

# **Mississauga Mixed Recreational Slo-Pitch League (M.M.R.S.L.)**



**2017  
Constitution  
and By-laws**

# Mississauga Mixed Recreational Slo-Pitch League

## 2017 CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE A - NAME

1. This organization shall be known as the "Mississauga Mixed Recreational Slo-Pitch League" (hereinafter referred to as "M.M.R.S.L.") functioning as an independent association in the City of Mississauga. The M.M.R.S.L. was established in 1989.

### ARTICLE B - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

1. The purpose of the M.M.R.S.L. shall be to provide co-ed amateur slo-pitch softball on a "league" basis for residents 19 years of age and over at the time of registration. The League shall maintain a City of Mississauga residency rate of a minimum of eighty percent (80%), as per the City of Mississauga.
2. The M.M.R.S.L. is not intended to be a highly competitive softball league but rather to stress the "fun" aspect of the game, together with the development of good sportsmanship and elements of fair play.
3. The M.M.R.S.L. shall sponsor and promote any activity of a special or athletic nature that will contribute towards the finances or goals of the association.
4. Mississauga residents will be given preference over out-of-town residents at registration time. The executive, based on demand, will determine the Membership of the League, male-female ratio, annually.
5. The M.M.R.S.L. is a non-profit organization, which can allocate its own surplus back to the league.
6. In the event the League ceases to exist and after all debts have been paid, members in good standing will be reimbursed their fees. The balance of League assets will be donated to a charity, as decided by the members in good standing. The equipment will be donated to a children's charity in Mississauga.

### ARTICLE C - AFFILIATION

1. The M.M.R.S.L. shall function as an independent organization but may at any time become affiliated with another association or agency for the purpose of better fulfilling its own functions and objectives.

### ARTICLE D - OPERATIONS

1. The M.M.R.S.L. is a Mississauga organization and as such will play all of its regular season games in parks within the boundaries of the City of Mississauga whenever possible.
2. An elected Executive committee hereinafter referred to as the "Executive" manages the League. The "executive body" is the Executive, and the appointed positions named under Article G, including the volunteer Team Representatives.
2. The League Executive and its Membership will abide by the Constitution and By-laws to the extent that League funds and the approved budgets permit.
3. The M.M.R.S.L. fiscal year will be from December 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ARTICLE E - MEMBER (IN GOOD STANDING)

1. A Member (in good standing) is any individual who has registered with the League and whose membership fees are up-to-date. The Membership year is aligned with the fiscal year and must be renewed annually.
2. The Executive may, prior to the acceptance of applications for Membership in any year, limit the number of Members to be accepted. Given the opportunity to renew their membership before the acceptance of New Members are the previous year's Members. The Executive must do this before the date as set from year-to-year.
3. The interest of a Member in the League is not transferable. Membership shall lapse and cease to exist in the following circumstances:
  - 3.1 Upon such Member's death or resignation;
  - 3.2 Upon being terminated in accordance with the Constitution.

4. Any Member may resign from membership upon notice to the Executive.
5. The Executive, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at any duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to expel from or terminate the membership of any Member of any class when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interests of the League.
6. Any Member who in the opinion of the Executive fails to abide by the rules of the League may be suspended, at the discretion of the Executive. Notice of suspension shall be in writing, addressed to the Member at the last known address, effective on mailing or other delivery of the notice as previously mentioned. Refund of fees shall be at the discretion of the Executive.

## ARTICLE F - EXECUTIVE BODY

### 1. *Elected Officers (Executive)*

An Executive Body comprised of the following Elected Officers shall conduct the affairs of the M.M.R.S.L.:

- 1.1 President
- 1.2 Vice-President
- 1.3 Secretary
- 1.4 Treasurer
- 1.5 League Convenor
- 1.6 Membership Secretary
- 1.7 Immediate Past-President
- 1.8 Statistician

### 2. *Appointed Officers*

In addition to the above, the following annually Appointed Officers may sit on the Executive Body:

- 2.1 Team Representatives (2 per team)
- 2.2 Umpire-in-Chief
- 2.3 Banquet Chairperson
- 2.4 Tournament Coordinator
- 2.5 Uniform Coordinator
- 2.6 Equipment Coordinator

The Elected Officers from a list of volunteers will choose these Appointed Officers, which is open to any Member in the League.

### 3. *Voting Privileges*

- 3.1 All Officers (Elected and Appointed) of the Executive Body are entitled to one (1) vote at general meetings. The Team Representatives will take precedence, to a maximum of three (3) votes per team.
- 3.2 If a Team Representative is absent and unable to vote for any reason, an alternate Team Representative may vote in their absence.
- 3.3 A Member cannot have more than one (1) vote if they belong to more than one position on the Executive Body. In case of a tie vote, any motion put forward will be considered defeated due to not having a majority vote.
- 3.4 Officers, both Elected and Appointed, cannot be paid to hold a position.
- 3.5 Allowed at the Annual General Meeting only is voting by proxy. Specific details pertaining to the procedure for proxy voting will be distributed to Members with registration information and the A.G.M. notice or is available on the website.
- 3.6 Executive business is resolved through discussion and consensus. While no formal voting is usually conducted, all Members of the Executive have the right to be heard and to call for discussion.
- 3.7 Written votes may be conducted during the regular season when the Executive deems that the issue is urgent, and calling a meeting is not a viable option.

