

# 2017 Constitution



## **MEADOWVALE SLO-PITCH ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

### ***MISSION STATEMENT:***

***The Meadowvale Slo-Pitch Association is a not for profit community league with a mission to promote the spirit of fair play, dedication to the***

***league, mutual respect for players and officials, while creating a love for the sport of baseball through teamwork, fun, and sportsmanship.***

## **ARTICLE 1: NAME**

The name of this league shall be known as the Meadowvale Slo-Pitch Association (MSA), a not for profit league that was established in 1985, and incorporated on August 2nd, 1994 under the Ontario Corporation Act. The league's constitution was originally drafted in 1985 by Art Carefoot and was subsequently revised in February 1991, February 1993, February 1994, March 1997 and March 1998. A significant revision was completed in July 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014.

## **ARTICLE 2: GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

The MSA is established to carry out the following functions:

1. To promote the league's Mission Statement.
2. To conduct a well regulated amateur slo-pitch softball program.
3. To adopt, but not restrict, the rules of the game in accordance with the Slo-Pitch National.
4. To protect and promote the mutual interests of the members, along with an attractive social interaction and to contribute to the community in a positive way.
5. League rules are amended to the Constitution in a separate document, which is provided to the Umpire-in-Chief for distribution to all umpires.

## **ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

1. Membership in this Masters League is open to all male applicants at least 35 years of age in that year.
2. All players must complete and sign a registration form, sign the insurance waiver form or respond back by email acknowledging the insurance waiver and pay the registration fee applicable at the time of registration.
3. All returning members, who pay before (or at) the prior year's annual banquet will be given preference and be placed on a specific team ahead of other players.
4. All new applications must be approved by the Executive Committee.
5. The league shall be composed of such amateur teams, players, coaches, captains, umpires, executives and volunteers who agree to abide by and comply with the constitution, by-laws and playing rules of the MSA.
6. An "eligible voting member" is defined as a fully paid member in the current year remaining in good standing throughout the year.

#### **ARTICLE 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE MSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee of the MSA shall be composed of a representative member from each of the teams that make up the league.

Up to 3 new members will be added to the Executive Committee in a given year.

The 3 new members will be solicited from the teams whose current member on the committee will have completed the 2nd year of his tenure as a member of the executive and will be resigning his post at the end of the season.

If no volunteer replacements come forward from the 3 respective teams, then a call to the rest of the league will be made to nominate new Executive members.

Nomination sheets will be collected by the team captain or Executive member by the commencement of quarter finals. The Executive will contact all the nominees to see if they are interested in an Executive position. Should there be more nominations than positions available, the Executive will send to the entire league membership a ballot sheet with all the nominated names that clearly identifies who was interested in an Executive position. All ballots returned to the Executive by the final game of the playoffs will be tabulated and ranked by order from highest number to lowest number of votes. The Executive will inform all nominees of the election results.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to adjust the members on a team to add an Executive member.

The Executive Committee will hold a meeting following the banquet and before the end of November to transition the new Executive and transfer books, records and league materials.

Executive members must pay registration fees prior to the banquet.

New Executive members will be announced to the membership by email prior to our annual banquet and introduced at the annual banquet.

It is expected that each member of the Executive Committee will serve a minimum two-year term.

The term will begin at an Executive Committee meeting held within three weeks after the annual banquet.

The Executive Committee shall comprise the following Executive members:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Executive Member – Equipment and Uniforms

Executive Member – Spares

Executive Member – Umpires and Permits

Immediate Past President

The Executive Committee has the authority to vote at all annual, special and Executive Committee meetings.

The Executive Committee has the authority to appoint a replacement for any member of the Executive Committee who resigns during his term of office, or for any other reason is unable to fulfill his obligations. The Executive Committee shall be further empowered to make non-voting appointments to the Executive Committee to cover specialized duties.

The Executive Committee has the authority to enforce the provisions of the constitution, by-laws, and playing rules of the MSA.

The Executive Committee has the authority to establish the annual registration fees.

A quorum shall consist of three (3) voting Executive Committee members.

## **ARTICLE 5: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**The PRESIDENT** shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee with the usual privileges of the office, and he shall be responsible for and have the authority to act on all matters of the MSA at all times. The PRESIDENT shall be an EX OFFICIO member of all standing and special committees. At any meeting of the MSA, should the President be absent, the SECRETARY shall perform the duties of the President. In the absence of both, then the TREASURER shall perform the

duties for the President. Should the President, Secretary and Treasurer all be absent, then no motions shall be moved or passed. The President may assign sponsors duties to all Executive members.

**The SECRETARY** shall perform the duties as designated by the President. If the President is unable to complete his term, the SECRETARY shall become the President. The SECRETARY shall have the custody of all books and records of the MSA, keep an accurate report of the proceedings of the MSA, keep minutes of all Executive Committee meetings, receive all communications and conduct all correspondence at the direction of the President and /or Executive Committee members and perform such other duties pertaining to the office as the President may require.

