

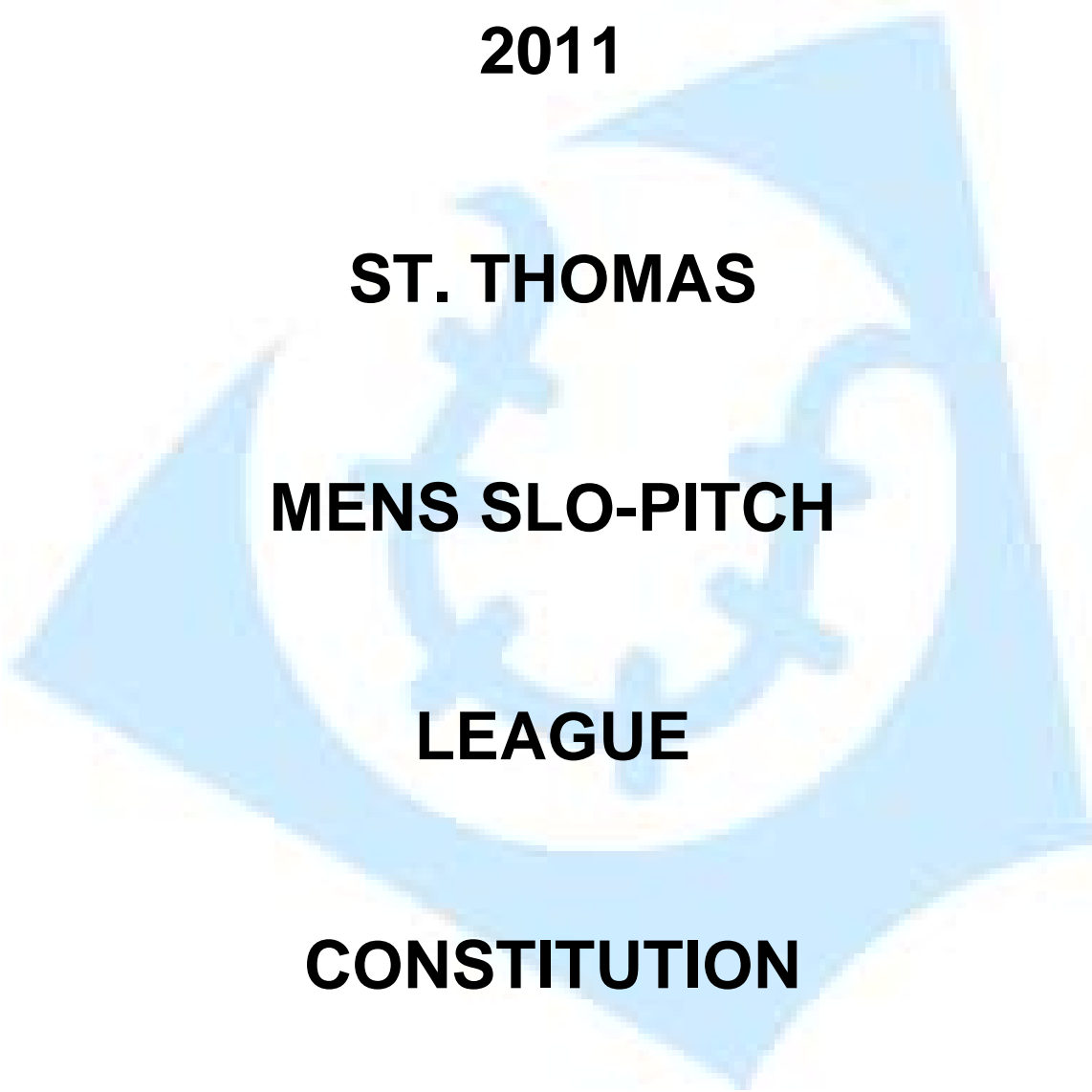
**2011**

**ST. THOMAS**

**MENS SLO-PITCH**

**LEAGUE**

**CONSTITUTION**



**St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League Constitution**

**2011 ST. THOMAS MENS SLO-PITCH LEAGUE EXECUTIVE**

**PRESIDENT:** **Tim Ambrose**  
(226) 268-5236  
[president@stmspl.ca](mailto:president@stmspl.ca)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** **Craig Locke**  
(226) 668-4824  
[vice-president@stmspl.ca](mailto:vice-president@stmspl.ca)

