

WINDSORESSEXCOUNTY SENIOR SPORTS ORGANIZATION
SLO-PITCH LEAGUE

CODE OF CONDUCT 2024

This league is a recreational league for players 55 years of age and older. To emphasize the ‘recreational aspect’ and lessen the overall competitiveness, the league has (where appropriate):

- eliminated the use of paid ‘carded’ umpires
- allowed the overrunning of bases
- allowed the use of courtesy runners
- allowed the ‘lending’ of players to balance the number of participants
- mandated a batting order that includes all of the players present
- selected new teams each spring using a ‘draft’ system
- instituted a playoff format in which all teams make the playoffs

In this spirit of sportsmanship and recreation, it is expected that all participants shall:

- recognize their good fortune to be physically able to participate in the league
- respect the rights of their team mates and their opponents to enjoy the game of slo-pitch in a friendly non-confrontational setting
- be present at all scheduled games wearing the uniform provided
- notify the team manager when a game will be missed
- recognize the inexperience of the ‘volunteer’ umpires and refrain from arguing any calls
- cooperate with their managers and coaches
- make every effort to avoid injury, either to another player or to themselves
- take their turn as an umpire (if necessary) or a base coach – share the load
- use appropriate language both on and off the diamonds

To ensure that all games are played in this spirit of sportsmanship and recreation, managers are encouraged to:

- equalize player participation as much as possible, taking into account the abilities and the wishes of their players
- lend and borrow players from game to game to equate the number of participants on each team

When any member of our league witnesses any unusual event (an injury, an ejection, poor sportsmanship, etc.), he should complete an Incident Report and submit it to any member of the Executive Committee. Similarly, if a member of our league witnesses a player, coach or manager act in a manner that is not in agreement with this Code of Conduct, he should complete an Incident Report and submit it to any member of the Executive Committee. The report will then be forwarded to the Commissioner who will act upon it immediately. If necessary, a meeting of the Discipline Committee will be convened. Every manager and every member of the Executive Committee has a supply of Incident Reports.

Discipline Committee

In the event of serious breaches of this Code of Conduct, a manager, coach, player, umpire or member of the Executive Committee shall complete an "Incident Report" sheet and present it to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will retain all Incident Reports received during the season to keep a "paper trail" of repeat offenders. The Commissioner will review the report and decide on a course of action. For less serious offenses, he will handle the matter himself. If he decides the incident is more serious, he will immediately suspend the offender and schedule a meeting of the Discipline Committee. This "interim" suspension will be in effect until a decision is made by the Discipline Committee.

The Discipline Committee is made up of 5 members of the WECSSO Slo-Pitch Executive. The Commissioner, the President of WECSSO and the secretary will be on the Committee (if available). The others on the Committee will be chosen from the remaining members of the Slo-Pitch Executive. The Commissioner will notify the player and his manager of the suspension and inform them that a meeting has been called. Prior to the meeting, the Commissioner should receive, if possible, a written statement from the accused to give his version of the incident. Any witnesses to the event should also submit a written report to the Commissioner (perhaps on an Incident Report form). In attendance at the meeting should be: the Discipline Committee, the complainant (and a witness) and the accused (and a witness).

The writer of the Incident Report (and his witness) will enter the meeting first. He will explain to the Discipline Committee why the report was submitted and what response they believe is necessary from the Committee. After responding to questions from the Committee, they will be asked to leave. Then the accused (and his witness) will enter the meeting and present their version of the incident. After questioning, they will be dismissed.

The Committee will then review what they have seen and heard and make a decision. The goal is to arrive at a unanimous decision by consensus. This decision is binding.

The subject of the Incident Report is then asked to re-enter the meeting. The Commissioner will announce the decision of the Committee. If a further suspension is involved, the Commissioner will explain to the suspended player that he may not attend the complex during league games or attend any team practices.