## ARTICLE G - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### 1. *Elected Officers (Executive)*

The Elected Officers shall manage the property, business and affairs of the M.M.R.S.L. consistent with its purpose as set out in Article B and shall be comprised of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the League Convenor, Membership Secretary, Statistician, and the Immediate Past-President, who shall report and be responsible to the League Members in accordance with this Constitution. Described as follows are their duties and responsibilities:

#### 1.1 President

- 1.11 Shall see that all Articles of the M.M.R.S.L. Constitution and By-laws are carried into effect.
- 1.12 May act on behalf of the M.M.R.S.L. with consultation of one other Executive Member, where an immediate decision is required and a League Executive meeting is impossible to convene.
- 1.13 Shall have the direct responsibility of the following Officers: (Banquet Chairperson, Tournament Coordinator).
- 1.14 Shall ensure an annual financial review is conducted for presentation at the A.G.M.

- 1.15 Shall ensure elected officers perform their duties satisfactorily.
- 1.16 Shall conduct elections when the Secretary is unable to do so.
- 1.17 Shall be in contact with the City of Mississauga to sign contracts on behalf of the M.M.R.S.L., as well as other cities as necessary.
- 1.18 Shall provide the Treasurer with budgets whenever deemed necessary.

## 1.2 Vice-President

- 1.21 Shall be responsible for assisting the President in the President's duties and shall perform such duties when the President is unable to do so.
- 1.22 Shall prepare, in consultation with the Umpire-in-Chief, a complete playing schedule (including playoffs) as directed by the League Executive.
- 1.23 Shall be responsible for enforcing the umpire quality with the Umpire-in-Chief.
- 1.24 Shall have the direct responsibility of the following Officers: (Umpire-in-Chief).
- 1.25 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.
- 1.26 Shall work closely with the Statistician to ensure that he/she is aware of each team's defaults and games otherwise not played.
- 1.27 Shall monitor the performance bonds and the provision of umpire's services and on a timely basis; communicates it to the Treasurer.
- 1.28 Shall be the only receiver of scores during the play-offs, in order to efficiently schedule umpires.
- 1.29 Shall provide the Treasurer with budgets whenever deemed necessary.

## 1.3 Secretary

- 1.31 Shall maintain and store accurate records of all proceedings of all M.M.R.S.L. meetings and see that the Minutes of the proceedings are available on the website to all League Members within three (3) weeks of meeting.
- 1.32 Shall monitor attendance of all meetings.
- 1.33 Shall book in advance all meeting locations as early as possible and set agendas and ensure payment is made as required.
- 1.34 Shall initiate or reply to correspondence as directed by the League Executive.
- 1.35 Shall see that agenda items are available to all League Members on the website two (2) weeks prior to all League meetings including the AGM.
- 1.36 Shall have the direct responsibility of the following Officers: Uniform Coordinator.
- 1.37 Shall publish and make available on the website a newsletter to all League Members when deemed necessary.
- 1.38 Shall coordinate, and when the person in the position of Secretary is not a candidate, also conduct the Elections.
- 1.39 Shall respond to email inquiries received through the general email address of the League.
- 1.40 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.

## 1.4 Treasurer

- 1.41 Shall keep and maintain full accurate books of account in which will be recorded all receipts and disbursements of the M.M.R.S.L.
- 1.42 Shall receive all registrations by mail, depositing payments within three weeks of receipt, recording details of payment on the registration forms, and promptly forwarding the registration forms to the Membership Secretary.
- 1.43 Shall maintain an account with a Chartered Bank in the name of the M.M.R.S.L. through which all receipts and disbursements are to pass, including the tournament and banquet.
- 1.44 Shall prepare a financial statement of receipts and disbursements for presentation at quarterly periods.
- 1.45 Shall be responsible for pursuing and collecting outstanding monies owed to the M.M.R.S.L. and informing the Executive of any debts outstanding more than one month.
- 1.46 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.
- 1.47 shall coordinate and monitor budgets with the Executive

## 1.5 League Convenor

- 1.51 Shall be responsible for the placement of players on all M.M.R.S.L. Recreation teams, in conjunction with the Executive.
- 1.52 Shall keep accurate records of player suspensions and communicate with the Membership Secretary any terminations.
- 1.53 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.
- 1.54 shall place players from the Waiting List, as necessary, and communicate with them the registration requirements and
- 1.55 inform the Membership Secretary accordingly
- 1.56 shall provide the Treasurer with budgets whenever deemed necessary
- 1.57 shall ensure the availability of all trophies and awards at the banquet, as per the budget and in consultation with the Executive and the Treasurer

## 1.6 Membership Secretary

- 1.61 Shall ensure that each Member has a signed waiver.
- 1.62 Shall keep a file of all Members mailing and electronic addresses and provide mailing labels or send group emails when requested, and respond to inquiries through the designated email.
- 1.63 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.

- 1.64 shall assist with new and temporary player placements, as requested by the Convenor
- 1.65 Shall coordinate current and new Member registration, maintaining a Waiting List for use by the Convenor and copy it to all members of the Executive. A list of members signing after the first game of the season shall also be maintained, indicating the Member's name, team to which he/she was assigned, whether or not it's a temporary placement, name of player being replaced, date of first scheduled game for his/her team, number of games remaining on the team's schedule, and required fees (as confirmed with the Treasurer).
- 1.66 shall ensure that the previous season's temporary Members register by mail at the same time Members do, holding their forms until such time that it's confirmed that space allows for them to have ongoing membership.
- 1.67 Shall provide the Treasurer with budgets whenever deemed necessary.

