

**SOO MEN’S SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL  
ASSOCIATION (SMSSA) GUIDELINES**

**2023**

**I. DIVISION DETERMINATION**

The Soo Men’s Slo-Pitch Softball Association (SMSSA) will be divided into divisions with team classifications determined by the SMSSA Board. Divisions are set prior to the start of the season and once divisions are determined, they are non-negotiable. The number of divisions and games will be determined by the Board after league registration.

**II. ROSTERS & FEES**

An official SMSSA league roster, along with all fees (payable by sponsor, cashiers check or money order, made out to: **Soo Men’s Slo-Pitch Softball Association** are to be turned into the SMSSA Board on the turn in date announced.

**a. Fees are as follows:**

Sponsor Fee.....	\$ 250.00
Forfeit Fee (New Teams only and Refundable only if there are no forfeits/Balance automatically transfers over year to year).....	\$ 90.00
Player Fee per player.....	\$ 30.00

**b. Roster Specifications:**

League rosters will be unlimited. There will be a minimum of 12 players on a league roster to start the season. Each subsequent player will also pay a \$30 player fee before playing.

Playing multiple divisions during the week will be on a player by player basis and must be approved by the overseeing board member before playing on a 2<sup>nd</sup> team in another division.

Any team needing to add players is responsible for contacting a SMSSA Board Member if they are having roster difficulties. Any team requesting to add a new player to its existing roster must have that player approved by SMSSA Board within 24 hours **prior** to playing any league game. Any team using an unapproved/illegal player will, at

minimum, forfeit all games the illegal player participated in and possibly face additional disciplinary action as determined by the SMSSA Board.

1. A player must be 18 years old or older to be eligible to participate in the SMSSA.
2. A “player pool” will be available for teams needing players, as well as players looking for a team. This is NOT a guarantee that you will be placed on or find a player for your team, but the Board will do all they can to assist in any way to help get teams players and help new players to the league find a team. Managers are encouraged to reach out if they need players as well as players looking for a team. Please send player pool requests to the Soo Men’s Slo-Pitch Softball Facebook Page.

### 1. III. SCHEDULING & CURFEW

Once the SMSSA Board has approved the league schedule, no changes will occur. Any team that fails to show up at the designated time and place of play will be assessed a forfeiture loss, with a 7-0 victory being awarded to the team that shows. NOTE: In order for a team to be credited with the win, the team must field the required number of players. A \$30.00 fine, per game, will be levied against the team that fails to show and the fine will be deducted from the pre-paid forfeit fee, paid at the beginning of the year. Any forfeit fines exceeding the \$90.00 pre-paid deposit, must be paid to the SMSSA Board **before** their next scheduled game. Teams will be responsible for all unpaid forfeiture fees from the previous year if 5 or more players return in the current year. If a team forfeits the 6:00 game, game time for the second game is 6:45.

Game times are posted and it is expected that teams will be prepared to play at the assigned times. The schedule is designed to give everyone time to play.

### 1. IV. RAINOUTS

Rainouts will be determined by the field caretaker and assigned SMSSA Board Member(s). Every effort will be made to determine the condition of the ball fields by 3:00 p.m. Rainouts will be posted on the Soo Men’s Slo-Pitch Softball Facebook Page and on the league website [www.soosoftball.com](http://www.soosoftball.com). It is the team’s responsibility to note this information. **IF THERE IS ANY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE PLAYING, SHOW UP AT THE FIELDS.** In a situation where the weather is a last-minute consideration, the umpire will make the decision, according to the field conditions.

## **1. a. Make Up Games**

Make up games will be scheduled as necessary and weather permitting by the SMSSA Board. If multiple rain outs occur within the same week, alternate dates will be determined. Each team captain will receive a 24-hour notification of a rescheduled. If the team captain has not been notified within 24 hours of cancellation, then he should contact someone from the Board for updates.

## **1. V. MEETINGS**

Meetings are to be chaired by the SMSSA Board Members. Board members will be notified of a meeting as needed. Any member has the authority to call a special meeting. The first board meeting shall be held no later than the end of March. Subsequent board meetings will be held as needed. Board members should meet at least twice prior to the first seasonal league meeting. During the season, the board shall meet every other week, if necessary.

## **1. VII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL BOARD MEMBERS**

The SMSSA Board Members, as elected by a majority of members attending the election meeting, reserves the right to make any decision which, in a simple majority vote of the SMSSA Board shall carry, and is conducive to the betterment of the SMSSA League. Board Members shall assume any duties and serve on any committee as needed.

