ADULT MIXED SLO-PITCH RULES & REGULATIONS:

Summer 2026 Version 1.0

The Burlington Amateur Sports Leagues Inc. guiding principle is to have fun. This league stresses good sportsmanship, camaraderie, and recreation. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to this philosophy and any disputes should be handled amicably at the ballpark between the umpires and team captains.

Alcohol, other intoxicants, and cigarette smoking is strictly prohibited at City parks.
Reference City Bylaw #86-2003.

This league follows standard Slo-Pitch Ontario (SPO) rules with the exceptions applied as listed in this document.

RULES & REGULATIONS:

DIAMOND EQUIPMENT & LAYOUT:

- The distance between the bases shall be **65 feet**.
- The pitcher's mound shall be **55 feet** from home plate.
- A commitment line shall be used, drawn perpendicular to the 3rd base line to the dug-out fence at **25 feet** from home plate.
- A "Safe Line" shall also be used. It is a line parallel to the first base line from the front most edge of home plate to the backstop.
- The 175 ft defensive line is not utilized by the league. However, teams are required to not have outfielders encroach on the infield dirt.
- First base will be equipped with a safety bag. The white portion shall be in fair territory and the orange part in foul territory.
- Bases must be properly secured in position with pegs attached to the base straps and driven safely in ground.
- A 2' X 3' rubber or wooden base mat is required at home plate.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- Players must wear athletic shoes on the field at all times. Open toe shoes or metal cleats are prohibited.
- Rubber baseball cleats approved for use in softball are permitted.
- Players are discouraged from wearing jewelry, especially rings, during games. Medic Alert bracelets are accepted. Sunglasses, when worn properly, are not considered jewelry.
- Any player may wear a glove or mitt of any size, including a "trapper" style glove.
- APPROVED BATS: Players may provide their own bats, approved for softball use. B.A.S.L. follows SPO/SPN Approved Bat Standards. For a summary of approved bats, please see Addendum #1 at the end of this document.

SLO-PITCH PLAYING FORMAT, ROSTERS, & BALL PARK RESTRICTIONS:

- NUMBER OF TEAMS: The B.A.S.L. Slo-Pitch League will consist of up to 12 teams.
- ROSTER SIZE: Team rosters shall be no less than 12 and no more than 20 players.
- ROSTER DUE DATES: Completed team rosters must be submitted no later than end-of-day on the first game date.
  - Changes to team rosters will be accepted up to the last day of the first month of play, typically May 31st.
- AGE RESTRICTION: The B.A.S.L. minimum age restriction is 21 years attained during the year of play.
- ROSTER QUALIFICATIONS: All players must be registered B.A.S.L. members and appear on team rosters.
- START TIMES & GAME TIME LIMITS:
  - Regular season games will start promptly at the scheduled start time. No new inning may start after 1 hour & 10 minutes from the **scheduled** start time.
  - The game stops at 1 hour & 20 minutes after the **scheduled** start time. Score reverts back to the last complete inning.
  - All regular season games will consist of seven innings – WIN, LOSE or TIE.
  - The bottom of the 7th (or last) inning is played only if the visiting team is leading.
    - Play stops at three outs or as soon as the home team takes the lead.
- INCLEMENT WEATHER & CANCELLATIONS:
  - The umpires will determine if games should stop or be delayed due to inclement and/or unsafe conditions.
  - Rain delayed games may not extend into a following game time slot.
    - In these cases, four complete innings constitute a full game.
  - Game cancellations due to inclement weather must be decided at the park unless cancellation is called by the league at least 2 hours prior to game time. League cancellations will be announced via the WhatsApp group.
  - Team captains are responsible for notifying their players of any cancellations or rescheduled games.
  - Games that are canceled for any reason will not be rescheduled.
- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD: Shall be 10, 4 outfielders and 6 infielders.
- MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD: Shall be 8. Teams will have fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time to field a team. A team fielding less than eight (8) players shall forfeit the game.
- LOANING PLAYERS:
  - The league encourages avoidance of forfeited games.
  - During regular season play only, any team may, (and is encouraged to) loan players to another team in order to avoid a forfeit or play shorthanded with less than 10 players.
  - Only enough players needed to bring a team up to the maximum 10 players (6 either gender) may be borrowed.
  - Borrowed players must remain on the team roster until the end of the game and must play a minimum of three innings.
  - **Players may not be loaned to other teams during any playoff games.**
- PLAYOFF QUALIFICATIONS: Only B.A.S.L. registered players may participate in the playoffs. No minimum number pf regular games played is a requirement. However, it is discouraged to have players registered solely for the purpose of participating in the playoffs.
- Players injured during the season or special circumstance players are exempt from their absence only if their injury prevents them from attending the ballpark or from assisting the team in some other capacity each week.
- PREGNANCY RESTRICTION: Pregnant players are prohibited from playing for safety reasons but may participate in any other non-playing capacity.
- **ALCOHOL: Alcohol and other intoxicants are strictly prohibited at City Parks. Players who are in possession of alcohol at City Parks or who are suspected of intoxication will be ejected from the game and asked to leave the park.**
- MAXIMUM GENDER RULE: A maximum of six (6) players of either gender is allowed in the field during play.
- PLAY MINIMUM OF THREE INNINGS: All players listed on the score sheet must bat offensively and play in the field.
- LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY DEPARTURES:
  - Games may start or continue with less than 10 players. There is no automatic out for the 9th or 10th batter. (Exception: If a player is ejected from the game leaving less than 10 batters, their spot will be declared an out.)
  - Late arrivals may be added at any time prior to the beginning of the 4th inning. They must be inserted into the lineup as close to the bottom of the order as possible.
  - If players must depart early or are injured during play, their place in the batting order will be skipped without penalty.
- MERCY RULE: There shall be a maximum of six (6) runs scored per inning per team. However, if the trailing team is behind by 6 runs or more, they may score the difference, (the spread) plus 1 run.
  - Runs per team in the last inning shall be unlimited.
  - There is no overall mercy based on score (i.e. 12 runs after five innings).

