

# Truro and District Area Mixed Slo-Pitch League Rules and By-Laws

Updated May 2022

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**ARTICLE I  
ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES**

**1.1) Title of Organization**

- a) This organization shall be known as the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League

**1.2) Objectives**

- a) To assist in the promotion and improvement of the game of softball among those who engage in the sport solely for the pleasure and physical, mental, and social benefits they derive there-from.
- b) To educate the members of the League regarding the excellent qualities of the game for players and spectators of all ages and sexes.
- c) To keep the game on a high amateur plane, out of the hands of private promoters interested in personal gain.

**1.3) Anti-Discriminatory Policy**

- a) It is the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League's policy to provide full, equal and non-discriminatory access to its divisions in accordance with applicable laws. It is the policy of the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League that all policies and rules with respect to the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League are applied consistently without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, or any other legally protected classification.

**1.4) Government**

- a) The governing board of this League shall be the Executive Committee.
- b) The Executive Committee shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and/or Treasurer, and Statistician/Scheduler.
- c) The Executive Committee shall be empowered to delegate its authority to expedite rulings in the event that only one or two matters need to be acted on by the Committee. The Executive shall exercise all powers and authority necessary to carry out its responsibilities. The Executive shall supervise all members of the league and to see that their duties are properly performed. The Executive shall adopt and publish rules and regulations governing the league and to establish penalties for infractions of the league rules or conduct of its members.

**1.5) Election of Executive Committee**

- a) The Executive Committee members shall be decided at the year-end meeting (typically held in September or October of the fiscal year). A member must be nominated for consideration of an Executive position by another member of the League. Once nominated, there will then be a vote by the League for each position. In the event that only one person is nominated for a position, there will be no vote and the League must approve their assignment. If a position remains vacant after this meeting, the Executive may assign a member of the league to fill a vacancy.

### 1.6) Duties of Executive Committee

- a) The **President** shall be the chief executive officer of the League. They shall preside at the annual meeting and such other meetings of the League as may be called. They shall be one of the signatories on the bank accounts of the League.
- b) The **Vice President** shall assist the President and shall assume the responsibilities of the President's duties in the absence of said President. They shall be one of the eligible signatories on the bank account. They will organize the Vice President's Tournament each year.
- c) The **Secretary/Treasurer** shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and the Executive Committee, including names of those present; and file one copy of such minutes with the President. They shall maintain bank accounts in the name of the League, all of which shall require two authorized signatures; receive and disburse all monies for the League and keep an accurate monthly accounting thereof, one copy of which they shall file with the President. They shall be one of the authorized signatories on the bank accounts of the League. They shall not negotiate or issue any cheque or other instrument drawn on the accounts of the League unless such cheque or instrument is endorsed or signed by two signatories. They shall be an authorized signatory on the bank account.
- d) The **Statistician/Scheduler** shall prepare a schedule for the League's regular season games and play-off games, as well as any League tournaments and rainout weekends. The Statistician shall keep an accurate record of all game scores, and post such scores in a timely basis on the League's website. The Statistician shall provide all teams with an electronic copy of the aforementioned schedules. They will be responsible for advising of game cancellations, in consultation with members of the Executive and the Umpire-in-Chief.

### 1.7) Membership

- a) Sponsor Membership - A person, firm, or organization that finances a team's entry fee.
- b) Team Membership - Teams will be allowed membership when they have ten (10) to twenty-five (25) players and play a regular schedule of games sanctioned by the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League.
- c) Player Membership - A player who meets the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League eligibility requirements and is registered on a team's roster for that current year.

### 1.8) Meetings

- a) An Annual Meeting of the League shall be held in March or April of each year for the purpose of conducting League business such as consideration of by-law changes, team applications, discussion of divisions, and adoption of financial reports, etc. A quorum of 25 percent of the Team Representatives must be present to conduct a League Meeting.
- b) Further meetings of the League shall be called by the President as needed for the purpose of collecting team fees, addressing league business, etc.
- c) The Executive Committee meetings shall be called by the President as dictated by impending business and they shall provide notice to the committee members. A quorum of 50 percent of the Executive Committee must be in attendance at Executive Committee Meetings.

- d) A seat of a member of the Executive Committee shall be considered vacant if he she shall miss two consecutive Board meetings, unless excused.

