



**Gorges Comeau HOMEBASE Slo-Pitch Tournament
2023 Rules & Regulations**

NSA Canada Rules will apply with the following exceptions and/or amendments:

NOTE: This tournament is for fun and for charity. As teams are self-umpired (with the exception playoffs), please be generous with your calls, and remember slo pitch is a hitting game!

1. **HOME TEAM** is determined by a coin toss or a bocce to second base.
2. **GAME BALLS** are provided to all teams and can be picked up during team registration. Home team, as determined by coin toss or bocce, will provide their balls as the game balls. Extra balls can be picked up from the team station.
3. **UMPIRE**
 - a) All teams must officiate their own games with the exception of playoffs when an umpire will be provided.
4. **GAME SCHEDULES and TIME LIMITS:**
 - a) ALL games must start at or before their official scheduled game time.
 - b) No grace periods are given. No exceptions.
 - c) Games may begin earlier than their scheduled game time if the field is available.
 - d) Games are 5 innings or a maximum of 1 hour 5 minutes long--whichever happens first.
 - e) Play-off games will be to a maximum of 7 innings or 1 hour 15 minutes long.
 - f) All games must end in time for the next game on that diamond to start at its scheduled time.
 - g) Teams are responsible for keeping track of their game time limit.
 - h) Due to strict game schedules and limited playing time, no 'warm-up' balls are allowed.
5. **MAXIMUM 3 OUTS or 5 RUNS** per team per inning--whichever happens first:
 - a) Only the fifth inning or any inning that starts more than 55 minutes after the scheduled start time will be "OPEN", having no run maximum.
 - b) If an "Open" inning cannot be completed within the allotted 1 hour 5 minute time limit, the final score will revert to the score recorded at the end of the last completed inning.
6. **PITCHING:** HOMEBASE follows NSA pitching rules with the following amendments:
 - a) Pitchers may be of any gender.
 - b) Pitchers may take no more than 3 warm-up pitches at the start of their first inning and then none thereafter.
 - c) Any new pitcher who has not already pitched in the game will be allowed 3 warm-up pitches then none thereafter.
 - d) Pitchers may take no more than ONE step (in any direction) during the pitch. Their pivot foot must be in contact with the ground as they release the ball.
 - e) Pitches must be delivered from between 50 and 60 feet away from home plate and must reach an arc of between 6 and 10 feet from the ground.
 - f) If a batter swings at an illegally pitched ball, the "Illegal Pitch" is nullified, normal batting rules apply and the ball is in play. A strike is called if the batter swings and misses.
STRIKE MATS must be used and must cover Home Plate. Any legally pitched ball which first contacts any portion of the mat will be called a strike.
7. **ROSTERS and LINE-UPS:**
 - a) Player names must be submitted on score sheets and will be checked to ensure all players are registered for the provided Sports Accident Insurance. If any players are not registered, the team will forfeit that game.



- b) All players must be a minimum of 16 years of age. No exceptions.
- c) HOMEBASE is a NSA Co-ed 6/4 format. A team may field or bat no more than 6 males and a minimum of 4 females. Any player may play any defensive position regardless of gender.
- d) Teams may use two Extra Players per game (1 female, 1 male – i.e. a team can bat 12 players in total). The “EP” must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
 - a. An extra player/“EP” may be used by a team provided it is made known prior to the start of the game, and his/her name is indicated on the scoresheet.
 - b. The “EP” must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
 - c. The “EP” may play defense at any time without his/her status being affected. He/she may go in and out of the defensive lineup as often as needed.
 - d. The “EP” may be substituted for at any time, with the substitute becoming the new “EP”. The substitute must be a player who has not been in the game.
- e) Any team unable to field a minimum of 9 players (4 of whom MUST be female) at the scheduled game time will forfeit that game. The non-offending team is awarded a ‘10-0’ win.
 - a. If a team fields with less than the appropriate number of females they can only field 9; when it is their turn to bat if the 4th female is still not available the game is deemed a forfeit.
- f) If a team can only field 9 players (4 of whom must be female) at the scheduled game time, the game may be played but the 10th batter is an automatic out. An eligible player who becomes available may become the 10th batter and will cancel the automatic out.
- g) If both teams are unable to field a minimum of 9 players and/or 4 females, the game is scored a '0-0' tie.

8. BATTING ORDER:

- a) There are no gender restrictions to the batting order.

9. SUBSTITUTIONS:

- a) An unlimited number of substitutions are allowed.
- b) Any player in the starting line-up may re-enter the game one time only and MUST return to their original position in the batting order.
- c) A starting player and their substitute(s) must NOT be in the batting order at the same time.

10. ANY MALE BATTER WHO IS INTENTIONALLY WALKED, regardless of the count:

- a) When followed in the batting order by a female, he is awarded second base.
- b) If followed by an automatic out, he is awarded first base.
- c) The automatic out is nullified and the next batter (male or female) must bat.