- STANDINGS:
  - Regular season play will determine the final team ranking leading into the playoffs.
  - Teams will be awarded 2 points per win, 1 point per tie and zero (0) points per loss.
  - **ALL TEAMS are required to upload a photo of their game sheet to the WhatsApp group after each game.**
  - **The HOME TEAM of the last game is required to upload a photo of the equipment properly stored in the box with the lock applied and key secured.**
  - Team captains are required to track their team's score in their scorebook and retain it if needed for validation.
  - RANKING TIES: Ranking point ties shall be broken by:
    1. Wins To Games Played Ratio, (i.e.: Total Wins Divided by Games Played).
    2. TWO WAY TIES:
       a. Head-To-Head Wins (Total Run Differential of All Games Played to Date Between the Two Tied Teams).
    3. THREE WAY TIES OR MORE:
       a. Total Accumulated Run Differential of All Tied Teams.
       b. Total Accumulated Runs "For" Between All Tied Teams.
- BOUNDARIES: Out-of-Play boundaries are to be communicated between both team captains and the umpire prior to the start of each game.

BATTING RULES:

- ALL PLAYERS in the lineup must bat.
  - Exceptions include players that are removed from the lineup during the game.
- COUNT: All batters will start with a 0-0 count.
- FOUL OUTS: Batters who foul the third strike will be called out.
- PARTIAL SWINGS: Partial swings are not allowed. Any batter deemed to have made a partial swing shall be called out.
- SCORING: To score, any part of the player's foot must touch the ground on or past the "Safe Line" before the catcher has solid possession of the ball and touches home plate.
- BATTING ORDER & GENDER RESTRICTIONS:
  - There shall be no more than two (2) batters of the same gender in a row in the batting order, including the wrap-around at the bottom of the order.
- HOME RUN LIMIT & RESTRICTIONS (THREE-PLUS-ONE RULE):
  - Each team may hit three (3) home runs maximum without restriction.
  - Once both teams hit three (3) home runs, each team may resume hitting home runs BUT at no time for the remainder of the game can they exceed the other team's home run count by more than one (1).
  - Once the home run limit for either team is reached additional home runs will be awarded a single only. See HOME RUN DEFINITION below. Any baserunners on base may advance one base only if forced.
- HOME RUN DEFINITION: A home run shall be defined as follows:
  - For parks with fences, a home run is a hit over the fence only. "In the park" home runs are unrestricted and do not count as part of the home run total.
  - For diamonds without fences, any and all home runs are counted and are restricted to the Three-Plus-One Rule.
- WALK OFF HOME RUN:
  - On any fair-batted ball hit over the fence (touched or untouched) for a home run, the batter and all runners are credited with a score.
  - The batter and any runners do not run the bases but go directly to their team area.
- GROUND RULE DOUBLE:
  - A batter may only advance to second base if his/her ball travels under or bounces over the outfield fence.
- WALK RULE:
  - Male batters will be awarded first and second base if walked by the pitcher, either intentionally or unintentionally, if they are followed by a female in the batting order.
  - Base runners, if any, advance if forced.
  - All batters must bat.

