

Sec. 4 ALL INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM RECORDS OF ANY TIE OR FORFEITED GAME which has reached or exceeded legal length when added shall become a part of the official team averages except that no pitcher shall be credited with a victory nor charged with a defeat.

Sec. 5 A RUN BATTED IN is a run scored as a result of:

- A. A base hit.
- B. A sacrifice fly (Even if a fielder drops what would have been a sacrifice fly).
- C. A foul fly caught.
- D. An infield put-out or fielder's choice (Unless the run scores during a successful double play or a double play attempt in which the receiving fielder drops the throw which would have completed a double play).
- E. A baserunner forced home because of a base on balls or catcher's obstruction.
- F. A home run and all runs batted in as a result.
- G. A four base award and all runs batted in as a result.

Sec. 6 A BASE HIT is a batted ball that permits the batter-baserunner to reach base safely. Give a base hit:

- A. When a batter-baserunner reaches first base safely on a fair batted ball which is hit with such force, or such slowness, or which takes an unnatural bounce, making it impossible to field the ball with **ORDINARY EFFORT**.
- B. When a fielder unsuccessfully attempts to retire a preceding runner and, in the scorer's judgement, the batter-baserunner would not have been retired at first base by ordinary effort.
- C. When a baserunner is called out for interference for being hit by a batted ball and the batter is awarded first base, credit the batter with a hit (Ref. Rule 8, Sec 3 c)
- D. When a four base award is signaled.

Sec. 7 A BASE HIT SHALL NOT BE SCORED in the following cases:

- A. When a baserunner is forced out by a batted ball, or would have been forced out, except for a fielding error.
- B. When a player fielding a batted ball retires a preceding runner with ordinary effort.
- C. When a fielder fails to retire a preceding runner, and in the scorer's judgement, the batter-baserunner could have been retired, at first base, with ordinary effort.

Sec. 8 THE LENGTH OF A BASE HIT:

- A. Shall be determined by the number of bases the batter advances without the aid of an error, defensive indifference, or as the result of a play being made on another baserunner (fielder's choice). However, if the ball was batted over the fence or out of the park, a home run shall be credited. **NOTE:** When a batter, in attempting to stretch the length of a hit, overrides a base and is touched out, he is not credited with having made that base.
- B. When the batter ends the game with a safe hit which drives in the winning run, he will be credited only with as many bases, on the hit, as are needed to score the winning run, unless it is an over the fence home run. **NOTE:** The batter must also gain, on the hit, as many bases as are necessary to score the winning run to qualify for an extra-base hit (Ref. Rule 4 Sec 5)
- C. When a fielder deliberately contacts or catches a batted ball with any part of the uniform or equipment detached from its proper place on the fielder and the batter is awarded three bases, credit a triple. (Ref. Rule 8, Sec. 6 H Effect)
- D. When a four base award is signaled, the batter shall be credited with a home run (awarded).

Sec. 9 A SACRIFICE FLY IS SCORED when, with less than two outs, the batter scores a runner on a fly ball which is caught, or when an error is committed on what would have been a sacrifice fly.

Sec. 10 PUT OUTS ARE SCORED in the following situations:

- A. A put-out is credited to a fielder each time he:
1. Catches a fly ball or line drive.
 2. Catches a thrown ball which retires a batter or baserunner.
 3. Touches a baserunner with the ball when the baserunner is off the base to which he is entitled.
 4. Is nearest the baserunner declared out for: being hit with a batted ball, running out of a baseline to avoid being touched with the ball, for interference, leaving a base too soon or carrying a bat to first base.
 5. Is nearest the batter-baserunner or baserunner who is called out under the profanity rule.
- B. A put-out is credited to the catcher each time a batter is called out:
1. When a third strike is called.
 2. When the batter bunts or chops the ball.
 3. When the batter bats illegally.
 4. When the batter is struck with his own fair batted ball.
 5. When a batter fails to bat in correct order.
 6. When the batter, or other player, interferes with the catcher.
 7. When a batter strikes a batted ball a second time, intentionally, in fair territory.
 8. For stepping on the plate.
 9. For stepping out of the batter's box.
 10. When a batter is called out under the profanity rule.

