



League Rules

Last Updated: June 29th, 2021

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Reminder to all teams and players:

The CSP is a recreational slo-pitch league. The main objective is to provide a fun and safe baseball environment for adults within the community. Good, clean, competition is expected! Rough play and physical / verbal abuse of officials and fellow CSP players will not be tolerated!

Please remember your return to play Guidelines and Rules.

1. Team Registration & Fees

1.1. NSA Affiliation

The CSP and each team registered with the CSP will be affiliated with National Slo-Pitch Association Canada (NSA), who will in turn supply league membership liability insurance and tournament classification rankings (new for 2005).

1.2. Team Registration

To register with the CSP, each team from the men's and co-ed are required to pay a \$200.00 non-refundable retainer fee in March prior to the start of season. Ladies are required to pay \$100.00 non-refundable retainer.

1.3. League Fees

League fees will be determined in April of each year, once the Town sets fees for diamonds/lights.

Each team is required to pay league fees, which will be used for league related costs (diamonds/lights, equipment, etc.) as well as team affiliation/registration with NSA.

League Fees:

- **Men's:** per team, which includes umpire fees for regular season games (new for 2019); can be paid over 2 instalments
- **Co-Ed:** \$ per team (updated for 2019)

Notes:

- The league fees include the \$200 non-refundable retainer fee paid when registering with CSP.
- The league fees include a \$100 fine deposit, which will be used to cover any league fines (new for 2019). Outstanding fine deposit balances can be reimbursed at the end of the season, or carried over to the following year. If you incur more than \$100 in fines, your fine deposit must be topped up, or you will not be allowed to play in the playoffs until it is.
- Teams that have not paid the league by the final communicated instalment date will be subject to a \$50 late payment fine.

1.4. Umpire Fees

Each team is required to pay the umpire fees prior to start of game. No cheques (updated for 2016).

Due to Covid umpires fees are included in your league fees except play offs. (New 2021)

- **Men's:** Playoff games only: \$17.00 per team or \$34.00 per team for Playoff Finals games for 2 umps (new for 2019)
- **Co-Ed:** \$17.00 per team (updated for 2019)
- **Ladies:** Umpire fees are included in registration fees.

1.5. Team Representatives

Each team is required to have at least two team representatives (one primary, and one or more alternatives), which can be members of the executive.

1.6. League Meetings

Each team must be represented at league meetings. There is a \$25 fine for teams without team representation at league meetings.

1.7. Team Rosters

Initial team rosters must be submitted on the league web site by April 30th of each year:

<https://www.claringtonslopitch.com>

Initial team rosters will be submitted to the NSA by Janet Ralston.

Team rosters can updated until August 1st (updated for 2018). Any updates made to the initial roster on the league web site after April 30th, must be also communicated to Janet Ralston (ralstonjandj@aol.com) so that the changes can be reflected with NSA for insurance purposes (new for 2019).

All players must carry government issued photo ID so that their identity and league membership can be verified (new for 2019). Players should to keep a photocopy of their photo ID in their ball bags.

If a questioned player's identity and league membership cannot be verified, the game will result in a forfeit by the team the unverified player is playing for, along with the associated \$50 fine (new for 2019).

- **Men's:**
 - Maximum 16 players per team on the Clarington roster (updated for 2021), 20 players on your NSA roster .(Covid)
 - No player may play for more than one team in the men's divisions during playoffs.
- **Co-Ed:**
 - Maximum 16 players per team on your Clarington roster (new for 2021), 20 players on your NSA roster. (Covid)
 - No player may play for more than one team in the co-ed divisions during playoffs.
 - Co-Ed teams are only allowed two players between the ages of 16-18 years of age on their roster plus the exception of any players that were grandfathered in as of 2005 season (new for 2006).
 - Players under the age of 18 must have parental consent waiver signed and forwarded to CSP.

2. Equipment

2.1. Bases

The home team of the first game of the day is responsible for installing the bases, including safe base (updated for 1995):

- **Men's:** 70 feet apart (updated for 2007)
- **Co-Ed:** 65 feet apart
- **Ladies:** 65 feet apart

The home team of the last game of the day is responsible for putting bases away in the lock box located by the 1st base dugout of the Clarington Fields North East diamond. Bases will also be at Rickard for the Ladies division

All Bases Must be stored so the cloth parts get put on cloth [face to face] and the pegs don't damage the cloth parts of the base at all times.

League will continue to use commitment line (updated for 2007).

