

**EDMONTON SENIORS SLO-PITCH ASSOCIATION  
50+**

ESSPA

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## RULES AND REGULATIONS

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### CODE OF CONDUCT AND CODE OF ETHICS

- 1.1** At all times every slo-pitch participant is expected to display respect for the rights, dignity and worth of athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, media, friends, and spectators regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- 1.2** No ESSPA League Member, volunteer or Fan:
- 1.2.1.** will conduct themselves in behavior contrary to this code both on or off the field.
  - 1.2.2.** will cause any form of personal abuse, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse, towards other athletes, officials, host personnel, volunteers, spectators and others, before, during or after any game or tournament.
  - 1.2.3.** will refuse to abide by an official's decision, threaten an official, or at any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or make incidental physical contact with the body or kick dirt or other matter on the official or attempt to cause physical contact when disputing a decision. This includes causing or attempting to cause physical contact with another participant at any "ESSPA" game or tournament.
  - 1.2.4.** will cause the destruction of property belonging to others.
  - 1.2.5.** will use any intoxicating substances during the course of the game, or appear to be in an intoxicated condition during the course of the game.
  - 1.2.6.** will use any improper and unapproved equipment.
  - 1.2.7.** will give false or misleading information or fail to cooperate with a legitimate request from an ESSPA official in the discharge of his/her official duties.
  - 1.2.8.** will when requested by the game official, refuse to assist him/her in the enforcement of this Code of Conduct and the control of players making threats.
  - 1.2.9.** shall incur Non-payment of team-incurred debts.
  - 1.2.10.** shall fail to provide current team accident and liability insurance coverage forms.
  - 1.2.11.** shall play under an assumed name.
  - 1.2.12.** shall falsify an official ESSPA document.
  - 1.2.13.** shall write cheques with non-sufficient funds or account closed cheques to an ESSPA official, umpire, member team, individual or business.
  - 1.2.14.** shall commit acts of fraud perpetrated against an ESSPA official, team or individual.
  - 1.2.15.** shall commit acts of larceny perpetrated against an ESSPA official, team, individual or volunteer.
  - 1.2.16.** shall use any ESSPA logos or trademarks without express permission.
  - 1.2.17.** shall commit any acts that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of ESSPA.
  - 1.2.18.** Penalties - Violation of any of the above may result in suspension or disqualification.

## **2 CHOPPING/Bunting**

**2.1** A batter is out when he “bunts” or “chops down” on the ball.

## **3 CALLED GAME**

**3.1** For league Round-Robin games, no inning shall start later than TEN MINUTES before the start of the next scheduled game.

## **4 COMMITMENT LINE**

**4.1** Once a runner coming home touches or crosses the “commitment line” (20 feet from home plate) he/she must continue to the “scoring plate”, otherwise he/she is out.

## **5 COURTESY RUNNER/S**

### **5.1 Cuthbertson Division / “AA” Division**

**5.1.1.** Courtesy runners shall follow the “SPN” rules. Maximum of seven (7) per game and the same runner only run once (1) per inning.

**5.1.2.** Any fully bonafide 60 + *team* will be granted this allowance of unlimited use of courtesy runners.

### **5.2 Hirsch Division**

**5.2.1.** Each courtesy runner can only run once per inning and twice per game.

**5.2.2.** There will be a maximum of 10 courtesy runners per game.

**5.2.3.** A courtesy runner may be used to replace the batter that has just reached a base.

**5.2.4.** No courtesy runners are allowed from Home plate.

### **5.3 Brawner Division**

**5.3.1.** Each courtesy runner can only run once (1) per inning.

**5.3.2.** A courtesy runner may be used to run to first (from a line or box that is 2 meters behind the extension of the third base line, or to replace a batter that has just reached a base.

**5.3.3.** A courtesy runner may not be replaced with another courtesy runner except in the case of an injury occurring to the on base courtesy runner. New as of May/09.

### **5.4 All Divisions**

**5.4.1.** An illegal runner is counted as an out as soon as he takes the base of the person he is running for if detected by the opposition team before the next batter has completed his/her at bat. No ejections.