Sec. 11 ASSISTS ARE CREDITED in the following situations:

- A. To each player who handles the ball in any series of plays which result in the put-out of a baserunner. Only one assist shall be given to any player who handles the ball more than once in any one put-out.
- B. To each player who handles the ball in any series of plays in a manner which would have resulted in a put-out, if an error had not been made by a teammate.
- C. To a player who, by deflecting a batted ball, aids in a put-out.
- D. To each player who handles the ball in a play which results in a baserunner being called out for interference or for running out of the baseline.

Sec. 12 DO NOT CREDIT an assist to a fielder who commits an error after which the baserunner is put out on a subsequent play.

Sec. 13 ERRORS ARE RECORDED in the following situations:

- A. For each player who commits a misplay which prolongs the turn at bat of the batter or the life of the baserunner (**NOTE:** A fielder is only required to make an ordinary effort).
- B. For the fielder who fails to touch the base or runner after receiving the ball in time to retire a baserunner on a force out or when a baserunner is compelled to return to a base.
- C. For the catcher when a batter is awarded first base because of obstruction.
- D. For the fielder when a baserunner advances a base because of his failure to stop, or try to stop, a ball thrown accurately to a base, unless there was no reason for the throw. When more than one fielder could have received the throw, the scorer must determine which fielder gets the error.
- E. For the fielder who fails to complete a double play because of dropping the ball.
- F. For the fielder who is charged with obstruction.

Sec. 14 ERRORS ARE NOT CHARGED against fielders in the following situations:

- A. When a fielder makes a wild throw in an attempt to prevent a baserunner from advancing, unless the baserunner is able to advance one or more bases beyond the one he would have reached had the throw not been wild, or to a base beyond the one he was forced to.

Example: Runner on first base when the batter singles to right field, runner gains second and attempts to advance to third. Right fielder commits a wild throw to third, but runner stops at third – no error. If the runner scores, show the advance from third to home as a fielder error.

- B. When a fielder drops a fly ball, line drive, or a thrown ball, and recovers the ball in time for a put-out at any base.
- C. Do not charge a mental error except in Sec. 13 B

Sec. 15 A PITCHER SHALL BE CREDITED WITH A WIN in the following situations:

- A. When he is the starting pitcher and has pitched at least four innings and his team was not only in the lead when he is replaced but remains in the lead the remainder of the game.
- B. When a game is ended after four innings of play and the starting pitcher has pitched at least three innings and his team scores more runs than the other when the game is terminated.
- C. As a relief pitcher, if he is the pitcher of record when his team assumes the lead and the lead is maintained to the end of the game.

Sec. 16 A PITCHER SHALL BE CHARGED WITH A LOSS regardless of the number of innings he has pitched if he is replaced when his team is behind in the score, and his team thereafter fails to tie the score or to gain the lead.

Sec. 17 A STATISTICIAN MAY BE APPOINTED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR who should maintain an accumulative record of all batting, fielding and pitching records specified for every player who appears in a championship game.

EFFECT Sec. 17 The statistician should prepare a tabulated report at the end of the tournament and submit this report to the tournament director. This report should identify each player by his first name and surname, and position(s) played and should indicate as to each batter whether he bats right handed, left handed or both ways.

Sec. 18 TO COMPUTE AND DETERMINE PERCENTAGE RECORDS

- A. To determine the percentage games won or lost, divide the number of games won by the total number of games won or lost.
- B. For batting average, divide the total number of safe hits by the total times at bat.
- C. For slugging percentage, divide the total bases of all safe hits by the total times at bat.
- D. For fielding average, divide the total put-outs and assists by the total of all put-outs, assists and errors (which are the total chances).
- E. For the pitcher's earned run average, multiply total earned runs charged to his pitching by seven and divide this result by the total of innings pitched. (If a regulation 9 inning game is a tournament requirement, multiply earned runs X 9 and divide by innings pitched.)