2.2. Balls

Home team and Visiting to supplying two NSA certified game balls: 1 new game ball and 1 good used 2nd ball:

- **Men's:** 44 core (updated for 2005) or lower
- **Co-Ed:** 52 core (updated for 2021)
- **Ladies:** 11" green ball
- During Covid please only use your own balls and please don't touch the other teams. Ex. well playing offensive you will hit the other teams supply balls and when they are on offensive they will hit yours.

2.3. Bats

Any bat used in games must comply with the USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) standards, which must have the following thumbprint (updated for 2019):



Standard NSA rules apply to players using illegal bats.

2.4. Shoes

Metal spikes are not permitted; only approved rubber or plastic cleats are allowed.

2.5. Pitchers Masks

CSA Approved pitching masks with attached helmet are MANDATORY for ALL pitchers (new for 2019).

If a pitcher takes the mound without one, they will be given one warning to put one on. Failure to do so in a reasonable amount of time will result in the pitcher being ejected from the game.

The team will then have to field a replacement pitcher wearing the mask/helmet. Failure to do so will result in a default.

3. Rules

NSA Canada rules will apply unless superseded by the following rules (updated for 2005). NSA Rule Book:

<https://nsacanada.ca/rules/>

3.1. Game Times

Game times will start according to the schedule:

Regular Season:

- **Men's:** 1 hour and 30 minutes, no new inning after 1 hour 20 minutes (just for COVID)
- **Co-Ed:** 1 hour and 30 minutes, no new inning after 1 hour 20 minutes
- **Ladies:** 1 hour and 20 minutes, no new inning after 1 hour 15 minutes

Playoffs:

- **Men's:** 1 hour and 30 minutes, no new inning after 1 hour 20 minutes (new for 2019)
- **Co-Ed:** 1 hour and 30 minutes, no new inning after 1 hour 20 minutes

Notes:

- If a game's start time is delayed due to a team (i.e. not enough players or bases not put in) the umpire will go by the schedule stop time. If the start time is delayed due to umpire (i.e. umpire is late) the umpire will go by the time of the first pitch (new for 2019).
- Diamonds with lights are on an 11:00PM curfew
- Games can be called based on scheduling

3.2. Fielding a Team

A minimum of 8 players are required to field a team, of which one player must be a pitcher and one player must be a catcher.

Teams are allowed to pick up a maximum of 4 players to get to the 10 player limit (updated for 2018). Note for insurance purposes, pickups can ONLY be players registered on a current CSP team roster.

Failure to field a team with at least 8 players will result in a default. Note that a 15 minute grace period from the scheduled start time is permitted before a default is actually called.

All Teams MUST use line-up cards which MUST be completed by each team with every player's first and last name. Top copy goes to the umpire, 2nd copy goes to the other team, 3rd copy to the league, last copy you keep. Mandatory: league copy must be put in the mailbox that the bases go in every day, NO excuses (new for 2021).

3.3. Player Participation

All players participating must be on the lineup scoresheet and take a regular turn at bat. Note that players' last names must be used in the scoresheet to ensure proper records. The opposing team must be notified of any pickups at the beginning of the game, who must be noted on the scoresheet with "P/U" (new for 2019).

A player arriving late can join a game up until the start of the 5th inning.

All players should play in the field at the discretion of the coach, with coaches keeping in mind that this is a recreational league.

Please note this is a fun rec league if you are on that roster and show up you should be in the batting line up unless of injury.

Do to COVID there will be no tagging this season.

Force to every bag. In case of a collision between two players going for the same bag the umpire will call off to avoid the collision and use his/her judgement to who would have gotten their first.

Co-Ed Specifics:

When a team has more males than females for a game and a female must bat twice, the females must be specifically designated and names appear (twice) on the lineup scoresheet. Females are allowed to bat back-to-back in the order. Men are not allowed to bat back-to-back or twice in the order (new for 2006).

A maximum of 5 males may play in the field. Note since our league is a recreational league we permit games to take place with as few as 8 players. In times where teams are short players, teams are permitted to play with 5 males and 3 or 4 females.

Example: 9 players (5 males and 4 females)

Rather than sitting one male on the bench and playing with an equal number males and females in the field, male player must play back catch.

This portion of the rule has been removed and is no longer in effect (new for 2021).

Females can outnumber males any time in the field.

This is a fun league with the idea to provide recreation ball for as many people as possible.

3.4. Player Withdrawal

In the event a player has to withdraw from a game due to injury or any other reason, that player's next at bat (and next at bat only), will result in an out.

