



HAMILTON LADIES SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
HAMILTON, ONTARIO

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H.L.S.S.A.

Hamilton Ladies Slo-pitch **Softball Association**

League Rules & Information

Scores Reported by Winning Team

Send scores by e-mail ONLY to hlssainc@hotmail.com
Within 24 Hours of Game Conclusion

Rain Game Cancellation Message Line

Check Voice Mail Message for Game Cancellation Information
(905) 515-4624

HLSSA

League Fees & Fines

League **Fees** and **Fines** along with their payment schedule will be set yearly by the Executive Board.

A team is only eligible to play if all Fees have been paid per the Fee Schedule **and/or** a Fine that has been levied during the season has been paid before the next scheduled game.

i.e. Forfeitures, Bond, Protest Fee, NSF Cheque Fee

No Refunds will be provided.

Coed Fee Schedule

February League Meeting:	\$ 100.00 Bond
March League Meeting:	\$ 600.00 League Fee, First Instalment
April League Meeting:	\$ 600.00 League Fee, Second Instalment
May League Meeting:	\$ 650.00 League Fee, Third Instalment
	<u>\$1950.00 Total</u>

Each team will be given 16 tickets for the annual banquet as part of team registration.

Ladies Fee Schedule

February League Meeting:	\$ 100.00 Bond
March League Meeting:	\$ 600.00 League Fee, First Instalment
April League Meeting:	\$ 600.00 League Fee, Second Instalment
May League Meeting:	\$ 650.00 League Fee, Third Instalment
	<u>\$1950.00 Total</u>

Each team will be given 16 tickets for the annual banquet as part of team registration.

Forfeitures

\$25.00 (subtracted from Bond Money).

Scorecards

\$25.00 (subtracted from Bond Money, for each occurrence) if you **DO NOT** submit your score sheets by the following dates;

June 10th – Games played between May 16th and June 3rd

July 15th – Games played between June 7th and July 8th

August 10th – Games played between July 12th and August 11th

SPN Insurance

Levied yearly by Slo-pitch National (SPN) and is included in Team Registration.

SPN Affiliation

Levied yearly by SPN.

Executive Committee or Annual General Meeting Absentee Fee

\$25.00 per event if no team representative is in attendance. This will be subtracted from the Bond Money.

Bond

A \$100.00 is required to pay for any fines levied. Any remaining Bond Money will be returned to the team at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Teams that fail to attend the AGM will be solely responsible to make arrangements to pick up any remaining Bond Money (less the fee for failure to attend the AGM). If this is not done by December 31st, the team will forfeit the entire remaining amount to the Association.

At the discretion of the Executive Board, the Bond Fee may be entirely forfeited if a League Fee instalment is not paid by the due date.

Please Note: Once a team's Bond Money has been consumed (due to fines or forfeitures) another \$100.00 must be submitted prior to the next scheduled game otherwise a forfeiture will be levied. The league Executive Board reserves the right to suspend any team for unpaid Bond Money.

Protest Fees

A \$75.00 fee is required per protest. Bond money may not be used to pay for Protest Fees. Protest Fees are paid in cheque or money order at the same time the protest is delivered (in writing).

NSF Cheque Policy

A \$50.00 fee will be assessed for any cheque returned as NSF (not sufficient funds). This fee will be added to the amount owing and must be paid in full in advance of the next scheduled game in order to be eligible to play.

Reminder: All fees paid to the Association (HLSSA) must be in the form of a cheque or money order.

HLSSA League Rules

The Official SPN Rules for the Current Year is the Standard for the League

The following league rules are exceptions to the existing Slo-pitch National rules in order to more accurately reflect the style of game played in the Hamilton Ladies Slo-pitch Softball Association. Where a conflict exists between the league rules and SPN, the Official SPN Rule Book for the current year will be the used to decide the outcome.

Players and Teams

1. **Batting Order**

Teams do not have to finish a game with the same number of players on the batting order that they started with but the order must not drop below 10 players or 9 players with an automatic out.

Teams may add players to the bottom of the batting order up until such time as the team has gone through the order completely once.

Coed Division: Teams may place more women than men in the batting order, however never more men than women with one exception. If a team can only bat nine (9) players and is in jeopardy of a forfeiture, they will be allowed to bat with five (5) men and four (4) women where the 10th position in the batting order is an automatic out.

A female, or an automatic out if there are only 9 players, must be placed between each male in the order.

If a female player is removed from the order for any reason (injury or otherwise) the following options apply if the player cannot be substituted for:

- The male player that bats after her is also removed from the batting order and is not eligible to substitute in the order.
- Her position in the batting order becomes an automatic out.

A female player may be used as a substitute for a male player but a male player may not substitute for a female player.

2. **Courtesy Runners**

Each team will be allowed to use up to three (3) courtesy runners per game. There is no limitation on how many times an individual player may be used.

3. **Defensive Substitution**

There are no limits on Defensive substitution.

Coed Division: The number of males playing defensively cannot exceed the number of females unless the team is only fielding the minimum 9 players and 4 of them are female.

There is no maximum number of females that can play defensively.

