

VERNON and AREA SENIOR SLO-PITCH LEAGUE CONSITUTION

WHO WE ARE

The official name will be the Vernon and Area Senior Slo-pitch League (VASSL). Herein called the “League” or VASSL. Our league was created for all male and female senior players of all skill levels who love the game of Slo-pitch. The league is an inclusive mixed recreational league. VASSL is open to all male players fifty (50) years or older and all female players forty (40) years or older.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is:

1. To provide seniors a fun, safe, fair play environment while enjoying the social and competitive aspects of the game of Slo-pitch.
2. Promote friendship and camaraderie through the practices of good will and sportsmanship;
3. Emphasize the achievement of individual enjoyment and satisfaction by participating to the best of one’s ability;
4. Promote and expand individual and team participation in the sport of senior Slo-pitch;

INTERPRETATION

In these Bylaws, unless the context other requires: “the League” means the Vernon Senior Slo-pitch League. “Executive” means the President, Vice-President(s), Treasurer, Secretary and Past- President of the League, as appointed/elected under this Bylaw; “Members” means registered players; “Team Representative” means the person appointed under these Bylaws to attend meetings and vote on behalf of their team.

Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing the male person include the female person.

MEMBERSHIP EXISTING TEAMS

Each new season, the League will consist of all teams that played in the League in the previous season, provided that they:

- a. Wish to retain their membership;
- b. Agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations; and
- c. Are members in good standing.
- d. To be a team in good standing, the team must not have any outstanding monies owed and/or have not caused their own disbarment or suspension through disruptive actions in the League.

NEW PLAYERS AND NEW TEAMS

Every effort will be made to recruit new players and new teams.

New players may apply to the league by submitting interest to any player or replying to a recruitment add.

New teams may apply to the League by submitting an expression of interest by mail or email to any member of the Executive. It is recommended that submissions arrive prior to the Annual Spring Executive Meeting.

New teams must submit confirmation of play and 50% of league fees prior to acceptance to the league.

REGISTRATION, QUALIFICATION AND DUES

Individual dues will be confirmed at the league AGM. Teams are expected to submit dues prior to commencement of league play.

Registration will be open to all male and female players who meet the age qualifications listed previously

All participants must log in to the SPN website, register and sign the waiver for the upcoming season. This must be done prior to commencement of league play or practice. **No player** will be allowed to participate unless this is done. Any team that knowingly allows unregistered players to play will forfeit any games that the player has played in;

All registered participants must be listed on the SPN team roster to ensure liability insurance coverage;

Team Managers will confirm all players are registered. The League guarantees participation of all players upon registration and payment of dues.

LEAGUE GOVERNANCE

The President shall call an Annual General Meeting (AGM) annually on conclusion of each slo-pitch season. Additional meetings such as an Annual Spring Meeting (ASM) may be called if required.

A quorum shall be confirmed and will have the responsibility as the final authority for the League.

The President will inform the Executive and each team manager, who will inform each player of the date, time and place fifteen (15) days prior to each league meeting;

The agenda for the AGM will include reports from the Executive accounting for actions taken throughout the year and post the requirement for elections of new officers;

Questions and discussions regarding League practice and policy is encouraged. The President or Vice President shall be informed in writing no less than seventy two (72) hours in advance. This time limit may be waived at the discretion of the Executive;

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

The Executive of the League shall consist of the following elected officers:

- a. President;
- b. Vice President(s);
- c. Secretary;
- d. Treasurer; and
- e. Past President.

Directors may be elected or appointed as described further in the document. For greater clarity, Directors are not considered to be part of the Executive.

The duties of the Executive are attached as Appendix A to these Bylaws.

The Past-President shall serve for one year in an advisory capacity, as a non-voting member.

Any member of the League may be nominated for a position on the Executive. It is recommended that those nominated for the position of President must have served in some capacity on the Executive or as a Director at least once in the past five years.

The Executive shall have the power to fill any vacancies which may exist and any such vacancies will be filled until the end of the term that should have originally been served.

Each member of the Executive, except the President and Past President, has the right to vote on any matter at the Executive Meetings or at any other meeting of the League.