### **1.9) Eligibility**

- a) The Executive Committee reserves the right to limit the number of teams. Should limits be imposed the following order of preference will be used:
  - i) Teams who played in league the previous season.
  - ii) New teams will be considered by date of receipt of application.
  - iii) Teams on which the majority of the players live in Truro and the surrounding area.
- b) Membership shall be open. Any member from the age of sixteen (16) and under the age of nineteen (19) years shall be required to present their parent's or guardians' written permission before they are eligible to play in the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League. Teams are limited to one male player under the age of nineteen (19) years old, and one female player under the age of nineteen (19) years old. No team shall have a player under the age of sixteen (16) years old, as of June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

### **1.10) League Divisions**

- a) Divisions will be determined by the Executive Committee using preference data supplied by the previous year's standings, and information provided by the team representatives, and will have the final authority thereon, basing their decision on the best interests of the League.
- b) The Statistician will produce the original league schedule, as well as the schedule for rainout dates, league tournaments and playoffs. An electronic copy of each schedule will be provided to the designated team representative.
- c) Division standings shall be determined by the total season's win-loss record. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be:
  - i) Head-to-head win-loss record
  - ii) Runs allowed during the regular season
  - iii) Runs scored during the regular season
  - iv) Coin flip
- d) The team finishing in first place of their division during the regular season in each division shall move up a division for the next season, and the team finishing in last place of their division in each division shall move down a division for the next season. For example, the first place team of the 'B' division shall play in the 'A' division the next season, and the last place team of the 'A' division shall play in the 'B' division the next year. This rule is subject to change based on the number of teams playing the next year, and if divisions are different from year to year.

### **1.11) Fees**

- a) A team entry fee will be required from each participating team in the Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League. The fee may vary year to year in accordance with the proposed budget.

- b) The Executive Board will determine the standard fee for the current season each year by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.
- c) Team entry fee is to be turned in to the Treasurer on or before the deadline date set by the Executive.
- d) Team fees, once paid, shall not be refunded once the season has begun. Exception: All fees, paid for by a team that is not established, may be refunded, prior to the League start date.

#### **1.12) Rosters and Player Eligibility**

- a) Rosters are to be completed on or before the deadline set by the Executive (approximately June 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year). Teams failing to have completed their roster by the deadline set by the Executive will forfeit their next scheduled game, and subsequent games, until their roster has been completed and submitted.
- b) A player must complete their waiver online. Any player who has not completed their online waiver, and chooses to play, assumes the risk of not being covered by insurance if they are injured during play. Use of a non-roster player in a game shall result in forfeit of said game, as well as a \$25.00 fee to the offending team which must be paid prior to their next scheduled game. If the fee is not paid before the team's next scheduled game, each game thereafter will be forfeited until the said fee is paid.
- c) Any member of the senior men's fastball and hardball leagues (i.e. Senior Bearcats, Brookfield Elks, etc.) is not permitted to play. Use of a senior men's fastball or hardball league player in a game shall result in forfeit of said game, as well as a \$25.00 fee to the offending team which must be paid prior to their next scheduled game. If the fee is not paid before the team's next scheduled game, each game thereafter will be forfeited until the said fee is paid.
- d) Without prejudice, if a player is pregnant, they are not permitted to play.
- e) A maximum of twenty-five (25) players may be on a team's roster (there is no rule with respect to the combination of males and females on the roster).
- f) Rosters are final once submitted on or before June 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year. Changes to a team's roster may be made, with Executive approval, in the event of one of the following circumstances:
  - i) Death
  - ii) Serious Injury
  - iii) Pregnancy
  - iv) Relocation

A team wishing to make a change to their roster due to one of the above-noted circumstances must submit their request in writing to a member of the Executive. The Executive will then review the proposed change, and adjust the roster accordingly.

- g) A player may only play on one team per season.

**13) Releases and Transfers**

- a) A team representative may release a player at any time during the regular season. The team representative is responsible for notifying the said player of their release. A release must be on file with the Executive before it is effective. The released player is then ineligible to play for the remainder of the season, unless in the circumstance they are added to another team's roster to replace a lost player due any reason outlined in Article I - Section 12(f) of the Rules and By-Laws.
- b) In the case where a player asks for his release and the team representative refuses to grant it, the player may appeal, in writing, to the Executive Committee, which may hold a hearing and/or issue a release for the player depending upon the circumstances of the case.

