



# League Rules

Last Updated: May 13, 2025

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## Reminder to all teams and players:

The CSP is a recreational slo-pitch league that does not have a 1 and 1 count. 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. League Contact Information

CSP President – Len Healey - [claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com](mailto:claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com) (updated 2022) / 289-356-3575

Men's Director – Tim Marquis – [cspmens@gmail.com](mailto:cspmens@gmail.com) / 289-388-7526

Men's Assistant Director –

Co-Ed Director – Craig Hodgson – [cspcoedassistant@gmail.com](mailto:cspcoedassistant@gmail.com) / 905-706-8866

Co-Ed Assistant Director – Myles Debosky

Ladies Director – Ashley Clarke – [claringtonslopitchladies@gmail.com](mailto:claringtonslopitchladies@gmail.com) / 705-931-5230

Ladies Assistant Director – Sydney Baker

League Rosters/NSA Contacts/ NSA Rosters – Janet Ralston – [claringtonslopitchrosters@gmail.com](mailto:claringtonslopitchrosters@gmail.com)

League Scheduler/Treasurer (Updated 2022) – Dave Wright – [dlwright@live.com](mailto:dlwright@live.com) / 905-623-2964

Chief Umpire – Rob MacGregor – [umprobm@nsacanada.ca](mailto:umprobm@nsacanada.ca) / 289-987-2706

## 2. Team Registration & Fees

### 2.1. 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).

### 2.2. Team Registration

To register with the CSP, each team from the Men, Co-Ed, & Ladies divisions (updated 2022) are required to pay a \$200.00 non-refundable retainer fee in February prior to the start of season. This deposit will be applied to the total team fee for said year. Once returning teams are confirmed new teams may be added accordingly.

### 2.3. 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:** includes umpire fees for regular season games (new for 2019) and playoffs; Finals are not included. (New 2025)
- **Co-Ed:** includes umpire fees for regular season and playoffs. (New 2025)
- **Ladies:** includes umpire fees for regular season and playoffs. (New 2025)

#### Notes:

- League fees can be paid over 2 instalments.
- The league fees include the \$200 non-refundable retainer fee paid when registering with CSP.
- The league fees do not include a \$100 performance bond deposit, which will be used to cover any league fines (new for 2019). Outstanding performance bond 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 performance bond 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 fees by the final communicated instalment date, will be subject to a \$50 late payment fee.

### 2.4. Umpire Fees

Umpire fees are \$38 (2025) per umpire per game. Umpires require 24-hour notice for game cancellations or forfeiting team will still be required to pay. (New 2023)

- **Men's:** Playoffs are included. Competing teams share the cost of the umpires for finals. (2 umpires finals only) (updated for 2025)
- **Co-Ed:** Playoffs and finals included in league fees (2 umpires finals only) (updated for 2025)
- **Ladies:** Playoffs and finals included in league fees (2 umpires finals only) (updated 2025)

### 2.5. 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.

## 2.6. League Meetings

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

## 2.7. Team Rosters

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

<https://www.claringtonslopitch.com>

**Note:** Base coaches must be listed on team rosters if they are not a player.

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

Team rosters can be update until August 1<sup>st</sup> (updated for 2018). If August 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a holiday, the roster due date will be the next business day. Any updates made to the initial roster on the league web site after April 30<sup>th</sup>, must also be communicated to Janet Ralston @ claringtonslopitchrosters@gmail.com (updated 2022) so that the changes can be reflected with NSA for CSP insurance purposes (new for 2019).

All rostered players are required to be registered with NSA. Players should not be registered to more than 1 team as this causes confusion.

All players must carry government issued photo ID so that their identity and league membership can be verified (new for 2019). Players should 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 25 players per team rosters (2019) No player may play for more than one team in the Men's divisions during playoffs.

### Co-Ed:

- Maximum 25 players per team rosters (2019)
- 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.
- Each team will be allowed a certain number of ranked players. These are based on the NSA Player Ranking System (New 2025):
  - 2 A players; and unlimited D or REC players
    - 1 A Player, 2 B Players; and unlimited D or Rec players
  - 4 B players; and unlimited D or REC players
    - 2 B Player, 3 C Players; and unlimited D or Rec players
  - 6 C players; and unlimited D or REC players
  - Unlimited D or REC players

### Ladies:

- Maximum 25 players team rosters (updated 2022) No player may play for more than one team in the Women's divisions during playoffs.

## 3. Equipment

### 3.1 Bases

The Home team of the first game of the day is responsible for installing the bases, including safe base, which are stored in league lock boxes at each diamond (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 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout of the Clarington Fields Northeast diamond. Bases will also be at Rickard for the Ladies division.

All Bases must be stored properly so the cloth parts get put on cloth face to face and the pegs are not sticking into the bases.

