

ROPSSAA GIRLS SLO-PITCH

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. TIME

- (a) Start time for doubleheader (sites) is 2:00pm.
- (b) Start time for single games is 3:30pm.

2. LOCATION

- (a) City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, and Town of Caledon softball diamonds to be used. Schools are to declare their diamond on the spring intent to participate form. Diamonds must be appropriate for use by high school participants.
- (b) The playoff championship tournament will be held at predetermined central diamond.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) All Competitors must meet the eligibility requirements as per Article X of the ROPSSAA Constitution.
- (b) A participant shall not have attained their 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023 – 2024 school year, born in 2004 or later).
- (c) Team eligibility sheets must be received by the deadline announced at the preseason meeting.
- (d) The roster for any game may not exceed 18 players.
- (e) Team Eligibility
 - (i) Individuals are eligible for 1 level of competition only.
 - (ii) For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's league games to be eligible for playoffs. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must be identified on the game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctor's note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a roster sheet for participation percentages.
 - (iii) All roster sheets are to include the first name, last name and numbers of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individual's name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.
 - (iv) Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a roster sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a roster sheet.

- (v) A staff member must be present in the bench area from the start of the warm-up until the last competitor has left the area.
- (vi) Each team is responsible for uploading their roster sheet by 12:00noon the day following the game. Failure to upload roster sheets may results in teams being ineligible for playoffs.

4. OPERATING STRUCTIRE

- (a)
 - (i) There will be two levels of play: OFSAA level and Tier Two.
 - (ii) For the 2024 season, the top two tier two teams from 2023 will be moved up to tier one and any other tier two teams may choose to move up to tier one. The bottom two teams from tier one (either last or second last from a single division or the bottom team from each of the two divisions) may choose to be in tier two.

For 2024, the following teams must declare tier one: Cardinal Leger, Philip Pocock, St. Joseph, St. Marcellinus, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Streetsville.
- (b)
 - (i) *When possible, the regular season and playoffs will consist of two tournament dates with games that will be 5 innings. No new inning may start 50 minutes after the first pitch. If the home team is wining after 4½ innings, they do not take their final at bat.*
 - (ii) When the regular and playoff games (with exception of the final game) are **not** played as part of a tournament, games will be 7 innings. No new inning may start after 1 hour and 20 minutes after the first pitch. The home team is to check with the umpire. There are no extra innings. If the home team is winning after 6½ innings, they do not take their final at bat. A minimum of 5 innings must be played.
- (c) The length of the championship game will be 7 complete innings, therefore, no time limit. The home team will not bat the bottom of the 7th inning if winning.
- (d) There will be a 15 minute grace period for a late arriving team. Arrival after 15 minutes will risk forfeit, at the discretion of the umpire.
- (e) The playoff structure will be determined based on the number of teams entered and approved by the ROPSSAA Executive.
- (f) Roster sheets must be completed with players' numbers and full names (as they appear on the team's eligibility list). Roster sheets must be completed prior to the start of the game.
- (g) Each team is responsible for uploading their roster sheet by 12:00noon the day following the game. Failure to upload roster sheets may result in teams being ineligible for playoffs.
- (h) If a league game is called off at any time in progress, the score as of the last complete inning will stand as final. If less than 5 complete innings are played the game will be suspended and continued from the point of suspension on the next available date. The original roster must continue in the continued game.

(i) Tie Breaker for division standings:

- (i) Winner of head-to-head competition.
- (ii) Win/Tie/Loss record between tied teams.
- (iii) Fewest Runs Against in games between tied teams.
- (iv) Fewest Runs Against in all games.
- (v) Coin Toss.

(j) Scheduled Games

- (i) Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.
- (ii) Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. The defaulting team will cover all costs associated with the game as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iii) Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An incident report must be completed and submitted to the ROPSSAA Athletic office by the abandoning team within 24 hours of the game. No scores shall be entered until after a Board of Inquiry. A team abandoning a game may be required to cover any costs incurred as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iv)
 - a) Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit.
 - b)
 - i) Schools must endeavor to arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before game time. Teams arriving earlier than this must be supervised by the head coach in an area where students from the home school do not congregate. Schools with team members who do not travel with the head coach (in taxis, cars, on foot, etc.) must inform players that they must wait for their head coach and should ensure that the head coach is the first to arrive at the host school.
 - ii) Schools arriving for an away game between 30 and 60 minutes before game time must accompany the head coach to the competition area and liaise with the host school. The visiting team will be provided with a safe waiting area and change room during this time and the visiting head coach must provide supervision of his/her players. Visiting athletes must bring all their belongings with them to the competition area.

