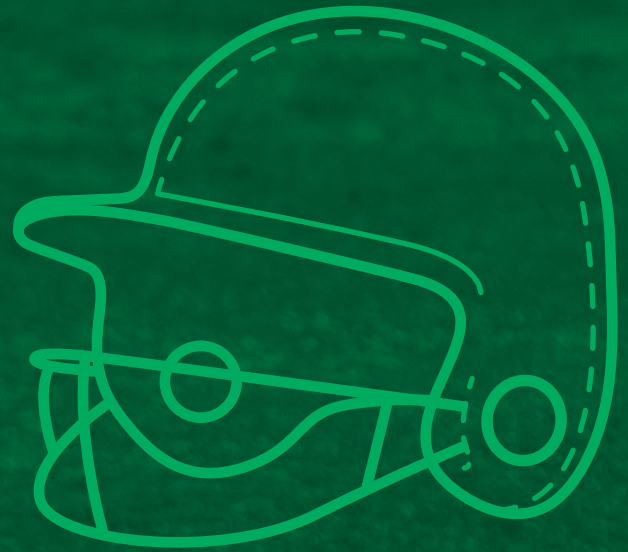




Summer Sport Rules

Slo-Pitch Softball





The Special Olympics Canada (SOC) Sports Rules shall govern all SOC Slo-Pitch Softball competitions.

As a national sports program, SOC has established these rules based upon Softball Canada's Rulebook. The Softball Canada Rulebook shall be employed except when it is in conflict with the SOC Official Rules and National Policies and Procedures. In such cases, the following SOC Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules shall apply.

SECTION A - Official Events

- I. Co-Ed Slo-Pitch Softball.

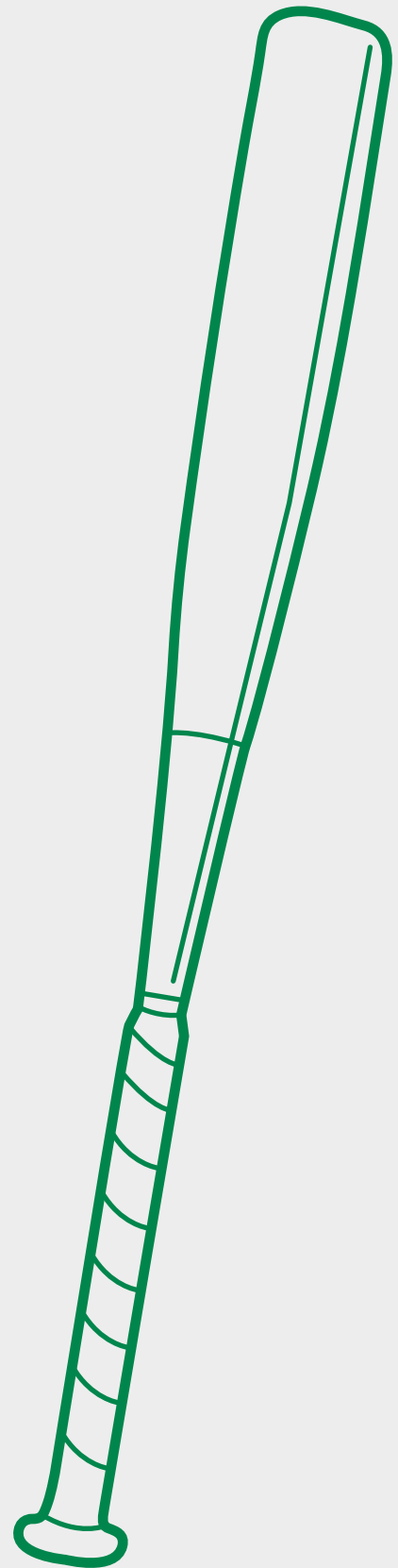
SECTION B - Rules of Competition

- I. Teams will not be required to adhere to a male / female player ratio.
- II. In the classification (seeding) round, teams will play one or more games. The “game” shall consist of one full inning for both teams. Each team will be required to play all players whose names appear on the *final team roster*.
- III. A *final team roster* consists of a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of fifteen (15) players. All players listed on the final team roster must have an opportunity to play during the course of the tournament.

NOTE: A final team roster is a complete list of all players registered with the team.

The final team roster must be submitted to the competition committee the day before the competition begins, or by the date specified in the competition technical package. To ensure meaningful involvement at all levels of competition, all players on the final team roster shall play in each game of the competition. Athletes listed on the final team roster shall be exempt from playing only due to injury or illness occurring during the competition as certified by medical staff on site, or behavioural reasons certified by the head coach and competition lead

- IV. A line-up is a list of players scheduled to play during a specific game. A line-up shall consist of ten (10) players, unless the extra player (EP) rule is in effect. Ten players shall be on the field at one time. Only the players listed on the line-up sheet will play during the specific game.
- V. A regulation game shall consist of seven innings (with only the final inning being open) or one and a half hours (1½hrs) with no inning beginning after one hour and thirty minutes (1½ hrs). A team may only score a maximum of 5 runs per inning.



- V.** A mercy rule shall be imposed, if after five full innings of play, one team leads another by ten runs or more, the game will be called.
- VI.** The distance between home plate and the pitching rubber shall be between 40' and 50'. Therefore, a moveable pitching rubber is required.
- VII.** A designated runner is allowed for the catcher in a two (2) out situation. The player in the catcher position will bat and must advance to at least first (1st) base before a courtesy runner can be put in. The last (2nd) out in the current inning shall be the courtesy runner.
- VIII.** The following rule from Softball Canada (2011-2012. Rule 8. Sec. 1b-5) shall not apply in Special Olympics Canada competitions.

CO-ED: If a male is walked on four pitches or fewer, he is awarded second base and the female batter has the option of batting or accepting a walk up until the delivery of a pitch.

- IX.** Sliding is permitted, except at home plate.
- X.** At SOC National Games, pitch calls will be enforced using Softball Canada's strike mat.



SECTION C - Equipment and Safety

- I. The ball used shall be a 12" Worth Hot Dot yellow restricted flight ball with red stitches following these specs:
 - a. COR: .52
 - b. Compression: 275lbs
- II. Helmets must be worn by batters and base runners.
- III. A catcher is required to wear a face mask, helmet and throat protector. Hockey style facemasks are approved for use and do not require the use of an additional throat protector. Leg pads are optional.