**TREASURER:** **Mike Smith**  
(519) 631-7324  
[treasurer@stmspl.ca](mailto:treasurer@stmspl.ca)

**SECRETARY:** **Daryl Toner**  
(519) 878-7512  
[secretary@stmspl.ca](mailto:secretary@stmspl.ca)

**“A” CONVENOR:** **Daryl Toner**  
(519) 878-7512  
[secretary@stmspl.ca](mailto:secretary@stmspl.ca)

**“B” CONVENOR:** **Craig Locke**  
(226) 668-4824  
[vice-president@stmspl.ca](mailto:vice-president@stmspl.ca)

**“C” CONVENOR:** **Brad Congdon**  
(519) 631-6252  
[greatbradlinko@hotmail.com](mailto:greatbradlinko@hotmail.com)

**MASTERS CONVENOR:** **Mike Smith**  
(519) 631-7324  
[treasurer@stmspl.ca](mailto:treasurer@stmspl.ca)

# St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League Constitution

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## St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League Constitution

The CASA Slo-Pitch Rules will be adopted with the following amendments and additions:

### 1. EJECTIONS & SUSPENSIONS

- A. Any attempted contact or actual contact, intentional or not intentional, between an official and a player in any circumstance involving a member of the St. Thomas and Aylmer Umpire Association will result in the offending player's indefinite suspension. The offending player will be eligible for reinstatement into the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League at the end of the season following the one in which they were suspended. Additionally, in order to be reinstated, the offending player must submit a formal appeal for reinstatement to both the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League Executive and the St. Thomas and Aylmer Umpire Association Executive. These two bodies will review the appeal and must jointly agree to reinstate the offending player. The decision to reinstate or not reinstate the player is binding for the upcoming season. If their appeal for reinstatement is denied, the offending player will be eligible to apply for reinstatement again prior to the start of the next season. Additionally, for a repeat offender, that player will be receive an automatic lifetime ban from the St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League with no opportunity for reinstatement. **Revised 02/14/10**
- B. Any player(s) involved in verbally abusing or harassing an umpire before and/or after a game will be immediately suspended from the league for a minimum of 30 days (non negotiable) and further, for a repeat offender, that player will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the playing season. **Revised 02/14/10**
- C. Any player(s) involved in fighting, threatening, or abusing another player, spectator, or league executive member before, during and/or after a game, will be immediately suspended from the league for a minimum of 30 days (non negotiable) and further, for a repeat offender, that player will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the playing season. **Revised 02/14/10**
- D. All other game ejections will be dealt with according to the following guidelines:
- I. 1<sup>st</sup> ejection -- player to be removed from the game.
  - II. 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection -- player to be removed from that game and will be given an automatic three (3) game suspension to be served during their team's next scheduled game.
  - III. 3<sup>rd</sup> ejection -- player to be removed from that game and will be suspended indefinitely pending a meeting of the league executive and umpire's association. The league executive and the umpire's association will determine the proper sanctions for the player with this decision to be binding. **Revised 02/14/10**
- E. When a player is ejected, it is the responsibility of the ejected player's league contact and/or designate(s) to provide the umpire with the correct first and last name of the ejected player prior to the start of the next play. Failure to provide this information will result in the following action being taken:
- I. The game shall be forfeited by the umpire/league executive in favor of the team not at fault
  - II. An automatic one (1) game suspension will be served by the league contact of the at fault team during their next scheduled game **Revised 02/14/10**