**5.4.2.** A courtesy runner may be replaced by another courtesy runner but it must be done before the on-base courtesy runner’s turn at bat occurs. The effect is that the batter is out if serving as a courtesy runner and is still on a base when it’s his/her turn to bat.

## 6 ON FIELD DISPUTES

6.1 The coach and/or manager are the only player allowed to dispute the call of an umpire.

## 7 EQUIPMENT

7.1 **Cleats** - Absolutely no metal cleats are allowed.

7.2 **Bats** - Any bat that is not on the ASA certified list or on the ASA Non-approved bat list, or doesn't display a 2004 or later certified sticker will be considered as illegal. Link to approved bat web site: [Link to certified bat lists](#)

7.2.1. Bats must be approved softball bats with a "BPF" of 1.20 or Less.

7.2.2. Bats must be approved for play with ASA. See [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com).

7.2.3. No titanium bats are allowed (ASCSRA rule).

7.2.4. No bat warmers are allowed (ASCSRA rule).

### 7.2.5. ESSPA Regulation on bats

7.2.5.1. A regulation softball bat (must say official softball on the bat) with handle tape, rubber or leather, is the only legal bat allowed (no baseball bats). If a metal bat is used, it must have a metal knob. As a result of numerous accidents and a recent death involving the newest technology in softball bats, the Edmonton Seniors Slo-Pitch Association has decided to follow the recommendations of the USA Amateur Softball Association and ban bats with a BPF rating beyond what is listed on the bat. The ESSPA Exec will post the ASA list of banned bats.

### 7.2.6. Consequences of usage of an illegal bat

7.2.6.1. If caught using an illegal bat (banned or altered): Player will be ejected - the length of suspension will be the remainder of the existing year including playoffs and the following year. The ESSPA Executive will meet and ratify the actual total suspension duration. An individual must know that his bat is not a Banned bat or altered bat, if he brings it into a ESSPA facility or uses it in a ESSPA game. If not, the individual can be suspended from ESSPA activities. The fact that the individual did not know that the bat was Banned or altered is not a factor in

imposing the suspension. The question is only whether the bat is Banned or altered or not.

## 8 FOUL BALL

8.1 Foul balls going beyond the projection of the backstop screen will be classified "out of play" and the batter shall remain at bat. Exception to this rule is the third strike foul ball rule where the batter is automatically out.

**9 HOME PLATE**

**9.1** A force out shall be in effect for all plays at home plate. No tag out between the commitment line and the scoring plate.

**9.2** A runner touching home plate after rounding the bases will be out (by appeal only).

**10 HOME TEAM DUTIES AND DUGOUT ASSIGNMENT**

**10.1**The **home team** shall utilize the ‘**third base side**’ dugout while the **visitor team** utilizes the ‘**first base side**’.

**10.2**The HOME and AWAY designation is on your Schedule!!

**10.3**Home Team is responsible to put out the bases etc. on early games and pick up the bases after late games.

**10.4**Home team has the choice of batting first or batting last.

**11 LEAD OFF**

**11.1**Cuthbertson and Hirsch Division: A base runner leaving any base before the pitched ball reaches home plate is out.

**11.2**Brawner Division: A base runner cannot leave the base until the batter makes contact (fair or foul) with the ball.

**12 MERCY RULE**

**12.1**The five run ‘mercy rule’ per inning is in effect. The exception is the seventh or last inning.

**12.2**Cuthbertson Division: 12 runs after 5 innings and 20 runs after 4 innings.

**13 NON ATTENDANCE/LATE**

**13.1**Each team member is required to inform the coach or manager if he is not coming to or will be late for a game. **EFFECT:** Insertion into the lineup will be at the coach’s discretion.

**14 NUMBER OF PLAYERS FIELDING**

<b>14.1</b> <u>Cuthbertson Division / ‘AA’ Division</u> .....	10	
<b>14.2</b> <u>Hirsch Division</u> .....		10
<b>14.3</b> <u>Brawner Division</u> .....	11	

## 15 ON DECK BATTER

15.1 The batting team must have their next official batter in the “on deck circle” when current batter is in the “batter’s box”. Non compliance will cause an automatic strike to be called against the “on-deck” batter. The strike call shall carry over to the next inning.

