



## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**The South Lyon Area Recreation Authority reserves the right to study and incur the decisions on any situation not expressly covered within these rules and regulations and to interpret these rules set forth to govern the South Lyon Area Recreation Men's Softball League. South Lyon Area Recreation Authority decisions are final and binding on all members.**

**ALL GAMES SHALL BE COVERED BY USA SOFTBALL RULES EXCEPT FOR THOSE MODIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING:**

### **REGULATIONS**

#### **Things to know before first pitch**

1. League will run for 14 weeks with a single elimination playoff at the end. All teams will be eligible for the playoffs.
2. Scheduling of games will be determined by the number of teams in the league.
3. Standings will be posted each week of the league. Placement is determined by overall record, followed by our tie breaker system, which will be described below.
  - a. The first determining factor in deciding a tie in the standings is Head-to-Head matchups. If one team beat the other team more times during the season, they would be the higher seed.
  - b. If the teams won the same amount of games against each other, ties would be determined by who lost to the lowest seed in the final standings. So, if Team A lost to the 6<sup>th</sup> seed and Team B lost to the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed as their "worst" loss, Team B would be the higher seed.
  - c. If a tie is still not decided after that, we will look at who scored more runs against the other team in the Head-to-Head matchup.
  - d. The last tie breaker factor is the run differential when both teams had their "worst" loss if all the above factors still do not break the tie.
4. Playoffs – All teams will be eligible for the playoffs. A regular season champion will be determined before the playoffs begin. The regular season champion will receive the number one seed for the playoffs. All other seedings will be determined by final standings. Dependent on league size and playoff format, first round byes may be given to top seeded teams. Playoff format and schedule will be dependent on the number of teams in the league.
5. League Champion – The league champion (team that wins the playoffs) will be awarded a team trophy.

## **Player Eligibility**

1. SLARA Men's Slow Pitch Softball League is an open league. There is no residency requirement to participate. Teams shall be considered a resident should 51% or more of their main roster (excludes subs) consist of players residing in South Lyon, Lyon Township, or Green Oak Township. Teams that do not meet the 51% requirement are considered non-resident and will pay the non-resident fee. All player fees must be paid prior to participation in league games.
  - a. We ask that teams are composed of players that are considered amateurs and not actively playing at a higher level. Our leagues are intended to be open enrollment for everybody, but we also want to create a fair playing environment that is safe for people in the field.
2. Each team must have a minimum of *ten* players on their roster. There is no maximum number of subs that can be listed on each roster. Each team must have a Roster Form & Release of Liability Waiver completed and on file with South Lyon Recreation prior to the first game of the season. All players participating on the team must sign this form. NO EXCEPTIONS!
3. The fourth scheduled game is the deadline for all roster additions. No roster additions will be permitted after the fourth scheduled game has been played. You must notify the SLARA office of all roster additions. All players in the league must appear on a roster to be eligible to play.
4. If a player is injured or moves out of the region after the fourth game, the Sports League Supervisor will determine if another player may be added to the roster. The team manager must contact South Lyon Recreation to obtain permission.
5. No player shall be compensated for playing in any or all games in this program. No professional players are eligible. A professional is defined as one who is paid for playing for a team which is recognized as a professional team. Any player who violates this rule shall be suspended from the league and any games he participated in will be forfeited.
6. No Player is allowed to be on the roster for more than one team in the league. Any player that appears on the roster for more than one team may be removed from the league.
7. Players must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

## **Managers**

1. Managers are responsible for the eligibility of their players.
2. Any change in managership of a team must be on file in the Recreation Office including new manager's name, address and phone number before the next scheduled game.
3. In case of inquiry of any member(s) of the team, the manager shall be responsible for producing any evidence or records demanded by the Recreation Office and the League Director.
4. Each manager is responsible for their own and their players' knowledge of and adherence to league rules.
5. Each Manager is responsible for their team's conduct. Managers may be suspended from the league for repeated misconduct by members of their team.

6. Repeated conduct issues involving multiple players on the same team may result in that team's suspension or dismissal from the league.
  - a. First offense will result in an official warning issued to the team from the SLARA office
  - b. Second offense will result in the team's suspension from their next scheduled game – game will count as a forfeit loss in the standings
  - c. Third offense will result in the team's removal from the SLARA Men's Softball League
  - d. SLARA reserves the right to bypass the first and second offense should the incident be severe enough to justify a team's immediate removal from the league.

