



**STATUTES/BYLAWS**

**RULES AND  
REGULATIONS OF  
THE**

**SINT MAARTEN  
UNITED SOFTBALL  
ASSOCIATION 2023-  
2025**

**“MODIFIED  
PITCH/FASTPITCH  
DIVISION”**

**“VETERAN SLOW  
PITCH DIVISION”**

# St. Maarten United Softball Association By-law

## 1. THE BOARD

1.1. The board shall be elected every two (2) years in the General Meeting and must consist of no less than five (5) and no more than thirteen (13) members.

1.2. An elected board must sit for a term of two (2) years.

1.3. If before the term an elected board member resigns, another board member can be appointed to the position until his/her successor has been elected.

1.3.1. The successor must be elected within one (1) month after the board member has resigned from his/her position.

1.4. The board (members) can propose in a general meeting to evict any board member or member, who for one reason or the other violates the SUSA By Laws or Constitution

1.4.1. In accordance with the Constitution, a President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected in his/her respective positions.

1.4.2. The other board members including the Vice President shall be appointed in the first board meeting.

1.5. In the absence of any ruling in the Constitution or Bylaws, the Board will decide, and the decision is final and irrevocable.

1.6. The Executive Board shall consist of the PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER. They shall run the daily affairs of the board.

1.7. The PRESIDENT:

- a) be present at all meetings of the Executive and General Board;
- b) only vote in meetings to break a tie;
- c) represent the Association at all official functions and in/out of court,
- d) may attend meetings of all Committees if he/she so desires,

1.7.1. Together with the Secretary or Assistant Secretary sign all letters and documents leaving the Association. The VICE PRESIDENT shall assume the function and duties of the President in his/her absence.

1.8. The SECRETARY:

- a) Must record the minutes at all meetings of the board and those attended by the Board
- b) Must present a report annually in General meetings,

- c) Must keep records of all registered affiliates and their members,
- d) Shall handle all correspondence of the Board,
- e) Shall together with the President, sign all correspondence leaving the Association,
- f) Shall handle all convocations of the meeting.

1.9. The TREASURER:

- a) is accountable for all financial records of the Association,
  - b) collect and deposit in the account of the Association the following:
    - a. All teams (member associations) contributions, registration fees, and any fees owed to the Association.
    - b. All monetary donations.
  - c) Present a monthly financial report to the board and an annual financial report to the teams.
  - d) Is not allowed to withdraw funds without a second signature of the President or Secretary (a member of the daily Board).
- 1.10. The other members will assist the Board and perform the other duties that are decided by the Board.
- 1.11. All other persons wishing to postulate themselves must do so in writing, at least two (2) weeks before the election, and MUST be supported with name and signature by at least three (3) members of their organization. When running for President, it must be specifically stated. One can run for President as well as Board member. The position winners will be elected by a majority vote. In the event of a tie between two (2) or more candidates, there shall be re-election among those involved. If there is still a tie, those involved will openly be asked who will like the position and the other will then be his/her assistant. Each team (of the previous year) may only delegate one (1) candidate for the Presidency. He/she should campaign and state the reason(s) for making such a choice.
- 1.12. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held upon request of the President or two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board
- 1.13. The notice for meetings and agenda points must meet the teams no later than seventy-two (72) hours or three (3) days before the meeting unless it is an emergency meeting.
- 1.14. Meetings of the Board shall be held at least once a month or upon the request of the members or the President, during the season as meetings may be required.
- 1.15. The notice for the meeting must be received no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting.

1.16. Board members failing to attend to the meetings without notice or valid reason acceptable by the Board, shall be fined ten guilders (Fls.10,00), which must be paid before the next meeting.

1.16.1 Any Board member, without advance notice, failing to attend three (3) consecutive or six (6) separate meetings without a valid reason and acceptable by the Board shall automatically be evicted from his/her position

## 2. COMMITTEES

2.1. There shall be four (4) Committees, namely:

- Disciplinary Committee
- Protest Committee
- Appeal Committee
- Audit Committee

2.2. The Board will decide on the appointment of the various Committees.

2.3. The Committees will function solely as making proposals or giving advice and the Board will honor and respect them in the decision making.

2.4. Each Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members.

2.5. The Board shall pass on the correspondence to the various Committees within twenty-four (24) hours after receiving the documents.

2.6. The Committees may hear all persons they deem necessary, including the Board.

2.7. No Committee shall consist of the same person(s), including Board members. i.e. No person may be on two (2) or more Committees.

