

2018 EUCLID SENIOR MEN'S SLO-PITCH LEAGUE RULES

Classification:

The Senior Men's Slo-Pitch division will play as one division. Games will be scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Every effort will be made to accommodate teams that want doubleheaders. Some doubleheaders and some single games will be scheduled with that in mind.

Official Rules Governing Play:

Official rules adopted by the Euclid Sports Commission shall govern play under the jurisdiction of the Euclid Recreation Commission.

ANY RULE IN THESE SLO-PITCH RULES AND REGULATIONS NOT COVERED BY THE BASIC RULES OF THE LEAGUE WILL REFER TO THE 2018 SENIOR SOFTBALL RULES.

Entrance Procedure and Fees:

The entry fee for the Senior Division is \$425. The fee includes two dozen softballs, A.S.A. registration fee and Benander Games statistics. This fee does not include a forfeit fee. If a team does forfeit, it must pay \$44 to cover its fee and the other teams game fees.

Eligibility and Roster:

Any man who will have reached his sixtieth (60) birthday before the last scheduled game is eligible for the Euclid Senior Men's Slo-Pitch Division.

The official league roster for each team will be limited to twenty-five (25) players which includes player-coaches and player-managers.

A player may play on only one team in the Senior Men's Slo-Pitch Division. Men may play in the Euclid Slo-Pitch League if they so desire.

Medical Service:

The Euclid Parks and Recreation Commission will not assume any responsibility for injuries or medical fees. It is recommended that each player carry his own medical insurance.

Additional Players & Releases:

Players may be added up to July 1, 2018 but a no time may the player limit be exceeded. All released players must be properly released in writing to the league director.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEAGUE PLAYOFFS, A PLAYER MUST HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SEVEN (7) REGULAR SEASON GAMES. PLAYERS WITH EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE RULED ELIGIBLE BY APPROVAL OF THE EUCLID SPORTS COMMISSION. NO PLAYER SHALL BE ADDED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AFTER JULY 1, 2018 UNLESS SPECIFIC APPROVAL IS GIVEN BY THE EUCLID SPORTS COMMISSION.

If a player wants to be released and the manager refuses to do so, the player, if she has a valid reason, may appeal in writing to the Euclid Sports Commission for the release. If approved, the player must follow the regular league rules concerning a released player who wishes to play for another team in the league.

League Play:

The Euclid Senior Men's Slo-Pitch Division will open play on Thursday, May 17. All teams will be eligible to play in a double elimination tournament to determine the Senior Men's Slo-Pitch Division champion.

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Contract Cards:

All players, managers and coaches must be under contract. No player, manager or coach will be allowed on the field of play without being under contract. Contract cards must be properly filled out with the player's and manager's signature on the back, and filed with the Recreation Office. Residents are free this year but must show two proofs of residence when turning in their contract card. Non-residents must pay a \$10 non-resident fee when turning in their contract card.

NO PLAYER IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A REGULAR SEASON GAME UNTIL HIS CONTRACT CARD IS FILED WITH THE LEAGUE OFFICE. STARTING ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF PLAY, A TEAM WILL BE PENALIZED TWO RUNS FOR EACH PLAYER THAT PLAYS WITHOUT A VALID CONTRACT. A VALID CONTRACT IS ONE THAT IS ACCOMPANIED BY EITHER A \$10 NON-RESIDENT FEE OR PROOF OF RESIDENCE FOR RESIDENTS.

A player released prior to the deadline for filing contract cards, **JULY 1, 2018**, may transfer only once during the season to another team. A player must wait one calendar week if he transfers.

Schedule Time:

Schedule time for all games is that time listed on the schedule given to managers. Umpires are to decide when games are to be forfeited. **THERE WILL BE A 5-MINUTE NO PENALTY GRACE PERIOD FOR THE FIRST GAME OF THE NIGHT ONLY IF A TEAM HAS LESS THAN EIGHT PLAYERS. AFTER THAT, A 10-MINUTE PENALTY GRACE PERIOD WILL START. THE TEAM WITH ENOUGH PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE ONE RUN FOR EACH MINUTE THAT THE GAME IS DELAYED. THE GAME MUST START, THOUGH, WHEN THE TEAM CAN FIELD EIGHT PLAYERS. THE GAME TIME LIMIT WILL START AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 10-MINUTE GRACE PERIOD. THE 10-MINUTE PENALTY GRACE PERIOD WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR THE REST OF THE GAMES THAT NIGHT, BUT NOT THE 5-MINUTE NO PENALTY PERIOD.**

