

OFSAA GIRLS' SLO-PITCH FESTIVAL

The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Events and/or Classification:

The OFSAA Slo-Pitch Festival shall be conducted in an Open Classification.

2. Festival Structure and Procedure:

a. General Structure:

- i. For an eight (8), twelve (12), or sixteen (16) team tournament the festival will be held over a two (2) day period.
- ii. No team shall play more than four (4) games in one day.
- iii. Registration materials will be submitted through the OFSAA registration portal by the teacher accompanying the athletes as outlined on the OFSAA Slo-Pitch website.
- iv. The teacher-coach/supervisor must attend the coaches' meeting. If the coach is a non-teacher, both the teacher-supervisor and the coach must attend.

b. Seeding:

The top eight (8) teams will be determined prior to the start of the Festival.

3. Entry:

- a. Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.
- b. Entries must be received by the deadline as outlined in the coaches' information on the OFSAA Slo-Pitch website.
- c. Each Association may enter one (1) team in the Festival.
- d. Additional entries to be determined by the OFSAA office. (See Appendix XVI to the By-Laws)
- e. Each team may register a maximum of twenty-two (22) participants, which includes players and team personnel. Only registered participants may represent the school and/or attend Festival activities.
- f. Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA competitions. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form.

4. Expenses:

- a. Those schools having entries are responsible for arranging and financing their entry fee, their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.
- b. All schools entering a Federation Festival shall, by signature of the school principal on the Festival Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

5. Eligibility:

- a. **School/Team Eligibility:** To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a school/team must:
 - i. Conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of a minimum of nine (9) practices during a three (3) week period in the current school year and under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal.
 - ii. Participate in an Association-approved league if one is held or play a minimum of six (6) games.
 - iii. Participate in the Association Championship or OFSAA-qualifying event.
 - iv. Use only eligible players in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits the right to participate in the OFSAA Championship.
 - v. In accordance with Rowan's Law, have all coaches and trainers confirm in writing on the OFSAA form provided, that they have reviewed the concussion awareness resource and OFSAA Concussion Code of Conduct within the previous twelve (12) months.
- b. **Individual Student Eligibility:** To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a student must:
 - i. Be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his/her school belongs.
 - ii. Be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school.
 - iii. Meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that she has not reached her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
 - iv. Be in Grades 9-12.
 - v. Be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy; (By-Law 5, Section 4(f)).
 - vi. Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g)).
 - vii. Have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition.
 - viii. Have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.
 - ix. Have participated as a member of a bona fide high school program during the current season as outlined in (a) above and attended the majority of practices and games.

- x. Have participated in a 'bona fide' high school program as outlined in (a) above and attended the majority of practices/games.
- xi. Have participated in the Association Championship or OFSAA-qualifying competition.
- xii. In accordance with Rowan's Law, confirm in writing on the OFSAA form provided, that they and their parent/guardian (if student is under 18 years of age) have reviewed the concussion awareness resource and OFSAA concussion code of conduct within the previous twelve (12) months.
- xiii. Not participate in both the OFSAA Festival and any other event in the same sport in the same day.

6. Rules and Officials:

a. The Official Rules of Slo-Pitch Ontario shall govern play at the OFSAA Festival with the following exceptions and/or reminders:

b. Playing Time:

- i. A game consists of (7) innings. The game ends if the team batting second has scored more runs in six innings before the third out in the last half of the seventh inning than the other team has scored in seven innings.
- ii. Tie games will be broken as follows: With no outs in their offensive half of the extra inning the teams will place a runner at second base (last player who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared.
- iii. Festival games must be officiated by two (2) Softball Ontario carded officials.
- iv. 11" Optic Yellow Worth Green or Gold Dot Elite ball will be used during festival play.
- v. Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid contacting a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.
- vi. A 2' x 3' mat will be used for the strike zone. Pitches must have an arc between 6' and 12' from the ground. Pitching distance: 45' – 55'. A "ball" will be called by the umpire if the pitch is not within this range. A strike is called when it follows an arc of 6 feet to 12 feet and comes into contact with any part of the plate.
- vii. A scoring line at home plate and a commitment line 21 feet from home plate shall be used.
- viii. The distance between the pitching rubber (or marked line) and home plate is between 45-55 feet at the discretion of the pitcher, measured from the back of the plate. The rubber mat (2x3) to be placed on top of home plate.