Sec. 19 TO ASSURE UNIFORMITY IN ESTABLISHING BATTING, PITCHING AND FIELDING CHAMPIONSHIPS, SUCH CHAMPIONS SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

- A. The individual batting champion shall be the batter with the highest percentage average, provided he is credited with as many total appearances at the plate as the number of games scheduled for his team in the tournament, multiplied by 2.5.

EXAMPLE: On 10 games scheduled, 10×2.5 equals 25.00 or more plate appearances required to be considered for the batting championship. Total appearances at the plate shall include official times at bat, plus bases on balls, sacrifice flies, and times awarded first base because of obstruction.

- B. The individual fielding champions shall be the fielders with the highest fielding average at each position.
 - 1. As a fielder, he must have participated at his position in at least two-thirds of the number of games scheduled for his team in the tournament.
 - 2. As a pitcher he must have pitched at least as many innings as the number of games scheduled for his team in the tournament, minimum 12 innings.
- C. The individual pitching champion shall be decided by the lowest earned run percentage, provided that he has pitched at least 12 innings.

RULE 12. - YOUTH PROGRAM

The following are the recommended guidelines for a Youth Program National Tournament. This is not offered at the present time.

Sec. 1 THE YOUTH PROGRAM Will be divided into the following age classifications: Any boy who before August 1st or any girl who before September 1st reaches the below listed birthday is not eligible to participate in that category.

Pee Wee	.10 years old and under	.Eleventh Birthday
Bantam	.12 years old and under	.Thirteenth Birthday
Midget	.15 years old and under	.Sixteenth Birthday
Junior	.18 years old and under	.Nineteenth Birthday

Sec. 2 Any player can play in a higher age classification but cannot play in a lower age group.

Sec. 3 Players cannot play in more than one age group in the same area at the same time.

Sec. 4 The Youth program is designed for both girls and boys.

Sec. 5 Youth program field dimensions:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Pitching</u>	<u>Basepath</u>	<u>Playing Field Radius</u>
Boys Pee Wee	40'	65'	200'
Girls Pee Wee	35'	55'	200'
Coed Pee Wee	40'	65'	200'
Boys Bantam	40'	65'	200'
Girls Bantam	40'	65'	200'
Coed Bantam	40'	65'	200'
Boys Midget	46'	65'	275'
Girls Midget	46'	65'	225'
Coed Midget	46'	65'	275'
Boys Junior	46'	65'	275'
Girls Junior	46'	65'	225'
Coed Junior	46'	65'	275'

Sec. 6 The catcher must wear a mask (optional in boys junior category) and it is strongly recommended to wear a chest protector.

Sec. 7 The Youth Program will use an official 11 inch, C.O.R. not to exceed .48, stitched softball in all Slo-Pitch National sanctioned tournaments.

Sec. 8 RE-ENTRY: Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the line-up. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.

Sec. 9 Numbers on all uniforms will be required at National, International and World tournaments.

Sec. 10 All playing rules not specifically covered in Rule 12 of this book shall be governed by the other rules as outlined in Rule 1 through 11 of this book.

RULE 13. - COED PROGRAM

Sec. 1 BATTING ORDER Five (5) male and five (5) female players will be considered a "normal" line up for Coed.

- A. A team may have more females in the line up than males but **NEVER** more males than females.
- B. The batting order for Coed slo-pitch must always alternate sexes with the exception that three (3) females may bat consecutively, but two males may never bat back to back (A female may be substituted for a male and a male may be legally substituted or reentered into that position in the batting order).
- C. Must always have a minimum of five(5) females defensively and offensively and a maximum of six (6) females defensively.
- D. If an unlimited batting order is used in Coed, there must be an equal number of males and females in the batting line-up at all times except as specified in Sec. 1B above.

