



## League Rules at a glance

It remains unchanged in 2017 Bordertown Slo Pitch Association ("BT SPL") maintains its partnership with NSA Canada ("NSA"). Rules not covered by BT SPL below will be governed by the rules of NSA.



BT SPL retains the right to amend any rule hereunto at any time. Any new rules or rule revisions shall be announced and posted at [www.bordertownslpitch.com](http://www.bordertownslpitch.com).

BT SPL encourages all members to submit recommended rule changes for consideration. Any recommendations must be received by League Executive in writing, in order to be addressed at the 2018 Annual Captain's Meeting. Your suggestions and recommendations are always welcome so that we may continually work to improve our League now in its 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year! BT SPL has always, and will continue, to modify our rules to best suit our membership. **The very best of luck to YOU and YOUR TEAM and have a great 2017 season!**

**All players are encouraged to visit the BT SPL website to obtain daily, weekly and monthly game schedules, including game time, field and opponent. Players should refer to our site to receive scheduling updates @ [www.bordertownslpitch.com](http://www.bordertownslpitch.com).**

BT SPL enforces a zero tolerance for verbal abuse, unsportsmanlike conduct and inappropriate behaviour. Rough or aggressive play, disregard for the safety of others and abuse of game officials and all players will **NOT** be tolerated. Such behaviour will result in the immediate game expulsion and potential suspension of the offending player. Excessive arguing, cursing, antagonizing or threatening of players/officials will be considered grounds for ejection. League Executive shall review any ejection of a player for further action.

Suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct is at the discretion of League Executive. Any player who is ejected from the game by an Umpire for such conduct is required to serve an automatic 1 extra game suspension. If this is to happen, it is to be served at the team's next league game. A second offense shall result in a three game suspension. Suspensions may carry forward into league tournament games and again, at the discretion of League Executive.

**Protest Procedure (Suspension):** A player, who wishes to appeal a suspension, must submit the appeal in writing with detailed statement of facts to League Executive within 48 hours of the notice of suspension. The matter will be reviewed and a decision rendered as soon as possible. While the protest is in process, the player's suspension will remain in effect.

**ABUSE OF THE OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Any physical assault upon an Umpire, Scorekeeper or City Official will automatically result in a lifetime suspension from the league. The offending team may also be expelled if deemed appropriate by the Commissioner. Players must conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner. Under no circumstances will violence be tolerated.

### **CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES include:**

1. Each Captain is assigned the responsibility and authority to enforce the rules.
2. Each Captain is responsible for the conduct of his/her players. Captains should ensure that each player on his/her roster knows and understands our rules and code of conduct.
3. This Captain's kit must accompany each Captain to each game to serve as guiding force. Within your kit, for example, you'll find our official park permits (dates and times are clearly listed) as these may be requested on-site noting other groups have been known to try to claim our permitted fields.

**Just play to have fun!** We at Bordertown stress fair play, camaraderie and sportsmanship. Please be reminded that this league was formed in 1990 to be FUN! The league encourages a respectful and competitive atmosphere where players can invite their friends and family to watch and support our games. It is imperative that the league is maintained in manner in which the league, players, managers, league officials and anyone associated with the league is represented in our customary positive manner. Umpires have the authority to make decisions on any situation not specifically covered by these BT SPL rules. If an Umpire seems to make an error in our established rule interpretation, his/her call can be officially protested. **Only** Team Captains/Co-Captains may approach the Umpire to discuss rule interpretations. At no time shall an Umpire be threatened, incidents of this nature will receive maximum discipline. Each incident will be handled individually with possible discipline ranging from one game to multiple game (regular season) suspension.

### PROTESTS THAT WILL NOT BE RECEIVED:

Judgment Calls. Protests shall not be received, or considered, if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an Umpire.

### PROTESTS THAT WILL BE RECEIVED:

Protests that shall be received and considered include matters of the following types:

1. Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
2. Failure of an Umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
3. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.

NOTE: Protests for the above must be made before the next pitch, or if on the last play of the game, before the Umpire leaves the playing field. After one pitch has been thrown (legal or illegal), no change can be made on any Umpire's ruling.

4. Eligibility of a team roster member.

**Protest Procedure (General):** A Captain who wishes to appeal a decision, must submit the appeal in writing with detailed statement of facts, including rules misinterpreted, to League Executive, within 48 hours after the scheduled game time. The matter will be reviewed and a decision rendered as soon as possible.

### Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in City Parks

The consumption or presence of alcohol on any/all park facilities by all members of the Bordertown Slo-Pitch League during all scheduled permit times is strictly prohibited. Players caught drinking during game time will be removed from the game. Failure to comply or any team or part of a team caught drinking alcoholic beverages in City parks or parking lots may be suspended from the league.

### Rain-Out Policy:

**Bordertown Slo Pitch League is governed by a rain-or-shine policy.** This means all teams must report to their field regardless of weather conditions or be subject to default rules; teams not reporting with enough eligible players to start a game will be declared to have forfeited the game. No game is officially declared postponed or under a rain-out **UNLESS**:

1. In the event of extremely poor weather or field conditions in the day of play it may be necessary to cancel a game in advance. League Executive will make every attempt to make a decision whether to play or postpone games as early in the day as possible. Understandably, games in such cases will be called before our established day-of-play deadline time of **4:30 PM** (continual rain and clear more than just a brief shower as substantiated by local weather reports).
2. If contacted by a designated member of League Executive, teams affected will not need show in the event of a declared game cancellation (i.e., park closure mandated by City of Mississauga, Umpire-in-Chief notice, etc.).

A text or e-mail message and when necessary, phone calls, will be made the moment an informed decision in the best interest of all, has been arrived at.

Each Captain is assigned the responsibility to notify their players of rain outs and make-up games (upon confirmation from League Executive).

When weather is hit or miss on game day, **UNLESS NOTIFIED BY LEAGUE EXECUTIVE, GAME IS ASSUMED TO BE AS SCHEDULED.** Teams are expected to be at the field and prepared to play noting your safety remains our first priority but weather and conditions are subject to change.

### Rain-Out Rules:

1. The Umpire is empowered to call a game at any time due to weather and conditions, which puts or may put players in peril.
2. A rainout will be determined by the Umpire at the field. Umpires have the final decision in declaring rainouts.
3. Game time decision. Teams must show for the game and be prepared to play. If it is raining at game time, the Umpire will instruct teams to wait it out for 20 minutes (if necessary) before deciding to call the game.
4. If you have a double-header and the first game is called because of rain, the Umpire will remain at the field until the expiration of 45 minutes. He/she will then make a decision concerning the second game. You must remain at the field in advance of the second game to determine if the Umpire calls the second game. Teams must be prepared to play in the event the weather clears and conditions safe, for the second game.
5. If not in a double-header and the first game is rained out this does not mean 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> games are rained out. Field conditions are then subject to the Umpire's judgment. **UNLESS NOTIFIED BY LEAGUE EXECUTIVE, GAME IS ASSUMED TO BE AS SCHEDULED.**
6. If conditions warrant canceling the second game, the third remaining game for the night will be cancelled **UNLESS Captains are informed otherwise by League Executive.** Teams scheduled to play late games are encouraged to continue to call/email League Executive (PLEASE REFER TO YOUR CAPTAIN'S KIT – SEE CONTACT LIST FOR ALL CONTACT INFORMATION). If an Umpire is unavailable for the third scheduled game and inclement weather subsided, thunder and lightning absent and field conditions deemed playable, a League Executive shall officiate where possible.
7. Once a game has started, only the Umpire can suspend play for weather. A game called during play by the Umpire will be considered to be complete if 4 full innings were played. Any game stopped before this 4 full inning juncture, game will be re-scheduled in a designated rain date.
8. Any re-scheduled game(s) that is not played will be considered a "tie".
9. In the event of a rainout, every attempt will be made to reschedule a rain-out game(s) promptly. We will try to reschedule in open slots as they are available throughout the season or where necessary, purchase another substitute field (other than our own seasonal fields of Fleetwood, Dunton & Rivergrove) during the regular season.

### Game Cancellations

We fully acknowledge any cancellation/rescheduling may cause hardship for some players. In fairness to all teams and players, game cancellations are as a rule, not permitted at BTSPL. Decisions to cancel a game will be based on a case by case basis. Any game cancellation for circumstances that cannot be foreseen or controlled must be completed at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled date and a rescheduled date must be set and agreed upon within 14 days. This process is done between Captains in tandem with League Executives to administer.

