

# MEN'S SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2024

## Rules and Regulations

### Bat Rule

All bats used in the New Hope leagues must have the most recent USSSA mark 1.20 BPF stamp on them. We will no longer grandfather in old bats so that we can get the full coverage of the USSSA insurance benefits. **FULL RULES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USSSA WEBSITE (ussa.com).**

### ARTICLE #1

The New Hope Slow-Pitch Softball Association shall be comprised of all managers of men's softball teams in New Hope and vicinity expressing an interest in taking part in regularly scheduled games and duly meeting the requirements of the league as agreed upon.

### ARTICLE #2

The USSSA, which now stands for "United States Specialty Sports Association", shall govern in all instances except for local rules decided by the league director.

### ARTICLE #3

All make-up games will be decided by the Parks and Recreation Department. Make-up dates will be built into the league schedule when possible. **Call the Parks & Recreation weather cancellation number (763-531-5158) after 4 p.m. for rain cancellations. We do not typically call teams to make them aware of cancellations.**

### ARTICLE #4

The league director will decide all protests. Protests may be entered with the Parks & Recreation Department upon deposit of a \$25 fee by the protesting team and if intention to do so is announced to the head umpire before the game is resumed after the play in question. If the decision is in favor of the protesting team, the deposit will be returned. If the decision is against the protesting team, the deposit will be forfeited and placed in the city's general fund. All protests must be filed with the Parks and Recreation office and accompanied by the fee and written statement within 24 hours after the play in question.

### ARTICLE #5

A team roster with all players must be submitted to the New Hope Parks and Recreation office at the time of registration. Team roster shall not exceed 20 players including manager. **Final team roster is due June 7, 2024.** If your second roster is not in by June 10, your first roster will be final. Use player's work address if eligibility falls under "Work" rule. Use player's home address if eligibility falls under "Live" rule.

## **ARTICLE #6**

The umpires shall always rule the game. No alcohol or beer permitted on the field. Use of profanity will not be tolerated. Smoking is not allowed on the playing field. The umpire in charge will have the authority to eject any person or persons from the field on account of drinking or profanity. In case an umpire does not show up, first try calling Justin Ore at 612-735-2446, the recreation department cell phone at 763-233-2461/952-220-3068 or let a field attendant know. You should try to find an alternate umpire if agreeable to both teams to keep the games moving.

## **ARTICLE #7**

Any disagreement, argument or question on any call or play by the umpire in foul or fair territory is to be discussed only by the manager and/or players directly involved. Any player not adhering to the above decision will be removed from the game.

## **ARTICLE #8**

The age requirement for the New Hope Adult Slow-Pitch Softball League is 18 years and over. This is effective as of May 1st of the current season.

## **ARTICLE #9**

The home team keeps the official scorebook. Game scores should be recorded on the cards provided, signed by the umpire and left in the box.

## **ARTICLE #10**

Games will be 7 innings or 65 minutes in length, whichever comes first. The three-ball walk will be used and the two strike, strike out, with no courtesy foul. \*Ties will be played out as much as possible. Umpires will make final decision when the game ends in a tie.

## **ARTICLE #11**

Two game balls will be furnished by the Parks & Recreation Department with home team receiving both balls at conclusion of the game. The Dudley Classic M 40 Optic Yellow Synthetic will be the official ball.

## **ARTICLE #12**

In case of a tie for a playoff position, the determining factors will be:

1. Won-Loss record against each other.
2. Playoff, if time allows.
3. Record against highest place common opponent.
4. Score differential against each other.
5. Score differential against highest place common opponent.
6. Coin toss.

### **ARTICLE #13**

No glass containers. No liquor consumption or smoking within the playing field area is allowed. Alcohol consumption during games is also prohibited. No littering.

### **ARTICLE #14**

Teams may start and/or complete a game with 9 players only if short-handed. When a 10th player arrives, he will be put into the game and assume the last spot in the batting order.

### **ARTICLE #15**

Forfeit time is five (5) minutes past the scheduled game time. Any team that forfeits two games will be dropped from the league with no refund.

### **ARTICLE #16**

The league reserves the right to temporarily or permanently suspend any players or teams for conduct that is not in line with good sportsmanship.

Any player who is ejected from a game by the umpire, for any reason, will automatically sit out that team's next scheduled game. If a player is ejected a second time, he will sit out the next two games. On a third ejection, that player will be suspended the remainder of the year. Any team caught using a player under suspension will automatically forfeit that game.

### **ARTICLE #17**

- A. Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting position whenever in the line-up.
- B. Additional Hitter - A team may insert an additional hitter into its line-up. The batting order must remain constant. However, any 10 of the 11 players can take a defensive position throughout the game. \*If additional hitter is used, you may finish with 9. However, it will become an out when you come to that position in the batting order.
- C. Every player on the roster bats continuously with free substitution in the field. \*If this option is used you may finish with 9, however, it will become an out when you come to that position in the batting order.

### **ARTICLE #18**

A game may be rescheduled if justification for postponement is made 24 hours in advance to the league director and opposing team manager. The final decision will be made by the league director.

## ARTICLE #19

When the baseman has possession of the ball, the runner must slide or avoid contact with the baseman.

Penalty: Runner is out. If applicable, a double play will be ruled. If the contact is deliberate, player will be ejected.

## ARTICLE #20

Run rule will be in effect for all games. Games will terminate when score differential reaches 20 runs after 4, 15 runs after 5 innings or 10 runs after 6 innings.

### **Flip Flop Rule:**

In an inning when the run rule has been exceeded (after 4 or 5 innings) and the home team is losing, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If the team (new visiting team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the run rule, the game is over. If they do, the game will continue under that format. If the situation reverses, the teams will flip/flop again.

## ARTICLE #21

Four (4) innings constitutes a legal game, or 3 1/2 innings if home team is ahead.

## ARTICLE #22

To ensure that post-season berths secured from the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) do not go un-used, each team interested in participating in post season play will be required to pay a deposit of \$185 by no later than June 7, 2024. This is for both the league paid berths as well as any additional berths we can secure. If you do secure a city-sponsored berth, or you do not qualify for the post season, you will be refunded your deposit. Any team that pays and qualifies for post-season play, but no longer wants to play will still forfeit that money. **Any team that does not pay a deposit of \$185 will NOT be eligible for a berth, paid or unpaid.**

## ARTICLE #23 HOMERUN RULE

The league will use a homerun rule:

- a. During the regular season, all leagues will play with a homerun limit of 5 per game. Any ball hit over the fence untouched after 5 homeruns have been hit is an out.
- b. No homeruns will be allowed in any division during playoffs.**

## **ARTICLE #24**

### **LEGAL POSITIONS OF THE PITCHER'S FEET**

- A. The pitcher may pitch from the pitching plate or from the pitching area, an area the width of the plate and up to six (6) feet behind the pitcher's plate.
- B. Prior to pitching, the pitcher shall take a position with his/her pivot foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitching plate or pitching area. The pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate or pitching area when the pitch ball is released.
- C. The other foot (free foot) has no restriction on position and may be placed on, in front of, to the rear of, or to the side of the pitcher's plate or pitching area. After taking the initial position, the pitcher may take more than one step with the free foot, in any direction of his choice, if it is taken prior to, simultaneously with or during the actions of delivering the pitched ball.
- D. After the release of the pitch, there are no restrictions on pitcher's subsequent movements, or the fielding positions he may assume as a defensive player.