11. COURTESY RUNNERS:

- a) Each team can use up to 3 courtesy runners per game.
- b) Courtesy runners may be anyone on the team’s roster.
- c) Courtesy runners MUST be the same gender as the person being run for.
- d) If the courtesy runner is on base when they are due up to bat, they will be declared out as a batter and will remain on the base currently occupied.
- e) Courtesy runners may be replaced with another courtesy runner. This runner would count as an additional runner against the team’s allotment.
- f) A substitute may be made for the ORIGINAL RUNNER to replace the courtesy runner.

12. HOME RUN / ONE-UP RULE:

- a) Two over-the-fence home runs are allowed per team, per game.
- b) The one up rule is in effect only after both teams have reached their home run limit. Once both teams have reached their 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. Any additional home runs above the one up will be scored an out. Exception: if the visiting team is even or up one home run on the home run team in the bottom of the last inning or any extra innings, the home team may hit only one home run in that inning.



13. NO BUNTING is allowed.

- a) ALL bunts are to be charged as an "Out". ALL runners must return to the base they occupied prior to the pitch.

14. NO LEAD-OFFS:

- a) No lead-offs will be allowed, however, a relaxed or courtesy step is allowed in anticipation of the ball being hit by the batter.

15. NO BASE STEALING:

- a) Runners may advance only after the ball is hit.

16. SLIDING:

- a) Sliding is permitted at all bases EXCEPT to or over the 'Safe Scoring Line'. Any runner who slides to or over the 'Safe Scoring Line' is to be called "Out".

17. TAGGING RUNNERS:

- a) To obtain an out, tagging is permitted at all bases.

18. SAFE SCORING LINE and BASE RUNNING:

- a) The purpose of the 'Safe Scoring Line' is to minimize the chance of collisions or contact between defensive players and runners who are attempting to score.
- b) Safe scoring line at home plate must be crossed with a portion of the foot on or over the line and on the ground.
- c) A baserunner who touches the COMMITMENT LINE or makes contact with the ground past the COMMITMENT LINE with any part of the body between third base and the scoring line at the home plate / strike mat must continue on towards the scoring line (at the home plate /strike mat).
- d) Runners are out if they touch the home plate / strike mat or cross over the home plate / strike mat in fair territory, whether a play is made or not. No exceptions.
- e) Runners attempting to score must not be tagged while off base or must contact the ground on or past the 'Safe Scoring Line' before the ball is caught and held by a fielder who is in contact with any portion of the strike mat or they will be called 'Out.'
- f) Any player who makes forceful contact (incidental or otherwise) with any other player or any runner who makes contact with a defensive player while they are touching home plate are 'Out' and may be subject to ejection.

NOTE: These safety rules will be strictly enforced.

19. NO METAL SPIKES:

- a) A player wearing metal spikes is to be removed from the game immediately. They are allowed no more than 5 minutes to replace the offending shoes with suitable footwear or they will not be allowed to play in that game.
- b) A substitute player may be used. If no substitute is available, the offending players position in the batting order becomes an automatic 'Out'.
- c) If no substitute is available and the team is subsequently unable to field a minimum of 9 players (4 of whom must be female), the game is to be declared a forfeit per Rule 6G.

20. INFIELD FLY rule is in effect

- a) Infield Fly is a fairly batted fly ball (not a line drive) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or when first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two out. Any defensive player, who positions himself within the infield area, will be considered an infielder for the purpose of this rule.



- b) If a fairly batted ball is to be declared an infield fly the umpire shall call: "INFIELD FLY, BATTER IS OUT" for the benefit of the runners.

21. FAIR, FOUL, OUT OF PLAY:

- b) The umpire at time of play is the sole judge of whether or not a thrown or batted ball has entered 'out of play' territory or is a fair or foul ball.
- c) Once a ball goes out of play, time is called, the ball is dead, all play ceases
- d) Runners may advance on a caught fly ball, fair or foul, but must remain in contact with the base until (or return to re-tag the base after) the ball is first touched by a fielder or be in jeopardy of being put 'Out'.
- e) Exception: If a ball is batted foul on the 3rd strike, the ball is dead, the batter is out and all runners must return to the last base they occupied prior to the pitch.

22. MERCY RULE:

- a) If a team is leading by 10 or more runs after 4 completed innings or if the Home Team is ahead by 10 or more runs at any time after 3 1/2 innings, the game is over and the score at that point is the final score.
- b) In ALL games (round robin and/or play-off), the game is over as soon as the winning run is scored. Teams do not continue to bat.