**ANY change is an exception, not regular practice.**

### Roster Eligibility

1. Team rosters with names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth and complete e-mail addresses are to be submitted to League Executive (please refer to Calendar of Events). Final rosters must be submitted no later than Monday, June 5, 2017. After this, 2 changes are permissible up to and including Monday, July 17, 2017 (roster cut-off date). Players must be registered on-line (League Executive will manage on your behalf) and identified on submitted roster. Teams will consist of a maximum of 20 players.
2. Players not on a team roster are ineligible to play. Subs not on team roster can play. Exception: Our year-end tournament.
3. Teams please track the batter results each inning for your own team and runs scored by your opponent. Please confirm with the other Captain at the end of each half inning – the score. If nothing else, confirm the score with the opposing Captain at the end of the game, so that both teams report the same score to League Executive (please see 'Reporting of Game Results' below).
4. **New for 2017:** Tournament Entry Eligibility. As it relates to our 2017 Tournament, players must have met the eligibility requirements to participate (8 games during the 2017 regular season). **In 2017, this mandatory minimum shall NOT apply to female players.**

### Short-Handed Rule:

1. All players must be "ready to play" with the minimum number to avoid a forfeit.
2. A minimum of eight players must be on the scorecard (player list) at the start of the game. A team will be charged with a loss if it cannot field sufficient players. A team can play with 8 players, minimum 2 females; however there will be one "auto-out" if the short-handed team fields one female.
3. As stated above, to be eligible to play in the play-offs, a player must have played in a minimum of 8 games during the regular season league games; prolonged injury exempted, mitigating circumstance exempted, on approval, by League Executive. Players that have been prominent for a team in previous years and included on the team roster and do not meet the minimum games required may also be eligible on approval by League Executive.
4. A player removed from the game for an injury (as determined by the Umpire's discretion) will NOT be declared an "out".

**On-Field Equipment:** Home team must supply and install the bases and home plate. In 2017, we continue the use of a wooden 2x3 home plate. In the event the home team fails to supply bases and home plate the visiting team will be asked to supply them, as such, visiting teams are encouraged to please also bring bases/plate to each game.

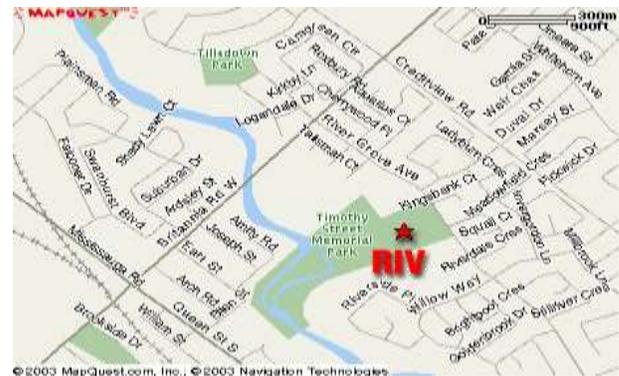
### 2017 FIELDS:

The City of Mississauga will line our fields four (4) or more times per season. The infields to our permitted ball fields are raked regularly. The outfields to our permitted ball fields are groomed regularly.

**FLEETWOOD PARK (Mississauga East):** Our electrical box is located immediately next to "the facilities" adjacent to the parking lot.



### RIVER GROVE D#2 (Mississauga West):



### DUNTON Sports Park D #2 (Mississauga Central)



**PARK LIGHTS:** Keys are no longer required to activate the lights. Combination lock replaces former key lock.

**NEW FOR 2017 re FIELD LOCK COMBINATION:**

Use the combination **1-8-6-7** to gain entry onto our permitted fields (Fleetwood, Dunton 2 & RiverGrove). Push the mechanism UP once, and then pull down. Code to be shared to authorized participants only. Ensure switch for light box is placed in "auto" position (if applicable). To save energy, if playing the third remaining game for the night, please turn off lights immediately after use although set by automatic timer.

As with bases & home plate, the Home team is ultimately responsible to engage the lights when necessary. Please Home or Visitor teams, please let us all help each other re: lights.

**Lighting Emergencies:** If you experience a light issue – please contact Ava Wojcik (League Advisor) @ 416.803.2788 **immediately** or at very least as soon you notice the lights are inactive. Test the lights as early as possible. Please do not wait until dusk as it may be too late to save the game(s) at hand.

**EQUIPMENT**

**BALLS:** Bordertown uses flight restricted balls on the basis of safety (i.e., playing on 'short' fields).  
BTSPS will supply Team Captains new balls for **ALL 2017 Season HOME** games.