4. **Roster**

Each team is allowed to carry a maximum of twenty-two (22) players. Ten (10) players are required on the field to play a game.

Exception

Teams are allowed to field and bat with nine (9) players where the 10th position in the batting order is an automatic out.

The team roster must be submitted to the league by no later than the June meeting at which time it is considered final.

5. **Roster Replacement**

Coed Division: A Team roster must not fall below 6 male and 6 female players to qualify.

Ladies Division: A Team roster must not fall below 16 players to qualify.

If a team roster falls below either of these standards (according to division), teams may only add enough players to bring the numbers back to the lowest standard but not exceed it. Teams are not allowed to add players beyond the standard in order to return to the original number submitted in June. Players added to a roster must be of equal or lesser calibre when compared to the player being replaced.

Any player being replaced must sign the Replacement Form and include their phone number where they may be contacted.

No Player Fees will be refunded or transferred to replacement players.

6. **Forfeitures**

A team will be allowed a maximum of **four (4) forfeitures** per season (regular season and playoffs).

If a team reaches the maximum number of forfeitures they will be **suspended** from further play while the Executive Board adjudicates whether the team will be allowed to complete the season. The team will **not** be allowed to play in the playoffs. After the season is complete, a **review** will be conducted to determine whether this team should continue to play in the HLSSA League.

A team must contact the league President (or designate) not less than 48 hours before the scheduled game start time to report that they will not be able to field a team. Under these conditions the team will not be charged a forfeiture fee but will still be recorded as a forfeiture.

Exceptions can be granted at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Any team that fails to play a scheduled or re-scheduled game, or fails to take the field when directed to do so by a game official, will receive a forfeiture and possible fine.

7. Outfielders Position During Batting

Defensive players in the outfield may take a position anywhere in fair territory up to the area within an arc from the 3rd base line to the 1st base line as scribed from the back of home plate. *When the ball is hit into the outfield (with the exception of a caught fly ball) in fair territory, the batter will be awarded 1st base. You are NOT permitted to attempt to throw the batter base runner out at 1st base. You are permitted to throw any other base runner out.

**Ladies Division excepted.*

8. Player/Team Ejections

Players that are ejected during a game will also be suspended from play in the next scheduled game as a minimum. When an ejection occurs a team representative must immediately provide the ejected player's name to the home plate umpire if requested to do so by a game official. The player's name must be recorded on both team scorecards. The player's name must also be reported to the league President (or designate) following completion of the game.

Each ejection will be reviewed by the Executive Board for further disciplinary action. The player will not be allowed to play or participate in the game in any manner during this review period. All ejection incidents will be reported to SPN at the earliest convenience.

To completely serve their ejection, the ejected player must personally identify themselves to the plate umpire and both team representatives, with picture identification, and sign the scorecard at the start of each game during their suspension.

Any player receiving more than 2 ejections in a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season including playoffs.

Any player ejected for fighting will be permanently suspended from the league.

All ejection incidents will also be reported to SPN which may result in further sanctions.

An appeal of an ejection, and/or the associated penalties, may be made **in writing** by the player/team who received the ejection/penalty. The Executive Board will review each instance after receiving all appropriate reports. The player(s) may **not** play while an appeal is under review.

9. **Player Eligibility**

Players must be **16 years of age by September 15** of each playing year to qualify for participation in the HLSSA.

Scorecards must be signed by each eligible player and given to the Home Plate Umpire prior to the game commencing. Players arriving late must announce themselves to the Home Plate Umpire and sign the scorecard before being considered eligible to play. The scorecards will be returned to the team representative at the end of the game.

When a forfeiture occurs the entire “winning” team will be recorded as present for the purpose of eligibility.

Each player must participate in at least 40% of the regular season games to be eligible to play in the playoffs.

Note: The executive board reserves the right to grant exemptions, where special circumstances exist and they deem it prudent to do so.

To receive eligible credit for games missed due to an injury, the injured player must immediately report the injury to the league President (or designate) and promptly provide a **Doctors’ Report** to substantiate the claim. If not notified, the player will not receive credit for the games missed.

Players who are pregnant are **ineligible to play** in any capacity and are not allowed on the playing field (which excludes them from Base Coaching). If a woman wishes to play following their pregnancy all of the games missed during the current season will be credited towards their eligibility.

Players who are not on the batting order or playing defence must still sign the scorecard to receive eligibility for playing in the game.

10. **Tag at Home**

A player may be tagged between the “Commitment Line” and the “Scoring Line”. Refer to SPN Rule #3, Section #77.

Uniforms and Equipment

11. Uniforms

After team rosters have been handed in and Player Fees are paid each player on the field **must** wear a team uniform. This uniform shall as a minimum consist of a team shirt and/or sweater, similar in colour, trim and style, with the team name and/or logo, for all players on the field. Numbers and player names on the shirt are preferred but optional.

Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Board when requested in writing by a Team.

At the Umpires' discretion, players may be allowed to cover their uniform when playing in difficult weather.