### **Player/Fan Conduct**

1. Family, friends, and children are to sit in the stands and watch the game. Player benches and the surrounding areas are reserved for players only!
2. All league games take place at Volunteer Park. Volunteer Park is owned and operated by the City of South Lyon. All City of South Lyon park policies, including those regarding alcohol consumption within the park, are in effect. Please see Chapter 62, Article III, Section 62-70 – Alcoholic Beverages of the City of South Lyon Code of Ordinances (listed below) for full details on alcohol consumption within the park:
  - a. *Generally.* No person shall possess or consume any alcoholic beverages within any public park.
  - b. *Exception.* If a group wishes to reserve the city park under permit issued by the clerk and proposes to possess, serve, consume or sell alcoholic beverages, application must be made directly to city council not less than 30 days prior to the event, and such application must include:
    - i. If beer and wine are proposed to be sold, a special license authorizing same must be obtained from the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission for the date(s) the park is requested.
    - ii. Proof of an insurance policy, listing the City of South Lyon as first insured, to indemnify the city to a maximum liability coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.
    - iii. A statement of the purpose of the gathering, the relationship, if any, between persons expected to attend, number and ages of those expected to attend, the names and address of persons responsible for organizing the event, and a list of activities expected to take place.
    - iv. Council shall within 15 days of application hold a public hearing and approve or disapprove of the application.
  - c. *Violations.* Any person who violates this section shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction.  
(Code 1988, § 3.10; Ord. of 6-27-94, § 1)
3. Any player, sponsor, manager or fans who use abusive, profane or obscene language or

gestures, which are audible to the umpire or league director, shall be ejected from the game and suspended from the next game in which his/her team takes part. Violent infractions will call for a longer suspension at the discretion of the League Supervisor. PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME activities are included in this rule.

4. All players, fans, and umpires are expected to display good sportsmanship and behave in a professional manner at all times. There shall be no heckling or verbal abuse of any player, fan, or umpire before, during, or after the game. Those responsible for this type of behavior shall be removed from the field and face the possibility of suspension from future games.
5. The use of profanity and/or racial, sexual, religious, or disability-based slurs, threats or intimidation before, during, or after a game is strictly prohibited. Players or fans shall not make any attempts, requests, or instructions to inflict intentional harm or injury upon another person. If the violation occurs in-game, the responsible party will face immediate ejection. The responsible party will also be subject to removal from the league.
6. Any player or fan who at any time is abusive and/or harasses another player, fan, umpire, SLARA staff member, league director, or SLARA representative, either verbally or in writing, with regards to the SLARA Adult Softball program is subject to removal from the league.
7. All calls made on the field are final. Umpires are not to be questioned about judgement calls before, during, or after the game. Questions and concerns must be directed to the Site Supervisor.
8. Failure to abide by these rules may result in suspension from the league. Players who are ejected from a game will receive, at a minimum, *one* game suspension. Possibility of a longer suspension exists. Continuous disregard for these rules will result in your dismissal from the league.
9. No vehicle or motorcycles are allowed to park on the grass area near the softball diamonds.

### **Rosters and Contracts**

1. Any player or manager falsifying information will be suspended from play or managing for the remainder of the season, and the games in which he has participated shall be forfeited.
2. If any player appears at and is ready to play three consecutive games and does not participate in any of the three, through no fault of his/her own, he may demand release from the team.
3. Any team releasing a player must make it known to South Lyon Recreation.
4. Each team must have a catcher.
5. There will be free substitution in the recreation leagues. Managers may bat all players present.
6. Player injuries or leaving due to emergencies will not cause that player's place in the batting order to be designated as an automatic out. Exception: player ejection.
7. If arriving late, players can enter the game when they arrive and not have to wait until the inning is over, however they must bat at the end of the order.
8. Because of the nature of the game of softball, players run the risk of being injured while participating and should be aware of this prior to registration.

9. South Lyon Recreation, its officers or employees will not be held responsible for any player who is injured while participating in its softball program.

### **Equipment and Uniform**

1. Each team is required to furnish their own bats. Any USA Softball approved softball bat up to double-wall is allowed. Triple-wall or greater are not allowed. The legality of a bat in question shall be at the discretion of the Site Supervisor.
2. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather uppers or similar materials. The soles may be either smooth or with soft or hard rubber cleats.
3. South Lyon Recreation provides one new ball and one good used game ball. (.052 core)

## **RULES**

### **Field Rules**

1. Time Limits – No new innings will start after the one hour and five-minute time limit has been reached. In case of a prolonged time out due to an injury of more than five minutes, that time will be extended onto the time limit.
2. Umpire Fees – Each team is responsible for paying their \$20 umpire fee in cash to the umpire prior to the game starting.
3. Inclement Weather – An umpire may call a game at any time due to inclement weather, darkness, or any other threat to player and patron safety. Games shall be considered complete if five or more complete innings have been played. Every effort will be made to resume incomplete games from the point they were postponed but may not be possible due to scheduling restrictions. If a game is called in-progress and umpire fees have already been paid, SLARA will pay the umpire fees for the rescheduled game in-progress.
4. Fences – balls bouncing over, under, around and through the outfield fences will be considered an automatic double. All other rules will be governed by USA Softball Official Rules.
5. Out-of-Play Area – is determined by the lines painted on fields and fence surrounding baseline areas. When a player catches a foul fly in foul territory and then runs into the out-of-play area, the ball becomes dead and all runners are awarded one base.
6. No batting practice will be held on the infield.
7. Only three warm-up pitches between innings will be allowed, except in the first inning where five pitches are acceptable. Pitchers are given 6 feet behind the mound to use, the umpire will delegate the appropriate space. Pitches must be between 6-10 feet.