The President may only vote when it is necessary to break a tie.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Each team will submit the name, address and telephone number of a Team Representative at the Annual Spring Meeting.

Team Representatives cannot be members of the Executive.

Each team is represented by one vote which is carried forward by the Team Representative to meetings.

Additional duties of the Team Representatives are attached as Appendix B to these Bylaws.

NOTICE TO TEAMS

Notice may be given to a Team Representative, either personally, by mail or e-mail, to the Team Representative's Registered Address.

Notice of any meeting must be given no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting date.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

An Executive Meeting may be called by the President.

Notice of the Executive Meeting shall be given to all members of the Executive and each Director at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting.

Any member of the Executive, who absents herself from two (2) regular and/or Executive Meetings, without having been granted a leave of absence by the Executive, shall cease to be a member of the Executive.

MEETINGS

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

An Executive Spring Meeting (ASM) may be held between January 15 and March 15 of each year as required.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be normally held on completion of the final set of games, historically late August. At this meeting, any amendments to the Constitution will be voted upon. The Executive will also outline plans for the upcoming season and distribute information to the Team Representative that should be considered before the AGM.

A General League Meeting (other than the ASM and AGM) may be called at anytime by the President provided proper notice is given.

VOTING

A quorum at any ASM, AGM or General League Meeting shall be a majority of voting members attending that meeting. Voting members include: the Executive (not including the President and the Past President) and the Team Representatives, who have one vote per team.

All votes will be taken after a reasonable discussion of the issues.

At the ASM, AGM and any General League Meeting, every league member who attends will have voting privileges.

Votes may not be cast by proxy.

4. ELECTION TERMS

If feasible, the Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected for a two-year term on the odd numbered years.

If feasible, the President and Secretary shall be elected for a two-year term on the even numbered years.

The Directors shall be elected for a one-year term.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for all positions will be submitted to the President at the AGM.

Nominations can be for any number of positions and must be made by a Team Representative in good standing and seconded by the same.

A majority on the Executive cannot be from one team.

Voting will occur at the AGM. For each position being voted upon, the members will cast one (1) vote per member.

In the event no nominations are received for a position, the Executive will seek volunteers for acclamation. If the position cannot be filled with volunteers, the Executive will seek to appoint individuals.

In the event that the positions cannot be filled by any of the above means, the Executive will call an emergency meeting in December to discuss the feasibility of the continued existence of the League.

5. LEAGUE FINANCES

The league entry fee will be recommended by the Executive and put to a vote at the AGM.

The player entry fee will also be recommended by the Executive and put to a vote at the AGM.

The entry fee is to cover the operating expenses of the League for the upcoming season.

The Treasurer will give their best estimate for the revenues and expenses to be covered.

League members will have a chance to study and question the estimates prior to the vote being called.

The league will cover a set number of players for the end year meal. The number of players is proportional to the player entry fee and the league entry fee.

LEAGUE ACCOUNTS

All League accounts will have co-signing power. All cheques issued by the League must be signed by the Treasurer and Vice President or President.

No cheques may be signed blank. When signed, the cheques must be filled out completely, containing the date, amount, payee and encoded to indicate the reason for the payment.

The Treasurer's report will be submitted at regular and other League meetings and shall be a formal accounting document.

It is advised that all League financial transactions be conducted in cheques. Receipts with a brief description of the transaction will always be expected and will be filed for future reference.

No members, Directors or Executive may, on behalf of or in the name of the League, borrow monies for the purposes of the league.

6. LEAGUE RULES AND BYLAW COMMITTEE

The committee will normally comprise of the executive plus a representative from each team.

Notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution must be given to the committee no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date at which the amendments are to be considered.

Each amendment, whether separately or in block form, shall be put to a vote. Acceptance of such amendments shall require consent of two thirds of those voting members in attendance at a meeting, provided that there is quorum.

In order for the League to be maintained, seasonal amendments may be put forward by the Executive during the year at any Executive Meeting. Acceptance of these amendments shall not form a part of the Bylaws until it has gained the majority vote at the AGM.

A Team Representative can suggest an amendment but only the Executive can put it before a meeting for a vote.

It is understood that the Bylaws will be enforced to the letter. Ignorance of any part(s) of the Bylaws shall not be considered valid grounds for infractions.

