



WELLAND SLO-PITCH LEAGUE  
CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS,  
PLAYING PROCEDURE & RULES

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William Murray  
President

92 Chippawa Rd.  
Port Colborne, ON.  
L3K 1T5

905-932-7663  
wellandslopitch@gmail.com  
www.wellandslopitch.com

## **Constitution of Welland Slo-Pitch League**

### **1. Name of the Association**

- 1.1. Welland Slo-Pitch League sometimes abbreviated to Welland Slo-Pitch or W.S.P.L. or WSL.

### **2. Objectives of the Association**

- 2.1. The objectives of the association shall be:
  - 2.1.1. To provide a recreational pastime for those 16 years of age and older.
  - 2.1.2. To promote the game of Slo-Pitch.
  - 2.1.3. To create good-will and sportsmanship.

## **Welland Slo-Pitch League By-Laws**

### **3. Officers**

- 3.1. The officers of the association shall be the executive and consists of the:
  - 3.1.1. Immediate past president
  - 3.1.2. President – elected.
  - 3.1.3. Secretary – elected.
  - 3.1.4. Treasurer – elected.
  - 3.1.5. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – elected.
  - 3.1.6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – elected.
  - 3.1.7. Commissioners – appointed by the President as deemed necessary.
- 3.2. Officers shall be elected at the association's annual organizational meeting held at least one week before the awards banquet. The new executive shall be presented to the league at the awards banquet.

### **4. Responsibility of the Officers**

- 4.1. The immediate Past-President shall:
  - 4.1.1. Act in an advisory capacity as necessary
- 4.2. The President shall:
  - 4.2.1. Call executive meetings, general meetings and special (emergency) meetings as necessary.
  - 4.2.2. Oversee the general operation of the Welland Slo-Pitch League.
  - 4.2.3. Prepare an operating budget with the assistance of the treasurer for the upcoming season.
  - 4.2.4. Be the holder of the league's credit card.
  - 4.2.5. Preside at and be in charge of all meetings.
  - 4.2.6. Be an ex-officio member of any committee established by the executive.

4.2.7. Call the association's annual organizational meeting at least one week prior to the awards banquet.

4.3. The Secretary shall:

4.3.1. Record minutes of every meeting.

4.3.2. Record attendance of every meeting

4.3.3. Notify the executive and team representatives of the date, time, and place of all meetings at least 48 in advance of the meeting.

4.3.4. Attend to all correspondence.

4.3.5. In collaboration with the President, prepare an agenda for every meeting.

4.3.6. Read and request approval of minutes of previous meeting at each general meeting.

4.4. The Treasurer shall:

4.4.1. Assist the President with preparing the budget for the upcoming season.

4.4.2. Keep an accurate account of all money received and spent.

4.4.3. Pay all expenses and provide receipts as necessary.

4.4.4. Present a financial report at the annual and general meetings.

4.5. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall:

4.5.1. Act as the president in their absence

4.5.2. Be a liaison between the association and the Welland Parks Board.

4.5.3. Engage in public relations on behalf of the league.

4.5.4. Co-ordinate scheduling.

4.6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President shall:

4.6.1. Act as the president in their absence and in the absence of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

4.6.2. Chair the committee responsible for the organization of the Slo-Pitch tournament(s) hosted by the Welland Slo-Pitch League.

4.7. The executive as a whole shall:

4.7.1. Organize and operate all money-making activities (raffles, draws, etc.) it deems necessary to maintain financial solvency.

4.7.2. Each board member is to volunteer part time at a minimum of 2 events, (Tournaments, Playoff Weekends, banquet etc.) including Friday night setups and/or partial days.

4.7.3. Organize and delegate responsibilities for the annual awards banquet.

4.7.4. Have the power to request a change of team representation.

4.7.5. Make decisions deemed necessary for the betterment of the W.S.P.L.

4.8. The Commissioners Shall:

4.8.1. Be required to attend general, executive, or special meetings.

4.8.2. Oversee and maintain contact with all teams in their respective division.

4.8.3. Be a liaison between the Executive and their respected division.

5. Remuneration

5.1. No board member is to receive financial compensation for their duties related to WSL management and operations.

6. Conduct of Meetings

6.1. Unless otherwise specified in these By-laws, meetings of the Members and meetings of the Board will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order (current edition).

6.2. The chairman of each meeting shall be in charge of the meeting.

6.3. Speakers are required to speak through the Chairman.

6.4. One speaker only shall have the floor at one time.

6.5. No meeting shall begin and/or proceed until Article 6 is completed with.

7. Team Representation at Meetings

7.1. Each team shall be entitled to have one vote at annual, general, or special meetings.

7.2. Failure to attend mandatory meetings will result in a fine as prescribed in Article 10.4 Fines. Unless the team has a W.S.P.L. scheduled game that conflicts with the meeting time.

8. Quorum

8.1. A quorum shall exist at the Executive meetings providing that no more than one (1) member of the Executive is absent from the meeting.