## **St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League Constitution**

- F. Any player caught playing on a team other than the one he is signed with will receive an automatic 30 day suspension. **Revised 02/14/10**
- G. Any team caught using players not listed on their eligible roster will be subject to the following action:
  - I. The game shall be forfeited by the league executive in favor of the team not at fault.
  - II. The at fault team's league contact will receive an automatic 30 day suspension. **Revised 02/14/10**
- H. Any player ejected from a game must immediately leave the park and surrounding facilities (including spectator stands, concession area, parking lot, etc.). Ejected players are not permitted to return to the park or surrounding facilities on the night of the ejection. If an ejected player refuses to leave the park and/or surrounding facilities, or returns to the park and/or surrounding facilities on the night of the ejection, they will incur an automatic one (1) game suspension in addition to any other sanctions issued. **Revised 06/24/09**
- I. Suspended players are not permitted in the park and/or surrounding facilities (including spectator stands, concession area, parking lot, etc.) until their suspension has been either fulfilled or lifted. Any suspended player caught in the park and/or surrounding facilities during their suspension will have one (1) game added to their suspension. **Revised 06/24/09**
- J. The league executive retains the right to issue sanctions above and beyond the guidelines laid out in Section 1: Ejections of The St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League Constitution when it deems the conduct of a player or team reflects negatively on the league and/or does not comply with Slo-Pitch Ontario's "Code of Conduct" - <http://www.slopitch.info/handbook/code.pdf> **Revised 02/14/10**

## **2. FORFEITS**

- A) A game shall be forfeited by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault when a team has less than eight players to start or continue a game. **Revised 02/20/11**
- B) A forfeiture requires payment of **\$50.00** to the league and must be paid prior to the start of the next game, otherwise that game is forfeited (additional \$50.00) and so on until the forfeiture fee (s) are paid. **Revision April 09, 2006**
- C) For all forfeits, the forfeiting team will pay the full umpire fee to the umpire at the time the game is declared a forfeit.
- D) A forfeiture during a playoff series requires a payment of **\$100.00** to the league and must be paid prior to the start of the next scheduled playoff game. Failure to make payment of the fee will result in a team suspension until the forfeiture fees are paid. Also the forfeiting team is responsible for the full umpire fee and this must be paid at the time the game is declared a forfeit. **Revised 04/30/02**

## **3. RAINED-OUT GAMES**

The City of St. Thomas Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the cancellation of games due to rain and/or other inclement weather by 4:30pm on

## **St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League Constitution**

game day. Notice of diamond closure by the Parks and Recreation department will be sent out to team representatives by the Parks and Recreation Department via e-mail no later than 4pm on a game day. Please note that e-mail notifications will not be sent for any game cancelled after 4:30pm. **Revised 03/13/11**

- A) After 4:30pm, any games cancelled due to rain and/or other inclement weather will be done so at the field of play by the game umpire. **Revised 02/14/10**
- B) Once a game has been cancelled all scheduled games on that diamond for that night are automatically cancelled as well, regardless of any weather improvements. **Revised 02/14/10**
- C) The St. Thomas Men's Slo-Pitch League executive does not have the infrastructure in place to commit to monitoring diamond conditions any time the weather may be adverse. As such, the executive will do it's best to contact a team if their game is cancelled however it is possible that a cancellation may occur that the executive is unaware of and/or unable to contact teams about. **Revised 02/14/10**
- D) Teams are encouraged to designate a player as their rain contact; this is someone who ideally lives closest to the Doug Tarry Complex and can keep their team representative updated regarding any possible unsafe playing conditions and/or games cancelled prior to the start of their own game. **Revised 02/14/10**
- E) Any team that does not receive notification that their game has been cancelled, either from a league executive member or by visiting the City of St. Thomas Parks and Recreation web site, must arrive at the diamond ready to participate in their scheduled game. Failure to do so may result in your team's forfeiture of that game. **Revised 02/14/10**
- F) Rainout games will be rescheduled at a later date provided they impact the final league standings. **Revised 02/14/10**