Postponements:

There shall be no postponements except in the case of rain or changes deemed necessary by the league director. In case of wet grounds, teams are to call the Recreation Hot Line **(216-289-8121)** to see if the games are on or off. In case of rain after 5:00 p.m., the umpire will use his judgement in calling the game at the field. **We will again be under a partial no make-up policy. Some open dates will be left in the schedule for make-up games. When these are used up, no other games will be made up except on a night when a partial schedule has been rained out.**

Forfeitures:

Any team which forfeits a game will pay the umpire and scorers fee for both the forfeiting team and the non-forfeiting team. This \$44 fee is not covered this year by a forfeit fee. If a team forfeits, it must pay the \$44 forfeit fee before its next scheduled game.

Starting Count:

All batters will start with no count as they step into the batters box. **A BATTER WILL BE CALLED OUT IF HE HITS A FOUL BALL AFTER REACHING A COUNT OF TWO STRIKES.**

Time Limit on Games:

No new inning will start after one hour and twenty minutes of playing time in all games. Tie Games will be counted as 1/2 win. 1/2 loss. A game halted by time limit will be ruled an official game.

Expedite and Mercy Rule, Run Limit:

After 3 1/2 or four innings, if a team coming to bat leads by 18 runs or more or, after 4 1/2 or five innings, the team coming to bat leads by 12 runs or more, the game will be over and the leading team will be declared the winner. If the home team reaches the run spread during its half of the inning, the game will end at that time. A team is limited to five runs per inning. The five run rule is waived in the final inning.

Number of Players:

A team may start a game with 8 players and finish with 8 players. The opposing team will provide a catcher only to return balls to the pitcher. Once the ball is batted, it is the defensive team's responsibility to cover home plate. As long as the team has 8 players, it will take an out in the ninth spot in the batting order. A team with 8 players may add any late-arriving players at any time without penalty. **A TEAM MAY USE AS MANY EXTRA HITTERS IN THEIR LINE-UP AS THEY DESIRE BUT WILL USE ONLY 11 PLAYERS IN THE FIELD.** The scorekeeper does not have to be informed of which players go into the field.

Official Ball and Bats:

The official ball will be a .44 core, 375 compression ball handed out at the organizational meeting.

All Senior bats with a 1.21 bpf, SSUSA Approved or ASA 2000 will be legal. NO TITANIUM BATS will be allowed in league play.

Umpires:

One umpire will be assigned to all games. Umpires will be paid prior to each game by the teams. The fee is \$15 per team for each seven-inning game. The umpire is entitled to \$7 for all games less than five innings in which inclement weather has been a factor in calling the game.

Scorers:

Scorers will be assigned to all games and will be paid prior to each game by the teams. The fee is \$7 for each seven-inning game for each team. The scorer will forward the scoresheet to the league director with copies to each team. If a scorer fails to show, each team is responsible for its statistics and must report same to the league director.

Uniforms:

There will be no uniform rule this season. It is suggested that teams get uniform shirts but, there is no penalty if a player does not have a uniform.

Language Rule:

A player using profanity will force his team to take an "out" before the next batted on his team bats. No batter will miss his turn at bat, but an out will be given to the team at bat.

Permits and Office Hours:

For a pre-season practice permit, a manager must call the Recreation Office (289-8114) for a time. With tournaments and field rentals, there is very limited time available. The Recreation Office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

Trophies and Plaques:

The Euclid Recreation Department will provide awards for the championship teams. A team's choices include: \$50 off the next season's entrance fee, trophies, plaques or T-shirts.

Invitational Tournaments:

Teams competing in a sanctioned tournament will need to let league director know in advance to be excused from any regular season games. They will be permitted to make-up missed games. Notification to the league director must be at least a week in advance.

Pitching and Screen Rules:

A pitcher, after releasing the ball, must move behind the protective screen until the ball is in contact with the bat. First offense of this rule will be a reminder, then a warning, then removal. After that, he may move to field a batted ball. The pitching arc is 6' to 10'. A batter that hits a ball that comes in contact with the screen will get a strike the first time it happens and an out the second time.