Sec. 2 FIELD AND EQUIPMENT

- A. All teams should have at least matching tops.
- B. Pitching zone to be fifty (50) to sixty-five (65) feet from home plate.
- C. The 12 inch ball will be used.
- D. Baselines will be 65 feet.

Sec. 3 BATTER-BASERUNNER – A WALK If a male batter is walked, intentionally or otherwise, he will be awarded first and second bases and the next batter, the female **MUST** bat.

Sec. 4 BASERUNNING

A. There is to be no sliding while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line at any time.

EFFECT Sec. 4 A A player is to be called out if he or she slides while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line at home plate.

B. Sliding may occur at all other bases.

C. A baserunner who touches the **COMMITMENT LINE** or makes contact with the ground past the **COMMITMENT LINE** with any part of the body between third base and home plate must continue on towards the scoring line (at home plate).

EFFECT Sec. 4 C A player who has touched and/or crossed over the commitment line as described above and attempts to return to third base, shall be declared out.

D. A baserunner may be tagged out between the commitment line and the scoring line.

E. All baserunners attempting to score a run must do so by touching the **SCORING LINE** with one foot or by placing one foot on the ground past the **SCORING LINE** in fair territory, in order for it to be counted as a run.

EFFECT Sec. 4 E Runners are out if they touch home plate or cross over home plate in fair territory, whether a play is made or not.

F. The baserunner should avoid all collisions or be subject to ejection, based on the umpire's judgement.

G. **COURTESY RUNNERS** may be used (provided the batter has safely reached base) a maximum of three (3) times per game. Only players listed on the line-up card are eligible to be courtesy runners, but the same runner cannot be used more than once. A courtesy runner can be used for a courtesy runner. If there are no courtesy runners or substitutes available to take the place of a courtesy runner that is on base when that player is to be up to bat, an out shall be declared.

Note: Where a courtesy runner is used, a male must be placed for a male, a female for a female, or a female for a male.

Sec. 5 CATEGORIES OF PLAY

For suggested categories of play see "Sanctioned Tournament Guidelines and Operating Rules".

Sec. 6 OTHER RULES All playing rules not specifically covered in Rule 13 of this book shall be governed by the other rules outlined in Rules 1 through 11 of this book.

RULE 14. - MASTERS/SENIORS PROGRAM

Sec. 1 AGE REQUIREMENTS - MENS, WOMENS, COED

- A. Minimum age for the **MENS MASTERS 35 +** program will be 35 years.
- B. Minimum age for the **MENS MASTERS 40 +** program will be 40 years.
- C. Minimum age for the **MENS MASTERS 45 +** program will be 45 years.
- D. Minimum age for the **MENS SENIORS 50 +, 55+, 60+ and 65+** program will be 50, 55, 60, and 65 years of age respectively.
- E. Minimum age for the **WOMENS MASTERS** program will be 35 years.
- F. Minimum age for the **WOMENS SENIORS** program will be 50 years. However, five (5) players on the roster may be a minimum age of 45 years.
- G. Minimum age for the **COED MASTERS 35+** program will be 35 years for Women and for Men.

Note: Players who reach the program minimum age requirement during the calendar year would be eligible to play.

Sec. 2 COURTESY RUNNERS

- A. A maximum of seven (7) courtesy runners per game may be used, but cannot use the same runner twice. The courtesy runner can be anyone listed on the line-up card, but the same runner cannot be used more than once.
- B. Only players listed on the line-up card are eligible to be courtesy runners. A courtesy runner can be used for a courtesy runner. If there are no courtesy runners or substitutes available to take the place of a courtesy runner that is on base when that player is to be up to bat, an out shall be declared.
- C. Seniors 60+ and 65+ can have unlimited use of courtesy runners with no penalty. The courtesy runner can be anyone listed on the lineup card.