### **4. RE-SCHEDULED GAMES**

- A) Games will be rescheduled on the basis of the first available date and will be rescheduled by the League President with notification of both home and visiting teams of the new date.
- B) The League President will notify the Umpires Association of all rescheduled games.
- C) Any team wanting to reschedule a game (s) must call the Divisional Convenor to make the request and then call the team they are to play. That team must then call the Divisional Convenor to verify if they will play or not. The Divisional Convenor will notify the President who will then notify the Umpire's Association and Parks & Rec. Dept. of the game change request. If the two teams cannot reach an agreement, the League President's decision will be final. One weeks notice is required for all proposed game changes.  
**Revision April 09/06**

### **5. TIED GAMES**

- A) International tie-breaker rule

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## **Revision April 09/06**

- Starting in the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in the respective half inning being placed on second base.
- The player who is running can use a courtesy runner provided the team still has an eligible courtesy runner.

## **6. MERCY RULE**

- A) After five (5) or more complete innings, a team that is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs will automatically win. If home team is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs after 4 1/2 innings then the home team is declared the winner. (Regular season and playoffs). **Revision 97-02-02**

## **7. TEAM ROSTER**

- A) Team rosters consist of a maximum of twenty (20) players (a non-playing coach does not count in the 20 player list) and a minimum of fifteen players.
- B) Minimum of ten (10) player cards must be submitted at the second league meeting.
- C) All remaining signed player cards must be submitted by 8:00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the league opener.
- D) Additional players may be added to or released from the roster up to June 15.
- **The above procedures are subject to a \$25.00 fine if not complied with.**
- E) Adding and releasing of players must be done through the league secretary. This procedure must be done before a player is eligible to play in the league. Any team playing an unsigned player will result in forfeiture of the game if the opposing team protests the game, to the umpire, while the game is in progress. Each team is responsible for checking eligibility of opposing players.

## **8. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- A) Deleted in its entirety. **Revision April 09/06**
- B) Players must be 18 years of age.
- C) A player may only play on one team in the St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League that is you can't play in Mens A or B divisions and also play in Masters Divisions.

## **9. UNIFORMS**

- A) All members of a team must wear the same jersey or team sweater with a visible and different number on the shirt between 00 and 99. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the following:
- I. first violation will be a warning from the league executive

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II. second violation will be a \$25.00 fine to the Mens league

III. third violation will result in forfeiture of the game

It is the responsibility of the protesting team representative to contact the league executive (division rep) immediately following the game in question. A league executive member will be in attendance at the next game of the violating team and take the appropriate action. **Revised 03/13/11**

B) The league has no regulation as to the color of pants or socks worn.

**\*Metal spikes and removable spikes are prohibited**

C) After June 1<sup>st</sup> if a player does not have a matching team jersey/shirt as his teammates, the player will not be eligible to play. **Added April 15/07**

### **10. EQUIPMENT**

A) The league will provide bases and mats for Gorman Rupp and the Complex.

B) All mats at both the Complex and Gorman Rupp parks will be the full mat not the "V" cut out mats. **Revision 99-03-07**

D) All teams must use the Worth Wicket SPO1244Y 12" ball for all regular season and playoff games. Teams must start the season using the SPO1244Y ball. **Revision April 09/06**

E) Home teams must supply a new ball for the game and the visiting team must supply a suitable ball of the same type. The best ball at the end of the game will be given back to the home team who supplied the new ball. If a new ball is not supplied, the home team is subject to a \$25.00 fine.

F) It is the responsibility of the home team of the 6:30 game at Gorman Rupp to put out the bases and mat as well as to unlock both washrooms.

