

Rayside Mixed Slo-Pitch Association

2026 Constitution



RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Rayside Mixed Slo-pitch Association follows NSA rules and regulations.

The following is a list of specific rules that are considered to be exceptions or additions to the official NSA rules:

Section A: Players and substitutions

1. Defensively, a team must field a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 10 players. A maximum of 5 male players may on the field at any given time.
2. Registered players must be 18 years of age or older **prior to September 6th, 2026 (playoff weekend)**. Any offending team will be fined.
3. A team **may not** use 'pick-up' players under any circumstances. All teams can only field players who are on their respective NSA roster sheets. For this reason, please make sure to get enough male and female players in the event that some players are unable to attend games. Keep in mind that a team must field at least 7 players to avoid a forfeit and a player may only be on 1 roster (cannot play on multiple teams).
4. Each registered player must have played at least **seven (7)** games, prior to the Sunday of playoff weekend, to qualify for playoffs and must reside within the Greater City of Sudbury. If a team is caught with an illegal player, they will be disqualified from the playoffs. Exceptions can be made for pregnancy situations and other extreme cases.
5. The positioning of all players (male or female) is left up to the individual manager. There is **no** required pitcher/catcher combination.
6. If a team starts the game with less than 10 players, they may insert additional players into the lineup up until the bottom of the 3rd inning. Those players **MUST** be inserted at the bottom of the batting lineup. A team may not insert additional players once they

have reached a total of 10. If a player shows up after the 3rd inning, he or she must be substituted into the game.

7. Team rosters **CANNOT** exceed a total of 25 players (includes full time and spares).

Section B: The playing field (markings)

1. A commitment line will be drawn 20 feet from home base, on the third base side. If a runner passes this line they must continue towards home plate and are unable to return to third base.
2. There will be a “safe line” at home plate. The runner will be called out if he/she touches home plate. The catcher must be touching the mat with possession of the ball in order for the runner to be called out on a play at home.
3. Home plate will consist of a strike mat 2`X 3` ; if the ball is thrown between 6 and 12 feet and hits this mat, it will be called a strike.
4. As of 2011, the league has introduced a pitching cage to protect all pitchers. A batter will be called out immediately if they hit the ball and the ball makes contact with any part of the pitching cage (at any rate of speed). The play will be called dead and all base runners will be required to return to their respective bases. If the hit ball makes contact with a fielder before it hits the cage, the batter is not out and the play is considered live.
5. Although the cage is 6 feet in height and thus meets the minimum height requirement for pitches delivered, the pitch must be released at a moderate speed. The speed is left up to the judgment of the umpire, who shall warn the pitcher who delivers a pitch with excessive speed. If the pitcher repeats such an act after being warned, he/she shall be removed from the pitcher’s position for the remainder of the game.
6. All pitchers are required to throw the ball over the cage. The ball cannot be released on either side of the cage. The pitch will be called “illegal” by the umpire (resulting in a ball) and the pitcher will be notified.
7. A mesh has been installed around the home run fence for safety purposes. The home run ruling will remain the same just as though the mesh was not actually there. If a hit ball makes direct contact with the mesh, it is considered a home run.

Section C: General rulings

1. The batter will be considered out; if on the third strike, he/she hits a foul ball.
2. A team may only score 5 runs in an inning. Once they have scored five runs, it is their responsibility to inform the umpire and the half-inning will be over. The next batter that is due up will lead off the next inning.
3. If a team leads by 15 or more runs after 5 innings, the game will be called by the umpire. **The team that is losing no longer has the option to continue playing.**
4. If a **male** hitter is walked intentionally, he will be awarded two bases. Any players who are currently on base will only advance if they are forced to by other base runners. This rule applies to male hitters only. A girl who is walked intentionally will only be awarded a single base. **If the umpire judges that a male hitter was walked intentionally (even if he has 1 or 2 strikes) then the male hitter will be awarded two bases. This is strictly to**

the umpire's discretion and cannot be disputed by either team.