## **ARTICLE II PLAYING RULES**

**Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League games will be governed by Slo-Pitch National (SPN) rules except where a specific local rule has been adopted herein.**

### **2.1) Practice Time**

- a) At the start of the game or when a new pitcher is substituted, the pitcher shall be allowed five warm up pitches. At the start of any subsequent half inning, the pitcher shall be allowed three warm up pitches. Any pitcher returning in the same half inning shall be allowed no warm up pitches. This does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, etc. The plate umpire has the discretion to increase this number due to inclement weather or injury.

### **2.2) Game Times and Forfeit Allowance**

- a) Forfeit time is game time, plus five minutes grace, with the exception of playoff games, where no grace period is allotted.
- b) Subsequent games shall not start before the regular scheduled game time.
- c) If an inning is not completed within the allotted time given for the game, the score at the end of the last completed inning is the resulting score for the game.
- d) Five (5) innings of a game must be completed for the game to be deemed a complete game, with the exception of the home team leading after four and a half (4.5) innings – the game may then be deemed completed after four and a half (4.5) innings of play.

### **2.3) Postponements**

- a) No games shall be postponed except in case of inclement weather. Games postponed due to inclement weather will be rescheduled by the Statistician/Scheduler.

### **2.4) Minimum Number of Players Rule**

- a) Nine (9) players, with a minimum of three (3) females, are required to begin and finish a game. In the event that a team only has three (3) females present – the team may play with only nine (9) total players, and the tenth batting position will be an automatic out at the time of each at bat for the tenth position. The goal of this rule is to avoid forfeits by teams.
- b) If a team begins a game with at least four (4) females present, a tenth player may be added to the game at any point. The tenth player must play in the field before they are added to the batting line-up. If the Executive Board finds a team has violated the spirit of this rule, it shall declare a forfeit of all games in which such team has used less than nine (9) players. Further, such team shall be required to field a complete team for all games for the remainder of the season.
- c) A team may always play with extra females – the only requirement is that at least three (3) females are required to play a game, as per rule 2.4(a).

### **2.5) Forfeit Rules**

- a) If a team is unable to field a team as set forth in Article II - Section 4, the plate umpire shall declare such team a loser by forfeit. The score of a forfeited game shall be reported as seven (7) to zero (0).
- b) If neither team has a sufficient number of players present at the game site and available to play, a



double forfeit shall be declared. The score of a double forfeit shall be reported as zero (0) to zero (0).

- c) Any team, which forfeits two (2) games during the season, shall be reported to the Executive for review. The Executive may suspend the team for the remainder of the season if circumstances warrant a suspension.
- d) Twenty-four (24) hours' notice is required to forfeit a game without incurring a penalty. If a game is forfeited without (24) hours' notice given to the Executive, the team must pay the umpire's fee for the game. The \$25.00 fee must be paid prior to the team's next scheduled game. If the fee is not paid before the team's next scheduled game, each game thereafter will be forfeited until the said fee is paid.

## 2.6) **Batting and Line-Ups**

- a) As per the SPN Batting Rule, the batting order does not have to alternate between male and female players – a team may use any order they wish, so long as the following opposite sex minimums are maintained:
  - i) Batting 10 (6m-4f split)
  - ii) Batting 11 (6m-5f split)
  - iii) Batting 12 (7m-5f split)
  - iv) Batting 13 (7m-6f split)
  - v) Batting 14 (8m-6f split)

A team may always bat extra females – the above ratios are the minimum number of females required to bat the corresponding number of males.

- b) Starting Line-Ups must be exchanged with the opposing team prior to the start of the game, if requested by the opposing team. Players must be present before being listed on the line-up, and must be ready for play prior to being added to the line-up.

## 2.7) **Walk Rule**

- a) If a batter receives four (4) consecutive balls at any point during their bat, the batter goes to second and the next batter bats.
- b) If a batter receives four balls that are not consecutive, the batter goes to first base and the next batter bats.