2.8. The PROTEST COMMITTEE:

- a) Must discuss the matter with all parties involved in the protest, i.e. umpires and teams
- b) Shall advise the Board within one (1) week after receiving the protest. A team that is not in agreement with the decision of the Protest Committee can appeal to the Board.

2.9. This appeal has to be done by the team within forty-eight (48) hours after receiving the decision. The Board must then submit this decision within twenty-four (24) hours after receiving it to the Committee that will handle the appeal.

2.10. The APPEAL COMMITTEE: Shall handle the matter within one (1) week after receiving notice of said matter.

2.11. The Board should not over-rule a decision of the Protest Committee and/or Appeal Committee prior to having a meeting with the respective Committee(s) concerning the matter.

- 2.12. The DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE: shall implement the penalties vested in the Bylaws on behalf of the Board.
- 2.12.1. Teams who are not in agreement with the penalty can take the case to the Board. The Board will then meet with the Disciplinary Committee and only after that meeting can the Board over-rule the decision of the Committee.
- 2.12.2. The Committee must take a decision with regard to the penalties to be inflicted within five (5) days after the game has been played.
- 2.12.3. A penalty that is not in Bylaws cannot be applied or implemented in a meeting with the respective bodies.
- 2.13. The AUDITING COMMITTEE: shall be appointed by the current Board and shall present annually a report on their financial findings.
- 2.13.1. The Auditing Committee may carry out their task at any and all times, after receiving notice from the Treasurer to examine the financial records of the Association.
- 2.13.2. Only after having reviewed the WBSC Official Softball Rules and discussing them with the Auditing Committee shall the Treasurer receive his / her discharge.
- 2.14. Should there be any inquiry, the cost of the inquiry must be paid by the party requesting the inquiry. This is for the possibility of fraud or any irregularities which are stated in the regulations stipulated in the Constitutions and Bylaws of the Association.
- 2.15. If the person(s) accused is (are) not found guilty, the party requesting the inquiry MUST submit a written and verbal apology. The necessary charges will be brought against person(s) found guilty.

### **3. ANNUAL- AND GENERAL MEETING.**

- 3.1. The ANNUAL MEETING: Ultimately in the month of October, the Annual meeting must be held.
- 3.2. The agenda for this meeting must contain the following agenda points:
- a) Minutes of the last General Meeting
  - b) Financial report by the Treasurer,
  - c) Findings of the auditing Committee,
  - d) Annual report of the secretary,
  - e) Board Elections (After every other Annual Meeting until Sections of these Bylaws are changed).
- 3.3. Invitation to this meeting must reach affiliates two (2) weeks in advance.
- 3.4. The GENERAL MEETING:

- 3.4.1. The General Meeting can be called by the Board or upon request of at least more than half (1/2) of the membership. If after a period of fifteen (15) minutes, the required number of members is not present, the President shall postpone the meeting and advise all members of this in writing.
- 3.4.2. The postponed General Meeting will be rescheduled after a time period of two (2) weeks, at which time any decision taken or voted upon will then be carried out.
- 3.4.3. Members requesting a General Meeting must inform the Board in writing and give the agenda points.
- 3.4.4. The Board will be obliged to call such a meeting within one (1) week after receiving the written request.
- 3.4.5. The Board reserves the right to invite a guest(s) to a General Meeting, provided that it is in the best interest of the Sport.
- 3.4.6. Each team shall and must delegate two (2) members to:
- a) Represent their team;
  - b) Assist the Board in any request for the benefit of the Sport.
- 3.4.7. Each team must inform the Board in writing who will represent them. Changes in representation must reach the Board prior to the commencement of the meeting. Only then can that person represent the team and vote if necessary.
- 3.4.8. Teams failing to attend a General Meeting without notifying the Board will be fined twenty-five guilders (Fls.25.00), which must be paid within one (1) week after notification.
- 3.4.9. Failure to comply with section 3.4.8, the team in question will then be fined and additional twenty-five guilders (Fls.25.00).
- 3.4.10. Teams that do not live up to their obligation(s) will be suspended until all obligation(s) have been complied with. (ALL GAMES WILL BE FORFEITED)
- 3.4.11. Teams will not be allowed to play their scheduled game if forfeited fees are not covered penalties, refer to section 3.4.10.

#### **4. VOTING IN THE GENERAL MEETING**

- 4.1. In the General Meeting, voting will be as follows:
- a) On persons, the voting will be done by secret ballot,
  - b) On matters, the voting will be done by showing of hands.