BASE RUNNING RULES:

- The following activity is prohibited and will result in offenders being called out:
  - No sliding into any base at any time. Diving or sliding back to return to an overrun base is accepted.
  - No base stealing.
  - No leaving the base until the ball has reached the plate, hits the ground, or is swung at by the batter.
  - No crossing back over the commitment line between 3rd base and home plate.
  - Runners touching home plate.
  - Throwing the bat.
  - Carrying the bat to first base.
- DEFENSIVE INTERFERENCE: Interference with a runner by a defending team player will result in an awarded base to the runner UNLESS the defending player is fielding the ball. This includes physical or verbal interference including yelling or obvious and intentional visual distraction.
- RUNNER INTERFERENCE: Runners who interfere with a defending player making a defensive play shall be called out. This includes physical or verbal interference including yelling or obvious and intentional visual distraction.
- BASE PATH RULE: Runners who run beyond three feet on either side of the base path (established only when a fielder with the ball attempts a play) to intentionally avoid a tag will be called out. Establishment of the base path will be at the umpire's discretion.
- HOME PLATE TAGS: Tagging a runner at home plate is prohibited. Players who are tagged at home plate or any time after crossing the commit line will be considered safe.
- SAFETY BAG RULE: Runners must always use the safety bag, (orange) if there is an obvious play at 1st base, (example: infield ground ball).
  - Runners who fail to use the orange bag in this case will be called out. If there is no play at 1st base, either bag, (white or orange) may be used.
- OVER RUNNING FIRST BASE: Runners who run through 1st base and make a deemed attempt towards 2nd base are considered still in play and may be tagged out. An attempt will be at the discretion of the umpire.
- INJURED / COURTESY RUNNERS:
  - Each team may use up to seven (7) courtesy runners per game.
  - A courtesy runner is "intended" to be used in place of an injured player.
  - When used, the same courtesy runner cannot be used more than once (Exception is when all players of the same gender have already run)
  - Substitute runners must be of the same gender.

PITCHING RULES:

- PITCHER: The fielding team provides the pitcher.
- PITCHING ARC:
  - The pitching arc must fall between 6' and 12' at any point between the pitcher's mound and home plate.
  - Pitches determined by the umpire that do not obtain within the 6' X 12' arc limits shall be called an illegal pitch and counted as a ball.
  - Any illegal pitch swung at by the batter shall be considered legal.
- PITCH COUNT: The standard pitch count (starting 0-0) shall be used. (Example: Maximum 4 balls or 3 strikes).
- STRIKES & BALLS:
  - A legally pitched ball that touches any part of the base mat before touching the ground shall be called a strike.
  - A legally pitched ball that touches the ground before touching the base mat or touches the ground only shall be called a ball.

FIELDING RULES:

- CATCHER: The fielding team provides its own catcher. This rule can be waived at the discretion of team captains.
- ENCROACHMENT: Infielders must remain behind all base lines until the ball is hit. Outfielders must remain on the grass until the ball is hit.
- INFIELD FLY RULE: The SPO infield fly rule IS in effect.
  - SPO "INFIELD FLY" RULE DEFINITION:
    - The rule applies only when there are fewer than two outs, and there is a force play at third base (i.e., when there are runners at first and second base, or the bases are loaded. In these situations, if a fair fly ball is in play, and in the umpire's judgment is catchable by an infielder with ordinary effort, the umpire shall call "infield fly" (or more often, "infield fly, batter is out") and the batter will be out regardless of whether the ball is actually caught.
    - If "infield fly" is called and the fly ball is caught, it is treated exactly as an ordinary caught fly ball; the batter is out, there is no force, and the runners must tag up. On the other hand, if an "infield fly" is called and the ball lands fair without being caught, the batter is still out, there is still no force, but the runners *are not* required to tag up. In either case, the ball is live, and the runners may advance on the play, at their own risk.

