

PENTICTON SLO-PITCH LEAGUE

2023 OPERATING RULES

1.0 MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY

1.1 REGISTRATION

- a) The Penticton Slo Pitch League (“the League”) fees accompanied by a registration form and preliminary roster, must be submitted to the League by **March 3rd, 2023 (to pay the \$950 fee; you can still register up to March 10th, 2023 but the fees increase to \$1,000)**. Fees can be paid by cheque, money order or etransfer only (no cash). Cheques and money orders are made payable to the “**PENTICTON SLO PITCH LEAGUE**”. Etransfers are sent to secretary@pentictonspitch.com.
- b) Each team member **must** be covered by insurance as specified by the League Executive to be eligible to play.
- c) The League registration form and preliminary roster must be completed in full and submitted to the League Executive by **March 3rd, 2023 (or by March 10th, 2023 at the higher fees)**.

*** Official SPN roster form **must** be completed online by **April 1st, 2023**. We require the online forms to be filled out **completely** and submitted for insurance purposes. Your team will **not** be allowed to play **April 2nd, 2023**, if this form is not submitted. Additions and deletions can be made to your official team roster up until the end of the regular season. Rosters will be frozen for playoffs.
- d) **Team rosters are in effect as of April 2nd, 2023.**

1.2 TEAM ROSTER

A minimum of 10 (ten) and a maximum of 25 (twenty-five) players are permitted on the team roster. Players may only be on 1 (one) roster in the League. If a team requires more than 25 players on the team roster you may submit your reasons to the League Executive, who will then consider your request. The League Executive will notify the team as to their decision.

1.3 TEAM STRUCTURE

- a) Players not listed on the preliminary team roster or on the Approved Official League team roster are **not** eligible for play as of April 2nd, 2023.
- b) A team may consist of 10 (ten) players, of which a minimum of 4 (four) to a maximum of 6 (six) must be female.
- c) Playing with only 9 (nine) Players (BC “9” rule)
 - i) A team will legally be allowed to start the game with **9 (nine)** players at the beginning of the game of which a minimum **3 (three)** must be female.
 - ii) An automatic out will be recorded where the missing player in the batting line up would have batted.
 - iii) The male batter hitting before the automatic out will be awarded first base if walked with one strike or second base if he takes a walk on 4 straight balls.
 - iv) A team **is allowed** to add a 10th (tenth) player at any point for the balance of the game.
- d) Teams may substitute a maximum of **2 (two)** pick up players, **1 (one)** male and **1 (one)** female. Pick-ups must be from another League team roster and can be used for a game where it can be demonstrated that a shortage of eligible players results from unexpected, non-preventable circumstances, and that a forfeiture would otherwise result due to lack of eligible players.
- e) Teams can pick up players from within their division, 1 division above and all divisions below. See summary below:
 - a. Division 1 can pick up from all Divisions.
 - b. Division 2 can pick up from all Divisions
 - c. Division 3 can pick up from Division 2, 3 and 4.
 - d. Division 4 can pick up from Division 3 and 4.
- f) **No pick-ups** are allowed **if** any rostered player is sitting on the bench. **i.e. female player sitting on the bench as a spare must be played before**

pick-up is allowed. This may result in a team playing with 5 (five) males and 5 (five) females, or 6 (six) females and 4 (four) males.

- g) All players must be 16 (sixteen) years of age by April 2nd, 2023. All players 16 (sixteen) to 18 (eighteen) years of age, inclusive, **MUST HAVE WRITTEN CONSENT**, from parent or guardian submitted to the League Executive **PRIOR** to playing.
- h) Pregnant players **ARE NOT** permitted to play in the League.

1.4 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- a) For all divisions – based on the **previous** seasons, **regular seasons** standings – the top **2 (two)** teams **MUST** move up to the next division. The bottom **2 (two)** teams **MUST** move down to the next division. Unless there is no lower division in the League, then the bottom **2 (two)** teams shall remain in their previous division. If 1 (one) of the top teams feels that their team should not move up 1 (one) division, you may submit your reasons to the League Executive, who will then consider your request. This does not guarantee that your team will not have to move up. The League Executive will notify the team as to their decision.