**The TREASURER** shall conduct all financial matters of the MSA and receive all monies paid to the MSA. Such monies shall be deposited, without delay, into the MSA's bank account at a financial institution. The TREASURER shall issue all cheques countersigned by any two members of the Executive Committee and file a proper receipt for the same. The TREASURER shall make and present a detailed report of the financial condition of the MSA at the Annual General Meeting. The TREASURER shall keep a record in which the receipts and disbursements shall accurately be recorded. All disbursements of league funds must be approved by the Executive Committee. The TREASURER, whenever called upon to do so, must be in a position to provide the Executive Committee with an interim report that details the financial standing of the MSA. The TREASURER must ensure that all players and sponsors have paid their dues.

**The EXECUTIVE MEMBER – Equipment and Uniforms** shall be responsible for the purchase of all uniforms and equipment for the MSA and provide the TREASURER with receipts as proof of each and every purchase. This EXECUTIVE MEMBER must also ensure that all uniforms (jerseys and hats) worn by league members display the sponsorship team colours and logos. This EXECUTIVE

MEMBER is also responsible for the control of all equipment used by the players and ensures that this equipment complies with MSA approved standards.

**The EXECUTIVE MEMBER – Permits and Umpires** is responsible for securing park and diamond permits from the City of Toronto’s Parks & Recreation Department for games played during the regular and playoff schedules.

**The EXECUTIVE MEMBER – Spares** shall be responsible for recruiting players who will play in the league as “spares” and arrange to deploy any such spares to teams that are short or missing players and not able to field the required numbers of regular players needed as per MSA rules. This EXECUTIVE MEMBER is also responsible for arranging for umpires to officiate all regular season and playoff games, keeping track of rain-outs and cancelled games as well as ensuring that the umpires are paid for their services.

**The IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** shall act in an advisory role as needed by the current Executive Committee for a period of no more than one year.

**ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS** will share the responsibilities for the league’s social events, the administration of the league’s website and the overall day to day operations of the league.

**ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS** will also be responsible to ensure the following critical functions are performed on an annual basis:

- Submit an application to Slo-Pitch National Inc. (SPN) for affiliation of the MSA to SPN and to obtain insurance coverage with a minimum \$5,000,000 liability coverage plus secondary benefits in accident insurance for each member in the MSA.
- File an annual Return to the Ontario Ministry of Corporations, for the renewal of the MSA’s not for profit corporation status.

- Perform an annual review of the constitution and by-laws.

Immediately after the completion of their term, all Executive Members shall return to the league all books, records and league materials in their possession.

## **ARTICLE 6: COMMITTEE OF HONOURED MEMBERS**

1. A **Committee of Honoured Members** will be selected in order to serve in an advisory capacity when requested by the Executive Committee. This Committee will consist of non-playing former members whose playing and commitment to the league over a period of several seasons admirably demonstrated the league's values and objectives as stated in the Mission Statement.
2. The four (4) founding **Life Members** will be the first four men selected to this Committee. Life Members who are playing in May 2006 will be the only exceptions to the "non-playing" requirement stated above.
3. The Executive Committee will be empowered to consider the nomination of new Honoured Members to this Committee each year at the Annual General Meeting, the annual banquet and/or any other times when all members are called to a league meeting. All nominations will be confirmed and accepted by a membership majority vote.
4. This Committee of Honoured Members will have an advisory role in assisting the Executive Committee, when requested, in dispute resolution, player suspensions and major changes in the operations of the league.
5. There is no quorum for this advisory Committee of Honoured Members, however, the Executive Committee should seek and document as wide a range of opinions as possible when the need for advice arises.



## **ARTICLE 7: LIFE MEMBERS**

The initial MSA Constitution stated that “any member or past member of the MSA who has rendered valuable service to the MSA may, after nomination and upon a majority vote at the Annual Meeting, be elected a Life Member”.

The current list of Life Members names the league’s founders, who will be the first members of the Committee of Honoured Members. These honoured members are: Art Carefoote – Bob Hitchin – Jim Street – Steve Megill.

As of May 2006, the title of “Life Member” will no longer be awarded.

## **ARTICLE 8: MEMBERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP FEES**

The Executive Committee shall determine all levies and fees, which will be collected on an annual basis. All fees are payable to the MSA.

Approved fee reductions:

Current Executive Committee members – fee reduction of 60%.

PAST PRESIDENT – no reduction

Playing sponsors – fee reduction of 60%.

Playing sponsors/Executive Committee members – fee reduction of 60%.

Playing Life Member – fee reduction of 25%.

For returning players, if they submit their registration form and payment for the next season prior to December 31 of the year, they will be given a \$30 discount from the regular fees. New players, in their first year, are entitled to this discount when they join the league.

Any new or existing player who issues an NSF cheque, or if the respective cheque is returned by the receiving bank for any reason, will bear all recovery costs charged by the MSA's financial institution.

All players who are registered as spares are not required to pay a registration fee.