The following is a list of (non-inclusive) responsibilities shared by all Board Members:

1. Call all meetings and be in charge of all SMSSA League business.
2. Be responsible for any decision made by the SMSSA Board.
3. Assign jobs to SMSSA league officials.
4. Preside over all league SMSSA meetings (Board, Open, Protest, or Disciplinary) and represent the SMSSA at the Upper Peninsula Softball meetings.
5. Operating the SMSSA in co-ordination with the City Parks & Recreation Department.
6. Represent the SMSSA league at Community Services Board meetings.
7. Supervise the care taking of all softball fields contracted to the SMSSA league.
8. Oversee the auditing of the financial records.
9. Post and deliver schedules for league games and meetings.
10. Serve as SMSSA league representative with City of Sault Ste. Marie Management.
11. Complete SMSSA league scheduling.
12. Supervise all financial matters and mandate yearly audits of all financial records.
13. Write and issue checks.
14. Collect the following fees: Forfeit, Sanction, Registration, Sponsor, and Concession.
15. Prepare the beginning and end of year financial statements, as well as having financial report available at SMSSA Board meetings.

16. Supervise and maintain SMSSA league rosters and player pool.
17. Supervise and maintain yearly financial audit of books.
18. Supervise and maintain all correspondence concerning the SMSSA league.
19. The Board Members shall hold disciplinary meetings within three days of written notification of an incident(s) by any league umpire and/or official(s). Description of any incident shall be submitted in writing, from both parties, to the SMSSA Board for review. Each party will be allotted five minutes to summarize events and may have no more than two representatives at the meeting. Any action taken by the SMSSA Board will be determined by a majority vote. All parties will be notified of the SMSSA Board's decision.
20. Compression Test and Approve Bats following the USA Softball Compression Guidelines.
21. Conduct periodic bat checks throughout the season.
22. Update the web page and other social media sources with current league information.
23. Maintain current records and standings of all divisional play.

**1. VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF (IF APPLICABLE)**

1. Supervise and maintain schedules of umpires for all SMSSA league games.
2. Evaluate all umpires.
3. Report conduct problems in any SMSSA league game to the SMSSA Board and advise all parties of proper procedures to correct the problem.

**X. GAME RULES and LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

The SMSSA adheres to all rules in the A.S.A. rulebook, except for the following additions for SMSSA league play:

1. One and one count on all fields for all games, unless otherwise noted.
2. 6-12 Pitching Arch limit.
3. A team must have eight (8) players from its roster available to play at game time. When one team fails to show or fails to have enough players at game time, the opposing team must have at least eight (8) players from its roster present to gain a win. In neither team has enough to play, both will be credited with a loss.
4. A team may start with eight (8) players; however the ninth and tenth spot in the batting order will be an automatic out when the ninth and tenth spot comes up in the batting order. Teams starting with eight (8) players may enter the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> player at any time during the game. There is no change to the existing rule regarding teams starting with ten (10) players and loss of one player without the benefit of an extra player to substitute. They may continue with nine (9) players, but take an out in the order where that player bats. If starting with (8), subsequent outs (2) will be applied when the vacant spot(s) come up in the order. However; they DO NOT all have to be in a row. You may set your lineup accordingly and stagger the outs if you wish to do so.

5. Game time is forfeit time. There is **no** grace period. No infield practice before games.
6. 1 Base Runner allowed per inning. Anyone may run for the on base player, but if the runner comes up to bat while he is on base, the runner will become an automatic OUT.
7. NO STEALING.
8. NO COURTESY STEP. Base Runner may leave the bag and advance **ONLY** on a BATTED ball. If a base runner leaves the bag and advances toward the next base during a batters SWING AND MISS, the base runner will be called OUT for attempting to gain an advantage (steal) towards the next bag. Runner must stay on the base until the ball is hit. This **DOES NOT COUNT** or affect the base runner if a batter does not attempt a swing at the ball.

#### 1. **XI. SCOREKEEPING**

Scorekeeping will be the ***responsibility of the Home Team***. In the event that the Home Team cannot manage the score book during gameplay, the other team will be the responsible party. If BOTH teams are unable to furnish a scorekeeper, it will be the responsibility of the Umpire to keep score. **Lineup card must be filled out clearly and completely with first and last names of players. Improperly filled out line up cards may result in a forfeit.**

#### 1. **XII. UMPIRES AND PROTESTS**

The SMSSA will furnish umpires with balls and lineup cards at game time. All umpires will be required to wear an ASA approved blue or white shirt , blue or grey pants, an ASA hat and turf shoes or tennis shoes. You are subject to forfeiting your game fees if you are not properly attired. There will be a graduated pay scale for new umpires and a mentor will be available for new umpires also. Due to budget restraints, the league will continue to utilize the one umpire system. Umpire performance will be evaluated on a regular basis. Umpires that are determined to be performing unsatisfactorily, will be paid a Lesser amount, or removed from the umpiring schedule.

Umpires will only be required to confer with the team managers or team captains of the teams at play when a question arises. It is up to the teams to designate their representative and control their bench and fans.

