*Somerset Slowpitch Softball League*

  

# 2019 Bylaws

Be it resolved that each team accepted to play in the Somerset Slowpitch Softball League (SSSL) is bound by the rules and regulations herein stated. Be it further resolved that all revenues tendered to this league shall remain the sole property of the SSSL. Violation of any rule or rules is subject to loss of franchise and expulsion from the league.

**Section 1: League Officers and Meetings**

1. The SSSL Board of Directors shall consist of officers elected for a term of one year each. Elections for the next year shall be held prior to completion of each season. The board members and their associated roles and responsibilities are as follows:

President:

* Conduct all SSSL meetings
* Ensure the coordination between the different leagues operating within SSSL
* Secure permits for playing fields for all SSSL Leagues
* Perform other duties at the request of the League Directors
* Delegate responsibilities not covered by these Bylaws to other Board Members and League Directors

Vice President:

* Coordinate the game schedule and secure umpires for all SSSL Leagues
* Assist President in his/her duties during his/her absence

Treasurer:

* Handle league financials: accept all fees, pay all bills, and issue all receipts
* Provide treasury report for each Board Meeting and per request of Board Members and/or League Directors

Secretary:

* Maintain all league records and Bylaws
* Prepare Agenda for all SSSL meetings
* Capture and distribute minutes for all SSSL meetings

2. League Directors will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of their respective leagues. The SSSL Board shall appoint a League Director for each of the following leagues:

1. Week Night League
2. Sunday Morning League
3. Co-Ed League
4. Fall Ball League

3. If any elected office becomes vacant, a special meeting will be held within 30 days to fill the vacancy. Until an election is held, the president shall assume all the duties of the vacant office. In the absence of the President, the Board of Directors shall assume the duties of the President’s office.

4. As stated above, elections will be held for Board Member positions on an annual basis. Each Team Manager, for present season and the following season, will be allowed one (1) vote at this meeting. Not having a team representative at this meeting will result in forfeiture of vote. Individuals who manage multiple teams within the different leagues will be allowed one (1) total vote.

1. All Team Managers must make every effort to make scheduled meetings or send a representative from their team.

## Section 2: League Rules and Regulations

The following rules are applicable to all leagues governed by the SSSL. Rules that are unique to the individual leagues will be listed separately in the sections to follow:

