

# Slowpitch Softball

## COMPETITION BYLAWS

1. All games will be played in accordance with softball rules as set down by MSA (Melbourne Softball Association) in the document "Slowpitch Softball Rules of the Game", unless otherwise detailed in these bylaws.
  - a) *with the exception that during the first three weeks of the competition leniency shall be given to players obviously new to the game. Rather than calling 'out' the umpire shall issue a warning to a player on each first occurrence of a rule infringement in the game and then 'out' for subsequent occurrences of the same rule.*
2. The umpires' decision at all times will be final. No question will be considered on an umpire's decision that is judgment, (eg fair/foul, ball/strike, leaving the base early, intentional walk etc) but one team member may question a decision if related to a rule or the interpretation of a rule.
3. **Team Registration**
  - a) Every individual participating in the competition must complete an online registration form prior to, or no later than twenty four (24) hours after first participating
  - b) Each team entered in the competition shall meet their duty of care by ensuring all individuals participating with their team are registered online. New players can be added to the register at any time.
4. **Team Composition**
  - a) For each game a team of ten players must comprise mixed gender with a maximum of five males in the team at any one time. Additional players may be interchanged throughout the game.
  - b) *a team may start and continue a game with a minimum of eight (8) players provided a maximum of four males are in the team at any one time. An out will be called for each absent player's turn at bat.*
  - c) *Pick-up players from other teams or spectators may be used to make up numbers provided they comply with Bylaw 3b.*
  - d) the forfeit rule shall apply should a team have fewer than eight (8) players to start or continue a game. A forfeit is scored as a 7-0 loss
  - e) All players shall be sixteen (16) years of age or older at the time of participating.  
*In extraordinary circumstances written applications maybe lodged with the Competition Manager requesting prior permission for a player to play contrary to Clause 4f.*
5. Games shall be rostered in a fixture to be available once team entries are finalised on [Melbourne Softball's website](#) and posted at the Fawkner Park Clubroom, where diamond and umpire allocations will be indicated.
6. **Game times**
  - a) Games shall promptly commence at 6.45pm and proceed for seventy five (75) minutes.  
*A five (5) minute period of grace will be given for starting time should a team find themselves waiting on the imminent arrival of a player/s to enable a legal game (refer Bylaw 4b) to commence with minimum of eight (8) players.*
  - b) Any innings incomplete after the scheduled game finish time shall continue until an equal number of innings have been played.
  - c) Should an equal inning be completed and there is less than five (5) minutes to the scheduled finish time of the game, time and game shall be called ie a new inning shall not commence.
7. **Pre Game Forfeits**

*All teams participating in the competition are expected to make every effort to play a fixtured game. Wherever possible, a team unable to compete in any scheduled game, should give as much advance notice as possible to the Competition Manager. A forfeit is scored as a 7-0 loss. Games shall not be rescheduled.*

8. Scoring
  - a) each team shall provide a member, who may be a player, to score the game on the official scoresheet brought to the diamond by the umpire.
  - b) every scoresheet must have the players **full name** listed ie as registered online with no abbreviations and or nick names.
  - c) the umpire shall reconcile the total scores of each team and return completed sheet to the Competition Manager.
  
9. Behaviour that is derogatory to team members, opposition, umpires or spectators, or detrimental to the sport shall not be tolerated. The umpire at any time can warn a team member. A second offense will result in the member being ejected from the game (ie they must remove themselves for the remainder of the game and be out of sight of the diamond). Ultimately an umpire may forfeit the game against any team whose member/s does not comply.
  
10. Alcohol – responsible drinking of alcohol is the responsibility of each individual and each team participating in the competition.
  
11. Participants shall not carry or hold any item (eg drink containers, cigarettes) within the parameters of the deadball line, other than approved softball equipment.
  
12. Set up procedure for each game -
  - a) First name team shall arrange to collect from the Clubroom - equipment bag and diamond bases.
  - b) It is that team's responsibility to check all equipment provided against the list in the bag.
  - c) Both teams are to utilise equipment for pregame warmup.
  
12. Pre-Game procedure for each game
  - a) It is recommended that all team members participate in general warm-up exercises prior to the commencement of the game.
  - b) Five minutes prior to game commencement time the umpire shall call both team captains to home plate where the captain of the first named team will call toss to determine the team to bat first, and playing field dimensions will be defined.
  - c) The umpire shall provide the official score sheet and match ball.
  
13. Post-Game procedure
  - a) At the conclusion of the game it shall be the umpire's responsibility to advise competition co-ordinator of game result
  - b) The second named team shall be responsible to arrange return of the equipment bag and diamond bases to the Clubroom within ten (10) minutes of the game's conclusion.
  - c) It is that team's responsibility to check that all equipment as listed is in the bag. On return of the bag missing equipment should be reported to the Competition Co-ordinator.
  - d) Competing teams shall be responsible for the cost of any unreturned equipment.
  
14. Injured players
  - a) A player who has been injured during the course of a game, may, when at bat, request a runner. The runner shall position themselves an equal distance from first base but at a safe distance behind the catcher.  
The batter shall be declared out if the runner leaves this position prior to the ball being hit. (as per rules definition 'stealing bases')  
The runner shall be of the same gender as the batter, and shall be the last runner to have batted or the last runner to cross home plate.
  - b) Any person injured during pre game warm-up, or the course of a game, should report at the conclusion of the game, such injury to an official in the administration area, recording details on the appropriate report form.
  - c) Insurance claim forms can be accessed on [Melbourne Softball's website](#)