Sec. 3 BASERUNNING

- A. There is to be no sliding while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line at any time.

EFFECT Sec. 3 A A player is to be called out if he slides while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line (at home plate).

- B. Sliding may occur at all other bases.
- C. A baserunner who touches the **COMMITMENT LINE** or makes contact with the ground past the **COMMITMENT LINE** with any part of the body between third base and home plate must continue on towards the scoring line (at home plate).

EFFECT Sec. 3 C A player, who has touched and/or crossed the commitment line, as described above, and attempts to return to third base, the baserunner is out, the ball is alive and all other baserunners continue to be in jeopardy.

- D. A baserunner may be tagged out between the **COMMITMENT LINE** and the **SCORING LINE**.
- E. All baserunners attempting to score a run must do so by touching the **SCORING LINE** with one foot or by placing one foot on the ground past the **SCORING LINE** in foul territory, in order for it to be counted as a run.

EFFECT Sec. 3 E Runners are out if they touch home plate or cross over home plate in fair territory, whether a play is made or not.

- F. The baserunner should avoid all collisions or be subject to ejection, based on the umpire's judgement.

Sec. 4 HOMERUN RULE (MATCH PLUS 2): In all Masters/Seniors categories at no time during a game will the number of over the fence homeruns hit by one team be more than 2 above the number hit by the opposing team. Any undeflected ball hit over the fence will be considered a home run for the match plus home run rule.

EFFECT Sec. 4 Where an over the fence homerun is hit that is in excess of the number allowed, the batter will be called out.

Sec. 5 All playing rules not specifically covered in Rule 14 of this book shall be governed by other rules as outlined in Rule 1 through 11 of this book.

SLO-PITCH NATIONAL - "STG&OR"

SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT AND OPERATING RULES

Sec. 1 PENALTIES AND SUSPENSIONS

A. Player and/or team member penalties and suspensions:

1. Falsification of records:

Deliberate attempt to impersonate a valid team member by a non-member; use of illegal, ineligible or fraudulently represented players; attempted fraud; NSF cheques; purposely applying to a tournament in an improper or lower division.

PENALTY: All team members, including players, coaches and managers are considered responsible and may be held liable for any of the above.

Minimum suspension 1 year, maximum 5 years suspension.

2. Verbal Abuse to Slo-Pitch National and/or its personnel, tournament administrative personnel, officials or host.

PENALTY: Minimum 30 days suspension, maximum 5 years suspension.

3. Physical abuse to Slo-Pitch National and/or its personnel, tournament administrative personnel, officials or host.

PENALTY: Minimum 30 days suspension, maximum 5 years suspension.

4. Unsportsmanlike Conduct to Slo-Pitch National and/or its personnel, tournament administrative personnel, officials or host.

PENALTY: Minimum 30 days suspension, maximum 5 years suspension.

5. Any conduct considered by SPN to be detrimental to the sport of slo-pitch softball or the Slo-Pitch National organization and its personnel.

PENALTY: Minimum 30 days suspension, maximum 5 years suspension.

6. Any misuse to diamonds, surrounding facilities or accommodation facilities.

PENALTY: Minimum 30 days suspension, maximum 5 years suspension.

7. ALL PENALTIES AND SUSPENSIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE SPN NATIONAL DIRECTORS AND MAXIMUMS MAY BE EXTENDED DEPENDING UPON SEVERITY OF THE CASE.

8. SLO-PITCH NATIONAL MAY UPHOLD SUSPENSIONS WHEN REQUESTED TO DO SO IN WRITING, WITH JUSTIFICATION, BY THE EXECUTIVE OF A FULLY AFFILIATED MEMBER LEAGUE, OR OF A RECOGNIZED SLO-PITCH AND/OR SOFTBALL ORGANIZATION.

9. ALL TEAM MEMBERS, INCLUDING PLAYER, COACHES AND MANAGERS ARE CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE AND MAY BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE.

