

# RSPA SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT RULES 2024

Rev. January 2, 2024

## PLAY RAIN OR SHINE • SPN RULES IN EFFECT • RULES FOR ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT • **NO 1-1 COUNT.**

- SPN: All rules are based on the current SPN rulebook. Any rule not covered, refer to current SPN rulebook.
- CHECK-IN: There is no check-in at headquarters before the start of the tournament. Umpires report scores.
- GRACE PERIOD: 10 minutes grace. Umpires discretion. Grace time will be deducted from game time.
- HOME TEAM determined by coin toss. Bases and balls are supplied.
- Round Robin format. Only one (1) loss in elimination rounds.
- MENS LINE-UP: Minimum number of players is nine (9). No automatic out with 9 players.
- COED LINE-UP - 6M-4F (not 7M-3F). Minimum number of players is nine (9). No automatic out with 9 players. Cannot bat more than two guys in a row; (allows 8M-4F in batting order). Maximum six (6) males defensively in the field. May play 6M-3F with no automatic out, but must play with 9 players in the field. **NO** "Trixie Rule" (no rotating female batters). Can always play more girls - any number - 6M + 5F, etc. Maximum six (6) males defensively in the field.
- MENS/COED LINE-UP: Once batting order is submitted a missing or ejected player is an out.
- AWARDS: Maximum fourteen (14) awards per team\*\*\*\*\*. Must play in a game to qualify for award. Awards must be claimed within one hour of the end of the last game or awards will be forfeited.  
**DO NOT CALL THE NEXT DAY LOOKING FOR AWARDS.**

- COURTESY RUNNER: Maximum SEVEN (7) courtesy runners per game. Cannot use the same runner twice.

**Masters 50+/60+ divisions unlimited courtesy runners, cannot use the same runner twice in the same inning.**

**No rule for free courtesy runners for players 50+ playing in an open division.**

- All games are seven (7) innings. Four (4) innings required for a complete game.
- TIES: Ties allowed in round robin. No ties / International Tie-Break Rule used in elimination rounds.
- TIME LIMIT: No new inning after 65 minutes, Time limit in Final Game\*.
- MAXIMUM: 6 runs per team per inning (except to avoid mercy). Last inning is open.
- SCORES: Umpire reports scores.
- MERCY RULE: 12 runs after 5 innings complete; or 4-1/2 innings if home team is ahead; or 20 runs after 4 innings.
- HOME RUN RULE: Applies any fenced park. "Match Plus Two". All other homeruns (over the fence or out of play) batter is OUT.
- BALLS & STRIKES will be called using a mat (or board). Using the Worth mat with **NO** homeplate cutout. Mats will be provided. A legally pitched ball hitting the mat is a strike. Batter stepping on the mat while making contact with the ball is out. Catcher touches any part of the mat to make an out.
- BATS: RSPA tournaments will continue to allow BOTH the USSSA & ASA 2004 stamp on approved bats. (Slo-Pitch National allows ONLY bats with the USSSA ("thumbprint") stamp.)
- COED - 175 FOOT RULE: is **NOT** in use. Outfielders may be positioned anywhere in the **OUTFIELD**. See below.
- COED: No outfielder may make a force out on the batter-base runner at first base, nor may an outfielder relay the ball in order to make a force out on the batter-base runner at first base. No penalty for attempting to throw the batter-base runner out.
- FIVE MAN INFIELD: Five man infield is **NOT** allowed with a female batter. A player will be deemed an "outfielder" if they are playing a defensive position that would be on the grass on a normal softball diamond.
- COED - WALK: if a male is walked (regardless of the count) with a female following, male batter gets second base and female must bat. With a male following, the batter is only awarded first base.
- DEFAULT FIRST TWO GAMES: Any team that defaults the first two games is eliminated.
- PROTESTS: All tournament protests must be settled before the game is resumed. Each protest must be accompanied by \$150.00 (cash or interac). PROTEST FEE IS REFUNDED ONLY IF THE PROTEST IS UPHELD. Protest should be sent by email or text and include Team Name, Division, Player Name(s), Diamond and Game Time. Umpire must be notified and sign the scoresheet, as per SPN.
- **RSPA LEAGUE TEAMS:** Please note the different rules: - **Coed is 6M-4F**; Courtesy runner, cannot use the same runner twice; Female batter must bat if preceding male batter is walked. Male still gets second base if followed by a female.
- **PLAYER CONDUCT/EJECTION:** Any player ejected from a game is automatically suspended for the next game as per SPN rules. Any player ejected for UMPIRE ABUSE is suspended for the balance of the tournament and will be reported to SPN.

**CONDUCT: All players and coaches will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Any harassment, verbal or physical, towards umpires, game officials, tournament executives or opposing teams will not be tolerated.**

**Do not call for game times or parks!**

**ALCOHOL: DRINKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN CITY PARKS. VIOLATORS WILL BE CHARGED BY THE POLICE AND WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT.**