## 1.7 Immediate Past-President

- 1.71 Shall act as a consultant to the Executive.
- 1.72 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.

## 1.8 League Statistician

- 1.81 Shall receive and keep full and accurate records of regular season League games, including scores, standings, rainouts, forfeitures and suspended games through the means as defined by the Executive.
- 1.82 Shall distribute to the Executive and Team Representatives up-to-date standings on a bi-weekly basis commencing three weeks after the start of play until the end of the regular season, preferably through the website.
- 1.83 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.
- 1.84 Shall provide the Treasurer with budgets whenever deemed necessary.
- 1.85 Shall have the direct responsibility of following officers: Webmaster and Equipment Co-ordinator.
- 1.86 As it is to appear on the web site, shall provide content to the Webmaster, keeping web site information relevant and accurate, as per the Executive or President.

## 2. *Appointed Officers*

The Elected Officers will select the Appointed Officers on an annual basis for a period of one (1) year. Each member can hold only one (1) position, except for when the second position is that of Team Representatives.

### 2.1 Team Representative(s)

- 2.11 Shall express the views and opinions of the team they represent.
- 2.12 Shall ensure that their team is represented at all scheduled meetings, preferably through their attendance.
- 2.13 Shall communicate about all Minutes of League meetings to the team they represent.
- 2.14 shall communicate about League activities and issues to the team they represent e.g. tournament, MVP/MSP ballots, banquet tickets, special voting
- 2.15 Shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be described by the Executive.
- 2.16 this position is not responsible for coaching the team e.g. line-ups, batting order

### 2.2 Umpire-in-Chief

- 2.21 Does not have to be a Member of the M.M.R.S.L. shall, within the limitations of the cost placed on him/her by the League Executive, have the duty to establish a group of umpires sufficient to meet the needs of the M.M.R.S.L.
- 2.22 Shall designate umpires to handle each scheduled MMRSL game and must ensure that no league member is scheduled as an umpire without being sanctioned by the League's Executive.
- 2.23 Shall maintain an accurate record of games officiated by umpires for submission to the Vice-President who will ensure payment of umpiring fees.

### 2.3 Banquet Chairperson

- 2.31 Shall organize the annual M.M.R.S.L. year-end banquet.
- 2.32 Shall select the Banquet Committee (with Executive approval).
- 2.33 Shall remit all monies received together with a general accounting of same to the Treasurer on a regular basis within a two (2) week period of receipt.

### 2.4 Tournament Coordinator

- 2.41 Shall organize the annual M.M.R.S.L. tournament.
- 2.42 Shall select the Tournament Committee (with Executive approval).
- 2.43 Shall remit all monies received together with a general accounting of same to the Treasurer on a regular basis within a two (2) week period of receipt.

### 2.5 Uniform Coordinator

- 2.51 Shall coordinate team colours.

### 2.6 Equipment Coordinator

- 2.61 Shall be responsible for the purchase, maintenance, and inventory of equipment.
- 2.62 Shall provide the Treasurer with the budget and receipts whenever deemed necessary.

### 2.7 Webmaster

- 2.71 Shall host the web site, ensuring that the domain name is actively registered and that the ISP account is maintained.
- 2.72 Shall update the site as requested by the League Statistician or designate.
- 2.73 Shall suggest design changes to the site that enhance the user-friendliness of and has the potential to increase traffic to the web site, and follow through on those approved by the Executive.

## ARTICLE H - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of the League Executive shall take place at the year-end banquet and will be determined by a majority vote of Members in good standing.

1. Executive Officers are elected for a two (2) year term and there can be no more than two (2) elected officers from any one (1) team, except when the third person is the Past President. Commencement of the Executive term will be December 1st.
2. No Member may be elected to the Executive unless such Member has been a Member in good standing from the preceding Membership year.
3. The election of President, Secretary, League Convenor, and Statistician will be held in even numbered years and the election of Vice-President, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary will be held in odd numbered years.
4. Elected Officers are to have a limit of service of not more than four (4) years at any one elected position.
5. During the period following their election and prior to their assumption of office, the newly elected Members of the Executive shall not be entitled to a vote until the commencement of their term, or they have assumed their duties. This clause will be ignored if the Member is presently on the Appointed Executive.
6. Any five (5) Members in good standing may nominate, in writing, a candidate for any position being contested. All nominations must be received by the Secretary by September 15<sup>th</sup>. The notice to the Secretary should include the signatures of the five (5) proposes and the written consent of the Nominee.
7. If, for any reason, following the closing of Nominations and before the Election, there should be no valid Nomination for any office, the Executive shall by formal resolution nominate a Member to stand for election.
8. Casual vacancies on the Executive may be filled by appointment of a Member made by a majority vote at an Executive meeting. The term of the office will expire by the next election for that position at which time the position will be open to nominations.
9. Any Elected Officer can be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive if the Executive deems it that the Officer is not performing their duties properly (as outlined in Article G) or is not representing the best interests of the M.M.R.S.L. The removed Officer will continue as a Member within the League, unless offenses that are more serious have taken place (requiring suspension or termination). The removed officer may not stand for nomination to the Executive for any position in the next election.
10. In the event that no suitable member volunteers and offers to serve, the current outgoing Executive Officer may retain the position after holding the term for more then four (4) consecutive years, if he/she chooses, and at the discretion of the League's Executive.