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Courtesy Runner Rule:

A courtesy runner can be used for any player in the lineup. The person running can only run once during an inning as a courtesy runner. If a player is a courtesy runner and is on base when his time at bat comes, he will be declared out.

Vacations:

Teams will not be permitted to withdraw from participation for a vacation. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE.**

Alcoholic Beverages:

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the playing area. Any player or team caught using alcoholic beverages in the playing area will cause the game to be forfeited.

Playing area includes all area surrounding the field, including the stands.

Protests:

When a matter of protest arises during a game, the manager of the protesting team should immediately notify the umpire. The umpire then must announce to all concerned that the game is being played under protest. The protesting manager should verify that the umpire has announced the protest to all concerned parties. This will enable all parties to take notice of the conditions surrounding the protest and will aid in the proper determination of the issue. The protesting manager should make sure that the protest is stated on the official scoresheet.

Protests must be filed in writing with the league director within 48 hours of the regularly scheduled game. Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays are not included in the 48 hour limit. A \$25 protest fee must accompany the written protest. The protest fee will be returned if the protest is decided in favor of the protesting team.

With no pictures on the contract card, protests involving player eligibility should be handled as follows:

1. Go through regular protest procedure by telling the umpire and scorer about the protest.
2. Have the suspected player sign the back of the scoresheet.
3. Follow up with protest in writing with the \$25 fee.

Rule Enforcement - League Director Authority:

The league director has the authority to take appropriate action when irregularities are discovered.

Rowdyism - Disorderly Conduct:

Only the manager (or acting manager) and player(s) involved may dispute with the umpire.

No rowdyism or disorderly conduct on the part of players, managers or coaches or their supporters shall be tolerated before, during and after the game. Violators will be severely disciplined by the Euclid Sports Commission. It is the duty of the umpire and scorer to report such instances.

All softball games are conducted under the jurisdiction of the Euclid Recreation Commission. The Arbitration Board shall consist of at least three members of the Euclid Sports Commission and will meet when deemed necessary by the league director to handle matters of protest, appeals and disciplinary action.

SMOKING IS PROHIBITED ON THE PLAYING FIELD . THIS INCLUDES THE PLAYERS BENCH AREA. UMPIRES ARE DIRECTED TO STOP THIS PRACTICE.

Rowdyism- Disorderly Conduct (Con't)

Any team member ejected for any violation is automatically suspended for the next game in which her team participates with further action coming from the Arbitration Board when deemed necessary.

Any team member ejected for fighting is automatically suspended until the case is decided by the league director or the Arbitration Board.

ANY TEAM MEMBER (MANAGER, COACH OR PLAYER) EJECTED THREE (3) TIMES DURING THE SEASON WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE BALANCE OF THE SEASON AND THE CASE SUBMITTED TO THE ARBITRATION BOARD FOR FURTHER ACTION.

Any player who physically attacks an official shall be indefinitely suspended and the offending team may also be expelled should it be deemed necessary by the league office. The game may be ended at the time of the infraction if the umpire feels further problems may occur. A hearing shall be given to the offending player in front of the proper authority.

The Arbitration Board shall review all cases involved under the rules of disciplinary action with a minimum of three members being present.

The above provisions applying to suspension shall include all players, coach's and managers.

Player Conduct Rules:

NO PLAYER SHALL:

1. At any time lay hand upon, push, strike or threaten an official.
2. Refuse to abide by an officials decision.
3. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an official's decision by throwing gloves, bats, balls or any other forceful action.
4. Be guilty of heaping personal verbal abuse upon any official for any reason.
5. Discuss with an official in any manner the decision reached by such official unless the player was directly involved.
6. Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the playing of the game against the body and person of an opposing player.
7. Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, official or spectator.
8. Be guilty of abusive verbal attack upon any player, official or spectator.
9. Use profane, obscene or vulgar language in any manner at any time.
10. Appear on the field of play at any time in an intoxicated state.
11. Be guilty of using alcoholic beverages in the playing area.
12. Be guilty of gambling on any game or the outcome of the game with any spectator, player or opponent.
13. Smoke while going on or coming off the playing field or while on the field of play or playing area (which includes the bench area)
14. Be guilty of discussing publicly with spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner, any play, decision or personal opinion of other players during the game.
15. Be guilty of intentionally throwing the bat, glove or any other equipment.

