

## Slo-Pitch

Districts are encouraged to follow the technical information and guidelines found within this manual at all times. When changes are necessary at the District level, participants who qualify for Ontario 55+ Summer Games must be made aware that the following rules will be in use at Ontario 55+ Summer Games.

### **A) FORMAT OF PLAY – MIXED TEAM – Two (2) divisions**

A team will consist of a minimum of 12 players to a maximum of 15 players. A team may have one (1) coach, but he/she must be eligible to play in case of injury and cannot be used to meet age/Division requirements.

Division	Age Category	Number of Participants
<b>Competitive</b>	55+	12-15 players
<b>Recreational</b>	55+	12-15 players
Three-quarters (3/4) of the players must be recreational level players who only play in local recreational leagues and do not play in tournaments outside their regular league play.		
Participants may compete in only one division at Ontario 55+ Summer Games		

Team Make-Up	Age Category	Number of Participants
Women	55+	Minimum of four (4) and four (4) must be on the field at all times.
Men	55+	Minimum of four (4) and four must be on the field at all times.
Open	65+	There must be two (2) players 65+ on the field and in the line-up at all times.

Any person not present at the scheduled commencement of play and throughout the competition is in default and is automatically disqualified from the competition. If there are extenuating circumstances, exceptions to this may be granted by the Event Convenor.

Competitors are obligated to complete the competition regardless of their record in the competition. If a team defaults part way through the competition, the results of that team will be removed from the standings.

The organizers shall have an extra team available to play as a “floater” team in case there is an uneven number of teams or in case a team defaults. This team’s results will not count in the final standings.

If there are any questions about rulings, the OSGA Summer Games Technical Manual will be considered correct.

**B) ELIGIBILITY**

Event	Requirements
	Any person 55+ living in Ontario
Ontario 55+ Summer Games ( Provincial Championships)	Gold Medal Winners – District competition
<b>NOTE:</b> Previous Ontario 55+ Summer and Winter Games and Canada Games winners are still eligible to compete at the District and Ontario 55+ Summer Games level, but must qualify at the District level before going to the Summer Provincial Games.	

**C) TOURNAMENT SET-UP**

1. Play will be Round Robin format, followed by a playoff, if time permits.
2. If possible, playoffs will consist of a Medal Round and a Consolation Round. The split will be determined by the number of teams participating. No more than 8 teams will qualify for the Medal Rounds.
3. Home team will be decided by a coin toss.
4. In round-robin games, the game is considered over at the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. If the home team is ahead after 6 and a half innings, they do not have to bat in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. Ties will not be played out. In round-robin games, ties will stand, and 1 point will be awarded.
5. Games will be 7 innings in length, no inning shall start after one hour and 15 minutes from the scheduled starting time except for final games.
6. In playoff games, if there is a tie, the 8<sup>th</sup> inning will start with the last batter on second base and one out.
7. The number of diamonds available and the number of teams entered will determine the number of games per match so that the round-robin and playoffs can be completed in the allotted time.

Determining the Winners

1. In the round-robin, the winning team in any game will be awarded **two(2)** tournament points. The losing team will receive **zero (0)**. In the case of a tie, **one (1)** tournament point will be awarded to both teams.
2. Placings in the Round Robin will determine seeding for the playoff format.
3. In the event of a tie, the placements for medal rounds will be decided:
  - a. Results of head-to-head games
  - b. If necessary, team with least # runs scored against them.
  - c. If necessary, team with most # runs scored.
  - d. If necessary, runs for/runs against with the highest quotient winning.

**D) AWARDS**

<b>Gold (32)</b>	<b>Competitive Division</b>	One per team member
	<b>Recreational division</b>	One per team member
<b>Silver (32)</b>	<b>Competitive Division</b>	One per team member
	<b>Recreational division</b>	One per team member
<b>Bronze (32)</b>	<b>Competitive Division</b>	One per team member
	<b>Recreational division</b>	One per team member

**E) RULE SOURCE**

Any rule(s) not covered in these guidelines, will fall under SPO's or SPN's "Official Slo-Pitch Rules". The Event Convenor will decide which governing body will be in force throughout the tournament.