2.0 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) It is the **HOME TEAM'S** responsibility to ensure that any goal posts at any school field, that have been unlocked and moved, are replaced and relocked securely. If the locks go missing it will be the responsibility of the **HOME TEAM**, to pay for their replacements. If the goal posts are not replaced and locked down a fine will be given to the **HOME TEAM, OF \$100.00**. This fine must be paid, before the next scheduled game for the HOME TEAM. If the fine is not paid, the next scheduled game shall be a forfeit, as each game thereafter shall be until the time the fine is paid.
- b) The **HOME TEAM** must rake or drag the fields, and fill in the batter's box. Especially at Lions Park, Skaha Park and Parkway fields, prior to the game. The **HOME TEAM** will be subject to a fine if the other team lodges a complaint, in writing, to the League Executive.
- c) Vehicles that park in the Lions parking lots and the Parkway school parking lot do so at their own risk. Any damages caused by errant balls leaving the playing surface in these locations is not the responsibility of the

League or its players. However, damage to vehicles driving by Lions field on Warren Avenue and to vehicles / property on the west side of Mullins field (Baskins Court and Seventh Day Adventist Church properties) is the responsibility of the player who hits or throws the ball.

2.1 EQUIPMENT

- a) HOME TEAM is to supply game balls. Balls must be the same type supplied by the League. However, when a team hits or throws a ball out of play they are responsible to provide the umpire with one of their balls. Each HOME TEAM is responsible to put the inground bases in their respective places in the infield. If playing at a field without inground bases, each HOME TEAM must put 2 (two) standard bases (with pins), a double base (with pins) and a home plate for each home contest (these bases are supplied by the League). The HOME TEAM is responsible to put the bases back in the storage facilities when the game is over.

2.2 UMPIRES

- a) All League games, including playoff games will be officiated by umpires assigned by the League through the Penticton Umpire Association. League fees include all umpire fees.
- b) All complaints pertaining to umpires **must** be submitted in writing to your **Division Representative** or any other member of the **League** within **24 (twenty-four) hours** of the game.

2.3 GAME RESULTS AND PUBLICITY

- a) Each winning team must submit results of the game to the League Statistician, **Chris Newton by email at secretary@pentictonspitch.com**, within 48 (forty-eight) hours of the completion of the game. In the case of a tie game the **HOME TEAM** shall be responsible for submitting the score. Failure to submit the game score will result in a 1-1 tie being recorded as the official score. If a 1-1 tie is recorded, teams have 7 (seven) days from the original game date to inform the designated League Executive member of the correct score, at which

point it will be adjusted. If no corrective measures are taken with the 7 (seven) days, the score will remain a tie.

- b) Statistician – **Chris Newton** email: secretary@pentictonslopitch.com – must be notified if umpires fail to show up for any scheduled game, during the Regular Season, or Playoff Season.

2.4 CONDUCT

- a) Vehicle parking must be confined to **Approved Parking Area's only**. Failure to park in these areas might result in your vehicle being towed, at your own expense.
- b) Liquor and Illicit drugs and smoking are **NOT PERMITTED** by Law on the playing fields or on Public Grounds during Regular Season League play or Playoff League play. Being caught could result in a **fine or expulsion** from the League.
Please go home or to a licensed premise to do your post game imbibing.
- c) Playing fields and surrounding areas must be left in a clean condition.
Please pick up all garbage and bottles when your team leaves the field.
- d) Profanity on the ball field or the side lines will **NOT** be tolerated, and will be dealt with accordingly. But most likely will result in being ejected from the game.

3.0 GAMES AND SCHEDULES

- a) Game start time will be indicated by the League Schedule. Play must start exactly at this time. **There is NO mandatory grace period.**
- b) All games at all parks on Sundays have a time limit in effect. No new inning shall start after the 1 hour 20 minute mark.
- b) All games must be played as scheduled. **ONLY RAINED OUT GAMES** may be rescheduled. Any other games if cannot be held will be forfeited. Rainouts will be determined by the 2 (two) team captains and the umpire. Both teams must show up at a game before a rainout is declared. If only 1 (one) team shows, then it shall be recorded as a forfeit, for the team that

missed. Contact your **Division Representative** or **Chris Newton** at **secretary@pentictonslopitch.com** to reschedule all rainouts.

