

## 2023 EUCLID SLO-PITCH LEAGUE RULES

### **Classification:**

Men's Slo-Pitch - Class D. The league will operate as one division. **Games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays. Doubleheaders and sometimes single games will be scheduled on one of the two nights for each team. Occasionally, a team may have to play on both nights.**

### **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 THE SLO-PITCH RULES AND REGULATIONS NOT COVERED BY THE BASIC RULES OF THE LEAGUE WILL REFER TO THE 2023 AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (A.S.A.now called U.S.A.) RULES.**

### **Entrance Procedure and Fees:**

The entry fee for Division II is \$595. The fee includes three dozen softballs, registration fee and Benader Games statistics. This fee again does not include a forfeit fee. If a team does forfeit, it must pay \$62 to cover its fee and the other teams game fees. Doubleheader forfeit is \$124.

### **Eligibility and Roster:**

Any man who will have reached his eighteenth (18) birthday before the last scheduled game is eligible for the Euclid Slo-Pitch League.

The official league roster for each team will be limited to twenty (20) players which includes player-coaches and player-managers.

### **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.

### **Residency Policy:**

A residency requirement will be in effect if the league is full and there are teams that must be turned away,

### **Additional Players & Releases:**

Players may be added up to July 7, 2023, but at 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 SIX (6) 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 7, 2023 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 he 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.

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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. Contract cards for residents are **FREE** with proof of residence and contract cards for non-residents are \$20. A non-resident playing in more than one team in any of the Euclid leagues must pay the \$20 non-resident fee for one team and \$10 for each other team he plays on.

**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 \$20 NON-RESIDENT FEE OR PROOF OF RESIDENCE.**

A player released prior to the deadline for filing contract cards, **JULY 7, 2023**, may transfer only once during the season to another team. A player must wait one calendar week if he transfers.

### **League Play:**

The Euclid Slo-Pitch League will open play on Monday, April 24. The regular season will consist of 24 games. With the normal eight-team set-up, the top four teams will qualify for the championship playoffs. If a division has more or less than eight teams, the playoff set-up may be different.

### **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.**

Second, third and fourth games will follow on lighted fields immediately upon completion of the previous game PROVIDING BOTH MANAGERS ARE IN AGREEMENT TO DO SO, BUT WILL START NO LATER THAN THE SCHEDULED TIME.

### **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. **There will be make-up dates included in the regular schedule. When these are used up, no other games will be made up. Standings will be determined by percentage when necessary.**

### **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 \$62 fee is not covered this year by a forfeit fee. If a team forfeits, it must pay the \$62 forfeit fee before its next scheduled game. If a team forfeits both games of a double-Header, the forfeit fee is \$124.

### **Park Curfew Rule:**

No new inning may start after 10:55 p.m. If a tie is not broken by that time, the game will be counted as 1/2 win and 1/2 loss.

**One and One Count:**

All batters will start with a one ball and one strike count as they step into the batters box.

**A batter is out if he hits a foul ball with two strikes!**

**Time Limit on Games:**

No new inning will start after **one hour and five** minutes of playing time in all games except the last game of the night. **THAT GAME WILL HAVE THE PARK CURFEW OR A CAP OF ONE HOUR AND TEN MINUTES AS ITS TIME LIMIT.** Tie Games will be counted as 1/2 win and 1/2 loss. A game halted by time limit will be ruled an official game.

**Expedite and Mercy Rule:**

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. Also, after the first inning, a pitcher shall have one warm-up.

**Number of Players:**

**A team may start a game with 8 players and finish with 8 players. The opposing team will provide a catcher to only return balls back to the pitcher. Once the ball is batted, it is the responsibility of the defense to cover home plate. As long as the team has eight players, it will take an out in the ninth spot in the batting order. A team with eight players may add a late-arriving 9th player at any time without penalty.** However, a team may designate the **10th spot** in the batting order for a player that has not arrived. The team doesn't need to designate a particular player's name, just the fact that they are planning to use a 10th player. If the 10th player shows up, he may be put into the line-up immediately, providing the 10th spot was in the line-up prior to the start of the game. This means that if the designated 10th player does not show up by the time he is scheduled to bat, it will be an automatic out. If a team does not designate a 10th spot in the batting order, a player coming late may be only be inserted as a substitute for one of the starting nine players. **A TEAM MAY USE UP TO TWO EXTRA HITTERS IN THEIR LINE-UP.**

**Official Ball:**

The official ball will be the .52 core, 300 compression ball handed out at the organizational meeting.

**Bats:**

Only ASA, GSL or USSSA approved bats will be allowed in both Divisions. All bats on the USA banned bat list are illegal. **Players using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game.**

**Umpires:**

Two umpires will be assigned to all games. Umpires will be paid prior to each game by the teams. The fee is **\$23** per man for each seven-inning game. The umpire is entitled to **\$11** for all games less than five innings in which inclement weather has been a factor in calling the game. If only one umpire shows up for a game, the game will be played and each team will pay the umpire **\$16**.

**Scorers:**

Scorers will be assigned to all games and will be paid prior to each game by the teams. The fee is **\$8** for each seven inning game for each team. The scorer will forward the scoresheet to the league director with copies to each team. The scorer is entitled to **\$4** for all games less than five Innings in which inclement weather has been a factor in calling the game. If a scorer fails to show, each team is responsible for its statistics and must report same to the league director.

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### Uniforms:

There will be no uniform rule. Teams are requested to get matching colored shirts but there will be no penalty for a player not in uniform.

### Language Rule:

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

### Designated Runner Rule:

**Before** the game starts, a team may designate a player that a runner may be used for any time that player gets on base. The runner will be the player that made the last OUT (**batted or not**) prior to the designated player getting on base. If a player is injured during the game, the designated runner may be switched to that player. This can happen only once during a game.

### Permits and Office Hours:

For a pre-season practice permit, a manager must call the Recreation Office (289-2700) 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: \$100 off the next season's entrance fee, trophies or plaques.

### Special Pitching Rule:

The pitcher may pitch from the pitching rubber or from the pitching area, an area the width of the rubber and up to six feet behind the rubber. The pitcher must have his pivot foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitching rubber or pitching area when delivering the pitch. ASA (USA) pitching rules will be in effect. It is **strongly** recommended that the pitcher wear a mask of some kind while pitching. **The pitching arc will be from 6 feet to 10 feet.**

### 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.

### Special Memorial Park Rule:

The Euclid Recreation Commission has ruled that there will be **NO** batting practice in Memorial Park unless it is on a ball diamond.

The following home run rule applies to teams playing on Diamond #3 or #7. **THREE** out-of-the-park home runs will be allowed per team with a **one-up** rule to **five** for each team. That is, once both teams have reached the three home run limit, either team may hit an additional home run. However, no team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team. **ALSO, THE HOME TEAM, IN THE BOTTOM OF THE LAST INNING, MAY HIT ONE HOME RUN TO PULL EVEN THE NUMBER OF HOME RUNS OF THE OPPOSING TEAM, BUT MAY NOT HIT A HOME RUN TO GO ONE UP!** Any out of the park hits after three that violates the above rule will be considered an out. **After five home runs, any out of the park hits will end that team's inning and the batter will be given an out as his time at bat.** Inside the park home runs do not apply.

### 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 (Con't):**

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.

**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. Managers are to control their spectators as well as their own players. **NOTE: Players, coaches or managers are still under the authority of the umpire before 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 immediately.

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.**

**Any man ejected for any violation is automatically suspended for the next game in which his team participates with further action coming from the league director or 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.

**Rule Enforcement - League Director Authority:**

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

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**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.