Website: [www.slopitch.org](http://www.slopitch.org) (Slo Pitch Ontario)

**F) EVENT REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Equipment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An Easton "incrediball" or appropriate "soft" ball for the age group will be used.</li> <li>2. Milken Ultra 11 and titanium bats, so labeled will not be allowed. The A.S.A. list of illegal bats will apply. Bats must be labeled 1.20 BPF and have acceptable certification stamps as per SPO/SPN.</li> <li>3. Metal cleats must not be worn.</li> <li>4. A safe-t-base is to be used at first.</li> </ol>
<b>Facilities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Home plate- rubber or other suitable material measuring 2 feet (61 cm) by 3 feet (91.44 cm).</li> <li>2. Bases will be 55 feet. (16.76 metres)(Distance from home to second base through the pitching mound is 77 feet and 9 inches (23.70 metres))</li> </ol>

3. The pitching box will be between 35 to 50 feet (10.67 – 15.24 metres) (at the player's discretion) from home plate.
4. All bases must be secured in a proper manner.
5. There will be a scoring line (extended first base line) drawn from home plate.
6. All bases must be secured in a proper manner.

#### **G) OFFICIALS**

The OSGA requires at minimum the following major officials for Ontario 55+ Summer Games:

For District Games, the following are only a suggestion. Participation numbers and availability of volunteers may result in fewer officials being required. Districts are encouraged to try to have the necessary officials to run the event successfully.

1. 1 Convenor
2. 2 Umpires per diamond
3. 1 Score Keeper per diamond

The host committee will ensure that all major officials have the required qualifications as specified by the OSGA prior to Ontario 55+ Summer Games. The host committee is also responsible for any other officials required to host this event.

## Slo-Pitch Rules Summary

1. There will be a 5-run maximum rule except for the seventh and extra innings, which shall be open. Once a team scores five (5) runs in an inning, or three (3) outs, that half of the inning is over.
2. A ten (10) run "mercy rule shall be in effect after 5 innings. (4 ½ if the "home" team is ahead).
3. There can be only eleven (11) players on the field. A team must have 11 players in order to finish the game.
4. Players must wear visible numbers, a minimum of four inches in height.
5. There must be a minimum of four (4) females, four (4) males, and two (2) players 65+ on the field and in the line-up at all times. It is advisable that all teams carry extra players in each of these categories to avoid forfeiting the game. A game will be forfeited if the minimum numbers are not met.
6. The batting order must remain constant. The players playing defensively may be changed at any time as long as there are no more than 11 defensive players and the age/gender requirements are met.
7. All players must be in the batting order.
8. Each team can have one player (male or female) due to illness or injury, passed over in batting order with no penalty. In the instance where a second player, due to illness or injury, cannot take their place in the batting order, an "out" will be declared.
9. Males and females must alternate in the top six (6) batter positions (male, female, male, female, or vice versa). The remaining females may appear anywhere in the batting order.
10. When a male batter, who is batting before a female, is walked, with four (4) straight balls, he will be awarded first and second bases, and the next batter, the female, may choose to bat or walk.
11. One (1) courtesy runner may be used per inning, unless injured during the game. A male must run for a male and a female must run for a female.
12. A batter must reach first base before a courtesy runner may be used.
13. Safe-t-base is to be used at first base.
14. If the hit ball stays in the infield the runner must touch the outside of the safe-t-base (orange) at first base. The defensive player must touch the inside of the safe base (white)

15. A runner commitment line is to be in effect on third base. Once a player crosses the commitment line (located 20 feet (6.10 metres) from home plate), he/she may not return to third base. A “safe” line (extension of the 1<sup>st</sup> base line) at home plate will extend 10’ (3.05 metres) from 3<sup>rd</sup> base line. The base runner must cross or touch this line before the catcher touches home plate while in control of the ball. NOTE: The base runner must not touch home plate. It is an out if touched. There is no tagging at home plate and no tagging once a runner has crossed the commitment line.
16. NO SLIDING is permitted when advancing to a base and any player so sliding will be called “out”. A player may slide or dive in returning to a base.
17. There is no anticipation lead off. Bat must contact the ball before the runner leaves the base.
18. Runners will be called out and could be ejected from the game for contact with a defensive player, if in the umpire’s judgment, the contact was deliberate, or the runner could reasonably have been expected to minimize or avoid contact under the circumstances and failed to do so. Defensive interference will also be called.
19. Any foul tip caught by the catcher is an out.
20. The batter will be called out on third strike foul ball.
21. Bunting shall NOT be permitted.
22. Outfielders must remain on the outfield grass (or at least 15 feet (4.47 metres) behind the baselines) until the batter hits the ball. Infielders must remain behind the baselines until the batter hits the ball.
23. A pitch must be between a low of six (6) feet (1.83 metres) and a high of twelve (12) (3.66 metres) feet. A pitch outside these limits will be considered a “ball”.