1. USSSA rules will be followed unless there is a specific Bylaw that creates an exception.
2. All players must be over eighteen (18) to participate in any league.
3. Each team shall be required to submit a $300 deposit by April 1st of any given season, with the exception of Fall Ball. The balance of the leagues fee must be paid in full by May 1st.
	1. Teams that do not pay by May 1st will be removed from the league and will forfeit the $300 deposit.
4. The SSSL Board will propose the number of games to be played, and the playoff format at the beginning of the season.
5. Any team using an ineligible player will forfeit each game that the player has appeared in. Every player must sign a waiver before playing in any league games.
6. The League Directors will have until one (1) hour prior to game time to cancel games due to inclement weather. Within one (1) hour of the game starting, the games are in the hands of the umpires. ALL teams are required to show up at the field ready to play no matter the weather conditions. Failure to show up and field a team when the umpires deem the field playable will result in a forfeit for that game.
7. If a team forfeits a game, it will count as one (1) forfeit towards being expelled. Once a team forfeits three (3) games, that team will be brought in front of the SSSL Board with the possibility of expulsion and playoff eligibility.
	1. Teams that are expelled for too many forfeits will forfeit all payments already made to the SSSL.
	2. Forfeiting teams will not get credit for any players towards games played for playoff eligibility. All players from opposing team will be given one game credit towards playoff eligibility.
8. League Directors will administer all suspensions that are covered by these Bylaws. All suspensions will be reported to the League Secretary for record keeping.
9. A Suspension committee shall convene for any violation not covered by these Bylaws or if the suspended player wishes to appeal his/her suspension. The committee shall be led by the League Director governing the suspended player. The rest of the committee will consist of the SSSL Board of Directors and the other League Directors. In the result of a tie or the inability to solve the issue with this process, the President of SSSL will cast the deciding vote. Bylaws will be updated based on these decisions the following year to account for these situations.
	1. If any voting member is directly involved (he/she is the suspended player) in the incident or indirectly involved (suspended player does not think the voting member can make a fair decision), they will not be allowed to vote on this Suspension Committee.
	2. SSSL President will determine eligibility of voting members.
	3. SSSL Vice President shall perform duties of SSSL President if President is unavailable or cannot participate in Suspension Committee.
10. Any player or coach who is ejected two (2) times during the course of the season shall face a four (4) game suspension from playing or coaching. A third ejection shall result in a season long suspension. Expelled players must be reinstated by a Suspension Committee prior to being allowed to play the following season.
11. Suspended players may not participate in any SSSL leagues or SSSL tournaments while suspended.
	1. Suspensions from the regular season will carry over into the playoffs.
12. Unsportsmanlike conduct toward the Board of Directors, League Directors, Team Managers, Players or Umpires will not be tolerated.
	1. Verbal and/or written, inclusive of Social Media, threats towards any of these individuals will result in a suspension:
		1. Automatic five (5) game suspension for first offense
		2. Ten (10) games for a second offense
		3. Expulsion for a third offense
	2. Individuals who use threatening actions before, during, or after a game towards any of these individuals will face immediate suspension. Any individual intentionally pushing, shoving, or striking an umpire, player, or league official shall be immediately and indefinitely suspended:
		1. Automatic ten (10) game suspension for first offense
		2. Expulsion for a second offense
	3. All leagues have a chain of command that shall be followed for all complaints. Team Managers and/or players shall inform their League Director of any problems involving other players, teams, field issues, etc. The League Directors will contact the Board of Directors for any issues that cannot be resolved by him/her.
		1. Any complaint that results in updates to these Bylaws shall be reported to the League Secretary.
13. If a Suspension committee is required, this committee will be meet within 72 hours of the incident.
14. A scorebook will be kept by both managers and will be used to determine playoff eligibility. If a player is injured, and does not play in any other leagues outside of the SSSL while injured, they will be given credit for the games they missed while injured.
15. A player must play in half of the regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs. Any team using an ineligible player will forfeit the games he/she played in. A list of eligible players will be released by the League Director before the playoffs.
16. Team trophy will be presented to the winner of the playoffs only.
17. Uniforms:
	1. Team jerseys are required. All Team Players must wear the same jersey.
		1. See Exception for Coed League
	2. Any baseball hat may be worn. Hats are not required.
	3. Shorts will be allowed for all leagues.
18. Bases will be set up by the Home team and at the completion of the last game, stored by the Home team. Bases are located in the field shed.
19. Single wall, aluminum bats that are USSSA approved prior to the start of the season may be used. A list of approved/disapproved bats will be supplied by the league and given to each team captain. This can be found at the League website.
20. League Board of Director Members and League Directors are allowed to umpire in leagues they are not participating in as a player granted they can maintain an impartial separation of duties while performing each of these roles. League officials may lose their right to umpire these games with a simple majority of the League Board of Directors and League Directors.
21. **NO ALCOHOLIC** beverages will be allowed on or near the benches, playing field or parking lot. Players consuming alcohol during the course of a game or after the game may be subject to disciplinary action. Teams will also be subject to expulsion from the league if managers cannot police their teams.
	1. All trash must be placed in a trash bag and disposed of in the trash dumpsters located at the field. Each Team Manager is responsible for their own team.
22. There is an extra foul ball in SSSL in all leagues.
23. When a player plays in a game with one (1) team, he is ineligible to play with any other team during that season. Any violation will result in an automatic forfeit.
24. Metal spikes are not permitted in any league.
25. A twenty (20) run rule will be in effect after three (3) completed innings, fifteen (15) runs after five (5) completed innings and twelve (12) runs after six (6) completed innings. The home team will not be required to get their “last at bat”.
26. Two (2) courtesy runners will be allowed per team. The courtesy runner will be the last out made. If you intend to use a courtesy runner, you must announce prior to your first at bat. Only exception will be if you get injured during the game.
27. If there is a close play, you must make an attempt to avoid the defensive player or you will be called out. Taking out the catcher or any other fielder is not allowed. If there is runner interference on a double play, BOTH runners will be out.
	1. Any contact with the catcher by a runner who does not make an attempt to avoid the catcher will be an automatic out.
	2. A player running into 2nd base on a double play must make an attempt to avoid a thrown ball or this will be considered runner interference. The defensive player does not need to hit the runner with the ball in order for there to be runner interference.
28. Only team managers are allowed to approach umpires with concerns. Team managers must control their players.
29. By a majority vote, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to rule on any situation not specifically described in these Bylaws, or which they deem to be in the interest of the league as it applies to player safety or fairness. Bylaws shall be updated in the following season based on these decisions.

Section 4: Sunday Morning League Additional Rules and Regulations

1. For the Sunday Morning League, they will have an open roster with a maximum of twenty (20) players. Teams are required to submit a copy of their final roster by opening day.
2. The rosters will be frozen on June 1st. Any changes after the final roster has been submitted must have the approval of the SSSL Board of Directors. A list of all rosters will be distributed by the League Director to all Team Managers.
3. The playoffs will be completed before Labor Day Weekend. The regular season games and makeups will be actively managed to account for this.
4. The 8:00 AM games will follow the official starting time on the schedule with a 15-minute grace period. Teams that do not have enough players for the 8:00 AM game will be given until 8:30 to field a team or both games will be forfeited. The 10:00 and 11:00 AM games will not be given a grace period.
	1. Team that forfeits will pay the umpire for both teams unless umpires and/or League Director were notified the night before.
5. Home team will supply 2 new balls per game. Visiting team will supply 2 backup balls per game. Team will supply balls as their team hits home runs or foul balls. If a ball does not come back, a ball will be provided to the umpire by the team that hit it. If team no longer has any balls, they will be available for purchase at the field.
	1. Team Managers are expected to send players after foul balls and homeruns.
6. All teams make the playoffs. Playoff seeding:
7. By regular season record.
8. If two way tie for playoff positions it will be will be determined by:
9. Head-to-head season record
10. Head-to-head season score
11. Coin flip
	* + 1. If multiple teams are involved:
12. Head-to-head season record for all teams involved
13. Head-to-head season score for all teams involved
14. Coin flip
15. One (1) umpire will be utilized for regular season and non-Finals Playoff games. For the FINALS, two (2) umpires will be utilized.
16. Home Run Rule: Six (6) home runs per team. All homeruns after 6 will be an Inning Ending home run.