- c) **Before games, all warming up is to be done on the outfield grass.** This will allow **the HOME TEAM** to rake the infield and preserve freshly raked infields for game play.
- d) Game points for the purpose of League Standings will be assigned as follows:

WIN	3 POINTS
TIE	1 POINT
LOSS	0 POINTS

3.1 OFFICIATING

- a) In the event that an umpire does not arrive at a game as scheduled, the game shall be either played and umpired by the teams involved, or by agreement be rescheduled, when an umpire can officiate the game. If the 2 (two) teams decide to play the game, with the 2 (two) team captains agreeing on the method of officiating, but **NO** subsequent protests on the umpire selected will be accepted with respect to that game.
- b) Verbal or Physical abuse towards any umpire, will **NOT** be tolerated and result in being ejected from the game. With the possibility of further game loss once the incident has been reported.

4.0 DISQUALIFICATION

4.1 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

League disciplinary committee is made up of the Trustees and 2 Members at Large.

- a) At the discretion of the League Executive, disciplinary action, including forfeits, fines and expulsions may be taken against a player, or players and/or teams for 1 (one) or more of the following reasons.
 - i) Failure to play only with players on the Approved Roster.
 - ii) Failure to pay League Fees by the predetermined date.

- iii) Failure to submit a League preliminary roster by the predetermined date.
- iv) Failure to submit the Official League roster by the predetermined date.
- v) Failure to act in a sportsmanlike manner.
- vi) Failure to conduct themselves in accordance with Section 2.4 of the League 2023 Operating Rules.
- vii) Failure to submit game results to the League Statistician, Section 2.3 (a)
- viii) Failure to provide playing equipment for HOME games, Section 2.1.
- ix) Forfeiting any scheduled league game. A game forfeiture due to lack of players will result in a \$65 (sixty-five) dollar fine. Continued failure to supply sufficient players as required will result in additional fines and the teams' suspension or expulsion. If both teams decide not to play the game and notify the league at least 24 hours in advance of the game, then a forfeit does not result and the fine is not payable. If this occurs in the regular season the game is cancelled, is not replayed and no points are given to either team. If this occurs in the playoffs the game is cancelled, is not replayed and the higher seeded team is determined the winner.
- xi) Failure to pay fines.

NOTE: At the discretion of the League Executive, all suspensions to players could apply to the team coach as well.

- b) The League Executive will initiate disciplinary action against a player, players, and / or team, **ONLY WHEN A WRITTEN COMPLAINT AND / OR PROTEST OF THE INCIDENT IS PROVIDED.**
- c) Fines – if a player or team is fined for any League infraction they will be notified in writing by the League Executive. In lieu of writing a phone call to the team or an email to the team will be placed. After receiving notice of a fine and the amount owing, **any fine(s) must be paid in FULL before the player / team is allowed to play their next scheduled game.** All fines must be made payable to the “Penticton Slo Pitch League”. The payment must be delivered to your **Division Representative**, or any member of the **League Executive**.

5.0 PROTESTS AND FORFEITS

- a) All protests must be received in writing, within 48 (forty-eight) hours after the incident. And given to any one of the Penticton Slo Pitch Executive. The League Executive will then investigate the report. In compliance with SPN Sanctioned Tournament Guidelines and Operating Rules section 4 –Protests, all protests must be accompanied with a \$150 certified cheque or money order (no cash accepted). This payment will not be refunded on invalid protests.

- b) All game forfeits are subject to a fine from the Penticton Slo Pitch League. See Section **4.1 DISCIPLINARY ACTION, a) ix)**

5.1 UMPIRES

- a) Protests regarding an umpire’s judgment will not be accepted. Judgment calls are as follows:
 - i) Safe
 - ii) Out
 - iii) Ball
 - iv) Strike
 - v) Fair Ball
 - vi) Foul Ball

5.1 RULES

- a) Protests regarding rule interpretation must be noted immediately following the play in question, then presented to any Executive Member in writing (letter, email) within 48 (forty-eight) hours for resolution.

