



**YORK REGION ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
GIRLS' SLO-PITCH PLAYING REGULATIONS**



1. Season of Play: Spring Sport
2. Division: Varsity
  - A) The minimum number of teams to run a league will be 4. If less than 4 teams declare for a league, the convenor(s) of the league may appeal to the executive for an exception. Appeals must be heard before the pre-season meeting for that sport.
  - B) If a sport declares less than 4 teams three years in a row, the sport will no longer be offered as an option by the YRAA.

**3. Eligibility:**

- a) See YRAA eligibility and transfer form.
- b) AGE DIVISION CATEGORIES:

<b>Varsity</b>	School Year: <b>2019-20</b>
	Year of Birth must be no earlier than: <b>2000</b>
	Date of Entry to grade 9 must be no earlier than August of: <b>2015</b>
- c) The team roster must be completed on-line prior to the commencement of the competition.

**4. Governing Rules:**

- a) Refer to the current OPHEA safety guidelines for this sport
- b) CASA\SPOA or SPN rules will apply with the following exceptions: Note: Balls and strikes will be based on the mat.
- c) Diamonds:

The convenor, Athletic Coordinator and/or Assistant to the Athletic Coordinator is responsible for obtaining permits for the diamonds
- d) Equipment:
  - i) safety base with pegs is mandatory
  - ii) 11 inch ball is to be used. Home team supplies game ball.
  - iii) Catcher must wear shin protectors, chest protector and a mask with throat protector.
  - iv) batters and base runners must wear helmets with chin straps done up otherwise the batter/base runner will be called out.
  - v) Rubber spikes only
  - vi) home base - construct as per the diagram at the end of the rules
  - vii) the home team or the previously assigned team is responsible for supplying bases and a mat and will default the game if bases are not supplied
  - viii) the home team is responsible for marking the diamond -- fair/foul lines, commit and home base lines as per the diagram at the end of these playing regulations.
  - ix) The base path is 65 feet; the pitching distance is 45-50 feet.



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- e) Unlimited substitution -- no re-entry rule -- play wherever and whenever you want your players to play.
- f) The optimal number of players for slo pitch in the YRAA is 10 or more. Batting line-ups must contain at least 10 spots although teams may play with as few as 8 players in the line-up. A team with fewer than 8 players dressed to play will default the game. The batting order must be the same throughout the entire game. If a team has fewer than 10 players present, one or two automatic "outs" must be placed in their batting order depending on the number of players fewer than 10. These "outs" will remain at the same place in the order throughout the game or until a late arriving player is inserted into the spot. Late arriving players must notify the opponent's scorekeeper of their arrival before being inserted into the batting order, either in one of the automatic "out" spots or at the end of the batting order. All players do not have to play defensively.
- g) Injured players must make it to first base before a substitute base runner is allowed. Three courtesy runners are allowed during the game. It can be anyone on the bench (can be the same person)
- h) Anticipated leadoff is permitted after the ball has crossed the plate. Base runner must return immediately to her base if no contact by the bat and ball was made.
- i) Mercy Rule: Maximum number of runs allowed per inning shall be 7. Side scoring 7 runs takes field after the 7th run has crossed the line at home. During the playoffs (semi finals and finals) the mercy rule will be waived. After five innings, if there is a 10 run difference in score, the mercy rule shall be in effect.
- j) Opening inning will be the last inning played for both teams. This will either be the 7th inning or the final inning if the time limit is declared by the umpire There are no restrictions on the number of runs scored during the open inning
- k) The number of games a player must play to be eligible for playoffs in slo pitch is one (1). Keep a copy of all game sheets.
- l) Scoring - each team should be keeping score. At the end of each inning, comparisons of score should be examined. Batting order must be exchanged before the start of the game. Retain a copy of all score sheets.
- m) Commit Line - to avoid collisions at home, the play at home plate will become a forced play. Catcher only has to be in controlled possession of the ball standing on plate **or mat** before the runner crosses the home plate line. Once the runner crosses the commit line she has committed herself to go home and must proceed (see diagram).
- n) For league games coaches are to report scores through the Sports Admin System. Login as a coach, click on the 'Games' tab, find the game you want to enter the score for then click on the yellow 'Edit' button beside the game and then enter the score beside the corresponding team