**Note:** Ladies: Mats will also be placed in the lock box located at Rickards

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

### 3.2 Balls

Home team is responsible for supplying two NSA certified game balls: 1 new game ball and 1 good used ball:

- **Men's:** 44 core (updated for 2005). 2024 only due to shortage, 12-inch 52 core (updated for 2024)
- **Co-Ed:** 12-inch 52 core (updated for 2021)
- **Ladies:** 11-inch ball

### 3.3 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):

Please familiarize your team with the approved Bat standards for NSA. NSA rules apply to players using illegal bats.

### 3.4 Shoes

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

### 3.5 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.

## 4. Rules

### 4.1 NSA

NSA Canada rules will apply unless superseded by the following rules (updated for 2005). NSA Rule Book: <https://nsacanada.ca/rules/>

### 4.2 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 (updated 2022)
- **Co-Ed:** 1 hour and 30 minutes, no new inning after 1 hour 20 minutes
- **Ladies:** 1 hour and 30 minutes, no new inning after 1 hour 20 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
- **Ladies:** 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.

### 4.3 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 batting line-up cards which MUST be completed by each team with their batting order and player's first and last name. Top copy goes to the umpire, 2nd copy goes to the other team and the 3<sup>rd</sup> copy is yours. The umpire will put their copy in the league box.

### 4.4 Player Participation

All players participating must be on the lineup card and take a regular turn at bat. Note that players first and last names must be used on the lineup 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 lineup card 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 recreational league.

Please note this is a fun recreational league. If you are on that roster and show up you should be in the batting line up unless you are injured.

### Co-Ed Specifics:

If a team has more male players than female players for a game, the lineup will be divided into two sections: one for men and one for women. Female players will rotate among male players in a continuous sequence, ensuring that no single female player is designated as the recurring batter in the lineup. (New for 2025)

Men are not allowed to bat back-to-back or twice in the order (new for 2006).



## LINE UP CARD

Date/Time: 01 May 2025 02pm

Diamond: Clarington fields NE

Your Team:		Opposing Team:	
Team A		Team B	

NO	PLAYER	POS
1	Bradon Black	
2	Kyle wall	
3	Sam Peterson	
4	Bob Ross	
5	Elliott Peters	
6	Tom White	
7		
8		
9	Penny White	
10	Jan Snow	
11	Victoria Peters	
12	Brooklyn Smith	
13	Sandra Green	
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

Notes: (please print)

**Umpire:**

Regular season play only

To play a game to avoid default, any player picked up from another CSP team must be marked as AP (Affiliate Player) with their Team Name.

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)

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.

#### 4.5 Player Withdrawal

In the event a player must 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.

If a player sustains a head injury, they must sit out for one inning. Once the next at-bat following the injury occurs, the lineup will proceed to the next batter of the same gender. If the injured player opts to remain out for an additional inning, they will be recorded as an out. If they are unable to return after sitting out for two innings, they must withdraw from the game. (New 2025)

#### Note:

- The decision to return to the lineup after a head injury is left to the players discretion. (New 2025)
- NSA umpires and officials do not have any medical training where it pertains to concussion protocol and the safety of individual players is ultimately their responsibility. (New 2025)
- If the teams falls to 8 players because of the head injury, the other team must supply a catcher until the player returns or can be replaced. (New 2025)

#### 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 next female in rotation would take the vacant position in the batting order.

Two males cannot bat consecutively.

#### 4.6 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.

If an out of the park home run is hit, the batter is only required to touch 1<sup>st</sup> base. (New for 2024)

#### 4.7 Bunting

Bunting is not allowed in both Men's / Co-Ed Divisions (new for 2006) or Ladies (updated 2022)

#### 4.8 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).

#### 4.9 Courtesy Runners

- **Men's** 6 substitute runners (updated for 2012)
- **Co-Ed:** 6 substitute runners (updated for 2019)
- **Ladies:** 6 substitute runners - (updated for 2023)

### Co-Ed Specifics: (updated 2021)

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 only play 1<sup>st</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, catcher or pitcher 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.

### 4.10 Mercy Rule

- **Men's:** Maximum 7 runs per inning (new for 2019), except for the last inning which is unlimited runs (last inning is 7th inning or as called by umpire). for both regular season and playoffs & Finals (updated 2022)
- **Co-Ed:** Maximum 7 runs per inning (updated for 2019), except for the last inning which is unlimited runs (last inning is 7th inning or as called by umpire). for both regular season and playoffs & Finals (updated 2022)
- **Ladies:** Maximum 7 runs per inning, except for last inning which is unlimited runs (last inning is 7th inning or as called by umpire for both regular season and playoffs & Finals (updated 2022)

### 4.11 Sun Delay

Sun delay for all teams playing on Clarington Fields Southeast diamond. Time lost during sun delays will not count towards game time. (Must be called during the start of a new inning)

### 4.12 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.

### 4.13 Rainouts

Diamond conditions or cancellations during rain can be checked by calling / or viewing social page (Municipality of Clarington Community Service department).