## 16 PARTICIPATION

16.1 For the Brawner Division and the Hirsch Division players will be placed in the batting order regardless of the number of players and will rotate in and out of the field to ensure equal playing time.

16.2 For the Cuthbertson Division / “AA” Division player participation will be at the coach’s discretion.

16.3 For the Brawner Division and Hirsch Division the batting order shall be determined by the coach/manager.

16.4 For the Brawner Division and the Hirsch Division there will not be an automatic out for an injured player who cannot continue to bat as long as there still is a minimum of 9 players batting, and once out of the batting order the player is out of the game.

## 17 PLACEMENT OF PLAYERS

17.1 All players entering the league after the player draft must be approved by the League Board Assigned Representative. These players will be assigned to a team based on the next order of selection during the draft. The exception to this procedure will be when a team has lost players due to injury and other similar circumstances. In such cases the League Board Assigned Representative shall place the player on the appropriate team.

## 18 PHYSICAL CONTACT

18.1 Players intentionally causing physical contact (offensively or defensively) will be automatically ejected from the game by the umpire

## 19 PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY

19.1 All players eligible for playoffs must be fully paid up members of the league and must have played a minimum of 6 games with the team.

## 20 SAFE BASE (ORANGE)

20.1 When there is a play at first, the batter/runner must run to the orange “safe base” using the 3 foot line. Non compliance will cause the batter/runner to be called out.

## 21 SLIDING

21.1 **Brawner Division** - No sliding into bases but you can slide back into the base.

21.2 **Cuthbertson Division and Hirsch Division** - Sliding is optional.

21.3 **All Divisions** - **FORCE OUT at 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Base:** When a runner is being forced out at a base he must turn out of the base path to allow the fielding team a chance for a double play.

## 22 SPARE PLAYERS FOR A LEAGUE GAME

22.1 At no time will the playing time of a player on the team roster be jeopardized by the spare player.

22.2 In all Divisions, a spare player must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

22.3 **Brawner Division**: Any player within this Division, any Brawner rated player on the Spare List and, any player from the Hirsch Division may be used to complete a team roster for any scheduled league game.

22.4 **Hirsch Division**: Any player within this division, any Brawner or Hirsch rated player on the Spare List and, any player from the Brawner Division may be used to complete a team roster for any scheduled league game.

22.5 **Cuthbertson Division / "AA" Division**: Any player, duly registered with ESSPA can be used as a spare for league play.

22.6 **Note**: Playoff Games are treated separately. See your division's playoff rules.

## 23 SUBSTITUTION - Unlimited substitution is allowed.

23.1 **Hirsch & Brawner Divisions** – in the field only since everyone is in batting order.

## 24 SUSPENSION FORMAT

24.1 Any person accused of a suspend able offence must be brought to the attention of the "Rules Committee", by submission of a formal letter to the President outlining the offence, identifying the accused, and signed by at least two members in attendance during the occurrence.

24.2 The "Rules Committee" shall deal with the matter in a timely manner by reviewing the facts, interview of the accused and submission of a recommendation to the ESSPA executive for final action. A letter will be sent to the accusers advising them of the result of the matter.

## 25 CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY

25.1 Complaint shall be in writing and presented to the Division Coordinator who will bring it to the attention of the Rules Committee.

25.2 Managers will inform players of the conflict resolution procedure. Players will be encouraged to bring their concerns to the Manager or Coach in private in an attempt to resolve the concern.

## 26 WARM UP AREA - All warm-ups are to be conducted on grassed areas. **Not on shale.**

## 27 OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

27.1 Cuthbertson Division shall follow SPN- Slow Pitch National Rules **except** for:

Rule 5, Sec. 1 & Sec. 3A: A team can start or complete a game with 9 players. If you start a game with 9 players there will be no automatic out. If you start a game with 10 or more players and you lose a player during the course of the game you will not be charged an automatic out for that spot in the batting lineup.

Please note then that in Sec. 4, "required number of players" could be 9. A late addition to complete a starting line-up of 10 is considered to be a starter, not a substitute since he is filling a vacant position, not

replacing a player. However, once a line-up of 10 or more has been listed, any player entering the game thereafter will be considered to be a substitute.