- iii) Visiting schools are entitled to access the competition area at the same time as the host school, and no later than 30 minutes before the game time (pertains to the first game).
- iv) Visiting schools are entitled to access a safe waiting area and change room at the completion of the competition.

5. PLAYOFF FORMAT

- (a) Home team in playoffs determined by:
 - (i) Team with highest standing during regular season.
 - (ii) Win/Tie/Loss record between tied teams.
 - (iii) Team with fewest runs against in all playoff game (if applicable).
 - (iv) Coin toss.
- (b) Should a playoff game be tied at the end of 7 innings the tiebreaker procedure as per the Slo-Pitch National Rules Book will govern. The offensive (at bat) team shall begin its half inning with one out and with the player whose name precede the next legal batter in the batting order starting as a runner at second base. Regular substitution rules will apply to this runner.

6. EXPENSES

- (a) All officials' expenses will be divided equally among the participating schools.
- (b) All regular season preliminary and quarter final games will have one umpire.
- (c) All semi-final and final games will have two umpires.

7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) The current Slo-Pitch National Rules Book will govern unless otherwise specified in the playing regulations.
- (b) Park ground rules will be agreed upon by the coaches and umpire before the game.
- (c) Teams must stay off the infield until the bases are set up.
- (d) The distance between the bases will be 65 feet, measured from the back of the plate to the far end of the base.
- (e) The distance between the pitching rubber (or marked line) and home plate is between 46-50 feet at the discretion of the pitcher, measured from the back of the plate. The rubber mat (2x3) to be placed on top of home plate.
- (f) Distance between the back of home plate to center of 2nd base is 91 feet - 11 inches.

- (g) A commitment line must be drawn 20 feet from home plate between third base and the back of home plate. If a base runner passes the commitment line after rounding third base, she cannot cross back over it or else she will be called out. Such a base runner is committed to running across the scoring line which is drawn parallel to the commitment line, at the front of the pitching mat, on the third base side. The base runner must cross the scoring line without touching home plate or the catcher, in order to score a run for her team. To be safe at home, one foot must simply make contact with the scoring line. The base runner will be forced out at home plate if a fielding player touches the plate, while in control of the ball, before the runner has touched the scoring line, and after the runner has passed the commitment line.

Note: The home team is responsible for making sure the commitment line and the scoring line are obvious throughout the game.

- (h) A foul ball with two (2) strikes on the batter will result in an out.
- (i) No tagging of runners is permitted any time between the commitment line and the scoring line. The rubber mat must be tagged by the player in possession of the ball for the runner to be called out.
- (j) The pitched ball must follow an arc of 6 feet to 12 feet. A 'ball' will be called by the umpire if the pitch is not within this range. A strike is called when it follows an arc of 6 feet to 12 feet and comes in contact with any part of the plate.
- (k) A base runner is out if she fails to keep contact with the base to which she is entitled, until the batter has made contact with the pitched ball.
- (l) If a player must leave the game because of injury (umpire must agree that an injury has occurred) a substitute from the bench will be used. If no substitutes are available, the team may proceed with the game provided they still have at least 9 players in the line-up. The spot in the batting order where the injured player used to hit will not be declared as an out when her spot comes up to bat again. This rule applies to teams who begin with 10 or more girls in the line-up.
- (m) If a team shows up to the park with only 9 players, they may then field a line-up of 9 players. A 10th, 11th and 12th player may be added if the team has not yet batted once through their batting cycle. Such players may not be inserted into the line-up ahead of anyone who has already batted. The opposition and the umpire must be informed of any such roster changes during the game. Once a team begins its second batting cycle, no additions may be made to the line-up, but the team may choose to make substitutions. If the team starts with 9 players, the line-up sheet is made with 9 players and no out is counted where the 10th player would normally bat.
- (n) Substitutions will be allowed from the player's bench. A player may enter the game for a player already in the line-up and must take the same batting position of the removed player. The removed player may re-enter for the substitute player into her former position. The substitute player may not be used again in the same game.
- (o) Any players who begin the game as designated hitters (i.e., they bat, but do not field) may be inserted into a field position at any time for one of the present fielders. Batting positions are not changed in such an event.

- (p) Infield Fly is a fairly batted fly ball (not a line drive) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or when first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two out. Any defensive player who positions herself within the infield area, will be considered an infielder for the purpose of this rule.

Note: If a fairly batted ball is to be declared an infield fly the umpire shall call: 'INFIELD FLY, IF FAIR, BATTER IS OUT' for the benefit of the runners. Failure to make the call does not preclude the batted ball from being an infield fly. The ball is alive and if the runners advance, they do so at their own risk and are in jeopardy if the ball is caught. The ruling is the same as any other caught or dropped fly ball. A foul ball is not an infield fly and if the ball falls untouched to the ground in fair or foul territory prior to first or third base and subsequently rolls into foul territory, it is just a foul ball.