## 2.8) **Safe Line**

- a) The safe line at home plate is in effect. The base runner is not allowed to touch home plate, as it is the sole property of the fielding catcher. The runner must be across the safe line, with their foot down across the line, before the ball is caught on home plate to be safe. If the ball is caught on home plate before the runner crosses the line, or if a player in possession of the ball before crossing the line tags the runner, the runner is out. If a runner touches home plate, even on a home run, the runner is out.

## **2.9) Courtesy Runner**

- a) A courtesy runner may be used for any player at any point during the game. A team is limited to a maximum three (3) runners per game. The following stipulations apply:
  - i) A male courtesy runner may be used for a male player.
  - ii) A female courtesy runner may be used for a female player.
  - iii) A female courtesy runner may be used for a male player.
  - iv) Once a courtesy runner has ran once, they may not be a courtesy runner again during that game.

## **2.10) Mercy Rule**

- a) The ten-run rule will be in effect after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

## **2.11) Complete Games**

- a) A game shall be considered complete under the following circumstances:
  - i) When a game is called by the umpire on account of darkness, rain or other inclement weather, provided that five (5) or more innings have been played, or when four and a half (4.5) innings have been played and the home team is leading. If a game has not been completed due to this reason, the game will be rescheduled and will start over from the beginning.
  - ii) If the home team is leading after four and a half (4.5) innings and the Mercy Rule has been invoked.
  - iii) The time limit has been exceeded.
  - iv) When a regular season game is tied after seven (7) complete innings, the tie shall stand and each team will receive one point.
  - v) All games shall be started and finished on the diamond where scheduled; however, the plate umpire may transfer the game to another diamond at the same complex, if such diamond is available and in more playable condition.
  - vi) If a game is delayed due to weather or any other reason, the game shall proceed at a time designated by the umpire on the same day. If it cannot be played on the same day, it shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the Executive for the next scheduled “rainout weekend”.

## **2.12) Player Conduct**

- a) If a player is ejected from a game, he shall be suspended for the next scheduled league game or playoff game played by his team.
- b) If a player is ejected from a game for the second time in the same season, the player shall be suspended for the next three (3) league or playoff games played by their team.

- c) If a player is ejected from a game for the third time in the same season, the player shall come for review before the Executive to determine a suspension and/or possible expulsion from the league for the remainder of the season.
- d) Any player striking or pushing an umpire, a player, a spectator, or any other person during a game shall be suspended for their next six (6) scheduled games. Any unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- e) Any display of violent or abusive behavior by a league member reported by a league member, spectator or umpire to the Executive, may be reviewed for disciplinary consideration.
- f) If a suspended player participates in a game, his team shall forfeit the game, pay a fee of \$25.00, and the length of time remaining in player's suspension shall be doubled.
- g) A player suspended, either as a result of an ejection from a previous game, or as a direct result of Executive Committee action, shall be subject to the following restrictions:
  - i) They shall be limited to the role of a passive spectator at any games involving his team or league.
  - ii) They shall be restricted to those areas specifically designated for spectators. In either case they shall be clearly away from the bench area of either team.
  - iii) Their interaction with players of both teams and game officials will be limited to spontaneously cheering an outstanding play.
  - iv) Any violation of the above will result in a fee of \$25.00 to be paid by the suspended player, as well as doubling of the games remaining in the player's suspension.
- h) Alcohol and or illegal drugs shall not be brought into the playing field or into the bench area. A repeat offense during a season may result in disciplinary action by the Executive.
- i) If a player is suspended from league play – they are also suspended from any SPN sanctioned event for the same timeframe.

### **2.13) Reinstatement**

- a) Any player suspended under the provision of the Article II – Section 10, must complete their suspension before being eligible to play. A suspended player may appeal the suspension by bringing the matter before the Executive within twenty-four (24) hours of their suspension. The Executive will then review the matter and provide a decision within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the appeal.