Monday to Friday, 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 notify the league and head umpire in the event of rain. The Town will charge the league for diamond & lights if not cancelled within 24 hours of rain. Rainouts properly canceled will result in no additional charges.

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.

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.

**As weather cannot be predicted the following will apply for rained out games**

If the city or league cancels up to 90 minutes before game time, no game fee is be paid.

- 4.13.1.1 If the Umpire In Chief (UIC) has not been notified and the umpire shows up for the game. 50% of the fee is to be paid.
- 4.13.1.2 If games are cancelled at the diamond and both teams are there, one game fee is be paid.
- 4.13.1.3 If only one team is there it will fall under default rules.
- 4.13.1.4 If a pitch is thrown and the game is cancelled because of weather that game fee is paid.

#### **Notify all the below follow Contacts Info:**

- Rob MacGregor (UIC/Umpire Scheduler): [umprobmac@nsacanada.ca](mailto:umprobmac@nsacanada.ca) / 289 987 2706 (Updated 2023)
- Dave Wright (CSP League Scheduler) [dljwright@live.com](mailto:dljwright@live.com) / 905-623-2964 (Updated 2024)
- Len Healey (CSP President) [claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com](mailto:claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com) (updated 2022) / 289-356-2675

### **4.14 Rescheduling of Games**

- Any games that wish to be rescheduled will be emailed to the Director of the Division. The Director will notify the President and the 3-panel committee of the request, which will then be reviewed by the scheduler and committee to be approved. (Updated 2025)
- 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.

### **4.15 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 umpire fees, 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)

The following must be contacted:

#### **Contact Info: (updated 2024)**

- Dave Wright (CSP League Scheduler Mens & Co-ED) (updated 2022): [dljwright@live.com](mailto:dljwright@live.com) / 905-623-2964
- Len Healey (CSP President) [claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com](mailto:claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com) (updated 2022) / 289-356-2675

### **4.16 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 can notify the Umpire in Chief and the opposing team 24 hours prior to game time. There is a \$50 forfeit fee (new for 2001) but no umpire fees owed.

Failure to notify 24 hours prior to a game is a

default. Notes:

- Per forfeit, the team that doesn't get to play because the other team forfeited will receive \$25 back (new for 2021)

**Below must be Contacted Info: (updated 2024)**

- Dave Wright (CSP League Scheduler Mens & Co-Ed) (updated 2022): [dljwright@live.com](mailto:dljwright@live.com) / 905-623-2964
- Len Healey (CSP President) [claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com](mailto:claringtonslopitchpresident@gmail.com) (updated 2022) / 289-356-2675

#### 4.17 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. Anyone 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 lineup card.

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).

CSP members are not permitted to use the email addresses of other CSP members to complain or insult any executive, umpire or player.

#### 4.18 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 VP or an executive member within 24 hours after the game and \$100.00 protest fee. (New 2023)

Judgement calls are not a reasonable motive to protest. A team may only protest an incorrect rule, incorrect interpretation of a rule or roster. Please note that a non-rostered player is an automatic default of the games that the un-rostered player participated in.

Rule Protests:

- Umpire must be notified before the next pitch is thrown or the last defensive player leaves the field. If this does not happen, the team will cannot protest that call.
- Umpire will notify the other team and the protesting team must text or email a league representative immediately. This way league is notified immediately.
- Once the text is sent, the protest is official, and the team cannot withdraw it.
- Game Continues.
- Umpire will send report to UIC after the game.
- Protesting team will send their report to the league representative within 24 hours after the game.
- Team has 24 hours to send money to the league.
- If team wins their protest, they get their money back.

- If team loses their protest, no refund will be issued. Their protest fee will not be returned.
- If team does not follow through with their protest, they are fined half the protest fee.

#### 4.19 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

#### 4.20 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.

- **Co-Ed Division:**

Championship format to be determined each year.

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

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

- **Ladies:**

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

Round Robin Playoffs:

Tie Breaking Criteria for Round Robin Standings

1. The Team with the Most Wins During Round Robin Play.
2. The Team with the Best Record during Round Robin head-to-head game(s) between the teams concerned.
3. The Team with the Highest Run differential (runs for minus runs against) during game(s) between teams concerned.
4. The Team with the Highest Run differential (runs for minus runs against) during Round Robin Play.
5. The Team with the Best Record in Regular League Play.

The Team winning the Round Robin will be the Home Team in the Final, or if a series, will have Home game advantage.

#### 4.21 Municipality of Clarington 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/VAPING in any parks. This is a provincial law. Smoking/VAPING is 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.

#### **4.21.1 Rules Committee (2021)**

One member will be selected by each sitting Director 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.

#### **4.22 Audit Committee (2021)**

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.