4.2. When voting in writing, voting manners will be:

- a) For
- b) Against
- c) Blank

4.3. When voting by the showing of hands, voting manners will be:

- a) For
- b) Against
- c) Abstain

4.4. There will be only one (1) vote per affiliate and only members can vote.

## 5. PROTEST

5.1. All Protests must be turned in writing to the Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours after the game, accompanied by a fee of a hundred guilders Fls.100 (refer to protest format).

5.2. Protest(s) should be filed in accordance with the WBSC Official Softball Rules.

5.3. To complete validation of the Protest, the Chief Umpire and Team Representative must sign the scorebook on the sheet of the protested game.

5.4. The protest fee is non-refundable.

5.5. See Section 2.8 PROTEST COMMITTEE for more information.

## 6. APPEAL

6.1. All Appeal(s) must be turned in writing to the Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours, accompanied by a fee of a hundred guilder (Fls.100.00). It will then be passed on to the Appeal Committee within twenty-four (24) hours.

6.2. The Team must clearly state the reason for appealing and the contents of the Protest Committee (attached with a copy of the Protest decision).

6.3. No appeal will be possible after the Board has given its final decision.

6.4. See Section 2.10 APPEAL COMMITTEE for more information.

## 7. TRANSFER

7.1. All PLAYERS having played in the previous competition must:

- a) Have a release (in writing) from the affiliate team for which they played for the previous season before they can play in any other affiliate team.

- b)** A copy of the release must be submitted to the Board.
- 7.2. Member organizations who wish to have (a) player(s) from another member organization transferred to their player's list, can only add that player on the list if he or she (the player) has settled all necessary aspects of their release and or any personal acquired penalties during the season in order to make the transfer proceed smoothly.
- 7.3. Provided that the affiliate team has its Bylaws and that the Board of the Sint Maarten United Softball Association is aware of it, (copy must be given to the Secretary), only then will the Board assist in any matter(s) pertaining to the player(s) release.

## **8. COMPETITION IN GENERAL**

- 8.1. The St Maarten United Softball Association shall annually organize a Softball Competition in:
- 8.1.1. Fast Pitch: Male & Female
  - 8.1.2. Modified Pitch: Male & Female
  - 8.1.3. Slow Pitch: Veteran League
- 8.2. The WBSC Official International Softball Rules and the Bylaws of the St. Maarten United Softball Association shall be the guidelines for the Competition.
- 8.3. All competition games will be played according to the current WBSC Official International Softball Rules.
- 8.4. Official Rules of Softball 2022-2025 Slow Pitch, Official Rules of Softball Fast Pitch 2022-2025 (Incl. Modified Pitch) are indicated in all Softball Playing Rules of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC).
- 8.5. There shall be no bunting in the Veteran Slow Pitch & Male Modified Pitch Competition.  
Penalty: The batter is called out and no runners may advance.
- 8.6. The Board will appoint a COMPETITION LEADER and an Assistant.
- 8.7. The Competition Leader will be in charge of:
- a)** Regulating all competitions and international games organized by the St Maarten United Softball Association;
  - b)** See that there are balls and scorebook(s) present and that the field is marked before the first game of the day;
  - c)** Control of the games and anything else that will make the game run smoothly. The Assistant Competition Leader has the same duties. Any other Board member must assist in their absence.



## **9. UMPIRES & SCORERS**

- 9.1. The St. Maarten United Softball Association aims to have only certified Umpires/Scorers, to umpire & score the competition; also providing individuals the opportunity to become Umpires/ Scorers, to uphold the highest quality of the softball sport.
- 9.2. If there are no certified umpires/scorers appointed Umpires/Scorers should be as neutral as possible. Those Umpires/Scorers will be chosen by the Competition Leader(s) or Board Members or Committee Members on duty.
- 9.3. Players from teams not scheduled to play may also umpire/score a game. Those Umpires/Scorers will be chosen by the Competition Leader(s) or Board Members or Committee Members on duty.
- 9.4. All Umpires/ Scorers must be in possession and be familiar with the rulings of the Official Umpire Manual and the Official Softball Rules. Namely, the WBCS Umpire Manual Fastpitch/ Slow-pitch and the Official Softball Rules see Section 8.
- 9.5. Sections 9.2 and 9.3 will remain in effect until the St. Maarten United Softball Association has established an Umpire/Scorers committee with all certified Umpires/ Scorers and/or receives guidance and assistance for Umpires/Scorers from the St. Maarten Softball Baseball Federation.
- 9.6. The Umpires/Scorers will receive a stipend of \$10 per game. Both Umpires and Scorers will be provided with water per game.

