be used as a courtesy runner for a male player, but a male player cannot be used as a courtesy runner for a female player unless the team managers agree

1-8. Courtesy Runner from Home Plate: The team managers and the home plate umpire shall agree before the game commences which players require a courtesy runner from home plate in order that persons with disabilities or handicaps may play. A courtesy runner from home plate for an injured player during the game can only occur if both Managers concur and will only be permissible, if no substitute player is available on the bench. A courtesy runner from home plate must start from a position 9 feet outside and perpendicular to the 3rd baseline. Any courtesy runner from home plate, who runs before the ball is hit, touches the ground or

reaches home plate shall be declared out by the umpire. A line shall be drawn 21 feet from home plate along the 1st baseline towards 1st base and any batter with a courtesy runner from home plate who crosses or touches that line shall be called out by the umpire.

- 1-9. Unlimited Batting Order:** Teams may use an unlimited number of players in the batting order. In the event of injury that entails permanent removal from the game and a substitute is unavailable, the batter is out first time through the order. There after the spot is skipped with no out recorded.
- 1-10. Bunting/Infield Play:** Women aged 50+ are allowed to bunt. All infielders must be behind the infield baselines until the ball is hit when a woman is at bat. If an infielder positioned inside the infield baseline contrary to this rule, fields the ball, the umpire shall call time and the batter/runner shall be called safe and awarded 1st base. Other runners will advance only if forced. No defensive realignments are allowed when a woman comes to bat unless agreed to prior to the game by both teams. The catcher must stay in the catcher's box until the ball is contacted.
- 1-11. Gender Rule:** Co-ed participation is mandatory. Teams must have at least one woman player 50+ in the game at all times. The age restriction rules of all categories requires that women players aged 40+ to 49+ years of age must play "as a man", whereby they are not allowed to bunt or to use the 11 inch

ball. Teams may alternate 50+ women hitters in the line-up (example: 2 women on the team and only 1 in the fielding/batting line-up; unlimited substitution between the 2 women when they hit in that turn in the batting order). **A women must occupy one of the first 9 slots in the batting order.** Women aged 50 + have the option of using the 11 inch ball when batting.

- 1-12. Penalty for Womanless Team:** Any team that does not have a 50+ woman to participate in a game must play with one less player and record an automatic out each time the woman's turn in the line-up (which must be in the first 9 batters) to bat occurs.
- 1-13. Eleven Player Defense Rule:** All teams in the Recreational Division may use 11 players on defense (in the field).
- 1-14. Softball Manitoba (SMB) Registration is Required to Compete in Manitoba Seniors Slo-pitch Tournament League Competitions:** All teams/players participating in events under the auspices of the Manitoba Seniors Slo-pitch Tournament League, whether tournaments, Winnipeg League or otherwise, must register with SMB and obtain insurance coverage that is provided as part of that registration. Teams/players not registered with SMB may be allowed to participate in tournaments provided they are adequately insured, else the onus of attaining such insurance shall be with the tournament organizers.

- 1-15. Age Categories:** Any male reaching 55 or female reaching 50 by December 31 of the playing year, will be eligible.
- 1-16. International Tie Breaker Rule:** To be used in all division for the first attempt at tie breaking, an extra inning will be played, the offensive team will begin it's turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective inning being placed on second base as a runner. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance to substitution rules. If the score is still tied at the end of the first extra inning, an additional inning will be played, providing time permits, otherwise the score at the end of the 7th inning, then subsequent innings will be used.
- 1-17. Three out Ball** will be the normal game played in all divisions (i.e., Competitive & Recreational Divisions). If crossover games occur between the Competitive and Recreational Divisions, the Recreational Division team will be allowed to use 11 defensive players.
- 1-18. Substitution Rules:** Substitution is unlimited. Any substitute must play one full inning before being removed. A "substitute" may replace any number of players in the line-up. At all times, players must play one full inning before being replaced and must remain out one full inning prior to re-entering the game. Players re-entering the game may assume any vacant spot in the batting order. The umpire,

opposing team and scorekeepers shall be notified of each substitution before the player takes their position in the field or batting order.

- 1-19. Roster/Pickups:** Unlimited pick-ups are allowed in the MSSTL Winnipeg League and all Tournaments, except the SMB Provincials and Winnipeg League Championships. The Winnipeg League Championships encourage teams to use a maximum of three unaffiliated, registered SMB House League players in the Championships.
- 1-20. SMB Provincial Championships:** For the SMB Provincial Championships the roster will be 20 players (that includes up to a maximum of 3 pickups) and 3 non-playing coaches/managers. A player must play the SMB provincials in the category he/she was registered in during the regular season. All players can play at a higher level but not a lower level (this pertains to pickups as well). Pickups are allowed for the SMB Provincials by rural teams only, but must be from rural teams not participating in the Provincials. Rural teams are those teams that do not play in the MSSTL Winnipeg League. All teams/players must be registered with SMB in order to be eligible to participate.
- 1-21. Running Bases:** Over-running bases is allowed on the right side of 1st base and on the left and right side of 2nd and 3rd bases. Runners must touch the base during the overrun unless missing the base was necessary to avoid a collision. After over-running

2nd or 3rd base safely, the runner must return to touch that base before advancing to the next base. Without retouching the over-run base, the runner shall be called out on an appeal. Runners may not over-run when forced to return to a base.