8.2. A quorum shall exist at every general and special meeting providing that no more than one member of the executive is absent and that no more than one quarter of the team representatives are absent except when 2 weeks notice of meetings is given in writing to each team rep, quorum will be waived.

8.3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at general and/or special (emergency) meetings is necessary for constitutional amendments.

9. Registration

9.1. The registration fee shall be set by the executive only.

9.2. All registration fees go towards expenses incurred by the association (e.g., balls, lights, etc.)

9.3. Each team must pay its registration fee as instituted by the executive or else the team must forfeit its right to play in the league.

10. Performance Bond

10.1. As part of a team's registration fee is a refundable \$150.00 performance bond.

10.2. Fines, forfeited games, ejections, and misconduct shall be taken from this performance bond.

10.3. A team which loses 50% of its performance bond must replenish the bond back to 100% before their next game or forfeit their games until they do so.

10.4. Fines. - Missed Mandatory Meeting - \$10.00, Forfeited Game - \$15.00 plus Umpire fees, Ineligible Player(s) - \$20/ineligible player, Drinking alcohol during games - \$20.00, Use of illegal Drugs during games - \$20.00, Ejection - \$25.00, Verbal Abuse - \$75.00, Physical Fight - \$150.00. Other forms of misconduct to be dealt with on an individual basis and the fine(s) is to be determined by the executive.

11. Team Alignment

11.1. The number of teams in each division of the league shall be determined by the executive.

12. Schedule

12.1. The number of games in the regular season shall be determined by the executive.

12.2. The playoff schedule will be based on the number of teams in the league and the playoff format chosen by the membership at the 1<sup>st</sup> mandatory league meeting.

12.3. Playoffs are to be played on weeknights. Specific format, number of pods, pod sizes and which teams are in which pod to be decided as we get closer to playoffs.

13. Tournament

13.1. The tournament committee, headed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and the executive shall determine dates and the organization of the Annual Invitational Tournaments, and any other tournaments that are deemed feasible.

## Welland Slo-Pitch League Playing Procedures and Rules

14. Rosters

14.1. A team may roster a maximum of Twenty-five (25) players.

14.2. Team rosters are to be finalized by the mid-seasoning meeting.

14.3. Players may change teams and teams may trade players up until the roster finalization deadline.

14.4. There will be absolutely no player additions after the mid-season deadline. A 25-player roster is designed to accommodate player reduction without the danger of forfeiting.

14.5. All player additions, trade or changes must be approved by the executive.

14.6. All team players must be listed on the team's Slo-Pitch Ontario roster.

15. Player Eligibility

15.1. Each player in the league must be sixteen (16) years of age or over.

15.2. Players that are under 18 years of age must have a signed parental consent form.

15.3. A player must accept all the Slo-Pitch Ontario Waivers and pay the Slo-Pitch Ontario registration fee before being permitted to play any league games.

16. Use of Ineligible Players

16.1. Any team found using any player or players who have not met the eligibility requirements (Article 15) shall forfeit all games won, to the opposition.

16.2. Any ineligible player or players shall be liable to any penalty handed down by the executive.

16.3. Also, Article 10.4 will come into effect.

## 17. Official Game

17.1. All Welland Slo-Pitch League games will comprise of nine (9) innings.

17.2. All regular season games will comprise of nine (9) innings or until a winner is declared or time does not permit the start of another inning.

17.3. The executive shall notify the team representatives of any game(s) a minimum of 1 week before the scheduled game date. Unless a game needs to be rescheduled and 1 week's notification is not possible.

17.4. No games whatsoever can be cancelled, except when time does not permit the game to be rescheduled.

17.5. Failing to comply with Article 17.4 will result in a team being assessed a fine covered under Article 10.4 for games forfeited.

17.6. A game where a team is unable to field the minimum number of players will be ruled a forfeit. 2 points and a score of 7-0 will be awarded to the opposing team. The offending team will be fined according to Article 10.4 fines.

17.7. The winning team must report the score of the game to the league hotline within 24 hours of the game's completion. If the score is not received within the 24-hour time frame, the game will be ruled a tie of 7-7.

17.8. A team shall be declared the winner if they are 12 or more runs ahead of the opposition after 6.5 if the home team is ahead or 7 complete innings.

17.9. Game postponement – A game may be postponed due to unplayable field conditions, schedule conflict or reasons beyond the league's control.

17.10. A complete game is any game to complete 5 innings. If a game is called due to weather before the completion of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game will be rescheduled.

## 18. Conduct of Game

18.1. The playing procedures and/or rules as set out in the current year Slo-Pitch Ontario handbook and the Softball Canada rule book shall apply to all divisions with the exceptions of the playing procedures and/or rules list below.

18.2. 90 minutes has been allotted for each game and the umpire will not call the last inning before the 75-minute mark.