B. Team suspensions: The tournament committee may disqualify any team, without compensation, (and put in last place for that division) from the tournament for:

i) Using ineligible or a fraudulently represented player; cheating, attempting fraud; NSF cheques or any other flagrant act(s) that may make a mockery of the game and/or the tournament.

ii) Abuse (verbal or otherwise) to umpires, conveners, organizers or executive members of the tournament, the organizing committee, SPN or the tournament sponsor(s).

iii) Using players who do not meet regional residency requirements or using players who do not meet eligibility requirements.

iv) Falsification of records or deliberate attempt to impersonate a valid team member by a non-member.

PENALTY: All team members, including players, coaches and managers are considered responsible and may be held liable for any of the above.

NOTE: I.D.'S MAY BE CHECKED AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT A PROTEST, BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. If no I.D. (satisfactory as in player eligibility (Sec. 2-D)) is produced, the player may be considered ineligible or fraudulently represented and the team is subject to immediate dismissal from the tournament without compensation. The team will also be ranked last in the tournament standings, and all awards and travel expenses will be confiscated.

When a team is disqualified after a championship has been completed:

i) Final standings will not be adjusted ii) Tournament awards will not be adjusted, iii) Any issued award **MUST** be returned.

C. Slo-Pitch National shall have the right to suspend any person, team member, including players, coaches and managers or any full team or group in the event that any such person(s) engage in any action or conduct that Slo-Pitch National at its discretion shall deem to be detrimental to Slo-Pitch National and its members and the purposes of Slo-Pitch National whether or not such matters occur in connection with any tournament or game situation.

Sec. 2 MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

NOTE: Slo-Pitch National reserves the right to refuse any application for membership of any person or group that in Slo-Pitch National's discretion, has, by past conduct or activities, brought into disrepute the sport of Slo-Pitch or is likely to cause future harm to the sport either directly or indirectly.

A. Players in good standing may compete on a registered eligible team's roster in Slo-Pitch National sanctioned tournaments as per guidelines below:

i) Players may only play for one team at National Championships in a specific year. Players that have participated in the PIF tournament (Men's or Women's A), are eligible to play at the National Championships in the following categories: Coed Comp, Men's 40 Comp, Men's 50 Comp, Men's 55, Women's 35 Comp.

ii) Players may compete in Coed Program, Industrial Program, Masters/Seniors Program and Mens or Womens single sex program (one category per sanctioned event).

iii) A player wishing to compete in more than one program, as above, **MUST** be registered on the established roster for the team with which they wish to compete.

EXAMPLE: A player **MAY** compete, on one Master/Seniors team **AND** on one Coed team **AND** on one single sex (Mens or Womens) team in the same sanctioned event, if registered as per "ii" above; **HOWEVER**, a player may **NOT** compete in different categories of the same division or program. (**EXAMPLE:** A player may **NOT** compete in Master 35+ **AND** Masters 40 +, **NOR** may a player compete in single sex (Mens/Womens) "A" and "C" **NOR** may a player compete in Coed "B" and in Coed "E")

iv) Players may not officiate at National Championships, in which they are playing.

B. Coed Program players must adhere to categories of play as indicated in Sec. 7 of "Sanctioned Tournament Guidelines and Operating Rules". Masters Coed players must adhere to age requirements as indicated in Rule 14 of the rule book.

C. Masters/Senior Program players must adhere to age requirements as indicated in Rule 14 of the rule book.

D. PLAYERS MAY BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF IDENTITY. SUFFICIENT PROOF OF IDENTITY MAY BE TWO PIECES OF IDENTIFICATION (ONE OF WHICH SHOULD HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED) BOTH BEARING PLAYER SIGNATURE FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES. THESE TWO PIECES OF IDENTIFICATION SHOULD BE RECENT WITH THE PLAYER'S CURRENT NAME AS USED ON LEGAL DOCUMENTATION.