12. Equipment

The home team is responsible to provide a new softball for each game.
Coed Division: Super Gold Dot, Limited, 44 COR, 12" (optic style).
Ladies Division: Super Green Dot, Restricted, 47 COR, 11".

The home team shall also provide the bases as described in the Official SPN Rule Book for the current year and a home plate board measuring 24" wide by 36" long. At the discretion of the Home Plate Umpire, failure to provide the required equipment, in good condition, by the scheduled game start time will constitute a forfeiture for the home team.

Games and Parks

13. Game – Times / Curfew / Suspended

All regular season and playoff games are scheduled for 75 minutes.

Coed & Ladies Division

Game start times and time limits will be administered by the Home Plate Umpire and are not subject to debate. No new inning will commence after 65 minutes from the scheduled game start time. If the active inning cannot be completed within the remaining 10 minutes, the game is considered complete and the score reverts back to the last completed inning.

The Home Plate Umpire can suspend and/or call a game at anytime due to weather conditions. For a regulation game, the final score will reflect the score at the end of the last full inning.

All Division games will commence as follows:

Park	Game Start Time(s)
Globe	6:00–7:15–8:30-9:45
Heritage	6:00–7:15–8:30-9:45
Turner	6:00–7:15- 8:30-9:45

Exceptions

In order to facilitate and ensure the season is complete, the Executive Board reserves the right to schedule games at times different than these.

If the game curfew time and weather permits, games are allowed to continue to break a tie using the “Tie Breaker” rule from the Official SPN Rule Book for the current year.

14. Turner Park Ground Rules

On Diamonds 10, 11, and 12 only, balls that are hit to the outfield and roll/bounce beyond where the grass is normally cut shall be considered a ground rule double. Fly balls that land in the outfield beyond where the grass is normally cut shall be considered a Home Run.

The Divisional Home Run Rule still applies.

In all cases this determination will be at the discretion of the umpire(s) and be considered a “judgement call” and are **NOT** subject to debate.

15. Grace Period

Teams are allowed a 10-minute grace period at the 6:00 p.m. game **ONLY**—therefore, no grace period will be allowed for all subsequent games. The grace period is from the scheduled game start time as administered by the Home Plate Umpire. The grace period does not apply to teams with the minimum number of players on-site and available to play. Failure by either or both teams to provide sufficient players and/or not start the game when instructed to do so by the Home Plate Umpire will constitute a forfeiture.

16. Home Runs

A home run is a fair batted fly ball that clears the home run fence or at the Umpires Discretion is a home run in a non-fenced park, before touching anything or anyone and which is not caught.

Designated allowances per team by division are as follows:

Vicki Turcotte Division (formerly Ladies)	Unlimited
Tom Brown Division	Two (2) per game

(formerly Bronze)
Les Leitch Division
(formerly Silver)
Don Street Division
(formerly Gold)

Match plus two (2) per game
Unlimited

Any home run hit in excess of the allowable limit will constitute a strike for the batter.

17. Mercy Rule

The mercy rule (10 runs) is in effect after 5 full innings or 4½ innings if the home team has scored the 10 runs necessary to mercy.

18. Game Scores

Prior to the start of the game, opposing Team Managers (Representative) will swap signed scorecards. Any late arrivals, **MUST** then see the opposing Team Manager and sign the scorecard, prior to entry into the game. At the conclusion of the game, the Team Manager is responsible to scratch out any vacant spots **AND** add the total number of players on the scorecard. Then the Home Plate Umpire will record the game score on both the home and visitor scorecards, sign them and return them to the Team Manager of each team. The Team Manager will hand the scorecards into the league for processing. This **MUST** be done prior to and no later than the dates specified in the League Fees and Fine Section above.

The winning team will report the game score to the League by e-mail only within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. If this is not done the League and/or the League Statistics Coordinator will not be able to provide an up to date set of stats. (See cover page for e-mail address.)

19. Game Schedule

Ladies & Coed Divisions: Every attempt will be made to provide the teams with 21 regular season games however the actual schedule (including playoffs) will be determined annually by the executive board taking into account the division size and number of teams.

During playoff games, teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. In quarter and semi finals play, the first team to 4 points shall advance. The championship shall be won by the first team to 6 points.

Note: The schedule shall be set annually by the Executive Board and may be subject to change.

Protests, Appeals & Meetings

20. Protests

All protests must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board and must include the Protest Fee in cheque or money order. When a rule interpretation protest occurs the Home Plate Umpire will record the protest (including where in the game it occurred), on the home team scoresheet. This will be signed by both team representatives and the Umpire. The Umpire will collect the scoresheet at the end of the game and submit it to the Umpire-In-Chief for review by the Executive Board.

21. Appeals

All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board.

22. Executive Committee or Annual General Meetings

A team representative must be present at all scheduled Executive Committee or Annual General Meetings. Failure to attend will result in a fine.

The most up to date meeting dates/times/locations are posted on the league website <http://www.hlssa.com>. Since these are subject to change the onus is on the team representative to remain up to date.

An Executive Committee meeting exemption will be provided for teams playing a regularly scheduled league game the night of the league meeting. Absent teams are responsible to contact the President of the league to deal with the business of the meeting.