- b) Appeals on a League Executive Ruling may be made in accordance with the League Bylaws.

6.0 RULES OF PLAY

UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THESE OPERATING RULES OR IN THE LEAGUE BYLAWS, ALL RULES OF PLAY WILL BE GOVERNED BY SLO PITCH NATIONAL (SPN). SEE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK FOR 2023.

6.1 EQUIPMENT

- a) It is **highly** recommended, but not mandatory, that all catchers wear an approved catcher's mask.
- b) Spiked track shoes, rounded metal spiked shoes, and metal baseball cleats are **NOT permitted**. Plastic cleats are allowed. If a player is caught using illegal shoes, they will be ejected from the game.
- c) Only standard 12" ((twelve inch) SPN Approved softballs are permitted and must be the same type as what is supplied by the League.
- d) Our League will follow the SPN 2023 Bat Policy. See the official SPN Website for details.
- e) All players may wear a glove or mitt of any size, including a "trapper" style glove. The webbing shall not be constructed to form any type of net or tray. (SPN Rule 2 sec.6)

6.2 THE PLAY

- a) Arc of the pitch must be a minimum of 6 (six) feet and a maximum of 12 (twelve) feet from the ground.
- b) A maximum of 7 (seven) runs are permitted per inning, with the exception of the last inning, which shall be an open inning.

- c) Match Plus 3 (three) Homeruns for all divisions (can't be more than 3 home runs ahead) – applies to all fields. **NOTE:** This rule only applies to automatic homeruns, (a ball hit over a fence or a bank in the air.) **and only applies to Male batters.** Any homerun hit in excess of the allowable is **an automatic out.** This applies to all parks that are fenced or with banks. At no time during the game will the number of automatics homeruns hit by one team be more than 3 (three) more than that hit by the opposing team. When a fair fly ball is deflected over the homerun fence or a bank by a defensive player, the batter will be awarded 4 (four) bases. This will not be considered the same as a homerun and does not count as such.
- d) The teams shall have the option of batting with 11 (eleven) or 12 (twelve) players, (if a team is batting 11 (eleven) or 12 (twelve), they must use at least 5 (five) females). If you start with 11 (eleven) or 12 (twelve) you must play with 11 (eleven) or 12 (twelve) throughout the game.
- e) When playing with only 9 (nine) players, see **Section 1.3 c)** of these operating rules.
- f) Free substitution is allowed. Players may exchange positions in the field as long as the batting order remains the same. A player must play a defensive position immediately prior to their turn at bat.
- g) Base stealing is **NOT ALLOWED.**
- h) A base runner **MUST** be hit home. A runner on third base that leaves the base when there is no hit ball, may be tagged out or forced out at third base. In this situation runners at 1st (first) and 2nd (second) bases must be tagged out, - no force.
- i) Sliding is permitted at first, second and third base. Per SPN rules, if a player slides at home they will be called out.
- j) A batted ball shall not be declared dead if it hits the pitcher. However, if it is felt that a batter is intentionally aiming at the pitcher, the umpire will take disciplinary action. i.e. – ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- k) A pitched ball cannot be chopped. (SPN Rule 7 sec 3c)