NOTE: THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MAY, AT ITS DISCRETION, ACCEPT VISUAL VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY FROM SLO-PITCH NATIONAL RECOGNIZED PERSONNEL AS PROOF OF IDENTITY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY AND WHERE THE PLAYER IS UNABLE TO PRODUCE TWO PIECES OF IDENTIFICATION AS DEFINED ABOVE WITH REASON ACCEPTABLE TO TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE.

E. Industrial program players must be full time employees of the company represented by the team and have been employed full time for at least 60 continuous days prior to the tournament date.

NOTE: National office will consider request for "full-time/part-time" employees if a letter of request is received 45 days prior to tournament start date.

F. Players must be full-time residents of Canada minimum one year prior to tournament start date.

G. Players must be full-time residents of the region in which a team affiliates.

EXCEPTIONS: Players who register with a team through a league which allows players from another region to participate in that league's activities due to league work/residency rules, may be allowed to compete in Slo-Pitch National events with that league-registered team only. Players who qualify in a province, but move to another province, may compete with the team they originally qualified with.

H. Players must be listed on the Slo-Pitch National approved roster for that team.

I. SOME REGIONS MAY HAVE A PLAYER RESIDENCY RESTRICTION. CHECK WITH YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR OR DISTRICT COORDINATOR BEFORE REGISTERING A TEAM.

J. **PREGNANCY RULE:** If it is evident and/or confirmed by an official that a player is pregnant, then for reasons of safety and for possible detrimental effect that such participation may have on other player's performance, then SPN will not knowingly allow a pregnant player to play.

EFFECT: The player will be requested to remove herself from the game and if she refuses, the umpire will eject her.

K. **MINIMUM AGE:** A player must be 18 years of age to participate.

EXCEPTIONS: The Regional Director will consider any request for under age players. For safety reasons, no exceptions will be considered for players under 16 years of age.

Sec. 3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. A team that qualifies for a National Championship is only allowed to add four (4) players of equal or lower caliber in single sex divisions (Mens or Womens), and five (5) players of equal or lower caliber in Coed divisions. NO TEAM MAY HAVE MORE THAN EIGHTEEN (18) PLAYERS ON A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM ROSTER.
- B. Rosters for teams attending a National Championship shall be frozen **June 15** of the current year.
- C. Any player changes to this qualifying roster must be approved by your Regional Director as being of equal or lower caliber (not greater) to the category in which the team is playing.
- D. All teams competing in the National Championship must be members in good standing for that year and must meet all Slo-Pitch National player eligibility criteria (see also Sec. 2).
- E. Teams competing in National Championships will be responsible for all round trip travel costs to the National Championships plus accommodation, travel and personal expenses while at the National Championships.
- F. Any changes made to the official roster from the tournament in which the team qualified for the Nationals will be considered eligible for national participation providing these changes have been approved by the Regional Director as being acceptable for that team’s caliber/category definition.
- G. Rostered players must be full time residents of the region in which the qualified team affiliates.
- H. A team may only qualify in the region in which it affiliates.

EXCEPTION: In special cases where no qualifier (for a team’s registered category) is offered in that team’s region, a team may apply for permission to compete in another region’s tournament(s) and thereby earn a qualifying berth to represent the region in which the team is affiliated. Permission must be obtained from the Regional Directors of both regions.

- I. National Championships shall be modified round robin format with all teams being scheduled a MINIMUM five games including the championship or elimination round.

NOTE: The tournament convener has the right to modify the tournament format, due to unforeseen circumstances, ie. inclement weather.

- J. ALL GAMES IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SHALL BE PLAYED UNTIL A WINNER IS DECLARED AND NO TIME LIMIT SHALL BE ENFORCED. IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES, THE TIEBREAKER RULE WILL APPLY IN THE 8TH INNING.