5. There will be no base stealing. The batter must make contact with the ball before the runner can step off of his or her base. If the batter swings and misses and no contact was made, the runner is out if he or she is off the base.
6. Each team will be responsible for alternating one male followed by one female, or vice versa, in their batting line up.
7. The last inning is considered to be an "open inning" in which the offensive team is not limited to 5 runs for that particular inning. The inning is over once 3 outs are recorded.
8. Only one home run per gender will count per inning. ***For each additional home run that is hit, the batter shall be called out.*** Runners who are currently on base will only advance if they are forced by another base runner.
9. A ground rule double will result in two bases for the hitter. Each base runner that was on base at the time of the hit will advance two bases.
10. As of 2013, we introduced the "Walk Off" or "Stevie" rule. Once a hitter hits a ball that is judged a home run by the umpire, the hitter (or another member of his or her team) must immediately get the home run ball. The hitter and all runners on base may walk off the field without running the bases.
11. All games shall entail 7 innings or a 1.5-hour maximum time limit. If required, the umpire will call last inning at the top of the inning starting after 70 minutes into the game. Games may end in a tie during the regular season only.
12. All bats and players shall be kept behind the fence during play (with the exception of the on deck batter).
13. All injuries incurred during play are subject to an incident report. Here is a link to the proper NSA forms: <https://www.toolepeet.com/existing-client-service/nsa/>
14. Whenever there is a play at 2nd or 3rd base, the runner may run next to either side of the base (known as "ghosting") in order to avoid a collision with the fielder. In the event of a force play (no tag required), the umpire will use his or her best judgment when deciding if the runners foot hit the ground next to the base before the ball was caught by the fielder who must be on the base. Keep in mind that the runner will be given 3 feet on each side of the baseline. Should the runner exceed that limit, he or she will be called out on the "broken baseline" ruling.
15. Female hitters can no longer be thrown out at first base from the outfield. This call will be made at the umpire's discretion as there are special circumstances (i.e. the opposing team is playing with an extra infielder and only 3 outfielders). **This is strictly to the umpire's discretion and cannot be disputed by either team.**
16. In the event that a hitter has requested a courtesy runner, that runner must remain on base until he or she is called out, has scored, or the inning is over. If the courtesy runner is due to bat while on a base, he or she will be called out and will then bat (assuming there are less than 3 outs).
17. A hitter will no longer be granted a courtesy runner from home plate. The hitter must reach base in order to request a courtesy runner.
18. **As of 2025**, the league has introduced a rule where each batter will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. This is meant to speed up the game so that all 7 innings can be played without worrying about the time limit. A third strike foul is considered an out.

19. **As of 2025**, the league will introduce a second ball. A pitcher will throw the usual Hot Dot slo-pitch ball to male hitters, whereas a Green Dot ball will be used for female hitters. If the pitcher throws the wrong ball, the pitch will be considered a “dead ball” and a ball will be added to the hitter’s count. This only applies if the opposing team or umpire notices the infraction before the next pitch is delivered.

Section D: Equipment

1. The league will not be responsible for injuries incurred because the catcher fails to wear a mask, it is recommended that each catcher wear a mask but it is optional.
2. All bats used must be on the NSA approved bat list. As of January 1st, 2023, all softball bats must have either one or a combination of these stamps:



3. To be clear, the original Nemesys bat manufactured by *Jak'd* is officially banned.
4. Cleats are highly recommended with the exclusion of steel cleats, which are forbidden.
5. Pitchers can wear shin guards and a mask while pitching.
6. Loose jewellery is not permitted to be worn at any time during the game. A batter with jewellery may be called out at the umpire’s discretion.