- 1-22. Sliding:** Sliding into bases is not permitted. Runners that slide intentionally will be called out by the umpire.
- 1-23. Maximum Runs per Inning:** A maximum of five runs per inning shall apply until the last inning when there shall be no limit on runs that may be scored.
- 1-24. Use of a pitching screen:** Use of a pitching screen is optional, provided that any pitcher using a screen must continue using it throughout the entire game. If a batted ball strikes the pitching screen it is a dead ball strike. If the screen is hit on a 3rd strike, the batter is out and ball is dead.

**11 SPECIAL RULES THAT APPLY TO THE
COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS ONLY**

- 11-1. Over-running Bases:** Over running bases is not allowed. Anyone tagged after over-running 2nd or 3rd base before returning to the base safely will be called out.
- 11-2. Sliding:** Sliding into bases is permitted.

CONSTITUTION

MANITOBA SENIORS SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT LEAGUE

(hereinafter referred to as MSSTL)

1. **Purpose:**

The undertaking of MSSTL is restricted to the following or the like:

- To promote and foster fellowship, friendship and recreation
- To promote worthy use of leisure time through participation in seniors slo-pitch in Manitoba
- To provide and coordinate a friendly competitive environment for seniors through organized sports
- And to enhance a healthy lifestyle for seniors through physical activity

2. **Membership**

The membership of MSSTL shall consist of seniors slo-pitch teams that participate in seniors' slo-pitch leagues and tournaments, including the ALCOA 55+ Games, that have registered with and paid the annual MSSTL membership fees.

Membership fees shall be established annually by the league Directors at the Annual General Meeting each year (the current annual fee is \$20 per member team).

3. Directors

Each member team in good standing shall appoint one Director with voting privileges at Annual and Semi-Annual General Meetings and at Special Meetings of League Directors.

Member teams may name Alternate Directors or proxies, but such Alternate Directors or proxies must be present at the meeting in order to vote in the absence of their team Director.

In addition, all officers as set out below, once elected, shall have voting privileges at all league meetings.

Provided however, only Directors of those teams which are directly affected by a motion, and the elected officers are allowed to vote on that motion.

4. Officers

The officers of MSSTL shall be the Past President, President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and up to four Executive Members-at-Large. All officers shall be elected at the Annual General meeting and shall serve for a term of one year.

The President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Members-at-Large may be re-elected at the pleasure of the league Directors. Officers shall be

elected at large and are not required to be a Director as a team representative to be eligible for election.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of MSSTL and shall exercise general supervision over the business and affairs of the league. The President shall preside at all league meetings.

The Vice-President shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the President in the absence or disability or refusal to act of the President. The Vice-President shall also have such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him such as responsibility for scheduling for tournaments and the Winnipeg League.

The Secretary-Treasurer as secretary shall issue or cause to be issued notice of all meetings of the Directors and league teams and shall be custodian of all books, records and documents belonging to MSSTL. He/She shall cause Minutes to be kept and published for all league Annual and Semi-Annual General meetings. As treasurer, he/she shall keep proper accounting records and be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of funds of MSSTL and render an account of all transactions as Treasurer and provide information as to the financial position of MSSTL.

The powers and duties of the Executive Members-at-Large shall be as assigned by the President and shall include representation of rural, women, rules and other

league interests on the Executive and within MSSTL generally.

5. Fiscal Matters

The financial year of MSSTL shall end on such day in each year as prescribed by the Executive.

The banking and financial business of MSSTL shall be transacted with such banks, other bodies corporate or organizations as may from time to time be designated by or under the authority of the Executive.

All contracts, obligations or other instruments, including cheques or releases shall be signed on behalf of MSSTL by any two of the President, Vice-President or Secretary-Treasurer, provided however that, any day-to-day banking business may be transacted under such arrangements or instructions that the Executive may from time to time prescribe or authorize.

6. Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of MSSTL shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of September each year with the time and location of the meeting to be established by the Executive. All member teams and their directors shall be notified of the Annual General Meeting in a timely fashion in writing, if possible.

A Semi-Annual General Meeting of MSSTL shall be held on the third Wednesday of April each year with the time and location to be established by the Executive. All

member teams and their directors shall be notified of the meeting in a timely fashion in writing, if possible.

Alternate meeting dates may be established by the Executive from time to time and all member teams shall be notified accordingly.

Special League Meetings may be held at the call of the Officers or at the request of three League Team Directors.

The Officers and Directors present at any duly called league meeting shall constitute a quorum.

7. Rules

MSSTL will follow and play by the Canadian Amateur Softball Association (Softball Canada) Slo-Pitch rules as duly amended by the league from time to time by "MSSTL Special Playing Rules", in all interclub league and tournament play.

8. Committees

MSSTL shall have three standing committees as follows:

- (1) **Rules Committee:** There shall be a Rules Committee of up to three persons, including an Executive Member-at-Large as Chair, named at the Fall Annual General Meeting for the ensuing year with the responsibility to review all "Special Playing Rules" and to present any proposed amendments at the Spring Semi-Annual General meeting for consideration and approval.

- (2) *Schedule Committee:* There shall be a Schedule Committee of up to three persons, including the Vice-President as Chair, named at each Fall Annual General meeting for the ensuing year with the responsibility to prepare a schedule of league activities for the following season, including the Winnipeg League and tournaments, to be presented at the Spring Semi-Annual General Meeting for review and approval.
- (3) *Grievance Committee:* There shall be a Grievance Committee of up to three persons, including the Vice-President as Chair, to review written submissions alleging violation of MSSTL principles and to take appropriate corrective action if warranted.
- (4) *Special Committees* may be established from time to time as deemed necessary to deal with specific issues.

Enacted by MSSTL and confirmed by the members this day of September 27, 2017 .

Manitoba Seniors Slo-Pitch Tournament League

Per _____
President

Per _____
Secretary