NSA Canada and Louisville have combined to develop the best softball on the market (longest lasting and best performing) and again, this 2017 season is no exception. The home team is responsible for supplying one "new" sanctioned 12-inch ball and a good "used" sanctioned ball, its condition being acceptable to the Umpire.

Please contact either League Executive Mike Ferneyhough @ [mikeferneyhough@rogers.com](mailto:mikeferneyhough@rogers.com) or text (416) 873-6889 or Ava Wojcik @ [avaw@skypower.com](mailto:avaw@skypower.com) or (416) 803-2788 should your team require extra home game balls or good second balls. We always have extras on hand if you need.

BTSPS alternates using both 11- and 12-inch softballs.

Men shall hit a 12-inch softball and the women shall hit an 11-inch softball (although women have the option to hit either).

Umpires shall be responsible for handing out one "new" or a good "used" 11-inch ball as well as switching to the appropriate ball when a female is up-to-bat. **ONLY** if you are the Home Team and scheduled for the first time slot, please provide to the Umpire an 11" ball. This first time slot home team ball shall be used throughout the evening for all the three games. A schedule of your homes games will also be provided along with your Captain's kits (this is how we allot these 11" balls for you).

**Equipment cont.**

If the wrong ball is used and appealed properly prior to the ball being put into play, the correct ball will be switched into the game and the count on the batter shall not change. If the wrong ball is put into play, a proper appeal, made by either the offensive or defensive team, must be requested prior to the first pitch to the next batter. When appealed, the Umpire will return all base runners to the original bases which were occupied before the incorrect ball was put into play.

**BATS:**

**OUR BAT POLICY FOR APPROVED PLAY REMAINS UNCHANGED FOR OUR 2017 SEASON.**

It remains decided, in the best interest of all, our official bat must bear **either** the **ASA approved 2000 certification mark**, or the **ASA 2004 certification mark** or the **ASA Certification Mark** or the **USSSA standard** as shown to the right above and **must NOT** be listed on the Non-Approved Bat Lists.



Players can check the ASA Approved Bat List, and check for a listing of approved and non-approved bats by going to the following link (also provided for in Captain's Kits): <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-asa/certified-asa-equipment>

**Coming in 2018:** Since safety is the primary reason for our bat policies, we will be adopting in 2018 a revised bat policy in that ALL bats must carry the **USSSA compliance mark** or will be deemed **illegal** for play in 2018 as pictured to the right:



This said if purchasing a new model bat in 2017 please ensure it has the new "USSSA BPF 1.20" (Thumbprint) logo on it.

All bats on the illegal bat list are on our BTSPS website, also given to Captains before the season start by way of Captain's kits. Captains, please encourage your teams to check their bats with the Umpire before each game begins. The bat rule will be enforced, even if the Umpire failed to check all bats before the start of the game.

**Bat Challenge Rule:** This rule allows a Team Captain or Umpire to challenge the legality of a bat. Once a bat is challenged, if the Umpire deems it illegal, it cannot be used. If the Umpire deems the bat legal, it will be allowed and play will continue.

Bringing an identified illegal bat to the plate will result in an "out" being called, the bat being disqualified and the player being issued a warning (1<sup>st</sup> offence).

If the Umpire is unsure of the legality of the bat, it can be removed from play at the Umpire's discretion. In this case, the automatic "out" call is waived and the player is allowed to get another bat and continue his or her at-bat. The challenged bat is then disqualified and cannot be used again in that game and must be cleared through League Executive before it can be used in any game throughout the 2017 season. It is the Captain's responsibility to contact League Executive to have a bat declared legal for league play.

Umpires will inspect bats for cracks, dents, flat spots, loose end caps, etc., pre-game where possible. If during a game, the Umpire reserves the right to inspect and reject/remove from play any such bat considered to be unplayable/deemed unsafe whether they pass initial check and/or visual inspection or not.

### Schedules

1. The regular 2017 Season schedule shall be submitted to all Captains and Co-Captains in advance of the 2017 season - **Opening Day, Monday, May 8, 2017.**
2. Play-off schedule will be made and submitted immediately following last regular season game (Play-Offs completely contingent on regular season standings).
3. League Executive must be informed of game(s) rescheduled by teams (by way of Captains) as far in advance as possible before the game(s) in question. Again, as mentioned previously under, "Game Cancellations", opposing teams must agree to the scheduled change.

### Starting or Terminating a Game

Games are to start and finish within the scheduled time. A regulation game will be seven (7) innings or 75 minutes, whichever comes first.