Section E: Coach and Captain Responsibilities

1. Attend all meetings on behalf of their team and carry out responsible representation.
2. Collect entry fees and other payments in good faith, liaison for correspondence with executive and other team reps.
3. Ensure players mind proper playing position (not on baselines, orange part of first base, home plate) and rules.
4. Promote etiquettes (no throwing bats, no cursing, and gamesmanship)
5. Only team captains and the umpire should be present in the discussion of any dispute.
6. Ensure no alcohol is consumed on the field, benches or bleachers. If caught drinking, the umpire reserves the right to call a forfeit and report the team to the league committee.
The city has issued a CLEAR warning to ALL leagues that The Greater Sudbury Police will be patrolling the ball fields on a regular basis for drinking. The Greater Sudbury Police will have a copy of the master schedule and will be starting full force in May. In

addition, the Greater Sudbury Police have indicated that the RIDE program will be in full affect near the various ball fields in the region.

7. It is the team captain's responsibility to inform the committee members of any game cancellations at least one day in advance. We also ask that you contact the opposing team to inform them as well. **A forfeit is always subject to a team fine.** Should any player from a team be ejected from a game or if a team is required to forfeit, the league has the right to fine a team accordingly.
For a forfeit, the following fine will apply:
 - 1st offence: \$50 fine
 - 2nd offence: \$100 fine
 - 3rd offence: The team will be under review and may be ejected from the league.
8. All team captains are required to meet all deadlines for payment. Failure to meet any deadline will result in a \$100 fine. Deadlines for all payments will be communicated via email.
9. Provide responsible volunteers to help when called upon by executive.
10. Informing team players of all information passed to them regarding schedules and other league activities/rules.
11. Umpires are now responsible for the installation and removal of the bases and home plate. **However, we ask that the home teams assist with the pitching cage.**
12. Must fill out insurance forms and mail out according to instruction and obtaining incident reports from league executive for all injuries.
13. **Captains must provide a complete roster sheet prior to their first scheduled game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit.** Should a team be required to add additional players, they must circle the player's name on the roster sheet. This will serve as an indicator that the player was not on the original roster and he/she will be added by the league. A team that is caught with a non-roster player will forfeit that game. The team will also be under review and may be subject to additional discipline.
14. Team captains are responsible for fielding at least 7 players. If a team has less than 7 players, the umpire will give a grace period of 10 minutes prior to the schedule game time. If the team is still unable to field 7 or more players, the game will result in a forfeit. The official score will be 7-0 (1 run for each inning). If a team forfeits a game more than once over the course of the season, the team may be under review by the league and a fine can be assessed. This will be dealt with on a team-by-team basis.
15. Scoresheets must be given to the umpire at the end of each game so that we can enter the scores on our official website **raysideslopitch.com**
16. Games will continue to be scheduled every Monday thru Thursday even in the case where Monday happens to be holiday (long weekend). It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that he or she has enough players for all scheduled games.
17. Aside from the mini-weekends and playoff weekend, all regular season games will be played on Monday thru Thursday. Should a game be rained out or postponed for any other reason, the game will be re-scheduled in the next available slot the following week (or weekend). The committee will inform all coaches of re-scheduled games and game times in advance, and it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that he or she has enough players to play the re-scheduled game.

REMEMBER – Everyone signed up to play ball and have a good time. The following rules of conduct are intended to provide clear and unambiguous guidelines regarding the expectations for behavior and responsibility while participating in our mixed league:

Sportsmanship

All players are expected to treat teammates, coaches, umpires, opponents, spectators, and members of the league committee with respect and courtesy. Teammates are expected to be supportive and encouraging of each other and to promote teamwork.

On-field Behavior

Abusive language and profanity are prohibited. Arguing with or heckling umpires, opposing players, coaches, spectators, or members of the league committee is prohibited. No throwing or abuse of equipment will be tolerated, and no violent behavior of any kind will be permitted.

The umpires reserve the right to remove any player from the game should they fail to behave in a responsible way. In addition, the league committee reserves the right to remove any player or team from the league should they fail to comply with the rules listed within this constitution.