### **2.14) Protests**

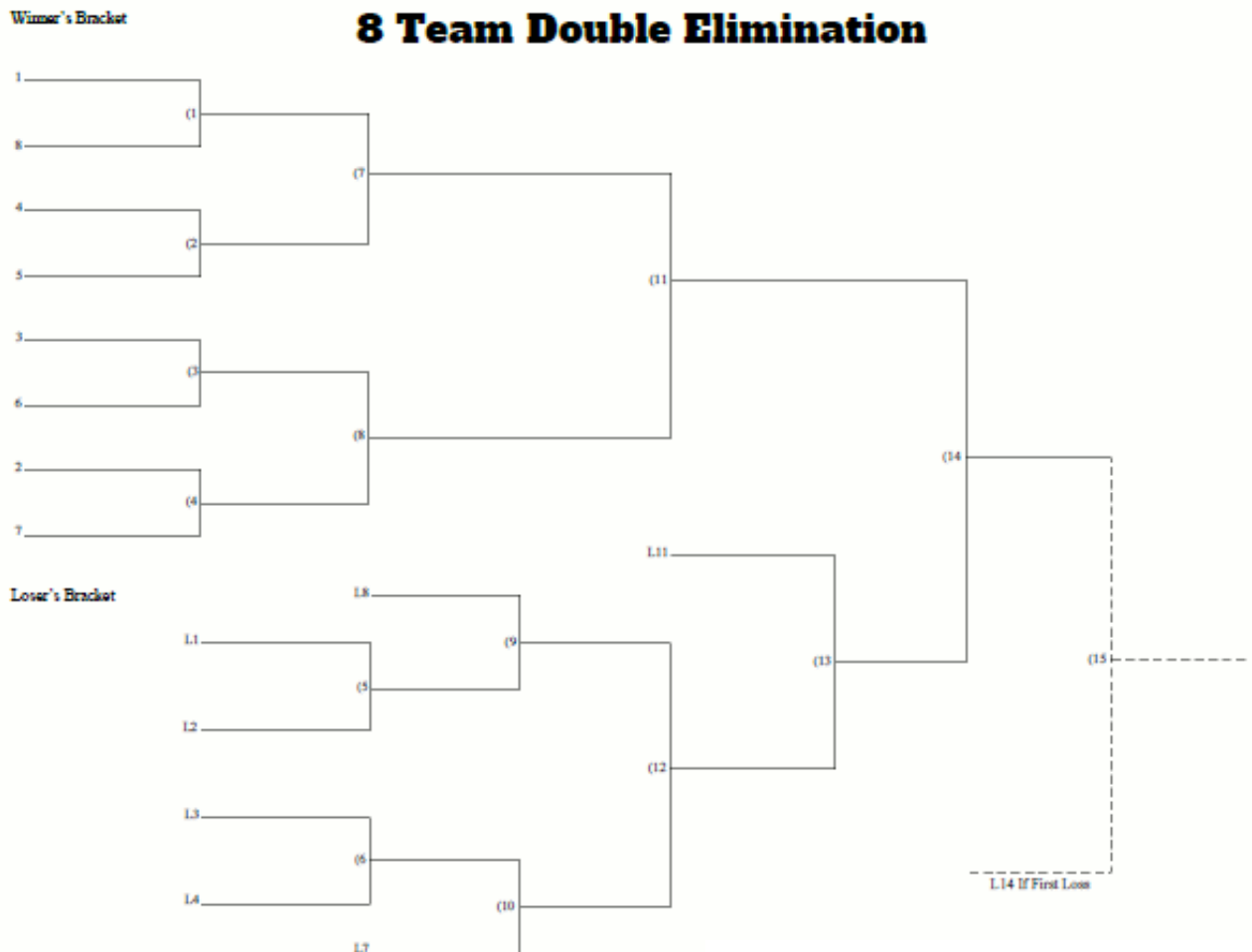
- a) Any league or playoff game may be protested. A protest is a formal request to review the decision of an umpire's rule interpretation or the eligibility of a player. No protest will be accepted concerning an umpire's judgment call (examples of judgment calls include: balls and strikes, out and safe, fair and foul, missing or touching the bases, etc.). A game protest must be made known to the Executive within two (2) hours of the completion of said game. A protest fee of \$50.00 must be paid at the time of protest. The Executive will then review the protest and provide a decision by 10:00 a.m. the following day. If the non-protesting team wishes to appeal the decision, they have one (1) hour from the time of receiving notice of the decision to do so, and must give notice of appeal to the Executive within one (1) hour of receiving notice. The Executive will then review the appeal and make a final decision within one (1) hour of being advised of the appeal. This will be the final ruling of the matter. If the Executive rules in favour of the protest, the \$50.00 fee will be returned.