## ARTICLE I - MEETINGS

1. There is to be an Annual General Meeting of all League Members in good standing to be held at such time and place as the Executive may determine. The date must be within six months of year-end. All Members in attendance are entitled to one (1) vote at the Annual General Meeting. The quorum for the Annual General Meeting will be **10% of previous year's membership**. All Members will be notified of the place, date and time of the Annual General Meeting in writing via the registration mailing process.
2. General meetings may be called at any time by order of the President or by two (2) Members of the Executive on notification to the Secretary who shall proceed to give notice of such meeting to the Members.
3. These meetings are open to only Members in good standing but can go in-camera (to exclude non-Officers) by resolution of the Executive Body. Attendance by non-Members must also be resolved in this matter.
4. The quorum for a general meeting will be fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Body.
5. The position of Chairperson shall rotate among the Elected Officers for any meeting. At the conclusion of a meeting the Chairperson for the next meeting will be selected from the Executive by the Executive.

6. There will be a minimum of three (3) Executive meetings held within a fiscal year.
7. The order of business for the Annual General Meeting and other M.M.R.S.L. meetings shall be as follows:
  - 7.1 Attendance
  - 7.2 Approval of Minutes and Agenda
  - 7.3 Business Arising
  - 7.4 Treasurer's Report (copies available to each team)
  - 7.5 New business
  - 7.6 Adjournment

## ARTICLE J - DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. *Function*  
To receive, evaluate and find solutions for any conflicts arising from within the League that are brought to the Grievance Committee's attention (in writing), which have not been ruled upon by an umpiring official. Jurisdiction will include any League related games (before, during and after), as well as social events at which a person represents the League.
2. *Who can file a Grievance*  
Any Member of the League who is in good standing can file (i.e. has paid their current dues and has signed their registration sheets). Each *grievance* will require a forty-dollar (\$40.00) deposit made payable to the League, refundable only if the Committee rules in favour of the Complainants. The deposit must be in the hands of the Chairperson of this Committee, care of the Executive, within seven (7) days of the incident in question. A written accounting of the incident must accompany this cheque.
3. *Composition of Grievance Committee*
  - 3.1 One (1) individual to act as Chairperson recruited by the Executive within seven (7) days. In the event that the Chairperson of the Committee is absent or unable to review and evaluate the *grievance* then the League Executive will appoint a temporary Chairperson while in the absence of the regular Chairperson.
  - 3.2 Two (2) randomly drawn Team Representatives (to sit on the Committee).
  - 3.3 The Complainant(s).
  - 3.4 The Defendant(s).
  - 3.5 Team Representatives representing the Teams of the Defendant(s) or Complainant(s) will not be eligible for the draw. Both the Defendant(s) and the Complainant(s) will have one (1) "right of veto" over a drawn Team Representative.
4. *Operation of Grievance Committee*
  - 4.1 The Chairperson shall review the *grievance* and draw two (2) Team Representatives to sit on the Committee.
  - 4.2 The Defendant(s) shall receive a copy of the original *grievance* filed against them.
  - 4.3 The Chairperson shall notify both the Defendant(s), and the Complainant(s) as to which Team Representatives were drawn, at which time they may exercise their "right of veto". If one (1) or both parties veto, then one (1) or two (2) more Team Representatives shall be drawn.
  - 4.4 The Chairperson shall set up a meeting with both parties and the two (2) Team Representatives, within fourteen (14) days of receiving the *grievance*. If a meeting is unable to be scheduled within the fourteen (14) days, an additional seven (7) days will be granted if the Chairperson feels that the circumstances warrant an extension. If either the Complainant(s) or Defendant(s) cannot attend a meeting within these three (3) weeks, the meeting will commence with a written accounting from the absent Defendant(s) or the original accounting from the Complainant(s). A ruling will be made in their absence.
  - 4.5 The original written *grievance* must contain all pertinent information such as team name of the accused, names of individuals involved, date and time of incident and all other relevant information.
5. *Actions of Grievance Committee*
  - 5.1 The Committee will review the *grievance* and if circumstances dictate so, shall administer any of the following disciplinary actions:
    - 5.11 written warnings
    - 5.12 game suspensions
    - 5.13 expulsions from the League
  - 5.2 The Committee may also disregard a *grievance* if they feel it is not a League concern.
  - 5.3 In case of warnings or game suspensions, there will be no appeal process.
  - 5.4 In the event of expulsion from the League, the expelled Member(s) may appeal to the League Executive providing that they put up a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) bond (payable to the M.M.R.S.L.) which will be refunded if the Executive reinstates the expelled Member(s). The bond will be forfeited if the Executive upholds the Grievance Committee's original ruling on the matter.
  - 5.5 The Committee will file a written report to the League Executive. The report shall contain an account of the incident as well as their ruling and any disciplinary actions taken.
  - 5.6 Chairperson notifies the Defendant(s) and Complainant(s) of the ruling.