If the player were a base runner at the time they withdraw from the game, then a courtesy runner must be used to replace the player withdrawing. If all courtesy runners have been used, then the base runner would be out. In this case, the withdrawn player's next at bat would not become an out.

Note: A player withdrawing from a game can only generate a maximum of one out per game.

Co-Ed Specifics:

In the event a female must withdraw, this will generate 1 out only (for their next at bat) where from then on, the last female out will take that vacant position in the batting order. In the event that the previous out is coming up to bat the next previous out may be used.

Two males cannot bat consecutively.

3.5. Home Run Rule

(2001) Maximum of 7 out of the park home runs per game in a fenced in diamond (new for 2003). Additional home runs will be singles (new for 2006).

Note: Not for Ladies division.

3.6. Bunting

Bunting is not allowed in the both Men's or Co-Ed Divisions (new for 2006).

3.7. Base on Balls

For the Co-Ed division only, if a male batter is thrown 4 consecutive balls he goes to second base, female has the option to take first base or hit (new for 2019). Ladies division does not allow intentional walking of the batters.

3.8. Courtesy Runners

- **Men's:** 6 substitute runners (updated for 2012)
- **Co-Ed:** 6 substitute runners (updated for 2019)
- **Ladies:** 4 substitute runners

Co-Ed Specifics:

Co-Ed players may use a courtesy runner from the screen when a player is injured.

- Can be any runner of the same gender, will cost one courtesy per at bat, can courtesy for a courtesy.
- Legitimacy of injury is at the discretion of the umpires, injured player must be play an infield position for the remainder of the game if no extra players are available to play defense.
- Umpires will draw a starting line from the back of the board/mat to the fence, screen on 1st base side.
- Runner may not move until the ball is hit.
- Runner will start behind the line, touching the fence/ screen (or close enough to touch it)*
- Starting point could vary if not at Clarington Fields for safety. This will be at the discretion of the umpire.



3.10. Mercy Rule

- **Men's:** Maximum 7 runs per inning (new for 2019), with the exception of last inning which is unlimited runs (last inning is 7th inning or as called by umpire).
- **Co-Ed:** Maximum 7 runs per inning (updated for 2019), with the exception of last inning which is unlimited runs (last inning is 7th inning or as called by umpire).
- **Ladies:** 15 runs after 5 innings for both regular season and playoffs

3.11. Sun Delay

Sun delay for all teams playing on Clarington South East diamond. Time lost during sun delays will not count towards game time.

3.12. Game Scores

All game scores must be reported on the website by the winning team. In the event of a tie, the home team will be responsible for reporting the game scores.

Failure by the responsible team to submit the scores on the website within 48 hours of the game's completion will result in a \$10 fine and possible point loss in the standings (new for 2018).

Player ejections must be included in the Notes section of the game's scorecard.

3.13. Rainouts

Diamond conditions or cancellations during rain can be checked by calling (Municipality of Clarington Community service department).

The Community Service department cancel diamonds when diamonds are deemed unplayable. They can notify the League up until 3:00PM to advise of any field closures.

After 3:00PM it is the home team's responsibility to make sure the umpire has been canceled in the event of rain via Ron Poulton (umpire scheduler) as well as notify (Municipality of Clarington Community Services) and Dave Wright (CSP league scheduler).

The Umpire Scheduler requires a minimum 1 hour 30 minutes notice of rainout. Umpires will charge the league full fee if not cancelled properly in time.

The Town will charge the league for diamond & lights if not cancelled within 24 hours of rain.

Rainouts properly cancelled will result in no additional charges.

Rain or lightning just prior to a game start time, where both teams and the umpire are present, and it is determined that the field is unplayable, each team will pay half the umpire fees.

Ladies: Too many game cancelations due to field closures can result in not being able to make up all cancelled games. This will be at the discretion of the executive to decide if it affects playoff standings.

Contact Info:

- Ron Poulton (Umpire Scheduler): rpoulton@hotmail.ca
- Municipality of Clarington Community Services Department: 905-623-5728 (ext 2584)
- Dave Wright (CSP League Scheduler): dljwright@live.com / 905-623-2964
- Len Healey (CSP President) healeyleen@yahoo.ca / 289-356-2675

3.13. Rescheduling of Games

Teams wishing to reschedule games for reasons other than rainouts will be charged a rescheduling fee of \$50. The fee will increase \$10 with each occurrence (new for 2001).

Teams must give 10 days (updated for 2019) notice at minimum, prior to the game they wish to have rescheduled.