Other sub-committees i.e. bat committee may be stood up as the situation dictates. They may consist of subject matter experts from the league

7. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

VASSL members shall adhere to all Public Health guidelines and rules in order to have a safe playing environment

8. RULES

Although part of the constitution, the rules page, Appendix B is a living document. It can be amended by the executive at any time when required. Widest distribution of the amended rules is encouraged.

9. VASSL CODE OF CONDUCT

Players, coaches and managers shall practice good sportsmanship and treat their own players and opposing players with respect;

Disputes shall be resolved by team managers only. Players shall not take matters into their own hands;

Disciplinary action may be taken by the executive in the instance of poor or abusive sportsmanship.

APPENDIX A

DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE

1. The President shall:

- a. Chair all meetings.
- b. Call meetings of the Executive and the League, as deemed necessary and subject to the requirements of these Bylaws.
- c. Represent the League at any functions requiring a representation from the League.
- d. Ensure that all Executive members are fulfilling their obligations.
- e. Assign additional duties to other league members as deemed necessary.
- f. Receive, conduct and report on all League correspondence.

2. The Vice President(s) shall:

- a. There shall be two Vice Presidents to ensure out of town concerns are met and actioned as required.
- b. Ensure that there is a quorum at all meetings.
- c. Be responsible for the collection and distribution of all League trophies and awards.
- d. Book fields as required.
- e. Assign and liaise with the scheduler to schedule games
- e. Perform any other duties required by the League and the president.

3. The Secretary shall:

- a. Record and distribute minutes of all League and Executive Meetings.
- b. Conduct the AGM elections in terms of ballot distribution and voting procedures.
- c. Maintain files with accurate records of all meetings, League correspondence, trophy winners, championship teams and eligibility lists.
- d. Collect, process and distribute team contact lists.
- e. Where feasible, keep the membership informed of the League happenings.
- f. Perform other functions as required by the League and the president.

4. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Be responsible for all financial matters of the League, which includes League fees.
- b. Keep accurate and updated records of League finances and report it to the Team Representatives at each League meeting.
- c. Submit an annual financial report for the previous year to the incoming Executive at the Annual Fall meeting.
- d. Deposit cheques required for fees in a timely manner.
- e. Perform other functions as required by the League and the president.

5. The Past President shall:

- a. Act in an advisory capacity on all League matters, for one year following their retirement.
- b. Perform other functions as required by the league and the President.

DUTIES OF THE TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Each Team Representatives shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Act as liaison between their respective teams, the players and the Executive;
- b. Ensure that all members of their team are aware of the contents of the League Constitution, the League Bylaws and Rules and Regulations;
- c. Carry their team's vote at all Executive meetings (one vote per team);
- d. Distribute information concerning League rules to their teams and ensure that they are carried out in a sportsmanlike manner;
- e. Sign all protests made by the team and submit such to the Executive.
- f. Attend all League meetings, or if unable to do so, appoint an alternate Team Representative from their team;
- g. Be responsible for all duties associated with game cancellation and rescheduling for games involving their team;
- h. Submits information to the Player Agent in this case the President concerning their team, i.e. changes to the roster; and
- j. Perform all other functions as required by the League or the President.

DIRECTORS

Additional Directors may be added as the opportunities and requirements permit:

1. The Scheduler/Statistician shall:

- a. Adapt a playing schedule for season (league, playoffs and icebreaker/ tournaments)
- b. Record all game scores and keeps an accurate record of team standings and send to public relations officer for the website?
- c. Winner/loser calls in scores (to be determined by Executive)

2. The Player Agent shall:

- a. Assign and record roster numbers to each team
- b. Arrange a scheduled time to collect and mail to SPN their copies
- c. Photocopy each team roster x2 and to return a copy to each team

3. Team Field/Equipment Manager shall:

- a. Maintain existing equipment (bases, ropes, markers, hammers, baseballs and trophies)
- c. Update and repair equipment as necessary
- d. Arrange field rental (season, playoffs and tournaments)
- e. Development of new trophies and awards
- f. Prepare budget request for each new season, to be submitted to the Executive for approval