A grace period at the beginning of a game can only be granted by an Umpire and Captains from both teams (maximum of 15 minutes if permitted). Due to space and time restrictions, all games must be declared last inning after 65 minutes, if not by the Umpire (in rare cases), then by our astute Team Captains.

Time-permitting, teams will be permitted to take a brief infield before the game. This will be done at the Umpire's discretion. Teams are encouraged to arrive early and warm-up on the sidelines prior to their game.

If the full 7 innings cannot be completed because of rain, darkness, or other unexpected reasons, then the score at the end of the last full inning will stand. In case of stoppage of play:

1. A minimum of 4 full innings must be completed for the game to be declared a complete game (3 ½ if home team ahead) and the score will be considered official.
2. ½ innings revert to the last full inning completed (if over 4 innings) if home team is behind at the stoppage of play.
3. Subject to the league's 75 minute game time limit, in case of a tie at the conclusion of seven innings, tie stands in regular season games.
4. The decision to cancel any game to be made by an officially carded Umpire, (i.e. heavy rain, field conditions, lightning, defaults); provided that such cancellation can only be made after 15 minutes have elapsed from the scheduled start of any such game.
5. There will be a replay if 4 full innings (3 ½ if home team ahead) were not completed. Game will resume at score at the time of stoppage of play for that replayed game.
6. Every attempt should be made to complete the game in the allotted 75-minute time.
7. Only the League Executive can authorize postponement or cancel a scheduled game for reasons other than weather.

### Game Times

1. 6:30 PM with no new inning after 7:50 PM
2. 8:00 PM with no new inning after 9:20 PM
3. 9:30 PM (park lights remain in effect to 11 PM nightly)

**New for 2017:** All Umpires have been made aware that their goal is to get your full time in or 7 innings in. Captains, please always encourage your players to hustle on and off the playing field at all times.

### Playing Field

1. The distance between the bases will be sixty-five (65) feet.
2. Double bases will be used at first base, coming together over the first base foul line. The white base in fair territory and the orange base in foul territory.
3. The pitcher rubber is no closer than fifty (50) feet from back of the plate. The pitcher's zone is a rectangular area 24 inches wide, located 50 feet from the rear corner of home plate. The pitcher must start his/her pitch with one foot anywhere within this zone.

## Results of Scoring

1. As mentioned, a regular season game can end in a tie. In case of a tie, each team will receive credit.
2. A tie in the final standings (regular season or playoffs) will result in the team with the best record of games won-lost involving the two or more teams, being declared the winner.
3. Should there still be a tie, (regular season or play-offs) the runs differential (runs for minus runs against) in games between the tied teams would be the deciding factor.
4. Should there still be a tie, (regular season or playoffs) the team with the greatest overall run differential will be declared the winner.
5. In all games (regular season or playoffs), the bottom half of the last inning will be played unless (mercy rule not applicable) time limit prevails.
6. The score of a forfeited game shall be 9-0 in favour of the team not at fault.
7. In the event of a double default, both teams will be given a loss in the standings.

## Reporting of Game Results

**Both Home & Visitor Team Captain/Rep must report game results to League Executive**  
**[mamaroo@sympatico.ca](mailto:mamaroo@sympatico.ca) or by text to 416.618.4008**  
**within forty-eight (48) hours of your game (we hope as soon as after your game).**

Standings will be updated and posted Fridays, EACH & EVERY WEEK of the regular season to our website at [bordertownslpitch.com](http://bordertownslpitch.com).

IF NOT REPORTED WITHIN 48 HOURS – SCORE THAT WAS IN FACT SUBMITTED WILL STAND.

## Weekly Standings will show:

1. Games Played (GP)
2. Wins (W)
3. Losses (L)
4. Ties (T)
5. Average Runs per game (RAVE)
6. Runs For (RF)
7. Runs Against (RA)
8. Games Behind (GB)

All teams shall utilize the official association scoresheets (to be provided to Captains by Bordertown or provide their own sheet if preferred) and will retain the sheets for each game in the event of any issues requiring league inspection and player eligibility during the 2017 season.

## Awards

Awards shall be decided by and rest with League Executive. For our 2017 Season, awards will be awarded at the conclusion of the Play-Offs immediately following the FINAL Championship Game at our Tournament Fields at Dunton Athletic Complex the evening of Sunday, September 24, 2017.



**Thank you and remember if you have any questions or concerns, your League Executive is always here for you!**