## **ARTICLE 9: MEETINGS**

1. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to carry out the operations and business of the MSA.
2. At all Executive Committee meetings of the MSA, a quorum shall consist of three (3) voting Executive Committee members.
3. The League's Annual General Meeting shall be held on or before April 30th of each year.
4. Attendance at the Annual General Meeting must consist of 50% of the league's membership for it to be official.
5. Each member attending the Annual General Meeting must be registered with the MSA and must sign in.
6. All members are eligible to vote, including each member of the Executive Committee and the Committee of Honoured Members.

## **ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

1. No amendment or alteration shall be made to any part of this Constitution except at the Annual General Meeting of the MSA, and then only by a two-thirds majority of the total votes cast. Notice of any proposed alteration or amendment must be submitted to the Secretary of the MSA in writing at least

30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

2. Notice of any proposed alteration or amendment to the MSA Constitution filed with the Secretary shall be made available, in writing (by email), to all members of the League at least 2 weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.
3. The Executive Committee may, on an interim basis, amend or implement by-laws and playing rules to address contentious issues that are not specifically covered by the constitution or by-laws. However, permanent amendment is subject to ratification at the Annual General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of members attending including proxy votes.

## **ARTICLE 11: SUSPENSIONS & DEFAULTS**

Any team having defaulted three (3) regularly scheduled league games shall be automatically suspended from further competition.

Any member of the MSA Executive Committee, member, or team captain who willfully violates the Constitution, the by-laws or playing rules of the MSA, or refuses to abide by the decision of the Executive Committee, shall be subject to suspension.

Any member of the MSA whose conduct is judged to be detrimental to the best interest of the MSA shall be subject to suspension.

“Detrimental to the best interest of the MSA” shall be understood to mean that there will be a ZERO TOLERANCE of foul and/or offensive language or gestures to any other person at the ball diamond.

Any member of the Executive Committee, team captain, or member of MSA who is ejected from a game by the umpire must leave the ball park and will be automatically suspended from his team’s next scheduled game.

A second ejection of the same individual will result in suspension from the next two (2) of his scheduled games.

A **third ejection** of the same person will result in permanent suspension pending an MSA hearing.

Anyone under suspension who participates in a game will be suspended indefinitely and the team will automatically forfeit the game in question.

Any team captain or Executive Member who knowingly allows a suspended player to participate in a game will himself be suspended indefinitely, pending a MSA Executive Committee hearing.

Any of the above suspensions have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee. All appeals must be made to the Executive Committee in writing.

If an Executive member fails to comply with his assigned duties as defined by the Constitution, the Executive member may be removed by a majority vote of the other remaining members of the Executive.

## **ARTICLE 12: GAME PROTESTS**

Protests based on Misinterpretation of a playing rule. Protest based on Players Eligibility. Slo Pitch National Rule. See 4A-a,b,c,d,e and B-a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,I,j,k.

The Executive Committee will be responsible to evaluate any protests filed by a player, a captain or a team.

All protests must be submitted, in writing, accompanied by a cheque for twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and be presented to the President within 24 hours of completion of the game in question. Where possible, score sheets and any other relevant information should accompany the protest statement. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. All protests must be lodged with the umpire

in accordance with Slo-Pitch Nation Rule Sec. 4.

An official protest not concerning an interpretation of the rules (e.g. ineligible players, etc.) will be handled in the same manner as described above.

When a protest is made during a game, the umpires will outline their remarks on the official score sheet.

The Executive Committee will advise of their decision at least 48 hours prior to the replaying or continuing of any protested game. Upon their decision, the Executive Committee will advise all those involved in the dispute.

The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

### **ARTICLE 13: PLAYING RULES**

(Please see separate "2017 Playing Rules" document)

### **ARTICLE 14: PLAYOFFS:**

(Please see separate "2017 Playing Rules" document)

### **ARTICLE 15: FINANCIALS**

The league's fiscal year shall begin on December 1st and end on November 30th of each year.

All league budgets, as prepared by the Treasurer, must be approved by the Executive Committee.

All league expenses must be approved by the Executive Committee.

All cheques issued from the league's bank account must be signed by two (2) signatories as authorized by the Executive Committee. All authorized signatories must also be approved by the league's financial institution.

## **ARTICLE 16: ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBERS TO TEAMS**

Members registered to participate in MSA may request to play with another player or be assigned to a preferred team or as assigned by the Executive Committee.

Members wishing to be team captains will be placed accordingly on an appropriate team.

Players requesting consideration to play with a specific other player or be on a specific team must have submitted their registration and paid the registration fee no later than the banquet. Requests after the banquet may be considered at the discretion of the Executive.

## **ARTICLE 18: COMPLAINT RESOLUTION**

It would be considered detrimental conduct if complaints were addressed to everyone in the league.

If a player has a complaint regarding a team issue, it must be addressed through his team captain who will, if necessary, discuss the matter with the team Executive member.

If a player has a complaint regarding an Executive member, it must be addressed in writing through any other Executive member.

All unresolved Executive complaints must be put in writing and addressed to any fully paid current Executive member in good standing and copied to the Past President. The Past President will investigate the issue with all current Executive members and other prominent members of the league if necessary.

Revised by the 2017 Executive Committee members:

Erwin Psocka

Rob Carrie

David Holland

Mark Crone

Joe Trotter

Peter Martino