## **ARTICLE K - MEMBERSHIP FEES**

1. The Executive shall determine membership fees annually. These fees may also include non-playing fees for that particular year (Tournament, Banquet, etc...)
  - a) For players registering after the first scheduled game of the season, membership fees will be an amount as determined annually by the Executive, based on current costs per game, plus applicable non-playing fees.
  - b) If post-dated payments are received, registration will be recorded as received on the date of the cheque and treated accordingly.
2. Refunds are only issued as follows:
  - a) Players requesting refunds prior to their team's first scheduled game: 100% less \$20 administration fee.
  - b) Players who following their assigned team's first scheduled game can't play due to pregnancy or prolonged injury and upon replacement of another player by the League or by the team as approved by the League, will be reimbursed an amount as determined annually by the Executive (based on current costs per game), for each remaining game on their assigned team's regular season schedule, plus non-playing fees, less \$20.
  - c) Except for membership status, all privileges of membership are suspended for the current season. Players are welcome to purchase banquet tickets and any other League "product" at the member's rate.
  - d) Refunds are only issued to the party who paid the membership fee unless otherwise requested in writing by that person or organization signatory.
  - e) Administration fee (if team decides not to fill the vacancy, refund to the player must be arranged amongst the members of the team).
  - f) There will be no refunds granted after the July 15th roster deadline.

## **ARTICLE L - CHEQUES**

1. All cheques, bills, notes, acceptances, and orders for the payment of money shall be signed or endorsed by only two (2) of the following four (4) persons: President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Membership Secretary. No other Member may have signing authority.
2. All cheques and other forms of payment to the League must be cashable on receipt.

## **ARTICLE M - CONTRACTS**

1. Contracts, documents, or any instruments in writing requiring the signature(s) of the League shall be signed by the President and one (1) other Executive Member who shall be appointed from time to time by the Executive Committee on behalf of the League. All contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the League without any further authorization or formality.
2. All contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed involving a consideration of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or more shall only be binding upon the League if the Executive has, by prior resolution, approved same, and authorized and directed the President and one (1) other Executive Member to execute and deliver same on behalf of the League in the form presented to the Executive.
3. The term "contracts, documents and instruments in writing" as used herein shall include: conveyances, transfers and assignments of property, real or personal, immovable or movable; agreements, releases and discharges for payment of money or other obligations; conveyances, transfers and assignments of bonds, debentures or other securities; and all paper writings.

## **ARTICLE N - THE BOOKS OF THE LEAGUE**

1. The Books of the League shall be audited annually by two (2) Members in good standing and not serving on the Executive, or by professional accountants appointed by the Executive at the Annual General Meeting.

## **ARTICLE O - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

1. The Articles of this Constitution may be amended only with a resolution passed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total Members present at an Annual General Meeting duly called for that purpose. A copy of the proposed resolution shall be included with the notice of such Meeting. Any amendments will take effect immediately after the vote.
2. The By-laws of this Constitution may be amended only with a resolution passed by a majority vote of the Members (based on quorum for a general meeting) either present at a meeting or participating in a written vote (based on quorum for an A.G.M.) duly called for that purpose. A copy of the proposed resolution shall be included with the notice of such meeting.
3. *Definitions:*
  - 3.1 Articles of the Constitution describe the fundamental purposes of the M.M.R.S.L. (They map out the goals of the League).

- 3.2 By-laws of the Constitution are like a book of rules that govern day-to-day procedures for the M.M.R.S.L. They are usually more specific than an Article. By-laws will be frequently changed to match the emerging needs of the League as it grows or adapts to new circumstances.

#### **ARTICLE P - INDEMNIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE**

1. All Members elected and acting as an Executive and their heirs, executors and administrators shall at all times be indemnified out of the funds of the League including any liability insurance maintained by the M.M.R.S.L. on behalf of its Members from:
  - 1.1 all costs whatsoever that such Member incurs in any proceeding that is brought against the Member for any action taken, done or permitted to be done by such Member in the execution of their duties as an Executive; all other costs that the Member incurs in or in relation to the conduct of the affairs of the League except costs incurred or occasioned by such Member's own willful neglect or misconduct.

# Mississauga Mixed Recreational Slo-Pitch League

## 2017 BY-LAWS

### BY-LAW A                      ADMISSION OF MEMBERS & TEAMS

1. *Registration*

Returning Members will be given the opportunity to renew their Membership before the acceptance of new members, given the returning member's registration is accepted before the registration deadline as set by the league's executive. Any temporary players from the previous year, will be given first consideration over new members, before the new member registration. All registrations will be on a first come first served basis, as of the new member registration date.

2. *Rosters*

Each team can register a maximum of sixteen (16) full time players. The roster will consist of a maximum of nine (9) full-time males and seven (7) full-time females. In addition to the maximum number of full-time each team can add a maximum of four (4) temporary players. The temp players can be any combination of males and/or females, up to the maximum combined number of four (4). Temp players must complete a MMRSL registration form, as well as complete and sign the SPN Insurance form. These forms must be completed prior to the temp participating during the regular season at an MMRSL league game. Each temporary player can play in a maximum of six (6) regular season games. Temporary players are not eligible for playoff games. The use of a temporary player is limited to bringing the roster to a maximum of six (6) males and four (4) females. At no time can the temporary player represent the 7th male or 5th female.