Failure of proper notice will result in NO reschedule and default/forfeit rules would apply.

Notes:

- There will be no charge if we can find teams willing to trade games. Diamonds cannot sit idle.
- Ladies: No games will be rescheduled except due to field closures.

3.14. Game Defaults

A game default occurs when:

- A team has less than 8 players available to play a game
- A team can't field a replacement pitcher wearing mask/helmet – see Rule 2.5 (new for 2019)

There is a \$50 fine (new for 2001) for a default plus \$30 umpire fee payable by the defaulting team. After 3 defaults, the team will be subject to expulsion from the league.

Note: Per default, the team that was defaulted to will receive \$25 back (new for 2021)

3.15. Game Forfeits

A game forfeit occurs when a team is aware they are going to default a game and they were unable to reschedule the game but are able to notify the Umpire Chief and the Opposing Team 24 hours prior to game time. There is a \$50 forfeit fine (new for 2001) but no umpire fees owed.

Failure to notify 24 hours prior to a game is a default.

Notes:

- Ladies are not able to reschedule but forfeit rules still apply.
- Per forfeit, the team that doesn't get to play because the other team forfeited will receive \$25 back (new for 2021)

3.16. Player Code of Conduct

Rough play or fighting will not be tolerated. Deliberately running into the catcher is considered rough play and will result in ejection from the game. Any making fun of someone for wearing Safety gear will be ejected (new 2019)

Any player ejected will automatically be suspended from their next scheduled game (new for 2007).

Any player ejected for fighting is automatically suspended from further play pending an executive decision.

Any player ejected must be reported on the scorecard.

If a player is ejected from a game, the umpire and team reps of each team must provide a written report of the incident to the league executives within 48 hours of the incident (new for 2019).

3.17. Protest Procedure

When protesting, it is the responsibility of the team rep or coach to notify the umpire **at the time of the incident**.

Protests must be submitted in writing to the division rep or an executive member within 24 hours after the game and \$50.00 protest fee.

Protests will be decided by the league executive committee.

The protest fee will be returned if the protest is won.

3.18. Tie-Breaking Criteria for Playoff Seedings

Ties in league standings to determine playoff seedings will be broken in the following order (updated for 2019):

1. Team with the most wins during regular season play
2. Team with the best record during games between the teams concerned
3. Team with the highest run differential (runs for minus runs against) during games between the teams concerned
4. Team with the highest run differential (runs for minus runs against) during regular season play

3.19. Playoff Format

- **Men's:**

Championship format to be determined each year, pending number of teams.

Tie games in Men's playoffs will be played out to decide a winner (time permitting). Men's teams must be prepared to play 3 games a week during playoffs.

Championship Finals series will be best 3 out of 5 with 2 umps and games will be 90 minutes (new for 2019).

- **Co-Ed Division:**

Championship format to be determined each year.

Teams split into two divisions: A & B.

Each division will play a round robin format or a double knockout playoff format depending on the number of teams.

- **Ladies:**

Playoff format will be played as round robin.

Format for playoffs / finals will be determined each year - pending number of teams.

If only 3 teams play each other in a division, only play each team once and flip a coin for home game.

Home team not to bat last inning if leading.

Finals will be best 2 out of 3 games for the top 2 teams in each division with 2 umps

International tiebreaker will apply to break a tie game.

Covid Top 2 in each division will play 2 out of 3 for Championship (new2020)

3.20. Municipality of Clarington Field By-Laws

Parking is allowed only in parking lots at Clarington Fields. By-law will be ticketing cars parked on access roads or on grass. Beware of parking or stopping in bike lanes in other parks. By-law will also ticket these cars. Please drive carefully thru parking lots watching for children.

NO SMOKING in any parks. This is a provincial law. Smoking permitted in parking lot at Clarington Fields.

NO DRINKING in any parks. Any player or team charged will be subject to league suspension. Drinking in the park could result in the Town canceling diamond permits.

3.21. Rules Committee

One member will be selected by each sitting Vice President of each division, one selected by the Umpire in Chief, and one selected by the President. They will pick from themselves a chairperson for their Committee, and make rule recommendations to the executive for the betterment of our league.

3.22. Audit Committee

3 member committee, one from each division (Ladies, Co-ed, and Men's). Must not be from the executive, cannot represent two divisions; must be bondable; cannot be on committee for more than 2 years consecutively.

Committee will pick a chairperson each year to speak on their behalf at a meeting. They will perform random checks on the league books and report back to the executive with findings and recommendations. They will also then report back at a league meeting.