G) Diamond responsibilities of the home team of 9/9:15 pm or last game of the night:

H) The St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League prohibits the use of any multi-wall or titanium bat that does not carry a BPF (1.20) stamping on the bat. All bats that are stamped with a BPF factor that exceeds 1.20 will be considered an illegal bat. Any multi-wall bat that does not exceed a BPF of 1.20 will be considered a legal bat. All bats must comply with current ASA bat standard (ASA 2004), listed on the Slo-Pitch Ontario Website at [www.slopitch.org](http://www.slopitch.org). Umpires will check all bats prior to game time. Any player caught using an illegal bat in a regular season or playoff game will be ejected from the game immediately. **Revision April 09/06**

I) All bats must have the St. Thomas SLO-PITCH Umpires Association stamp before they are approved for use in the league. Any other bats used without an approved stamp is considered illegal. Any player caught using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game as well as the manager of the team. The use of an illegal can also lead to a SLO-PITCH Canada suspension. **Added April 6/08**

#### **COMPLEX:**

I. remove all bases and mat and take to the equipment room

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- II. take plugs to diamond and cover bases

### GORMAN RUPP:

- I. remove all bases and mat and put in equipment box
- II. take plugs to diamond and cover bases
- III. Turn off lights and lock box, lock equipment box, and lock both washrooms.

**\*Failure to put equipment away will cost the last game home team \$25.00 in fines for each and every occurrence**

## **11. BATTING ORDER OPTION**

- A) Minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of twenty (20) players may be in the batting lineup and a team must finish with at least nine (9) players. **Revised 03/13/11**
- B) New players may be added to the lineup at the bottom of the original batting order throughout the game or as a substitution for another player. If a team starts with eight (8) players and a ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player arrives later, he cannot take a position in the field until the half or full inning is over. **Revised 03/13/11**
- C) If a player is injured or ejected and no substitution is available, his turn at bat will count as an out.
- D) If a substitution occurs, the player that is being substituted for will not be allowed to play or re-enter for the remainder of the game.
- E) Any player whose name appears on the batting order may take a position on the playing field (up to a maximum of ten (10) players).
- F) The batting order must be maintained and followed throughout the game.
- G) Any player who goes on the field or up to bat must be put in the lineup as an addition to the lineup or substitution for another player and indicated as such before he goes on the field or up to bat. The scorekeeper must notify the umpire and the other team. If a pitch is thrown and the added player is not in the lineup, he will be removed from the game immediately and not permitted to play. Another player not in the lineup must replace him and if no other player is available, his turn at bat will be counted as an out.
- H) A maximum of three (3) courtesy runners may be used. They can be used at anytime during the game and can be anyone on your league roster. This rule does not apply in Masters over 45 divisions. **Revision 97-02-02**

## **12. WINNING TEAM**

- A) Turn in completed write-up to the Times Journal no later than 7:00am the following day if you want the game to be considered for the paper.
- B) The League President will arrange for weekly publications of the standings.
- C) Winning teams must report the score by calling the Slo-Pitch hotline at 519-637-1285 within 24 hours of the scheduled game. Failure to comply with these

## St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League Constitution

regulations will result in a game as being not played in the standings. **Revision April 03/05**

### **13. UMPIRE FEES**

- A. Fees are payable before the game begins and teams are responsible for providing the exact amount required in cash only:  

Fees: \$28.00 (\$14/team) per game for 1 umpire
- B. Complaints about umpires will be handled by the President and only if the complaint is in writing.
- C. The league has the authority to request an additional umpire at a game due to the importance of the game and/or potential conflicts.

### **14. PLAYOFF MONIES AWARDED**

- A. Each Division with the exception of Masters is required to pay \$50 over and above the league entry fee. This fee is pooled and awarded to the playoff winner and finalist as stated below:

“A” Division : \$150 Playoff Champion - \$50 Playoff Finalist

“B” Division : \$300 Playoff Champion - \$100 Playoff Finalist

“C” Division : \$325 Playoff Champion - \$125 Playoff Finalist

**Added April 6/08**

**Revised 03/13/11**

### **15. PROTESTS**

- A. All protests will include a \$50.00 bond to be put up by the protesting team within 48 hours of the protest. If the protest is upheld, the bond is refunded and if the protest is turned down, the bond is forfeited to the league. The protest must be made to the umpire before the next pitch. **Revision April 09/06**
- B. All protests must be in writing and given to the Divisional Convenor and will be reviewed by the League Executives, Executives of the Umpires Association, the umpire of the game, and the opposing team representatives where a final decision will be reached. **Revision April 09/06**
- C. Where a member of the League Executive is involved in a protest, he will be replaced in the discussion and voting by a league representative from another team from a neutral division and chosen on a random basis.