Each returning Team Entry team must register between ten (10) and twenty (20) players, six (6) of which are existing members and four of which must be female. Team Entry teams not complying with the above may register with the new registrants. All M.M.R.S.L. teams must pay an equal Membership fee as well as a performance bond.

3. *Performance Bond*

Each team must post a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) performance bond, which will be used towards equipment provided by the League. Expansion teams will have until the April Team Rep meeting to produce their performance bonds. The performance bond will be rolled over from year to year. When teams disband or quit, the bond will only be repaid on the return of the equipment and other League property and it will be paid to the person returning the equipment. There will be no reimbursements for any performance bonds, from any previous years, after the start of the current season.

4. *Liability Insurance*

Each Member is covered for liability insurance through Slo-Pitch National (S.P.N.), provided the Team Representative ensures timely completion of the required form and submission of it to the President. The cost of this insurance is included in the Membership fee.

5. *Changes to Rosters*

Changes to a team roster may be made at any time up to July 15th at the discretion of the Executive at which time the roster will be frozen. A completed registration and waiver form along with a Membership fee must be in the hands of the Executive before any new Member can partake in any League play. Any team found playing with an ineligible player would be charged with a default loss and fined \$100.00

6. *Uniforms*

Team uniform colours (new and changes) must be approved by the Uniform Coordinator (or in the absence of one, the Secretary) prior to their purchase.

7. *Membership Cancellation*

Should a Member (or team) decide to cancel their Membership prior to the first League game, a twenty dollar (\$20.00) administration charge will be deducted from the Membership fee and the balance will be refunded to the Member (or team). Membership fees are refundable as per Article K. The League will not refund any Member of a Team Entry team as it is up to that individual's team to decide if they will be refunded any portion of the Membership fee.

8. *Fines*

Fines imposed by the League include a Default Fine of \$25.00 per game and General and Ejection Fines, both for \$25.00.

9. *Equipment / First Aid Kits*

*Each team will be issued equipment consisting of 3 bases, a carry bag, pegs, 2 pylons, and a hammer. In addition, each team will also be issued a First Aid kit. All the above mentioned items will be the equipment as outlined for the performance bond (By-Law A 3). Bases will be replaced as appropriate due to regular wear. Teams are responsible to ensure First Aid kits are maintained and used items are replaced before the next games after items are used. The First Aid kit should only be used for MMRS� games and not be used for personal use.*

10. *Team Names*

Names for returning teams cannot be changed after April 1<sup>st</sup>. All new teams must also submit their team names prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. All names must be approved by the league's Executive.

**BY-LAW B                      PLAYER ATTENDANCE**

1. *1. Playoff Eligibility*

In order to be eligible for the playoffs, each Member must partake in more than forty percent (40%) of all regular season games for which they were eligible to play in. Participation includes appearing in the batting order and for Recreational teams it also includes appearing on the field for a minimum two (2) innings of the game. Should a Member not qualify for the playoffs they will forfeit their Membership and will be required to re-register for the following year as a new member.

2. *Medical Disabilities*

Any prolonged absences due to medical reasons that will affect playoff eligibility must be explained in writing by the absentee. In addition, their letter must accompany the scorebook when it is checked for attendance before the playoffs.

3. *Temporary Leave*

A Member may take temporary leave under two conditions: if a Member becomes medically disabled or if, a Member becomes pregnant.

4. *Placement Temporary/Replacement Player*

If an existing Member becomes medically disabled or quits, on notification to or on learning about the situation, the League Convenor (or designate) will attempt to replace the player from the Waiting List, in the order the names appear on that list. If it is not possible to place someone from the Waiting List or there isn't one, on approval by the League Convenor, the team may place an individual of equal caliber to the Member on leave.

**BY-LAW C                      SCORE BOOKS**

1. The League will supply every team with a scorebook and it must be used for League games only. It will serve as the sole record of player attendance and scores. Any team found keeping inaccurate scorebooks would risk forfeiting any game in which a dispute occurs. The scorebooks will be collected by the Executive before the playoffs and checked to determine player eligibility.
2. Players must be clearly and consistently identified from game to game. This is especially important when there are players on the team with the same name. This enables the Executive to determine playoff eligibility. If the identity of a player is unclear, that game will not be counted in determining eligibility.
3. Scores must be reported to scores@mmsl.com to the League Statistician within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of a game. Failure by any team to do so will result in a General Fine of \$25.00. The actual outcome of the game will stand and when received, the score noted for the record.
4. Upon completion of each game:
  - The scorekeepers for each team should verify their recorded scores with each other and with the umpire.
  - The umpire should sign his name and number on the current game page of both teams' scorebooks upon verification of the scores recorded by each team.

**BY-LAW D                      RULES OF PLAY**

1. *Rule Book*

The Slo-Pitch National (SPN) Rule Book will govern play under situations not specifically covered by the following rules.

2. *Home Team*

The home team must supply regulation bases and one (1) new league approved ball or forfeit the home advantage. The visiting team must provide a good backup ball. If neither team can supply bases the result will be a forfeit loss (7-0) towards both teams.