**2.15) Scoring and Records.**

- a) Each team must keep an accurate record of the score of each game. At the completion of each game, the team must have their scorecard signed by the game umpire. Teams are required to keep a copy of scorecards for all games played during the season. If there is a dispute over scores, the signed scorecards will be used to solve the dispute.
- b) The winning team is required to report the score for each game to the Statistician by 10:00 p.m. of game night. In the event of a tie, it is the home team’s responsibility to report the score. The score may be reported to the Statistician by calling the designated ball-line, by text message, or by Facebook message. If a team fails to report the score of a game by 10:00 p.m. game night, failure to do so will result
- c) in loss of the game and a fine of \$10.00 per incident to the offending team.

**2.16) Playoffs**

- a) Seeding for playoffs will be determined by regular season standings within divisions.
- b) Playoffs will be double elimination, and teams will not be re-seeded during playoffs.
- c) Below is a sample playoff bracket for a division with eight (8) teams. In the event that a division has an odd number of teams, the first place team in that division would receive a bye for the first round of playoffs in their division:



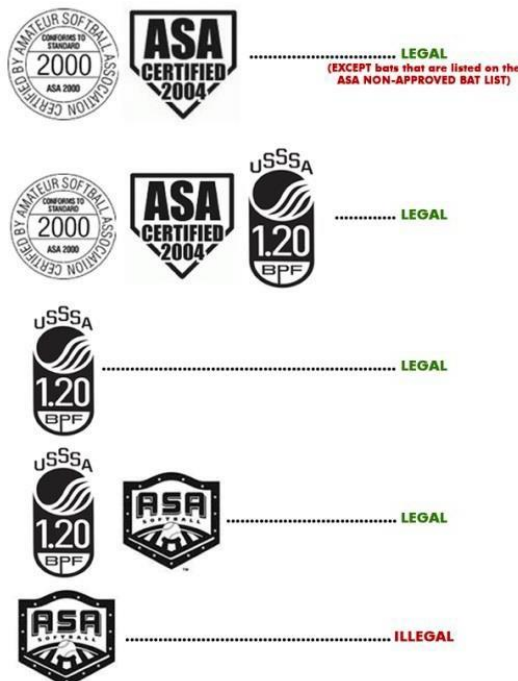
**2.17) Rainout Games**

- a) Any games cancelled by the Executive due to weather, or other circumstances, will be scheduled to be played on an open field by the Statistician/Scheduler. If a team forfeits a rescheduled game, they must abide by Article 2 – Section 5(e) to not incur a penalty. If a game is forfeited, the remainder of the schedule will stay the same, and will not be changed.

**2.18) Equipment Specifications**

- a) All equipment must meet current SPN specifications.
- b) Catchers are encouraged, but not enforced, to wear protective equipment including a Catcher’s mask, chest and throat protection.
- c) Any glove (trapper, catcher’s mitt, etc.) may be used by any player in any position.
- d) While on the field, players must wear a shirt, shorts/pants, and cleats/sneakers. Metal cleats are not permitted. Team uniforms are strongly encouraged.
- e) All balls used for game play must be Worth Hot Dots. The home team is to supply balls for the game, including at least one new Hot Dot.
- f) Bats - As of January 1, 2012, the League will be recognizing and accepting the New USSSA bat testing methods for use in the SPN program. All 2012 USSSA Bats marked with the “NEW (1.20 BPF) USSSA STAMP ON THE TAPER OF THE BAT” will be allowed in the League. **ALL new bats manufactured after January 1, 2012 “MUST CARRY THE NEW USSSA STAMP”.** SPN will also continue to use the 2000, 2004 ASA and ISF stamps and the **Non Approved Bat List**. The **Non Approved Bat List** can be found at [http://www.slo-pitch.com/sites/slo-pitch.com/files/ASA\\_Non-Approved%20Batlist.pdf](http://www.slo-pitch.com/sites/slo-pitch.com/files/ASA_Non-Approved%20Batlist.pdf)

Quick Reference Guide for Bats bearing the following symbols:



- g) Penalties for using an illegal bat are as follows:
  - i) For the first offence of using an illegal bat the owner of the bat and the team representative will receive a six (6) game suspension.
  - ii) For the second offence of using an illegal bat, the owner of the bat and the team representative will receive a twelve (12) month suspension from the date of offence.

