

2019 Slo-Pitch City

Men's 35+ Recreational Tuesday Night League Rules

The official slow pitch Ontario rules recreational league are in effect for all play and regulations. This league holds the right to amend or change any of these rules agreed upon by the league executive. A written copy of these amendments and changes will be presented to the umpire in chief.

Player Eligibility

- Maximum 22 players on any team roster.
- Players must be 35 years of age or older in the calendar year in which they are playing.
- A team caught playing an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which said player participated.
- Any players who are identified as actively playing on an "A", or "B" roster, or Super Series Roster will be deemed ineligible to play in the Tuesday night league. Player eligibility will follow SPO eligibility rules for recreational players. League executives will investigate any formal protests on players raised by teams with SPO, Slo-Pitch City, etc. to determine eligibility.
- The team roster is to be submitted to the league representative within one week of the start of the season. Final roster are due the **last Tuesday in June**. (June 25,2019)
- In order to be eligible for play offs, players on the team roster will have to have played in 7 regular games.

Playing Field

Batter's box: if no batter's box is marked it will be up to the umpire's discretion to call the batter's box.

Commitment line: there will be a line marked, perpendicular to the third baseline, 21 feet from home plate.

A: a runner advancing from third base to home plate and crossing the commitment line must continue to home plate and cannot return to third base. The runner may return to third base before crossing the commitment line if the base is empty.

B: a runner is out if the catcher or any other defensive player is in possession and control of the baseball and is in contact with any portion of home plate mat and the runner has passed the commitment line.

C: the runner shall be called safe and the run will score if the catcher or any other defensive player tags or attempts to tag the runner once this runner has passed the commitment line.

Home plate line: there will be a line mark perpendicular to third baseline, from the front corner of home plate on the third base side of the out of play boundary.

- A. A baserunner advancing from third base to home plate must cross this line safely to score a run.
- B. The baserunner is out if, before crossing the line and the catcher or defensive player has possession and control of the ball and is in contact with any portion of the home plate mat.
- C. The baserunner will be called safe and the run will score if, before crossing the home plate line, the catcher or any defensive player tags or attempts to tag the baserunner.

Equipment:

Home plate: a 2" by 3" mat will be used as home plate.

- A legally pitched ball, striking any part of the mat, shall be called a strike. Any legally pitched ball not landing on the mat or swung on by the batter, shall be called a ball.

Uniforms: all players must wear a team shirt; no formal uniform is required.

The game

- all games are Tuesday evenings.
- All regular season games are 9 innings and starts at 6:30 and 8 PM.
- Canada day family night will have all games being 7 innings in duration on diamonds 1,2, and 7. All other family nights will have 9 inning games, with the exception of the 8 PM start times.

9 inning Mercy Rule

A 25-run mercy rule is in effect if the home team is winning by 25 or more runs at the end of 4 ½ complete innings, or if the visiting team is leading by 25 or more runs at the end of 5 complete innings. A 15-run mercy rule is in effect if the home team is winning by 15 or more runs at the end of 6 ½ complete innings, or if the visiting team is leading by 15 or more runs at the end of 7 complete innings.

7 inning Mercy Rule (family night games)

A 25-run mercy rule is in effect if the home team is winning by 25 runs or more at the end of 2 ½ complete innings or if the visiting team is leading by 25 or more runs at the end of 3 complete innings.

Home Run Rule

League Rule : A team hitting an out of the park home run, may not hit another out of the park home run ,until the opposing team hits an out of the park home run. The only exception is if you are behind by one out of the park home run. You may hit one out of the park home run, to draw even with the opposition, then hit another out of the park home run to go ahead by one.

Play offs:

Play offs will consist of 3 round Robin games, best record is considered group champion.

In event of tied records, extra play off games will be played to determine champion. Team will be seeded based on:

2 teams: head to head record

- Run differential (max +/- 7 runs in anyone game)
- top seed will be home team for one game play off.