3. *Uniforms*

- 3.1. All regular team members are expected to wear matching team uniform tops (style and colour) with a designated number on the back -- no shirt-swapping.
- 3.2. Temporary players (and regular players who on occasion may forget their uniform) will only be required to have a shirt that matches the primary colour of the team uniform -- numbers are not required.
- 3.3. The umpire will determine if a shirt colour sufficiently matches the uniform primary colour prior to the start of each game.
- 3.4. A player who does not meet the above uniform criteria will still be allowed to play, but will be an automatic out for their first at-bat of each game.

4. *Shoes*

Shoes with metal or detachable cleats are prohibited. The all-purpose molded cleat softball shoe is legal.

5. *Athletic Braces*

Exposed metal braces are prohibited. Casts are prohibited, even if covered. Metal braces worn as a preventative aid must be covered with soft, pliable material.

6. *Regulation Game*

League games shall consist of seven (7) innings (as per S.P.N. rules) with no new inning beginning after 65 minutes. Once an inning starts it must be completed. Tie games are allowed only during the regular season. The SPN "Tiebreaker Rule" will be used during the playoffs.

7. *Grace Period*

A team will be allowed ten (10) minutes from the scheduled start time of a game to field a minimum team (nine players). This grace time will be deducted from the available game time. Should a team be unable to field a team after the grace period, they will default the game. See By-law F-3.

8. *Mercy Rule (Game-level)*

The mercy rule (12 runs) is in effect after five or more complete innings (or 4 1/2 innings if the home team is winning). The game will be stopped and the score will stand.

9. *Mercy Per Inning*

A 6 run rule will be used in each inning except when the inning is declared an "open inning" by the umpire, i.e. the last inning.

10. *Defensive Positions*

Other than the pitcher and catcher, infielders cannot be inside the baselines and outfielders cannot be on the infield until a pitch is delivered. A team should field ten (10) players defensively, but must play one short should an inadequate number of females be present to play. Based on a roster of nine (9) males and seven (7) females, a maximum of six (6) males are permitted defensively, whether or not only three (3) females are present in the batting order. When fielding a team with a full roster, the fourth fielders can be of any sex – no restriction. The same rules apply to rosters of eight (8) males and six (6) females. There is no restriction on the maximum number of females allowed on the field under any configuration of rosters.

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There is no restriction on the maximum number of females allowed on the field under any configuration of rosters.

11. *Pregnancy Rule*

If it is evident or confirmed to an umpire that a player is pregnant, the player will be requested to remove herself from the game. If she refuses, the umpire will eject her (see By-law E). This rule is for reasons of safety and for possible detrimental effect that such participation may have on other players' performances. Any player subsequently found in violation of this rule will automatically be suspended from the League for a minimum of two (2) years. Reinstatement will be at the discretion of the Executive.

## 12. *Batting Order*

All teams may bat male players back to back throughout their line-up as long as there are never three males batting in a row. There are no restrictions on how many female players may bat in a row.

When a line-up is forced (due to the amount of females present) to bat three males in a row, the females must then be rotated throughout the line-up to bring the order back into conformity. Of the 24 possible line-up combinations based on team make-up, only when a team has 7 males and 3 females, 8 males and 3 females, 9 males and 3 females, 7 males and 4 females or 9 males and 4 females will the female batters be required to rotate.

The male players batting back-to-back must be pre-determined and noted in the game's scorebook and provided to the opposing team when confirming line-ups. The designated players cannot be altered during the game. Unlimited defensive substitution is allowed as long as the player is in the batting order. A player arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting order provided the order has not completed one (1) rotation.

If a male player is removed from the game (e.g. injury, ejection) their position in the batting order will be ignored and no penalty will result. If a female player is removed from the game (e.g. injury, ejection) the team will be required to play with the trixie rule and rotate their female batters throughout their lineup. A Team Entry team may play using the S.P.N. "Re-entry/Substitution Rule" but must also abide by the S.P.N. rules regarding the batting order.

If you only have three females present, you will still be permitted to play however the fourth female spot in the batting order remains and is an auto-out for the entire game. Teams still required to field 9 players instead of 10 if only three females present. If an injury occurs during the game, the injured females spot will not become an automatic out for the remainder of the game and the team will not be penalized. Teams can substitute a female player from their roster for the automatic out at any point during the game as long as that female player is not already in the game.

## 13. *Walk Rule*

If a male batter is walked, intentionally or otherwise, and is followed by a female batter, he will be awarded first and second bases. If a male batter is walked, intentionally or otherwise and is followed by a male batter, he will be awarded first base only. In both circumstances, the next batter must bat.

## 14. *Home Run Rule*

A team's home run count cannot exceed that of the opposing team by more than two (2). Where an over the fence home run is hit that is in excess of this limit, it will be deemed an out.

Players do not have to touch all four bases after an over-the-fence homerun is hit. Players may choose to only advance one base and return to the dugout. This is not mandatory and does remain the decision of the batter.

## 15. *Courtesy Runner*

A team may use a maximum of five (5) courtesy runners per game. The courtesy runner may be any player of the same sex on the roster.

## 16. *Anticipation Step*

Base runners may legally leave a base after a pitched ball has bounced in front of, reached or passed home plate. Contact between the bat and ball is not necessary.

## 17. *Force at First*

The batter-base runner cannot be forced out on a ball hit to an outfielder, unless the ball is subsequently handled (or touched, possessed) by a minimum two infielders, prior to the force out.