### **Game Play**

1. USA Softball Slow Pitch Rules shall be used in this league with South Lyon League Rules and Regulations overriding all USA Softball rules.
2. Baselines shall be 70 feet for all leagues. Pitcher's Plate shall be 50 feet for all leagues.
3. The game times listed on the schedule are forfeit times.
4. The score of a forfeited game shall be seven to zero in favor of the team not at fault.

5. A playing team shall consist of ten players; a team must have eight players to start, play and finish a game. If neither team has the required number of players, each team shall receive a loss by forfeit. **FOR THE REGULAR SEASON ONLY:** Teams short on players may borrow players up to their 9<sup>th</sup> player in order to avoid forfeit. All borrowed players **MUST** be on a league roster and bat at the end of the batting order. If enough regular-rostered players show up, all borrowed players must leave the game.
  - a. If players are borrowed, they must bat at the bottom of the order and play a non-premium position (Catcher, Right Field, etc.). Certain adaptations can be made based on the positions players on the team play, but borrowed players should not be placed in Centerfield, Shortstop, etc. This is to prevent a team from borrowing a skilled player from another team and stacking their lineup to win.
6. Players that show up late must bat at the end of the batting order.
7. Forfeit time is game time. If a team must forfeit a game, a \$40 forfeit fee must be paid separately to SLARA office (this fee is covered by the \$80 forfeit pool that was collected with registration for the league).
8. Any team that forfeits two games during the season, shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, including playoffs. In such cases, all remaining games will be win for opponents.
9. Relaxed Step – The runner is allowed to take a relaxed step only when the batter swings at the ball.
10. Batter will play with a 3/2 count – Batter will take 1<sup>st</sup> base after 3 balls or be out after 2 strikes
11. One foul ball on the second strike will be allowed. The second foul ball on the second strike will be an automatic out (one to waste).
12. Courtesy Runner – A courtesy runner may be used but must be the player who made the last out. Only **ONE COURTESY RUNNER PER INNING IS ALLOWED**. The player that is coming out may re-enter the game without penalty. The team will register an out if the wrong player comes in to run.
13. A limit of four (4) over-the-fence home runs will be used. All balls hit over the fence in a game, in excess of the four (4), will be ruled as a single. All runners advance one base only if there is a base runner behind them and first base is occupied.
14. Gentlemen's Agreement – If umpire not present at game time, teams will select an agreed upon representative(s) to ump game.
15. When a play is being made on a batter-runner at first base, the defending player must use the white portion of the safety base and the batter-runner must use the orange portion of the safety base. The batter-runner will be called out if they touch only the white portion of the safety base. The defender will be called for interference if they touch only the orange portion of the safety base.
16. Batting order – if all players present bat, free substitutions in field. If only ten players, bat when substitution is made. Sub takes same place in batting rotation.
17. Home team is listed on the game schedule as team on right; ex. 1 vs. 2 (2 is home team).
18. All tie games that hit the time limit will have until the end of the inning to break the tie. Any games remaining tied after the inning will be recorded as a tie. At the completion of the season, any tie games which have a bearing on first or second place will come down to the higher total runs scored throughout the season.

19. Both teams will be responsible to track the score during the game. There should be a check between teams after each inning played. At the end of the game, the score is to be reported to the site supervisor and each manager is to sign the scoresheet so there are no discrepancies.
20. Mercy Rule - All Leagues – A twelve (12) run mercy will be in effect upon the losing team having had five (5) complete turns at bat. A ten (10) run mercy will be in effect upon the losing team having had complete six (6) turns at bat
21. For games at Volunteer Park, it is okay to warm-up in outfield only prior to 1<sup>st</sup> game of the night
22. If both teams and the umpire are in agreement, a game may start earlier than the scheduled starting time.
23. Umpires will conduct pre-game conference with captain each game. Umpires will discuss playing and ground rules with the team captain/manager prior to each game. It is then the responsibility of this team representative to relay information to his/her team.
24. The decision of whether or not the field is playable will be solely decided by the league supervisor and umpire. All postponed games will be made up at the earliest possible date. Regular playing days are reserved at the end of the season for rain-outs.
25. Balls hit up the middle in the area of the pitcher will be considered an out regardless of intent. The batter will be out and no runners will advance. The ball does not have to hit the pitcher, if it is within the width of the pitching rubber and at most 1 ft. over the head of the pitcher, the umpire can rule it an out. If a ball hits the pitcher, it is an automatic out. These calls are at the umpire's discretion and cannot be argued as it is for the sake of player safety.
  - a. If a pitcher leaves the area of the rubber to make a play or to pitch the ball, these rules may not be enforced by the umpire.

## **Protests**

1. No individual game protests shall be permitted. The decisions of the referee and site supervisor are final.
2. Teams may protest player ineligibility. It is the responsibility of the team to provide proof of a player's ineligibility. All protests of player ineligibility must be presented to the League Supervisor for review. If a protest is upheld and a player is found ineligible, then ALL games that player had previously played in would be forfeited AND the games in question would be an automatic win for their opponents. The player found to be ineligible is restricted from playing the rest of the season.