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- o) In the event of unplayable conditions (due to weather or permits being pulled) the convenor, Athletic Coordinator and/or Assistant to the Athletic Coordinator will contact coaches as soon as they are notified or a decision is made. A complete game, in the event of rain starting after the commencement of play, shall be 3.5 innings if the home team is winning at that point, or 4 complete innings. Please DO NOT play if there is lightning.
- p) Default time will be 20 minutes from the official start time (to be decided at the coaches' meeting)
- q) If time permits, during regular season, complete the full 7 inning game. No new inning to start after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the first pitch. There is no need to complete bottom of inning if the home team is winning.
- r) Pitcher gets 5 warm up pitches before first inning and 3 pitches each inning thereafter. A new pitcher gets 5 warm up pitches. No infield practice between innings.
- s) Ties in league standings: the following formula will be used to rank teams for playoff positions, if ties exist:
  - i) best overall points record
  - ii) most wins
  - iii) winner of head to head game
  - iv) runs for-runs against
  - v) most runs for
  - vi) coin toss

Whenever runs are used to break ties, a maximum run differential of seven (7) runs shall be used. The rankings established will be carried through to include the final game.

- t) Playoffs - home team advantage in the semi-final goes to the team finishing highest in the standings. Final Game - toss of coin.
- u) Wild Card Playoff Position (if required): i) The Wild Card Playoff Position will be awarded to the 2nd place team with the best record in league play, considering all divisions of play. If this can't be determined because of an imbalance in the number of games played, or if two or more teams have the same record, the tie breaking formula above will be used to determine the Wild Card Team.
- v) Tie games in regular season stand.
- w) Payment of Officials: Every team is responsible for paying one half the cost of each umpire for every league game played. Teams will be centrally billed for their official payments.

**6. Supervision of Teams/Individuals:**

- a) All teams or individuals must have on site supervision by a member of the teaching staff or retired teacher from the school that they represent.
- b) This teacher shall be responsible to the YRAA for the conduct of his/her team and shall be the only person involved in all exchanges with officials, opposing teacher/coaches and members of school staffs.



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- c) A non-teacher (community volunteer, parent, etc.) is permitted to assist in the coaching of an individual or team provided that a teacher is present and responsible.
- d) The teacher must be present and on the bench for team sports or in the immediate vicinity for all other sports.
- e) Unless the staff member (as defined in Section 1 a) above) of the competing school is present, the opposing teacher/coach and/or convenor shall not allow the game to begin or an individual to compete and the competition shall be forfeited.
- f) No teacher/coach shall officiate a game involving his/her team.
- g) It is the teacher/coaches' duty to ensure the accuracy of the information provided on the game sheets compared to the team's eligibility list.

**7. Inclement Weather:**

- a) In the event of inclement weather, games may be cancelled and rescheduled if:
  - i) the transportation company (bus) cancels the booking OR
  - ii) the school principal determines that the weather is unsafe for teams to travel to the site
  - iii) when lightning or thunder is seen or heard in the area, play shall be suspended and participants shall seek appropriate shelter as outlined in the current OPHEA safety document. Play may be resumed once thirty (30) minutes has passed since the last observation of lightning or the sound of thunder. The decision to suspend play shall be made by the game official and/or teacher/coaches of the teams involved in the competition.

Whenever possible, it is recommended that a decision to cancel a game due to inclement weather be made by 1:00 p.m. the day of the game.

- b) The YRAA office will:
  - i) keep a record of cancelled games in order to ensure that they are rescheduled
  - ii) notify the referee assignor that the games are cancelled and will be rescheduled so that unnecessary travel by officials can be avoided.

**8. Costs:**

The financial cost of the operation of the playoffs plus the assignor(s) fee(s) shall be shared equally by all schools participating in the league, regardless of classification (A, AA, AAA) on a per team basis.

**10. Awards:  
For Tier 1 and 2**

Individual medallions (15) will be presented to the first and second place teams. A pennant and team trophy will be presented to the tier 1 championship team.