## 18. *150 foot rule*

All outfielders must be positioned 150 feet or more from home plate. Pylons will be placed at the 150 foot mark by the umpire, along both baselines and a defensive line consisting of an arc 150 feet from home plate shall be used. No outfielder is allowed in front of the line until the ball is hit. This rule is in effect for both male and female batters.

## 19. *Strike Mat*

The league uses a strike zone mat to call balls and strikes. The mat covers home plate thus making a ball landing on home plate a strike

**BY-LAW E****PLAYER EJECTIONS/SUSPENSIONS**

1. Players may be ejected from any game at the discretion of the umpire and the umpire will report the ejection to the Vice-President. The team with the ejected player must report it in their score report (as outlined in By-Law C 3). Any ejection involving serious circumstances will be referred to the Executive for disciplinary action. The Suspension Guidelines defined below can be put in effect any time after notification.
2. As outlined in the Constitution Article E 6. – “Any member who in the opinion of the Executive fails to abide by the rules of the League may be suspended, at the discretion of the Executive”. In addition, a written reprimand and/or suspension may be given if the Executive decides that a member’s conduct of behaviour (on or off the playing field) is inappropriate.
3. *Suspension Guidelines*
  - 3.1 1st ejection during the last two (2) years: suspension from next game
  - 3.2 2nd ejection during the last two (2) years: suspension from next three (3) games
  - 3.3 3rd ejection during the last two (2) years: termination of Membership
4. For any written reprimands and/or suspensions, the member will be presented with a disciplinary form for acknowledgement and signature. In the event of a termination of Membership, refund of fees shall be at the discretion of the Executive. All disciplinary forms will be kept on file for a two (2) year period.

**BY-LAW F****CANCELLED & DEFAULTED GAMES**

1. *Rain-Outs*

Games cancelled due to rain or the lack of an umpire (or any similar situation) may be re-scheduled subject to park availability. Both teams must inform the League Statistician within seventy-two (72) hours if a game is cancelled. The Vice-President will contact a Team Representative from each team to advise if the game will be replayed, along with the time and place of the re-scheduled game. In the event that the game will be re-scheduled, a Team Representative from each team will be notified at least five (5) days in advance of the game. Both teams must make themselves available to play the game or else a forfeit loss (7-0) to the unavailable team(s) will result.
2. *Lack of Players*

There will be no games re-scheduled due to lack of players. Any team that is unable to field enough players for a game and informs the Vice-President at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of that game will forfeit the game. The score will be 7-0 in favour of the team not forfeiting. However, the team forfeiting the game will not be considered in default and will not lose their performance bond.
3. *Defaults*
  - I. A fine of \$25.00 per game will be deducted from the performance bond for a defaulted game and the score will be 7-0 in favour of the team not in default. Teams will be required to pay all fines within thirty (30) days and before the commencement of the playoffs or else the team and its Members will be deemed ineligible to participate in the playoffs. If a team incurs three (3) defaults during a year (includes playoffs), individual team members consistently contributing to the defaults, determined by the Executive based on scorebook information and information provided by Team Representatives, will be terminated.
  - II. Umpires should not give teams the option to play in the situation of a default.
  - III. In the event of an umpire no-show, the executive will try to backfill with a capable replacement (i.e. a member of the league who is carded). Once a replacement is assigned the game will be played as per usual.

**BY-LAW G****PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS**

1. Protests will not be accepted in which an umpire's judgment is questioned.
2. Complaints concerning player eligibility or misinterpretation of a rule should be addressed in writing to the Executive within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game. The Executive will immediately review the complaint and act on it accordingly.

**BY-LAW H****STANDINGS & PLAYOFFS**

1. For any team that is terminated or withdraws from the League, all points for games in which that team participated in shall be erased from the League standings.

2. *Tie-Breaking Formula*

All tie-breaker procedures are based on game data from the full regular season to date. .

- 2.1 win/loss record between tied teams
- 2.2 run differential for all games between tied teams (higher number)
- 2.3 total run differential of each tied team for the entire season to date (higher number)
- 2.4 toss of a coin

3. *Playoffs*

- 3.1 The Executive will decide upon the playoff format before August 1st.
- 3.2 Home team for game one (1) of a series will be the team finishing higher during the regular season and home team will alternate for each successive game of a series.
- 3.3 For round robins only, the home team will be decided by a coin toss and the maximum plus-minus difference per game will be seven (7) runs.
- 3.4 There will be no tie games in the playoffs and the S.P.N. "Tiebreaker Rule" will be used starting in the top of the eighth (8th) inning OR in the top of next inning following the completion of regulation time.
- 3.5 If a series finishes early then the next playoff series may be moved up in the playoff schedule.
- 3.6 A team cannot begin its next playoff series on the same day of its preceding playoff series.

**BY-LAW I****TROPHIES/AWARDS**

1. Trophies and/or prizes will be awarded to the team(s) and players finishing in first place in each division at the end of the regular season. This also applies to the playoff winners and, should the budget allow, second place.
2. Teams may keep the team trophy in their possession during the off-season but must return it to the Executive by September 1st of the playing season or on departure from the League, whichever date is earlier.
3. Should there be agreement to recognize Most Valuable Player (MVP) and Most Sportsmanlike Player (MSP), the process for selection will be determined yearly in consultation with the Umpire-in-chief and Team Representatives