***If a team wishes to file a protest, the team representative must notify the umpire between the time of the questionable play and the next pitch delivered.*** If this procedure is not followed, the protest will be invalid. A valid protest must be reported to a SMSSA Board Member, in writing, within 24 hours of the occurrence and must be accompanied by a \$25.00 protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the \$25.00 protest fee will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld, the money will be deposited into the SMSSA general league fund.

#### 1. **XIII. PLAYER CONDUCT**

All players are encouraged to conduct themselves in a respectful and sportsmanlike way. The following, non-inclusive list, are examples of unacceptable behavior.

1. Abusive behavior (either physical or verbal) threatened or real, will not be tolerated. SMSSA Board action will result and City Police will be called when necessary. Physical assault committed by any player will result in an automatic, immediate, indefinite suspension to all players involved. The suspended games will take effect immediately upon completion of the game in question pending board review. Further action, if any, will be determined by the SMSSA umpire's incident report. Umpires are required to submit reports immediately following the affected game.
2. If the Umpire-In-Chief requests a review or the parties involved request the same, the SMSSA Board will be obligated to intervene.
3. Physical or verbal abuse upon an umpire or any other official will result in action to be determined by the SMSSA Board. A report is to be submitted within 48 hours or less of the reported incident.
4. It should be understood that any suspension, unless otherwise stipulated, would automatically place the offender(s) on probation with the threat of permanent suspension.
5. In any case involving abuse of players, umpires, officials, or removal of any individual from a game, the umpire(s) involved is required to hand in an incident report to the Umpire-In-Chief. All other parties involved may hand in a written incident report to any SMSSA Board Member to be used at a later date. Any player ejected from a game may not play another game until the incident has been reviewed/cleared by the SMSSA Board.
6. Abusive behavior, verbal or physical, shall be cause for disciplinary action, to be decided by the SMSSA Board Members on a secret ballot vote.

**\*\*NO GLASS CONTAINERS ALLOWED IN COMPLEX!\*\***

It is against Sault Sainte Marie City Ordinance to have ANY type of GLASS containers/bottles in the City Parks. We have "1 RULE!" Let's not break the one rule the city has for open containers in city parks. BRING CANS! NO GLASS!

#### **XIV. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. **Trophies/Placements** – Sponsor Plaques will be awarded to the top teams in each division designated at the end of the season. First and Second place awards will be given to the winning team(s). In cases of a tie, the teams involved, to determine a winner, will use a playoff format. If time does not permit this, head-to-head records will be compared and decided upon by the SMSSA Board Members.
2. **Use of Fields** – Reservation of the Eighth Avenue Complex must be made in writing to the SMSSA Board. A nominal fee of \$75.00 (non-refundable with the exception of unusual circumstances) will be charged for teams or organizations that wish to sponsor a softball event. The fee for events

must be paid upon application. No solicitation (verbal or written) will be permitted to determine interest without the \$75.00 fee paid to the SMSSA. For the use of the SMSSA league concession stand, a fee of \$5.00 will be charged, per day, payable in advance. Any team or individual that wishes to operate the concession stand must reserve the facility through the SMSSA Board. The concession stand may be reserved for a period of no more than five days at a time (I.E. Monday through Friday) and may extend for an additional period if available.

3. **Equipment** – Only ASA specified bats and gloves would be acceptable in SMSSA league play. If there are any questions, ask the umpires. All equipment to be used on the field is subject to inspection by the umpire(s). NOTE: No warm-up fans or leaded pipes may be used in the on-deck circle area. Any player caught using an altered, doctored or painted bat will be ejected and the bat is subject to be confiscated and inspected further by the board or MASA. The player may be suspended indefinitely pending review by the board. If an illegal bat is purposely used during game play, the player swinging it along with the team manager will be subject to disciplinary action. It is up to team managers to check the bats in their dugouts and oversee what is being brought on to the playing surface. All bats must have a current year ASA stamp before game play.
4. **d. Uniforms** –No metal spikes or open-toed shoes/sandals will be allowed in SMSSA league play. Caps are optional and can be worn any way desired.

## 1. XV. LEAGUE BANQUET

The SMSSA league banquet, held at the end of the season is intended for sponsors and players who have paid league fees. Anyone who attends the SMSSA league banquet without paying a sponsor or player fee, will be charged \$20.00 at the door. This fee will include food, non-alcoholic beverages and door prizes.

## 1. XVI. 2012 SMSSA BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Atkinson	(906) 322-2871
Jeremy Savola	(906) 440-0090
Kevin Killips	(906) 203-5786
Micah Corbiere	(996) 748-4961
Michael Stevens	(906) 440-9028
Jason Brown	(906) 440-8732

## LIABILITY AND OPTIONAL INSURANCE

The Soo Men's Slo-Pitch Softball Association carries no medical insurance and assumes no liability for personal injuries or loss of personal property of persons participating in these activities. A participant's family policy must cover any medical costs incurred. Each individual team has the option to purchase insurance through ASA at their own expense.