- ix. Pitchers and catchers must wear a face mask during festival play.
- x. Any game suspended for any reason will resume from the point of suspension.

7. Uniforms and Equipment:

a. General:

- i. All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's name, colours and logos.
- ii. All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt.
- iii. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi-sport programs.
- iv. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h).
- v. Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire.
- vi. The above criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Protest Committee for resolution.

b. Sport Specific:

- i. Shoes with metal cleats are not permitted.
- ii. Helmets must be strapped on properly.
- iii. A batter or runner is ruled out immediately if discovered wearing exposed jewelry. Any advance by other runners because of this player batting the ball is nullified. If, after making a play, a defensive player is discovered wearing exposed jewelry, the manager of the offensive team may take the result of the play or have the play nullified and have the batter return to bat with the same count as before the infraction and all runners must return to their previous base. In all cases, the Player must remove the jewelry.
- iv. All bats used must adhere to the USSSA Licensed/Approved Bat Policy. To be legal, they must be marked with the "USSSA BPF 1.20" mark on its taper (known as the "Thumbprint"). These were made from 2012 to 2020 and meet the 220 lb compression testing. Manufacturers can make bats to meet the 220 lb compression standard but they can no longer have the USSSA Stamp. Beginning with 2021 Models, USSSA is using the new 240 lb compression standard with the NTS stamp (left). Moving forward, 240 lb bats are all that can be approved to have a USSSA Stamp on them.

8. Awards:

- i. OFSAA gold, silver, bronze and antique bronze medallions (22) shall be presented to members of the top four (4) teams in the Festival and purchased by the host organizing committee.
- ii. The school represented by the championship team will receive an OFSAA Festival banner to be retained by the school and purchased by the host organizing committee.

9. Supervision: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

- i. For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.
- ii. For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the athlete(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

10. Deportment: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

a. Definitions:

- i. A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Festival event".
- ii. A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."

b. Codes of Behaviour:

- i. All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to OFSAA Festivals". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
- ii. Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Festival.
- iii. Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".

- iv. All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Festivals. (See Appendix II)
 - v. School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
 - vi. Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
 - vii. All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
 - viii. School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)
- c. No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA events.

11. Social:

- a. If a special event is arranged all team members and coaches must attend.
- b. Participants are expected to wear 'dress casual'.
- c. Should there be an instance of improper attire, the Protest Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the OFSAA Board of Reference-Sanctions.

12. Medical:

Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, Band-Aids, ice packs) for their athletes.

13. Protest Committee:

All disputes during an OFSAA Championship/Festival shall be directed to the Protest Committee for resolution.

- a. The Protest Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals; the chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member, and one other member appointed by the Festival convenor. The Head official in some cases, may serve as a member of the Protest Committee. Members of the Protest Committee must not have any conflict of interest relevant to the incident under protest.
- b. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Festival convenor or designate, shall fully outline the incident under protest, and shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee (refundable if protest is upheld).
- c. A protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the game/event in which the incident under protest occurred, or within thirty minutes of the occurrence if protesting an incident outside the field of play.

- d. The following areas may not be protested at a Championship/Festival:
Officials' decisions
Eligibility of transfer students
- e. Any disputes or protests re: tournament structure and procedure must be addressed no later than the coaches' meeting.
- f. The Protest Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/modify/cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) at the site(s).
- g. Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final.

A report of all appeals and decisions shall be forwarded to the OFSAA Board of Reference Sanctions, who may determine that additional sanctions are necessary.