18.3. A 6 runs per inning mercy rule shall apply to each inning except for the last inning.

18.4. Grace Period: teams are to be allowed a ten-minute grace period from the scheduled start time of all games to field at least nine players. If a team has nine players they must start the game at the scheduled start time, no grace period is to be given to wait for a tenth player. Teams are permitted to lend players to a shorthanded team, however if they choose to borrow players, they cannot use the grace period. The grace period will be deducted from the 90-minute time limit.

18.5. Courtesy Runners: Each team is permitted a maximum of three courtesy runners per game and may use anyone present who is on their league roster.

- 18.6. Each team will be permitted to have one player that has a courtesy runner each time they get on base. This runner will not affect the teams 3 courtesy runners. This will be known as the man rule.
- 18.7. Borrowing players: A team may only borrow players that are registered with the Welland Slo-Pitch League and Slo-Pitch Ontario to field a team of nine. All borrowed players must be identified at the plate conference prior to the start of the game. Once the game starts no protest for an illegal roster will be allowed. A team may not borrow players during playoffs.
- 18.8. Home Runs: Maximum of 2 home runs per team then match plus 1.
- 18.9. When a team only has 9 players, the 10<sup>th</sup> batter will not be an automatic out.
- 18.10. COED DIVISIONS ONLY
- 18.10.1. Batting Order: must alternate sexes. No back-to-back males or females
- 18.10.2. 9-player Rule: Minimum 4 females or 4 males in the batting order,
- 18.10.2.1. 10-Player Rule:
- 18.10.2.1.1. 6 males 4 females must use a 9-player defense. 5 males and 4 females only on defense but all 10 may bat offensively and must alternate sexes in the batting order. No automatic outs.
- 18.10.2.1.2. 6 females 4 males may use a 10-player defense. All 10 may bat offensively but the batting order must alternate sexes. No automatic outs.
- 18.10.3. Borrowing Players: A co-ed team may borrow players that are registered with the Welland Slo-Pitch League and Slo-Pitch Ontario to field a team of nine or to achieve the minimum number of 4 females or 4 males. A team may not borrow players during playoffs.
- 18.10.4. Courtesy Runners: In the coed divisions, males must run for males and females may run for males or females. In the Co-ed division there will be two-man rules, one for the men and one for the ladies.

## 19. Equipment & Lights:

- 19.1. The home team must provide one new ball and one used ball to the umpire.
- 19.2. Permanent bases are provided at the following diamonds: C1, C2, Plymouth Park, M1 & M4. It is the responsibility of the home team to put out the bases and mat prior to the scheduled game time. The last scheduled home team for the diamond is responsible for placing them back in the light house or in the storage box behind the backstop.
- 19.3. The visiting team will be responsible for nothing. If the scheduled home team does not have the equipment ready prior to the scheduled game time, they will lose home field advantage and the visiting team will then provide the necessary equipment.
- 19.4. The base plugs must be placed in the light house or storage box, not along the fence lines. This is so the last home team of the night knows where they will be. The last home team at the diamond will place the plugs in the holes after removing the bases. Any missing plugs must be reported either by email to [wellandslopitch@gmail.com](mailto:wellandslopitch@gmail.com) or call or text to the hotline (905-932-7663). If the bases are not put away at the end of

last game and they go missing, the responsible home team will be required to pay the replacement cost of the bases and/or plate.

- 19.5. Umpires will determine when the lights are to be turned on. The scheduled home team is responsible for turning on the lights. The last scheduled home team at the diamond is responsible for turning out the lights and locking up the light house, light box, storage box and gates.

## 20. Suspensions and Ejections

- 20.1. Any player ejected from a league game will automatically be suspended from their next game to be played. If they do not abide by this ruling, they will be suspended for 3 additional games. If a player is ejected from a game, it is the responsibility of both team reps to report this via email, text or call to the hotline. If the offending team rep does not report the suspended player, they will receive a 3-game suspension as well. The team rep is ultimately responsible for their team therefore it is their responsibility to ensure the suspended player does not play. Further suspensions will occur if violated.
- 20.2. If an ejected player's conduct merits a suspension, that person will be notified by the executive and told when they may return to play for their team.
- 20.3. All games missed by the ejected player, pending decision from the executive, shall count towards the suspension.
- 20.4. Any ejection or other form of misconduct will be treated individually by the executive.
- 20.5. Any offending player will be liable to any punishment deemed necessary by the executive.
- 20.6. All ejections of players, coaches, or managers from a game, made by the umpire, will be final and not subject to appeal.

## 21. Protests

- 21.1. A team protesting a game must comply with Slo-Pitch Ontario's Rule 8 under the Slo-Pitch Ontario Association Tournament Operating Rules & Guidelines

## 22. Alcohol and Drug Policy

- 22.1. Drinking of alcoholic beverages or the use of illegal drugs by either team during the progress of the game will bring about the suspension of the game. If one team is responsible, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team and Article 10.4 will come into effect. If both teams are responsible, then the game is "wiped out" and neither team will receive any points for the game. Article 10.4 will come into effect.