

## WCSSAA Girls' Slo Pitch Playing Rules and Regulations

### 1. Date

1.1 The Waterloo County Secondary School Athletic Association Girls' Slo Pitch schedule shall be played in the months May to June unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change.

### 2. Location

2.1 The locations of the regular season and play-off games shall be determined by available facilities.

2.2 The locations of the games shall be as they appear in the WCSSAA Sports Schedule unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change.

### 3. Competitive Divisions

3.1 There will be one(1) competitive division.

### 4. League Structure and Procedures

4.1 The league structure will be determined based on the number of teams participating in any given year and shall be organized by the convenor and the scheduling chair.

4.2 Game results are the responsibility of the home team.

4.3 The home team is responsible for preparing the diamond.

4.4 **No new inning can start after 75 minutes.**

### 5. Play-Offs

5.1 The play-offs shall consist of a tournament. The round robin will be played on the one date. The semis and finals together on a separate date.

5.2 The top 8 teams from the regular season shall enter the play-offs.

5.3 If a team forfeits a game or games, and if that team is tied with other teams at the end of the schedule, then that team would be relegated to the lower standing between the teams tied

5.4 Tie-breaking procedures in final standings if two (2) teams are tied:

5.4.1 Head to head record of the tied teams against each other

5.4.2 If still tied the win/loss record against common opponents.

- 5.4.3 If still tied the team with the most wins against common opponents.
- 5.4.4 If still tied, strength of schedule format will be used.

**Strength of Schedule**

A list of all the teams that each of the tied teams has played will be compiled. The number of wins each of these teams has accumulated during the season will then be added together and compared. This total will be used to determine the placement of tied teams; that is, the higher the total, the tougher the schedule and therefore the higher the placement of the tied team.

- 5.4.5 If still tied, the total "runs against" vs. common opponents, that is, the lower the total, the higher the placement of the tied teams
- 5.4.6 If still tied, total runs against in the season, even if teams don't have opponents in common.
- 5.4.7 If still tied, coin toss
- 5.5 If there is a tie between 3 teams or more:
  - 5.5.1 If one of the tied teams played and defeated all other tied teams, they are the clear winner.
  - 5.5.2 One clear winner will be determined using 5.4, and placed in the standing, and then the process starts over with the remaining tied teams
- 5.6 The championship pools shall be formed based on the regular season standings as follows:

Pool A	Pool B
1st	2nd
3rd	4th
6th	5 <sup>th</sup>
8th	7th

- 5.6.1 The Highest seeded team based on regular season final standing, shall have the option of being the home or visiting team for all playoff games.
- 5.7 Round 1 will consist of round robin play within each pool.
- 5.8 Semi Finals

Semi Final 1	B2 vs A1
Semi Final 2	A1 vs B1

5.9 Finals

Winner Semi Final 2 vs Winner Semi Final 1

5.10 In the event of a tie after round robin play, the following tie-breaking procedures will be used:

5.10.1 Head to head record of the tied teams against each other.

5.10.2 Run differential after round- robin play between the teams that are tied

5.10.3 If still tied, the team with the lowest total "runs against" will be placed higher

5.10.4 In the case of a 3 way tie, once the highest placed finisher is determined using one of the above sections, the process will then repeat itself among the remaining tied teams.

5.11 In round robin play, and In playoffs, if there is a tie after seven (7) full innings or the time limit has been reached, it will be broken in the following manner. The extra innings will begin with the last out of the previous inning starting at second base and one (1) out will be counted.

5.12 The semi-finals and finals will have no time limit.

**6. Expenses**

6.1 The cost of umpires and any other expenses will be a shared expense amongst all participating teams.

**7. Eligibility**

7.1 Each competitor must be eligible under all the rules and regulations of WCSSAA.

7.2 Refer to WCSSAA Procedure 7.2.1 for individual eligibility.

7.3 A player, to qualify for a play-off game, must have played in one (1) of the regular league games.

**8. Entries**

8.1 A team's eligibility list must be received by the convenor prior to the first league game

8.2 Coaches may make additions to the eligibility list during the season.

**9. Rules and Officials**

9.1 The official rulebook governing play during the WCSSAA schedule shall be the Slo Pitch Ontario rulebook.

9.2 Exceptions to the rule book are as follows:

- 9.2.1 Baselines to be 60 feet in length.
- 9.2.2 Distance from pitcher's line to the front of the home plate to be 45 feet. Maximum distance a pitcher may go behind this line is 5 feet.
- 9.2.3 A commitment line will be drawn 21 feet from home plate intersecting the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line. If a runner touches or crosses that line during play, he must commit to home plate.
- 9.2.4 A safe line will be drawn from the front corner of home plate to the screen. A runner scores when any part of their front foot crosses or touches the ground on or past the diagonal line. If the runner touches home plate they are out. For all plays at home plate, the defensive team must touch home plate to record an out. Runners cannot be tagged once they've crossed the commit line. If they are tagged, they are deemed safe.
- 9.2.5 A team must have at least 8 players present at game time in order to start the game. If a team has less than 8 players, a 10 minute grace period will be granted. If 8 players are still not present at the end of the grace period, that team will default. A team starting with less than 10 players may add players to the bottom of the line-up to get to 10 batters at any time without those spots in the order being an automatic out.
- 9.2.6 Only players listed on the eligibility list submitted to the convenor may be included in the batting order. A coach may bat as many of these players as he/she chooses. The batting order must consist of a minimum of 10 players, unless a team does not have 10 players at the game, in which case refer to rule 9.2.5. Only players listed in the batting order may play defense.
  - 9.2.6.1 Any player in the batting order may be replaced during any stoppage of play with a legally rostered (from the eligibility list) player not already in the batting order. Each starting player may re-enter the game once in the same position in the batting order. Substitutes must be listed on the lineup card.
- 9.2.7 A player who arrives after the start of a game may be substituted into the game according to 9.2.6.1.
- 9.2.8 If a player in the batting order needs to leave before the end of the game, they may be substituted out. If no substitutes are available or have been used up, the player may be deleted without penalty to her team unless this would result in less than 8 players in the batting order.