3 teams: head to head amongst the group to be determined first

- had to head individually
- run differential (max +/- 7 runs in anyone game)
- lower seeds will play-off, to earn right to play top seed in one game play off

Play-offs to be a one-day tournament after season concludes

If a protest is made in a final play off game, game must be stopped and the umpire in chief must be called to the diamond to make the ruling.

There is no mercy in effect for play offs.

A team can start a game with 9 players. There is **NO** automatic out for the 10th player. The 10th player can be added at anytime during the game at the bottom of the batting order. No additional player(s) exceeding 10 can be added to the lineup after the first batters second at bat.

Substitutions:

- a player not in the batting lineup may be substituted for any player in the batting lineup the substituted player cannot be re entered into the game.
- Each team will be allowed 6 courtesy runners for the whole game. Courtesy runners will be allowed at first base only except where the batter has been awarded an extra base or bases. The courtesy runner must be the player who was last out and the substitution must be made before the first pitch to the next batter. Teams can use a maximum of 2 courtesy runners on any given substitution. The umpire must be informed of all courtesy runner substitutions.
- If injury occurs to a runner at any other base, the runner cannot continue to play, a courtesy runner can be allowed for the injured player. This courtesy runner does not count towards the 6 that the teams are allowed.
- A player leaving the game for any reason except serious injury, and no substitution can be made for the player, then that player spot in the lineup will be an automatic out.
- A player leaving the game due to serious injury, an no substitution can be made, the batting lineup will move up one position. The “automatic out” penalty will not be charged.
- Any player leaving the game for **any reason**, except serious injury, and no substitution can be made and leaving that team with less than 9 players, and if is less Then 5 complete innings the defaulting team will forfeit the game. If 5 or more innings have been completed the empire should I call the game complete and the defaulting team Shall be declared the losing team.
- Any player leaving the game due to serious injury and no substitution can be made leaving the team with less than 9 players, and if there is less than 5 complete innings the game shall be classified as a **rain out**. If 5 or more innings have been completed, the umpire shell suspend the game and the game is to be completed at a later date with the same batting lineup. Substitutions for absent players is allowed for the game to be continued.

Schedule

the league will be divided into 2 divisions

- Division 1 will play each team in their own division a minimum of 3 times.
- Division 2 will play each team in their own division a minimum of one time and maximum of 2 times in the regular season.

Position ties in the regular season standings will be broken by

2 teams:

- head to head record
- run differential (maximum +/- 7 runs in anyone game)

3 or more teams:

- head to head record amongst the group to be determined first
- head to head individually
- run differential (maximum +/- 7 runs in anyone game)

Forfeits: any team unable to field at least 9 players may attempt to pick up the adequate number of players. The opposing team reserves the right to declare a forfeit victory or allow the team to play with unsigned players. If a forfeit is declared, the score will be 9-0 for the team not at fault. League executive will monitor forfeits and will bring any repetitive problems to the league meetings for discussion.

Protest: a protest must be filed with the umpire at the time of the alleged infraction and prior to the next pitch. This is for all situations excluding the question of a player eligibility. The protest must be filed in writing with the league executive along with \$100 protest fee in cash. If a protest is upheld the \$100 will be refunded. Protests are only accepted on clear rule violations and will **NOT** be accepted in the case of judgement calls by the umpire.

Rainouts: all rained out games will be classified as ties.

Ties: all games tied at the end of 9 innings will be played out in extra regular type inning not the international rule until that tie is broken or until the game is called on account of darkness.

Darkness: the umpire shall have sole judgment on the "Too dark to play" ruling. The umpire shall announce to both teams the beginning of the final inning. **Note:** if a game is called because of darkness and the game is tied at the end of the final inning the game shall stand as a tie.

Lead offs: there would be no leadoffs by runners, but the courtesy step allowance is in effect. This call is at the discretion of the umpire.

Players substitutions and re entry: a team can have as many players in the batting lineup (minimum 9 Maximum 22) as it wishes, but only 10 players can be in defensive positions. The players may be substituted in and out of any defence position during the game, provided that they are in the batting lineup. The batting order cannot be changed once the game begins.