Rule 5, Sec. 3 D: Although potential spares and substitutes would normally be included on the line-up card and score sheet, a spare's name can be added to the line-up card at any time provided that, in the umpire's opinion, it is not unduly delaying the game. For instance, trying to insert a Guest Player that was not properly registered before the game would be considered as unduly delaying.

Rule 4, Sec. 3: THE START OF THE GAME is the point in time when the teams have exchanged line-ups and **the HOME team has declared 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> bat.** Home team is pre-determined for ALL games.

STG&OR, Sec. 3L: There will be no limit for home runs on Diamond #1. The limit on Diamonds #3 and #4 will be 2 per team.

A courtesy runner from home for a player with an injury is permissible if the opposing coach agrees. It is understood that the intent of the rule is to allow a healing player to keep playing and minimize the chance of aggravating an injury. It

is also understood that the opposing coach can ask the umpire to remove this courtesy at any time during the game if he feels that an unfair advantage is being gained, for instance if the courtesy runner is much faster than the batter normally would be.

The umpire will make a starting line 6 ft behind the extension of the 3<sup>rd</sup> base foul line and an "oops" line 20 ft towards first. The batter is out if he touches or crosses the "oops" line. . The batter is also out if the courtesy runner touches or crosses the starting line before the ball is hit. In either case, the defense has the option of choosing the result of the play or having the batter being called out and all runners returning to the base they held prior to the play. If the courtesy runner touches or crosses the starting line during a strike when the ball is not hit, the batter is out.

This rule is applicable only to the regular league play and not to the playoffs.

A courtesy runner from home is considered part of the team total allowable courtesy runners.

**27.2** All other instances not covered by these League Rules shall be as written in the SPN- Slow Pitch National- Slo-Pitch Rules.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

**Standards of conduct encompass the ESSPA Rules and Regulations in part 1 of this document.**

### COACHES AND MANAGERS CODE OF ETHICS

#### Commitment to the Players

- Coaches shall put the welfare of their athletes above all else while maintaining professional relationships with them.
- Coaches shall encourage the athlete to exhibit sportsmanship at all times.
- Coaches will treat players with dignity and respect at all times.
- Coaches need to understand that they are role models for their players. They must project a proper role model image.
- Coach's commitment to the player and the player's commitment to the coach is an equal partnership.

#### Commitment to the Institution

- Coaches shall behave in such a way that they shall bring credit to their organization and to themselves.
- Coaches will follow ESSPA's Rules and Regulations herein.

#### Commitment to Other Coaches

- All umpires and coaches shall be treated in a professional and respectable manner both on and off the field.
- Any displeasure with a coach or umpire's action or conduct shall be addressed through the proper channels and not through the media or through public opinion.

**As a member of ESSPA, I accept the Rules and Regulations and agree to abide by same.**

## SPORTSMANSHIP

**"For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes not that you won or lost - but how you played the game." (Grantland Rice)**

It seems in our sports today, the concept of good sportsmanship has been lost. While winning at all costs and poor sportsmanship may be condoned and even promoted in professional sports, this does not mean it is the proper way for athletes to behave. Whether we like it or not, sportsmanship in sports is a direct reflection of our own ethics in real life. Sportsmanship like ethics concerns both the character and the actions of an athlete. The image you project as an athlete is a product of your character. Good sportsmanship is not just what you do on the field, it is hopefully the way you conduct your life both on and off the field. In the same way, unsportsmanlike behavior on the field is probably an indication of your off the field conduct. Unsportsmanlike behavior -- acts that are unfair, dishonest, and disrespectful or against the rules - are unsportsmanlike because they are unethical. If you are unethical in sports, can you be ethical in the other areas of your life - your business dealings, your treatment of others, your family?

We can sit back and blame television and pro sports for the decline in sportsmanship but we can also take the responsibility of bringing it back into at least the game of Slo-Pitch. It is time for all of us involved with Slo-Pitch to practice good sportsmanship. This is especially important if we are involved with children either as a parent or coach. This year ESSPA will expect all participants to follow the basics of sportsmanship.