SPORT SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

1. Festival Structure and Procedure

- a. All OFSAA Slo-Pitch Festival shall follow one of the following tournament formats depending on the number of teams participating and availability of facilities. Any changes to the festival structure must be approved by the Slo-Pitch sports advisory committee in consultation with the OFSAA staff liaison.
- b. **For an 8 team draw** there shall be two (2) pools of four (4) teams each.
- i. Each pool shall play a round robin series.
 - ii. The top two teams in each pool will play in the gold medal match, the 2nd place teams will play in the bronze medal match, 3rd place teams will play in the 5th place match, and 4th place teams will play in the 7th place match.

Pool A	Pool B
Seed 1	Seed 2
Seed 4	Seed 3
Seed 5	Seed 6
Seed 8	Seed 7

- c. **For a 12 team draw** there shall be four (4) pools of three (3) teams each.
- i. Each pool shall play a round robin series.
 - ii. The four (4) pool winners will play a semi-final with Pool A winner vs. Pool D winner and Pool C winner vs. Pool B winner. The winners of these two matches shall play for the gold medal and the losers shall play for the Bronze. The 2nd place pool finishers shall play the same format for 5th to 8th place, and the 3rd place pool finishers shall play the same for 9th to 12th place. This format guarantees every team exactly 4 games.

POOL A	POOL B	POOL C		POOL D
Seed 1	Seed 2	Seed 3		Seed 4
Seed 8	Seed 7	Seed 6		Seed 5
Seed 12	Seed 11	Seed 10		Seed 9

- d. **For a 16 team draw** there shall be four (4) pools of four (4) teams each.
- i. Each pool shall play a round robin series.
 - ii. The four (4) pool winners will play a semi-final with Pool A winner vs. Pool D winner and Pool C winner vs. Pool B winner. The winners of these two matches shall play for the gold medal and the losers shall play for the Bronze. The 2nd place pool finishers shall play the same format for 5th to 8th place, the 3rd place pool finishers shall play the same format for 9th to 12th place and the 4th place pool finishers shall play the same

format to determine 13th to 16th place. This format guarantees every team exactly 5 games.

POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D
Seed 1	Seed 2	Seed 3	Seed 4
Seed 8	Seed 7	Seed 6	Seed 5
Seed 12	Seed 11	Seed 10	Seed 9
Seed 16	Seed 15	Seed 14	Seed 13

2. Seeding:

- a. The top eight (8) teams shall be seeded. The remaining seeds will be selected by random draw.
- b. Teams of the same Association shall not be placed in the same pool or bracket where possible.
- c. The following criteria will be considered to determine a team's seed position – Overall Record, League Record, Common Opponents, Strength of Schedule, Previous Association Results, Association Strength, Strength of Roster, Coach assessment of appropriate seed.
- d. The convenor shall choose a committee for the purpose of seeding teams in consultation with the OFSAA liaison responsible for the event. Final approval shall be given by the OFSAA office and the Chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee before publishing the final seeding order.

3. Officials:

- a. OFSAA Festival games must be officiated by certified officials. A 2-person officiating crew must be used.
- b. The head official must attend the coaches' meeting, and is encouraged to hold an officials' meeting prior to the start of the first game, when possible. Otherwise, the head official is responsible for communicating the information to all officials participating.

4. Facilities and Equipment:

- a. All games will be played on regulation fields as per the SPO rulebook.
- b. The Convenor shall provide approved game balls for each game.

5. Medical:

- a. Provision shall be made by the convenor to have medical assistance in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions regarding bodily fluids (injuries with visible blood must be treated and covered) and communicable diseases.
- b. Qualified first-aid personnel and equipment shall be available at the festival site(s).

***All Federation Championships/Festivals are non-smoking and non-vaping events.
This includes the use of all tobacco and vaping related products.***

Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct.

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