- K. Designated allowances for home run hits in fenced fields are as follows:

IN ALL "A" CATEGORIES	Match Plus 3 Home Run Rule
IN ALL "B" CATEGORIES	Match Plus 2 Home Run Rule
IN ALL "C" CATEGORIES	Match Plus 2 Home Run Rule
IN ALL "D" CATEGORIES	Match Plus 1 Home Run Rule
IN ALL "E" CATEGORIES	1 Home Run Per Team Per Game
IN ALL MASTER/SENIORS CATEGORIES	Match Plus 2 Home Run Rule
including Competitive and Intermediate	(see Rule 14-4)
COED COMPETITIVE	Match Plus 3 Home Run Rule

NOTE: This rule only applies to fenced ball parks and over the fence home runs. Any undeflected ball hit over the fence will be considered as a homerun for the Match Plus Home Run Rule.

PENALTY: In all above categories, any homerun hit in excess of the allowable as shown above, the batter will be called out.

- L. **HOMERUN RULE** (As per Rule 7, Sec. 11)

The following HOMERUN RULE will apply (as stated in "K" above):

- a. In all categories using a Match Plus Home Run Rule, at no time during a game will the number of over the fence homeruns hit by one team be more than the designated number hit by the opposing team.

EFFECT Sec. 3L a Where an over the fence home run is hit that is in excess of the number allowed, the batter will be called out.

- b. When a fair fly ball is deflected over the homerun fence by a defensive player, the batter-baserunner will be awarded four (4) bases. This will not be considered the same as an over the fence homerun.

Sec. 4 PROTESTS

A protested game can result when there is a difference of opinion on the field, between the protesting team and an umpire regarding the application or interpretation of either Official Printed Playing Rules, or Specially Adopted Ground Rule or Specially Adopted Tournament Rules.
PROTESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN WHICH UMPIRE'S JUDGEMENT IS QUESTIONED.

A. PROTESTS BASED ON MISINTERPRETATION OR MISAPPLICATION OF A TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULE – THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE IS MANDATORY FOR THE PROTEST TO BE ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

- a) In tournament play, all protests must be settled before any play can be resumed as a suspended game **except** protests concerning player eligibility.
- b) Any rule protest must be made before the next legal pitch, intentional walk, illegal pitcher action or before all fielders have left fair territory, and must be accompanied by a \$150 protest fee (cash or money order).
- c) The protesting team must advise the plate umpire that the game is under protest, as above, and the plate umpire shall advise the opposing team.

ALL SCORESHEETS MUST BE MARKED AS OF THE "PROTEST POINT"

- d) If the protest is upheld, the game shall resume, from the point of protest, with the protested decision correctly reversed. All players' positions, ball and strike count and game factors to that point shall be resumed according to details as recorded on the officially recognized scoresheet.
- e) If the protest is found invalid, the game shall be resumed from the point of protest as in "d" above, with the protested decision standing as called.

No refund of protest fee will be considered if the protest is found invalid.

B. PROTESTS BASED ON PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE IS MANDATORY FOR THE PROTEST TO BE ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

- a) A formal protest shall be written up and submitted to the tournament protest committee chairman, and must be accompanied by a \$150.00 protest fee (cash or money order).
- b) A formal protest must contain the date, time and place of the game, plus names of the umpires and scorekeeper, plus the pertinent player eligibility section of the Official Rules or Special Printed Playing Rules under which the protest is being filed; plus the decision and/or conditions surrounding the cause for the protest; plus all essential facts involved in the matter of the protest.
- c) A formal protest must contain specific information as outlined above; plus official game ending time (signed by umpire).
- d) Games during which player eligibility is questioned need not be suspended in order to settle the protest.
- e) If player eligibility cannot be resolved at the time of the protest, the game shall be completed.
- f) A formal written protest must be lodged with the Protest Committee at Tournament Headquarters within forty-five (45) minutes of official game ending time (Refer to "c" above) and must be accompanied by a \$150.00 protest fee (cash or money order).