**2.19) Uniforms**

- a) It is suggested that all members of a team be dressed alike for the morale of the team.

**2.20) Double First Base Rule**

- a) A double bag will be used, the inside bag will be white, and the outside bag shall be fluorescent orange. See the SPN rule for proper usage of the double base.

**2.21) Responsibilities and Duties of the Team Representative**

- a) They will be responsible to and for their team in the League.
- b) They shall register the team.
- c) They shall register the players of their team by submitting their roster by the given deadline.
- d) They shall receive the league schedules (original, rainout and playoff), and are responsible for advising members of their team of said schedule, as well as any game forfeits, cancellations, rainouts, etc.
- e) They shall read and be familiar with the SPN Rules and the League Rules and By-Laws.
- f) They shall be responsible for having someone keep an accurate score of each game, and shall be responsible to keep a copy of all scorecards for games in a season.

- g) They shall notify the entire membership of their team of all rules and regulations, as well as the following notes of importance:
  - i) Vehicles blocking the emergency exits will be towed away at the owner's expense, without warning.
  - ii) It is imperative that everyone understands that unless players are properly insured, Bible Hill will refuse rental of the Airport Fields and we will lose the privilege of using these fields for the future. This means that every person playing on your team must be on the insurance roster form.
  - iii) We allow until June 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year to make final changes to your official roster and only players listed on this roster shall be eligible to play in our league.
  - iv) All players shall be given our league number, website address ([www.truroareamixedslopeitch.com](http://www.truroareamixedslopeitch.com)) and added to the Facebook page to find out about game cancellations, rescheduling and current notices. The winning teams of every game must call the ball line, or text or e-mail the statistician to report game scores.
  - v) The Executive Committee is responsible for the washroom facilities and the building while the fields are in use by our league. Any problems noted by players should be reported to a member of Executive.
- h) Checking and properly filling out the scorecard.
- i) They shall communicate and report to the Executive of any issues, disputes, etc.

**2.22) Stealing**

- a) Stealing is not permitted in any division of the League.

**2.23) Diamond Reservations**

- a) Practice or Practice Games:

The Village of Bible Hill schedules all times for the Airport Fields. Typically, the fields are available for practice on a first-come-first-serve basis. To reserve a field you must contact the Village of Bible Hill.

**ARTICLE III  
UMPIRES**

**3.1) Head Umpire**

- a) The Head Umpire shall be selected by the League and serve as a voting member of the League.
- b) The Head Umpire is responsible for all duties outlined in the SPN Umpires Manual.
- c) The Head Umpire will assign umpires to all league games (regular season, rainouts and playoffs).

**3.2) Umpires**

- a) Umpires for all League games will be selected by the Head Umpire.
- b) All officials must have an SPN Umpire Card, and must be registered with SPN.
- c) If an umpire is also a player in the League, the umpire is not permitted to officiate a game in the same division of which they play in (i.e. If the umpire is a player on an ‘A’ division team, they are not permitted to umpire an ‘A’ division game).
- d) The Umpire’s decision is final. If a member of the league has any concerns or complaints regarding officiating, they are to contact a member of the Executive. They must provide the umpire’s name(s), date, time and location of game, and details of the complaint. Any complaints must be written and submitted to the Executive or they will not be acknowledged.
- e) Duties of the umpires are as follows:
  - i) Umpires are responsible for knowledge of and execution of all materials included in the SPN Official Guide, SPN Umpires Manual, SPN Official Scorers Manual, and Truro and District Mixed Slo-Pitch League Rules and By-Laws.
  - ii) Prior to the game, umpires must put out all bases, and peg each base down with two pegs, and must put out the strike mat.
  - iii) After the game, umpires must sign the scorecards of each team, and collect all bases from the field, and the strike mat, and place the bases and strike mat back in the building.
  - iv) Umpires must report conduct of game, manager, coaches, spectators, and unusual incidents.
  - v) If a scheduled game is forfeited due to a shortage of players, the umpire will declare the game a forfeit awarding the non-forfeiting team a win with a score of 7-0, and the umpire must then stay at the field during the scheduled game time and umpire any “for fun” game that occurs between the teams who were scheduled to play.