- (q) Courtesy runners may be used (provided the batter has safely reached base) a maximum of 3 times per game. When courtesy runners are used, the same runner cannot be used twice. Only players listed on the roster are eligible to be courtesy runners and a courtesy runner can be used for courtesy runner. Note: The use of a courtesy runner does not constitute a substitution.

- (r) Pitcher's legal feet position:

- (i) Preliminary to pitching, the pitcher shall take a position with her pivot foot firmly on the ground within the confines of the pitching zone. The pivot foot must remain in constant contact within the pitching zone, until the release of the ball.
- (ii) The other foot (free foot) has no restrictions on positions and may be placed on, in front of, to the rear of, or to the side of the pitching zone. After taking this initial position, the pitcher may only take one step with the free foot in the direction of her choice, provided that it is taken prior to, simultaneously with and during the actions of delivering the pitched ball.
- (iii) After the release of the pitch, which action may include a step forward towards the batter, the pitcher may not continue to move forward, other than the normal forward momentum resultant from the pitch to the batter.

8. AWARDS

- (a) ROPSSAA gold medallions are to be awarded to the members of the tier one championship team (maximum 22 per team).
- (b) ROPSSAA silver medallions are to be awarded to the members of the tier one runner-up team (maximum 22 per team).
- (c) The ROPSSAA championship trophy will be awarded to each team that wins the tier one and tier two championships.

9. UNIFORMS

- (a) All players shall be dressed in numbered similar coloured shirts.

- (b) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.

10. SCORING

- (a) A forfeited game will be scored 7-0.
- (b) The winning team is responsible for reporting the score no later than online by 12:00noon the morning following the game during the regular season. The scores must be reported by 7:00pm the day of the game during the playoffs. Failure to do so will result in no team advancing.

11. LENGTH OF GAME

- (a) All games (except for the final)
 - (i) There will be a maximum 5 runs per inning.
 - (ii) When Umpire calls 'last inning' an unlimited amount of runs can be scored.
 - (iii) A mercy rule will be in effect for regular season games after 5 innings have been completed. If at the end of the 5th or 6th inning, there is a run differential of 12 runs, the game will be called, and the team that is leading will be declared the winner. If the team that bats at the bottom of the 5th, 6th or 7th inning assumes a 12 run lead before the end of the inning, the game will be called immediately.
- (b) Finals
 - (i) 5 run max (last inning unlimited).
 - (ii) A full 7 innings must be played (with no time limit).
 - (iii) No mercy rule.
 - (iv)
 - (a) If 16 teams advance to playoffs, the preliminary and quarter finals will occur on the same day, with the semifinals and final occurring on a separate day.
 - (b) If eight teams advance to playoffs, the quarter finals, semifinals and final will occur on the same day.

12. EQUIPMENT

- (a) The home team to provide a rubber pitching mat (24" x 36" or 2' x 3') and bases. The first base must be a safety base.
- (b) An 11 inch softball (green, gold or red dot ball) will be used for all games. The home team must supply one brand new ball and one good used ball.

- (c) Each team must supply helmets for their own batters and base runners. Helmets must be strapped on properly. If a helmet falls off during play, the batter or runner will be called 'out'.
- (d) A face mask must be worn by all catchers.
- (e) "Trappers" may only be worn by catchers and players playing first base. If a player playing in any other position is caught playing with a trapper by the offensive team and it is brought to the attention of the umpire after a play, that team has the option of accepting the results of the play or having the play over.
- (f) Only official softball bats are permitted (ASA or USSSA approved bats). No wooden bats or hard ball bats may be used.
- (g) Metal spikes for foot-wear are not allowed. Pitching toes (plastic or metal) are not allowed. There can be no jewelry including knit 'friendship' bracelets, stud earrings, rings, chains or metal/plastic hair barrettes. Tape may not be placed over earrings. If putting hair back is a problem, only softball hats or 'scrunchies' may be used. Medical alert bracelets are acceptable.
- (h) All teams should have a first aid kit on hand at each game.

13. JURY OF APPEAL

- (a) A jury of appeal selected at the preseason meeting will consist of the Convenor and four coaches.

14. DEPORTMENT

- (a) Players and coaches are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner as per Article XVI, Section II of the ROPSSAA Constitution.
- (b) Players ejected from the game are not eligible for the next game.
- (c) A coach ejection will result in a forfeiture of the game in question.

15. OFSAA COMPETITION

- (i) The team winning the ROPSSAA OFSAA/Tier One Level Championship will represent ROPSSAA at OFSAA. If a second entry is awarded, then the second place team will advance to OFSAA as well.