### **16. LEAGUE MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES**

- A. All teams must have one representative from their team and no more than two, unless otherwise notified, at each league meeting whose responsibility it is to attend the entire meeting. Should a representative arrive at a meeting more than 15 minutes late or a team not send a representative, or a representative leaves (unless there is an emergency), there will be a \$25.00 fine assessed for all above cases which must be paid before the next game or forfeiture fees are paid.

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- B. The first league meeting of the year will be scheduled around February 1<sup>st</sup>. The entry fee and due date will be established at a league meeting.
- C. Failure to meet entry fee payments (i.e. First and second installments) will result in a \$50.00 fine payable to the league. If the second installment is not paid by the first league game, that game will be considered a forfeit (\$25.00 fine). This procedure will continue until the balance is paid in full. **Revision 97-02-02**
- D. The League Executive may not be a representative of a team nor attend a league meeting as a replacement for a representative of a team.
- E. Team representatives and coaches who do not co-operate with the league in regard to completing duties required or who flagrantly violate the league constitution will be notified in writing by the League Vice-President of the problem with a hearing scheduled with other league representatives. Failure to attend the hearing will result in an automatic removal from the position.

### 17. SLO-PITCH DIAMOND RULES

- A. Teams using diamonds for other than regular games must book the diamond with the City Parks and Recreation Department and pay the city directly where lights are used. Gorman Rupp also falls under this clause. **Revision 99-03-14**
- B. Any batting practice prior to the games must be done on the outfield grass. No batting practice is allowed on infields for any reason.
- C. Games will start as scheduled unless the preceding game is still being played. **No "grace" period will be allowed for any reason.**
- D. If games are running behind schedule, no infield warm-up will be allowed for either team.
- E. There is no batters box. A batter will be called out if he steps on or over the mat when making contact with the ball. Stepping in front of the mat is allowed.
- F. Visiting team gets infield for warm-up first, if time permits. Infield warm-ups should last no longer than 5 minutes.
- G. Teams are responsible for retrieving any balls hit out of play or over the fence by their own players. **Revised 03/13/11**
- H. Starting in the 1999 playing season, a homerun rule of five (5) over the fence homeruns per game/per team will be in effect. This rule is valid in all divisions of play and at both the Complex and Gorman Rupp. Any additional over the fence homeruns after the team has hit the limit of 5 will be considered an out. **Addition 99-03-07**
- J) The St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League prohibits the use of any multi-wall or titanium bat that does not carry a BPF (1.20) stamping on the bat. All bats that are stamped with a BPF factor that exceeds 1.20 will be considered an illegal bat. Any multi-wall bat that does not exceed a BPF of 1.20 will be considered a legal bat. All bats must comply with current ASA bat standard (ASA 2004), listed on the Slo-Pitch Ontario Website at [www.slopitch.org](http://www.slopitch.org). Umpires will check all bats prior to game time. Any player caught using an illegal bat in a regular season or playoff game will be ejected from the game immediately. **Revision April 09/06**

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- I. A 2ft wide x 5ft long pitcher's box will be added in the 2003 playing season. The front edge shall be in line between home plate and second base and 50ft from the back corner of home plate. Before each pitch, the pitcher must stand with one foot (pivot) within the pitcher's box, facing the batter with the ball held in one hand. This position must be maintained for 1-10 seconds. The pitcher may also continue to pitch from the existing rubber. **Addition 04-06-03**
- J. Deleted in it's entirety **Revision April 15/07**
- K. Coaches/Managers must provide their name to the Umpire prior to the start of the game. Coaches/managers are responsible for their teams actions and players both on and off the field. If the coach/manager fails to provide his name to the umpire at ground rules prior to the start of the game, the game is then forfeited immediately. **Addition April 15/07**