4. The Public Relations Officer shall:

- a. Bring knowledge of our league to the general public
- b. Maintain website
- c. Encourage ways for other players to contribute to our website
- d. Help co-ordinate possible fund raising efforts and possible League sponsorship
- e. Encourage growth and recruit for our league

APPENDIX B

VASSL RULES 2022

SPN rules apply with the following exceptions:

1. All players will be given an equal opportunity to play, both in the field and at bat. This includes league and tournament play. Players must meet the age guidelines as described previously;
2. Games will be seven (7) innings. If time allows, a second game may be played as agreed by both managers. prior to game start;
3. Should a team be short of players, players may be borrowed from the opposing team; Substitutes must be a registered league player;
4. Teams will bat 5 runs or 3 outs. The seventh inning is an open inning;
5. Mercy rule is twelve (12) after 5 innings;
6. No bunting allowed;
7. No out on foul ball on third strike;
8. The batting line-up will include all available players;
9. The batting team shall supply the umpire unless an independent umpire is available;
10. Home team will provide one (1) new ball and one (1) used ball in good shape. 40 core, 375 compression Worth Super Grey Dot balls will be used;
11. Bats with the USSSA or 2000/2004 ASA designation are the only bats allowed. Single wall steel bats with a composite handles inclusive of half and half are allowed. Bats with a BPF (Bat Performance Factor) of more than 1.20 such as Miken Ultra I and II, Combat Centenarian and other such senior bats are illegal for use in the VASSL. This includes titanium bats. Wooden bats are always legal. Bats that have the designation faded or degraded that cannot be read are banned. It is the responsibility of the player and the team to ensure that they are not using banned bats.
12. The "1 up" home run rule is in effect. If one team hits a home run over the fence with no errors, The team cannot hit another over the fence home run until the other team does. If a player hits a home run and the team is not one up, this will be called a strike on the batter. Hits played within the fenced ball diamond and ending in a home run DO NOT APPLY to this rule. Any balls rolling under a fence will be a ground rule double FOR ALL BASE RUNNERS
13. A courtesy runner may be used from home plate or first base. The courtesy runner should be the same gender as the batter. If that is not available a courtesy runner of the opposite gender may be allowed on concurrence of both coaches.
14. Starting position for the courtesy runner will be directly across from home plate against the fence. The courtesy runner shall not leave the batting area until the ball is hit. If they leave early, they may be recorded as an out. Every effort shall be made to ensure the same courtesy runner is used once per inning. If using a courtesy runner the batter shall not leave the batter's box. If they do, it will be recorded as an out;
15. The courtesy runner from home plate is allowed a maximum of a ground rule double;
16. The home team managers will be responsible for contacting visiting teams to confirm games during inclement weather;

17. If available, every effort should be made to have a minimum of 2 females on the field at all times.
18. Each team is responsible for sponsors and uniforms;
19. Pitchers and catchers shall wear face masks as a minimum;
20. Tie goes to the runner at first base;
21. Infielders must remain outside the base path until the ball is hit. Outfielders including the rover must remain outside the 125 foot curved line until the ball is hit;
22. No run through at second or third base: and
23. There will be no infield fly rule.
24. Measurements for the foul line is 125 feet from the rear corner of home plate. The outfield curved line is 125 feet from foul line to foul line. The commitment line is 20 feet from the corner of home plate closest to third base. The scoring line is from the corner of home plate closest to third base and shall extend no less than 6 feet from home plate. A triangle will be formed from the commitment line and the line 6 feet from home plate. A line from home plate to the fence will indicate the starting point for the courtesy runner. On deck circles shall be a 5 foot circle (2-1/2 foot radius), placed adjacent to the end of the team's bench or dugout area closest to the home plate / strike mat. The coach's box shall be marked in at first and third bases. The boxes shall be 15 foot by 3 foot rectangles. The lines shall be 10 feet from and parallel to the foul lines and shall start at the outside (outfield/foul) corners of the bases and extending toward the original home plate.

Approved – VASSS Annual General Meeting

Date: 25 August 2022

Venue: ANAF

Original document signed by:

President - Mark Moger

Vice Presidents - Kim Wallace

Cathy Pachman

Secretary - Kim Wallace