- 9.2.9 Any regular season game that ends in a tie will remain a tie.
- 9.2.10 Over the fence home runs will follow a “plus two” format. One team cannot have more than two (2) over the fence homeruns than the other team at any point in the game. If a third over the fence homerun is hit, it will be counted as a single and runners will advance one base.
- 9.2.11 A pitch must be thrown underhand with a minimum arc height of 6 feet and a maximum of 12 feet. Any pitch not conforming will be declared by the umpire as a “No Pitch” and may be hit by batter or declared a “ball” if the batter doesn’t swing.
- 9.2.12 A third strike foul ball produces an automatic out to the batter however, the ball is alive if caught in the air in foul territory and the runners may advance at their own risk.
- 9.2.13 There will be a 5 run mercy rule per inning, except for the final inning which is open. Any game with a run differential of 15 after 5 innings will trigger the mercy rule.
- 9.2.14 Pitchers shall have 3 warm up pitches after the 1st inning, unless the pitcher is entering the game for the first time.
- 9.3 The home team will be the official scorekeepers.
- 9.4 A player may run for the catcher from the previous defensive inning and who is on base with two out. The replacement player must be in the current batting order and will be the last recorded out.”
- 9.5 When a batted ball hits **home plate and lands or rolls into fair territory, the ball is live and playable.**
- 9.6 Foul tip – a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher’s hands and is legally caught. **At any time, if a foul tip is caught directly out of the air, the batting player is declared out, regardless of the count.**

## 10. Uniforms and Equipment

- 10.1 The home team shall be responsible to supply home plate, first base double safety bag and other appropriate bases.
- 10.2 Home plate shall be two (2) feet wide by three (3) feet deep. Plywood is suggested.

- 10.3 The home team will provide a brand new 12' HOT DOT softball to be used as the official game ball.
- 10.4 Batters and base runners must wear approved helmets with the chin strap fastened.
- 10.5 Catchers must adhere to OPHEA slo-pitch guidelines regarding use of safety equipment: Failure to comply with the equipment guidelines in the game, the player or players will be sent off and the game will not resume until the player is wearing the required equipment.
- 10.6 Shoes may not have metal cleats.
- 10.7 No jewelry shall be worn by anyone on the playing field. An out will be called against the offending, offensive team. Jewelry which cannot be removed, shall be covered or taped down. Medic alert bracelets are NOT considered jewelry and should not be taped over.
- 10.8 Minimum uniforms will be identical shirts.
- 10.9 The league shall follow SPO rules for illegal bats. Coaches should view [www.slopitch.org](http://www.slopitch.org) to view the approved bat list. Coaches must have all team bats lined up along the fence for umpires to inspect before the game begins. Any batter using an illegal bat in the game will be called out. If a player is caught using an illegal bat a second time, the player is out and is automatically ejected.
- 10.10 Pitchers must wear an approved infielder face mask

**11. Awards**

- 11.1 The WCSSAA championship plaque will be presented to the championship team.
- 11.2 Each member of the championship and finalist team shall receive a WCSSAA individual plaque.

**12. Department**

- 12.1 A staff member from each school represented must be present and responsible for the behavior of his/her students.
- 12.2 No chewing tobacco shall be allowed during games.

**13. First Aid Procedures**

- 13.1 All coaches are required to follow the OPHEA guidelines for their sport.

- 13.2 Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies for their athletes.
- 13.3 Each school must have a First Aid Kit on site during competition.
- 13.4 Each school should have a safety procedure to follow and there should be access to a telephone for emergency use.

**14. Jury Of Appeal**

- 14.1 For all protests, complaints, and suspensions refer to WCSSAA Procedure 9.6

**15. Length of Playing Season**

- 15.1 The training and competitive season for a girls' slo pitch team shall be from March 1 to the WCSSAA, CWOSSA or OFSAA tournament.

**16. Coaches' Meetings**

- 16.1 There will be one (1) pre-season meeting held prior to the start of the regular season.
- 16.2 There will be one (1) post-season meeting held before the end of June.
- 16.3 Voting at the girls' slo pitch meetings will be limited to one(1) vote per team entered. Representatives must be present at the meeting to vote. Voting by proxy will not be permitted.
- 16.4 A simple majority of votes will rule.

**17. Convenor Rotation**

2017	WCI	2018	BCI	2021	CHCI	2022	ECI
2023	EDSS	2024	GCI	2025	GRCI	2026	HHSS
2027	KCI	2028	PHS	2029	LHSS		