- l) Bunting is allowed for female players only. However, once a player has prepared to bunt on the pitch, she may not swing away. If she does swing away, the batter will be called out.
- m) The batting order is to be alternated between male and female players. There may be a maximum of only 2 (two) males batting consecutively.
- n) A pitched ball will be declared dead if it hits the batter. The batter does not get 1st (first) base.
- o) A batter cannot try for 1st (first) base on his 3rd (third) strike if missed by the catcher.
- p) An intentional walk is automatic. No pitches need to be thrown. If the walk is intentional, (4 (four) straight balls), the next batter if a female, has the option to walk or hit away. The male batter will be awarded 2nd (second) base. If there is one strike on the batter an intentional walk cannot be called.
- q) 3rd (third) strike foul, the batter will be called out. Any foul tip ball caught is an out regardless of the arc.
- r) A fly ball or line drive cannot be dropped intentionally for the purpose of making a double play. Time is called and the batter is called out. Runners will return to their previous bases.
- s) Infield fly rule is in effect.
- t) All pitchers must pitch within the pitching zone. The pitching zone is 24" (twenty-four inches) wide located 50-65 (fifty to sixty-five) feet from home plate. A pitcher may choose to pitch from anywhere within this zone. (SPN Rule 1 sec.12).
- u) Courtesy Runners may be used (provided the batter has safely reached base) a maximum of 3 (three) times per game. Courtesy runners are allowed at any base but they must be male for male and female for female. (See SPN Rule 8 sec. 15)

NOTE: *If both team captains agree (prior to the start of the game) this rule can be waived and the teams may use more than 3 courtesy runners. The same player may not be used as a courtesy runner more than once per game.*

- v) On an overthrow – the runner is entitled to 2 (two) bases. If a runner is at 1st (first) base and they attempt to go to 2nd (second) but are forced to return to 1st (first) base and the ball is then thrown out of bounds – the runner will be awarded 3rd (third) base because they have already obtained 1st (first) base and the rule is that the runner is awarded the base they have obtained at the time of the throw plus 2 (two) bases.
- w) A Safety Line is in effect at home plate. A safety line is drawn in foul territory, starting at the front corner of the home plate (closest to 3rd (third)) and running perpendicular to the 3rd (third) base line. It shall extend 10 (ten) feet into foul territory. When the runner touches or crosses this line (one foot touching the ground on or past the line) prior to being tagged or prior to a defensive player legally holding the ball while in contact with home plate, the runner shall be declared safe. If not being played on, the runner shall not be called out if stepping on home plate, providing that there is no contact with a defensive player. A runner shall not be called out if home plate is touched in an attempt to avoid a collision. (SPN Rule 13 sec. 4)
- x) Commitment Line – The commitment line is a line drawn 20 (twenty) feet from the back of home plate and perpendicular to the 3rd (third) base line. When a runner crosses this line (one foot completely over the line and touching the ground), but does not reach home plate, he shall be called out, when the ball is legally held by a defensive player who is in contact with home plate, no tag is necessary. Runners who have not crossed the line may return to the 3rd (third) base with liability to be put out. If tagged between commitment line and home plate, the runner will be called out. (SPN Rule 13 Sec.4). Once you cross the commitment line you can't return to 3rd (third) base; you must go home.
- y) All Bases are to be set at 65 (sixty-five) feet apart.
- (z) No outfielder will be permitted to throw out a batter at 1st (first) base.
- (aa) Mercy rule is in effect for all games (20 runs after 5 innings).
- (ab) "Hit and Sit" rules apply (the hitter doesn't run the bases on a home run over the fence). In all Hit and Sit play, the Batterrunner and all baserunners are not required to touch the succeeding base. In all Hit and Sit play, each over the fence home run is a dead ball.

(ac) (i) Mullins – anything OVER the net is an OUT. Into the net is a homerun. Anything foul past the netting and over the boundary fence (in the air) is an OUT

(ii) Parkway 1 – anything OVER the right field fence is an OUT, fair or FOUL

(iii) Skaha – anything LEFT of the marked pole (over the fence) is an OUT

In all cases it doesn't matter who hit it (male or female).

(ab) All batter counts start with a 0-0 count (as opposed to the SPN rule that all counts start with a 1-1 count).

7.0 LEAGUE STANDINGS

At the conclusion of the League Regular Season play, standings will be established using the following criteria:

- i) Most Points: if tied then
- ii) Most Wins: if tied then
- iii) Winners of games between tied teams: if tied then
- iv) Difference of total runs scored for and against in games between tied teams: if tied then
- v) Difference of total runs for and against of tied teams during League regular season play: if tied then
- vi) Coin Toss. This will be done by 2 (two) members of the League Executive or their appointees.

Playoffs will be double knockout and the team with the higher standing in the regular season will be HOME team for all games.