



OAKVILLE MASTERS MEN'S SLO-PITCH LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

Rev: September 26, 2016

PREAMBLE

The **Motto** "*We Play Because We Can*" captures the *raison d'être* of men aged 60 plus, who wish to participate in slo-pitch against peer-aged players at a relatively competitive level.

Our **Vision** is: "To become the pre-eminent Masters Men's Slo-Pitch League in Ontario."

Our **Mission Statement** below spells out our course, which in concert with our **Principles** below, serves as the central compass for decision making as we grow within a flexible structure, focused on both the **Vision** and the **core values** we embrace.

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Oakville Masters Men's Slo-Pitch League, hereinafter referred to as the "OMMSPL", or shall be known commonly as the "League".

ARTICLE II - Mission Statement

"To provide the best possible framework in which Slo-Pitch is played, safely and at a high calibre, while fostering good sportsmanship, leading to a sense of rapport and fellowship among participants."

Our Principles:

"OMMSPL, a non-profit, self-governing men's slo-pitch league shall:

- Offer a healthy, fun, and highly competitive slo-pitch environment, at an affordable cost, for experienced players over the age of 60.
- Endeavour to create an equitable balance of skill among the competing teams by annually redistributing / drafting players, which enhances our objective of growing fellowship and camaraderie among players.

- Foster a recreational environment of fairness and safety by accommodating as fully as practicable the diverse abilities of players in the league.

- Be governed by an Executive Committee (chaired by the League Commissioner whose decisions shall be aligned with our **CORE VALUES** of **fairness, integrity, respect and equality**.

ARTICLE III – Annual Participation

1. Eligibility

Any experienced male slo-pitch player who attains a minimum age of 60 years during the current calendar year and abides by the intent of the OMMSPL Mission Statement is eligible to apply annually to participate in the League.

Acceptance of applications to participate is at the sole discretion of League Executive. All accepted players are bound by the League Constitution, Code of Conduct, and Rules.

Accepted applicants are deemed as "players" until the end of the League's season in which they participate.

2. Annual Fees

Annual player fees will be determined by League Executive Committee and are due at the time of application, and no later than the cut-off date established by the League Executive. The Executive Committee may offer a discounted rate for players who register "early" before a specified date. N.S.F and returned cheques will be subject to a \$10 service charge and may, at the discretion of the Executive, be grounds for application rejection.

A full refund minus a \$10 administration fee will be granted to any registered player (in good standing) whose withdrawal is received in writing no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of the season.

Players in good standing who opt out of the League prior to the halfway point in the regular season may request a 50% refund. There is no refund for players opting out after the halfway mark.

3. Player Acceptance and Priority

Any player from the previous season is eligible to return, provided he has met the OMSPL's Code of Conduct and played within the rules and terms of the OMMSPL's Mission Statement; but will be accepted only up until established cut off dates for registration.

If there are vacancies after the cut off date, qualified applicants will be considered for participation by League Executive in keeping with the league's overall needs as reflected in the Mission Statement. These may include: former players who left the league and wish to rejoin, players who spared during the previous season or new applicants.

4. Spares & Replacement Players

- Spares may be assigned by Executive Committee's Spare Co-Ordinator to a team when necessary on any given play date during the regular season.
- Replacement players may be assigned by Executive Committee to a team when a player is absent.
- Spares and replacement players must sign an Application/Waiver before playing.
- There is no fee for either a Spare or a temporary replacement player.
- In the event a new player replaces a full time player for the balance of the year, he shall pay a new player pro-rated fee from the time he officially supplants the league player for the remainder of the season.

ARTICLE IV - Organization

1. Executive Committee

The authority over, and governance of the OMMSPL shall be vested in the Executive Committee consisting of active and/or past participants.

The Executive Committee shall be chaired by the League Commissioner, selected bi-annually by a 2/3 majority (see Article V) of Committee members. One of the members of the Executive Committee will be an active Team Manager.

No member of the Executive Committee shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his position as such, provided that he may be reimbursed for reasonable, out-of-pocket expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties.

The Executive Committee shall be empowered to direct, manage, supervise and control all operations and finances of the OMMSPL which include:

- Carry out the Mission of the OMMSPL as set out in Article II.
- Formulate, interpret and implement operating guidelines, activities and rules for the betterment of the League.

- Maintain a positive image and good public relations with players, governments, sponsors, media, other leagues, and the general public.
- Coordinate communication with the managers and all players of the OMMSPL.
- Manage the annual selection of Team Managers.
- Assign players to teams each season ensuring teams are balanced and players equitably distributed.
- Review any Code of Conduct violations and take appropriate action
- Meet as required during the year at a time and place decided by the Commissioner. Additional meetings may also be held at the call of a majority of the Executive Committee.

2. League Commissioner

The Commissioner shall:

- Be a member of the Executive Committee and serve as Commissioner at the preference of the Executive Committee.
- Determine time, place and agenda for all meetings (Both Executive Committee meetings and League Council meetings -which include Team Managers).
- Preside as Chair at meetings, and create and circulate Meeting notes.
- Appoint committees and committee chairpersons.
- Be a member ex-officio of all such committees.
- Ensure the creation of the League annual operating budget and monitor its status throughout the League's fiscal year.
- Delegate various administrative responsibilities to individual Executive Committee members or Team Managers as and when required.
- Delegate to others or personally represent the OMMSPL in dealings with other organizations.
- Ensure that League records are maintained and commitments honoured.
- Serve as liaison with any League approved sponsor(s).