23. TIE GAMES:

- a) In Round Robin play, any game tied at the end of regulation play remains a tie.
- b) In Play-off Rounds ONLY, any game tied at the end of regulation play will continue into extra innings until a winner is declared. In each half inning, the team at bat will start with a runner at second base. The runner assigned to second base must be the person who precedes in the batting order the first person to legally bat in their half of the inning. Each team will also starts each inning with one out.

24. SCORESHEETS, RUN DIFFERENTIALS and SCORE REPORTING:

- a) When calculating team standings, the maximum run differential (that is, your score versus your opponents score in that game) will be plus or minus (+ or -) 10 runs.
- b) Except when a forfeit or 'spoiled' scoresheet is declared, the final score for a complete game or for any game ended due to time limits, rain, schedule restrictions or any other circumstances cited by the HOMEBASE tournament officials reverts to the score recorded by the scorekeeper at the end of the last completed inning.
- c) The winning team must submit the completed scoresheet to the Official Scoring Desk within 30 minutes of the scheduled end of the game.
- d) If any of the scoresheet information is incomplete or illegible, or if the scoresheet is submitted more than 30 minutes after the scheduled end of the game, the scoresheet may be declared 'spoiled', the game recorded as a '0-0' tie and the game points awarded accordingly.
- e) An official scorekeeper will be provided for play-offs.

25. POINTS, STANDINGS, PLAY-OFF PLACEMENT and TIE-BREAKERS:

- a) Standings and placement for play-off rounds are determined by the Win/Loss record acquired during round robin games: Win=2 points, Loss=0 points, Tie=1 point
- b) If 2 teams in the same division have identical point totals at the end of Round Robin play, their placement is determined by the result of their head-to-head game(s).
- c) If 2 or more teams are tied after round robin play and head-to-head results are not conclusive, standings and placement for the play-off rounds will be determined by (in order and until standings are determined):
 - i. Largest accumulated plus/minus differential during Round Robin
 - ii. If still tied, head-to-head performance of remaining teams.
 - iii. If still tied, fewest total runs against.
 - iv. If still tied, head-to-head performance of remaining teams.
 - v. If still tied, a coin toss.



26. DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

- a) The umpire during time of play has the final call. Reminder that this tournament is for fun and for charity. Respect the umpire's decision.
- b) If a dispute continues during the game, and a solution cannot be mutually agreed upon, check in at the team station for support. Game time will not be extended for any reason.

27. INCLEMENT WEATHER OR UNSAFE FIELD CONDITIONS:

- a) In the event of a major storm, inclement weather or any other unsafe condition with no timely relief or improvement expected, the HOME BASE Tournament Committee may cancel any or all scheduled games.
- b) All games canceled prior to their scheduled start time will not be rescheduled and are scored as a 10-10 tie.
- c) The HOME BASE Tournament Committee has DISCRETION whether or not field conditions are unsafe and/or unplayable. The final score for any game discontinued or ended by the HOME BASE Tournament Committee after the game has started but before it is completed is the score at the end of the last completed inning. No minimum number of innings need be played.
- d) Unless otherwise officially advised by the HOME BASE Tournament Officials and despite the possibility of inclement weather or suspected unsafe conditions, all teams must be at their assigned field and be ready to play at their scheduled game time.
- e) If both teams are unable to field a minimum of 9 players (3 of whom must be female), the game is scored a '0-0' tie.
- f) If one team is able to field a minimum of 9 players (3 of whom must be female) and their opponent is not, the team with the requisite number of players is awarded a '10-0' win.

28. ALCOHOL and DRUG POLICY:

- a) Any player, spectator or visitor found in possession of and/or consuming alcohol, marijuana or any other prohibited substance, on or near any HOME BASE Event grounds with the exception of legally purchased beverages, will be subject to immediate expulsion from further participation in the HOME BASE tournament.
- b) Teams or event staff can request the removal of any intoxicated players from the game.
- c) Teams/Players caught with outside alcohol may be penalized.
- d) All players, participants, spectators and visitors are expected to know and understand these policies and ALL are expected to police themselves accordingly.
- e) ALL bags brought onto HOME BASE Event grounds that are suspected to contain alcohol or any other prohibited substance are subject to inspection by the RCMP and/or Security personnel. Refusal to allow inspection will result in immediate expulsion from the HOME BASE tournament and will be immediately confiscation.

THESE POLICIES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

PLEASE NOTE: The RCMP and security personnel will be patrolling all HOME BASE grounds, parking lots, fields and dugouts expressly looking for liquor, marijuana and other prohibited substances.

There is ZERO TOLERANCE for the possession and/or consumption of alcohol, marijuana or prohibited substances on public property. Any alcohol consumed must be legally purchased and consumed in a licenced area. NO EXCEPTIONS!

And don't forget, partial proceeds from alcohol sales will support KGH Foundation!

If you plan on having a few drinks, please plan on arranging a safe ride home.