- PLAYS AT FIRST BASE: The first baseman must touch any part of the white portion to make a play at first base.
  - Runners will be considered safe if the first baseman touches only the orange bag.
  - A fielder MAY NOT stand on first base or in the first or second base path IF THERE IS NO PLAY AT FIRST BASE. This is defensive obstruction (and is extremely unsafe). If a collision results, the runner shall be awarded one base.
- POSITION CHANGES: Are prohibited during an inning. A "no pitch" will be declared and play will return to where it was prior to the infraction. Players must maintain their same defensive position throughout the inning unless:
  - Injury occurs during a play and the player must be removed or relocated to another fielding position.
  - A defensive player must leave the game during an inning for other legitimate reasons.
- BASE AWARDS:
  - Runners on base will be awarded ONE base for any ball caught and carried out-of-play UNINTENTIALLY by a fielder (i.e. momentum carries the player out-of-play).
  - Runners on base will be awarded TWO bases for any ball caught and carried out-of-play INTENTIALLY by a fielder.
  - The above awards will be based on the last legal base held at the time of the CATCH.
  - Runners (including the batter-runner) will be awarded TWO bases on any ball that is thrown out-out-play. The award is based on the last legal base held and the position of the lead runner at the TIME OF THE THROW.
- FAKE TAGS: Fake tags are prohibited. All runners will be awarded an extra base.
- FOUL TIPS: Foul tips caught by the catcher will result in the batter being called out regardless of the pitch count or height of the hit ball.
- OUTFIELD TO FIRST BASE RULE: No outfielder may make a direct throw, or a relay throw force out at first base.
  - Runners who attempt to advance or turn toward second base may be thrown out.

DISPUTES & APPEALS:

- SETTLEMENT: Disputes must be settled amicably between team captains and the umpire on site at the time of the dispute.
- WRITTEN: Appeals must be presented in writing within 5 days of the game date and be accompanied by a non-refundable appeal fee of $60.
- QUALIFIERS: Only appeals that could affect the outcome of the game will be heard by the B.A.S.L. governing body.
- DECISIONS: Appeal decisions will be decided by the league convener.

PLAYER MISCONDUCT:

- UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR:
  - Any acts or behaviors identified in the BASL Player Conduct and/or City of Burlington Zero Tolerance policies.
  - Excessive swearing, fighting, intoxication, unruly or confrontational behavior is prohibited. Players may be immediately ejected from the game by the umpires for exhibiting these behaviors.
  - All cases of player misconduct will be brought before the B.A.S.L. governing body for further assessment.
- YELLOW CARD ASSESSMENT:
  - The first occurrence of player misconduct may result in a "Yellow Card" status assessed to the offending player by the league governing body.
  - This status will remain with the player until the season ends.
- RED CARD ASSESSMENT:
  - Players assessed with a "Red Card" status will be immediately ejected from the league.
  - Red Card status will be granted upon the following infractions:
    - Second occurrence of player misconduct from a Yellow Carded player.
    - Fighting or any other extreme circumstances.
    - Violation of any unacceptable behavior identified in the BASL Player Conduct and/or City of Burlington Zero Tolerance policies.
  - Red Carded players are banned from the league for a period of 2 years.
  - No refunds will be granted to ejected players.

ADDENDUM #1 – B.A.S.L. APPROVED BATS:

All 2012 USSSA Bats marked with the "NEW (1.20 BPF) USSSA STAMP ON THE TAPER OF THE BAT" will be allowed in the B.A.S.L. program. ALL new bats manufactured after January 1, 2012 "MUST CARRY THE NEW USSSA STAMP".

For quick reference, only bats with this symbol are LEGAL:

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Represents Bat Models Manufactured In 2021 Forward