### 18. 'MASTERS' DIVISION RULES

- A. All Players in the Masters "B" must be 45 years of age or older. Each team may sign up to a maximum of 3 players between the ages of 40 and 45 meaning the player must turn 40 years of age on or before December 31, 2006. **Revision April 09/06**
- B. Deleted in its entirety. **Revision April 15/07**
- C. Batting order option is the same as rest of league (rule 11).
- D. If a player is injured he is to be removed from the game completely and cannot return. When his time to bat comes, he will be passed over and not considered an out.
- E. The safe-line will be measured at 20' from home plate.
- F. If a runner crossed the 20' line, he must continue to home plate. The runner CANNOT touch the mat. If he stops and returns over the 20' line, he is called out.
- G. In Masters A division, a maximum of three (3) courtesy runners may be used at any time during the game and can be anyone on your league roster. In Masters B division, one (1) courtesy runner per inning can be used. The courtesy runner will be the player occupying the last batting position to make an out. If it is the first inning and no outs have been made, the courtesy runner will be the last position of the batting order. **Revision 97-02-02**
- H. In Masters B division, a safe line is a line drawn in foul territory starting at the top left-hand corner of home plate perpendicular to the third base line. A runner attempting to reach home must do so by touching the ground in foul territory on or beyond the safe line. Sliding into home plate or touching the mat is not permitted. If the runner touches or slides into home plate or the mat, the runner will be called out whether or not a play is being made. A runner is not out if the plate is touched in an attempt to avoid a collision. **Addition 04-06-03**

### 19. TEAMS MOVING TO OTHER DIVISIONS

## St. Thomas Mens Slo-Pitch League Constitution

- A. At the first league meeting prior to the start of a season, the league will ask each division to hold a vote to determine whether or not the season champion from the previous year will be moved up to a higher division. A majority vote by the attending team representatives from the appropriate division will result in the team in question being automatically moved up to the next highest division of play. **Revision April 07/09**
- B. If there is a team seeking on their own accord to enter a higher division of play, they must request this at the first league meeting prior to the start of a season. The decision to move the team up to a higher division of play will rest with the league executive team. **Revision April 07/09**
- C. Teams seeking to drop to a lower division must seek the approval of the league executive team at the first league meeting prior to an upcoming season. The final decision to move a team to a lower division will rest with the league executive team. **Revision April 07/09**

### 20. PLAYOFF FORMAT

- A. Play-off format will be reviewed and established each year based on the number of teams in each division.
- B. The playoff format for Men's A and Masters divisions for the 2011 playing season are as follows:
  - 1. All 4 teams make the playoffs
  - 2. 4 vs 1 ; 3 vs 2 (best of 5 series)
  - 3. Winner of each series to play in finals (best of 5)
  - 4. Final will be a best of 5 series. **Revised 03/13/11**
- C. The playoff format for Men's B and C divisions for the 2011 playing season are as follows:
  - 1. 8 teams will make the playoffs (1 vs 8, 2 vs 7, 3 vs 6, 4 vs 5) in a best 2 out of 3 series.
  - 2. Winner of each first round series advances into round two and will play another best 2 out of 3 series (highest seed remaining plays lowest seed remaining).
  - 3. Winner of each second round series advances to the final and will play a best 3 out of 5 series with the winner being declared the Men's 'B' or 'C' division playoff champions. **Revised 03/13/11**
- D. A tie occurring at the end of the season, if it affects a playoff spot or first place, will be decided by way of the best record against the tied teams.
- E. If a three way tie occurs, the League Executive will meet and break the tie, with the first criteria being the team with the best record against the tied teams.

### 21. LEAGUE EXECUTIVE

- A. The League Executive is to be compensated for expenses incurred during the Slo-Pitch season, with the overall total not to exceed \$1000.00 for the year. **Revision April 07/09**