- Ensure all constitution, bylaws and operating rules are followed.
- Receive all reports of Code of Conduct breaches and direct the League's Discipline Committee to review all such matters and report back to Executive Committee.
- In general, oversee the day-to-day activities of the OMMSPL.

3. Team Manager Executive Committee Member

This member of the Executive Committee shall:

- Be a full voting member of the Executive Committee and serve as a Manager of one of the League teams.
- Act as primary liaison with Team Managers and transmit their opinions, ideas and changes to the Executive Committee.
- Organize and chair meetings with Team Managers as necessary.

4. Team Managers

Team Managers will be active or past players and will be selected annually by the Executive Committee.

They shall:

- Appoint a player from their team to the position of Assistant Manager and advise Executive Committee of the name.
- Communicate to their team members and enforce the League's Code of Conduct, its rules and permit conditions.
- Strive to create and maintain a high level of team spirit and morale
- Be responsible for the on-field management and actions of his team and their spectators, and report any instances of objectionable conduct to the Commissioner.
- If required, temporarily suspend any player who violates the Code of Conduct for the remainder of a play date.
- Assume control and responsibility for the League equipment and uniforms assigned to their team.
- Attend meetings of Executive Committee or Council as requested.

- Provide player ratings and opinions at the end of the season to assist in the following year's player/team assignment.

- Assist as needed, the League Commissioner or Executive Committee by serving on sub committees or undertaking specific tasks.

5. Players

OMMSPL Players shall:

- Complete and sign an annual Application and Waiver form and submit it with the required fee to the League Commissioner prior to the cut-off date established by the Executive Committee.

- Report an emergency contact and any medical conditions, injuries or illnesses that might affect the player's ability to play, to the Team Manager.

- Agree to abide by the Constitution, the Code of Conduct, and Rules of the League, as well as the Permit Conditions set out by the Town of Oakville.

- If requested, assist with umpiring, diamond set-up and provide game reports and photographs.

- If requested, assist with the temporary custody and transporting team equipment

ARTICLE V - Voting

A quorum will consist of a simple majority of the Executive Committee members and a simple majority of votes is required to pass a motion, except as noted below.

A 2/3 majority of all current members of the Executive Committee is required to alter or amend any part of the Constitution, Rules, on what has been agreed to in advance as "critical" Executive Committee decisions.

ARTICLE VI - Rules

The current year's rules established by Slo-Pitch National (SPN) will govern play with the exception of any special playing rules established by the OMMSPL and set down in the "Rules" section of our website. No Rule changes shall be made during the season.

ARTICLE VII - Financial Policy

The Executive Committee shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the organization, bearing the responsibility to conduct the financial affairs of the organization in a sound business-like manner.

For financial purposes the fiscal year will be from November 1st to October 31st.

An annual operating budget shall be established prior to the beginning of each slo-pitch season in order to forecast anticipated expenses and to determine projected revenues. Development of the annual operating budget (including the recommended player registration fees) will be the responsibility of the Commissioner or his designee. Upon budget approval by the Executive Committee, the Commissioner will promptly approve all budgeted debts and ensure payment and maintenance of auditable records of all transactions. The approved budget shall be considered as the authority to pay such debts.

Disbursements from the League' account can only be made, solely via cheque with receipts and explanations. A maximum of three members of the Executive Committee will have signing authority with at least two of the three authorizing any League cheques.

Audits of the League's financial records may be requested at any time by a member of the Executive and shall be carried out promptly by an accredited person or organization.

Budgeted contracts or documents requiring the signature of the OMMSPL shall be signed by the League Commissioner and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the League without any further authorization or formality.

Non-budgeted expenditures for league needs of up to \$200 per item may be authorized by the Commissioner. Non-budgeted expenditure items beyond \$200 require approval of the Executive Committee.

As a non-profit organization, surplus operating funds from one fiscal year will be rolled over to the following fiscal year. Any deficit will be made up through loans or other means and will be reimbursed the following year.

In the event of the dissolution or winding-up of the League, all of its remaining assets, after payment of all of its liabilities, shall be distributed to a recognized charity as selected by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII - Sponsorship

To defray operating expenses of the League, the League may seek financial support from businesses, organizations, or individuals for a fee and length of time as determined by the Executive Committee. Sponsorship may be a) a single sponsor for the entire league; b) multiple sponsors for the League; or c) sponsors for individual teams.

Payment of sponsorship fees from any business, organization, or individual will entitle same to have their name appear on league web site, uniforms, or other league material(s).

The Executive Committee and Team Managers will do their best to endorse and promote player support for League sponsor(s).

Except under unusual circumstances (and only with unanimous Executive Committee approval) OMMSPL will deny requests from Players and outside parties for access to our player information, lists or website in order to support or endorse a service, product or cause.

The name of the OMMSPL and / or its Log may not be used, nor any reference to it be made in any advertising, promotion, solicitation, or the like, without the written permission of the League.

ARTICLE IX – Privacy and Use of Personal Information

The OMMSPL's annual Application & Waiver form requires certain basic personal information from players in order to effectively manage the league. It states *"By signing this form, each player agrees that the OMMSPL may use the information for the purpose of OMMSPL or slo=pitch activities"* including but not limited to:

- disbursal of such information including medical submissions made on applications as it deems necessary, to its Executive and Team managers to communicate with and manage the league, its players and tis individual teams.
- identification of players by name and photo on its website.

The OMMSPL will not sell, trade, share or otherwise transfer to outside parties, personally identifiable information such as e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. However, the League will release personal information to comply with a law or legal process, enforce its policies or protect its or others' rights, property or safety.