

SOSSA GIRLS SLO-PITCH

PLAYING REGULATIONS – Revised April 10th, 2023

1. Date

The SOSSA Girls Slo-pitch Championship will be held in the spring each year on a date set by the SOSSA executive. In determining the date, the executive shall take into consideration OFSAA festival dates and deadlines.

2. Location

The location and date of the championship shall be decided no later than the SOSSA Annual General Meeting held in June of the previous school year.

3. Eligibility

Eligibility is as per Articles VII and VIII of the SOSSA Constitution.

4. Classifications

SOSSA baseball is played as a "varsity" (Sr. team only) sport with an open classification.

5. Tournament Structure and Procedure

The Championship tournament shall be a single elimination tournament and the minimum time between games shall be in accordance with the OFSAA playing regulations for Slo-pitch. The semi-final winners will meet to determine the SOSSA champion.

6. Entry

Each Zone shall be allowed one (1) team in the SOSSA championship. The SOSSA convener and the SOSSA administrative director may round out the draw to four teams if necessary. The procedure to fill out a SOSSA championship draw can be found in Article VII section 7.09.

7. Expenses

Since SOSSA is held responsible for any losses incurred in the tournament, then the Association should realize any profits. (After expenses - 60% to school, 40% to SOSSA)

Those schools having entries to SOSSA or OFSAA tournaments are responsible for arranging and financing their own travel and meals for the event(s).

A championship convener report shall be submitted to the SOSSA administrative director at the conclusion of the championship.

8. Rules and Officials

a. The Official Rules of Slo-Pitch Ontario shall govern play at the SOSSA championships with the following exceptions and/or reminders:

b. Playing Time:

8. Rules and Officials, continued:

i. A game consists of (7) innings. The game ends if the team batting second has scored more runs in six innings before the third out in the last half of the seventh inning than the other team has scored in seven innings.

ii. Tie games will be broken as follows: With no outs in their offensive half of the extra inning the teams will place a runner at second base (last player who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared.

iii. Games must be officiated by a minimum of one (1) Softball Ontario carded officials.

iv. 11" Optic Yellow Worth Green or Gold Dot Elite ball will be used during festival play.

v. Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid contacting a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.

vi. A 2' x 3' mat will be used for the strike zone. Pitches must have an arc between 6' and 12' from the ground. Pitching distance: 45' – 55'. A "ball" will be called by the umpire if the pitch is not within this range. A strike is called when it follows an arc of 6 feet to 12 feet and comes into contact with any part of the plate.

vii. A scoring line at home plate and a commitment line 21 feet from home plate shall be used.

viii. The distance between the pitching rubber (or marked line) and home plate is between 45-55 feet at the discretion of the pitcher, measured from the back of the plate. The rubber mat (2x3) to be placed on top of home plate.

ix. Pitchers and catchers must wear a face mask during play.

x. Any game suspended for any reason will resume from the point of suspension.

b. Sport Specific:

i. Shoes with metal cleats are not permitted.

ii. Helmets must be strapped on properly.

b. Sport Specific, continued:

iii. A batter or runner is ruled out immediately if discovered wearing exposed jewelry. Any advance by other runners because of this player batting the ball is nullified. If, after making a play, a defensive player is discovered wearing exposed jewelry, the manager of the offensive team may take the result of the play or have the play nullified and have the batter return to bat with the same count as before the infraction and all runners must return to their previous base. In all cases, the Player must remove the jewelry.

iv. All bats used must adhere to the USSSA Licensed/Approved Bat Policy. To be legal, they must be marked with the "USSSA BPF 1.20" mark on its taper (known as the "Thumbprint"). These were made from 2012 to 2020 and meet the 220 lb compression testing. Manufacturers can make bats to meet the 220 lb compression standard but they can no longer have the USSSA Stamp. Beginning with 2021 Models, USSSA is using the new 240 lb compression standard with the NTS stamp (left). Moving forward, 240 lb bats are all that can be approved to have a USSSA Stamp on them.

9. Uniforms

- i. All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's name, colours and logos.
- ii. All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt.
- iii. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi-sport programs.
- iv. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h).
- v. Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire.
- vi. The above criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the convener.

10. Awards

The Girls Baseball championship team shall receive eighteen (18) championship medallions.

11. Deportment

Any school entering SOSSA sponsored or approved competitions must be under the control of a staff member of the school which it represents.

12. Medical

It is recommended that qualified first aid personnel and equipment be available at the championship site(s). Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (tape, band aids, etc.) for their athletes.

13. Appeals and Protests

If a school(s) wishes to proceed with a protest, see Article 9 of the SOSSA constitution.