## **10. PLAYERS**

- 10.1. Active players are referred to players that are on teams registered to the St. Maarten United Softball Association.
- 10.2. All teams or active players must show proof of Identification (Copy ID/Passport) an insurance policy to the Board prior to the start of the competition.
- 10.3. The minimum number of players per team is fifteen (15).
- 10.4. The maximum number of active players per team is twenty (25). This does not include the Managers and Coaches if they are not players. Teams are allowed a manager and two coaches.

## **11. RULES FAST/ MODIFIED PITCH DIVISIONS**

- 11.1. Referred to section 8.4 of the Official Rules of Softball 2022-2025 FAST Pitch.

Junior players (under the age of 18) are highly recommended to wear masks while pitching.

- 11.1.1. Any player who signs on two (2) different team list will be penalized with a fine of one hundred and fifty guilders (Fls.150,00), and if the team has paid any fee for said player, he/she must refund the full amount to the team in question that paid said fee for said player.
- 11.1.2. Player(s) may be added to the team's list after the start of the competition. No players can be added to a team list after the first round. These players **MUST** have played in at least three (3) games and **MUST** have played at least 3 outs per game to be eligible to play in the playoffs.
- 11.1.3. Once registered with a Team and has/have played in at least one (1) official game of the St. Maarten United Softball Association competition, the player(s) cannot change from team during the competition. Penalty: if such a player is caught during the game, they become an illegal player, the team with which he/she is playing will lose the game by default.
- 11.1.4. A player can change Teams if he/she has/has NOT played any games in the pre-season. A player may only change Teams before the end of the First round, provided with a formal request adhering to comply to the rules of the SUSA.
- 11.1.5. MODIFIED & FAST PITCH PLAYER
- 11.1.5.1. The minimum age to play in the SUSA Modified & Fast Pitch League is thirteen years (13). To stimulate the development of softball amongst the youth, SUSA will on partnership/collaboration agreements with the youth leagues on St. Maarten.
- 11.1.5.2. A player who has been ejected from the game will automatically be penalized by not being allowed to play in the game of his/her team immediately following that of the ejection. The player may not accompany the team for that game and is required to leave the dugout. Penalty: Player must pay a fine of seventy-five guilders (Fls.75,00) and/or sit out one (1) game because of the ejection. Refer to section 10.6 MISBEHAVIOR & PENALTIES
- 11.1.5.3. The penalty is based on the infraction and will be determined by disciplinary committee refer to section 2.12 Disciplinary Committee & section 10.6 Misbehavior & Penalties.

## 12. RULES VETERAN SLOW PITCH DIVISION

### 12.1. VETS FEMALE DIVISION

- 12.1.1. Referred to section 8.4 of the Official Rules of Softball 2022-2025 Slow Pitch
- 12.1.2. Every inning each team is permitted to play with a designated batter, one (1) extra batter, and one (1) short-fielder.

- 12.1.3. The extra batter will only be allowed to bat and won't be allowed to play on the field at that time.
- 12.1.4. "Re-entry" is permitted for players on the starting line-up, including the designated batter and extra batter.
- 12.1.5. On any "pass-ball or "wild pitch" the runner is allowed to advance up to and including third (3rd) base. The runner may not advance to home on a "pass-ball" or "wild pitch" Pass ball is when the pitcher pitches a ball, and the catcher did not field the ball. If after the 3rd strike, the catcher did not catch or field the ball, the batter can advance on his own risk if 1st base is not occupied or if it is more than 1 out.
- 12.1.6. Intentional base on ball, the plate/chief umpire will be notified by the pitcher, catcher or manager and the batter will go to the base.
- 12.1.7. If a batter intentionally attempts to bunt "slash" or "fake bunt" she is out by rule.
- 12.1.8. Stealing is not allowed. The runner that steals will be out by ruling
- 12.1.9. Only slow-pitch and modified slow is allowed. (It is not permitted for Pitching fast or Sling Shot.)
- 12.1.10. It is not permitted for any team to give up a game, not before or after that the team started to play the game. If the team is responsible for this infraction the team will get a quantity of 10 runs against them.
- 12.1.11. Could play with nine (9) players minimum and ten (10) players maximum. There will be 10 players on the field and the 10th player can be placed anywhere. There are 11 batters 10 that is playing and batting and an extra batter that only bats. Could reduce to 9 minimum by major force, but the player that left the game and there's no replacement for her, will be considered an automatic out when it's their turn to bat.
- 12.2. FEMALE VETERAN SLOW PITCH PLAYERS
- 12.2.1. All players must be forty (40) years and up with the exception of 2 players between the ages of 31 to 34 years and 3 players between the ages of 35-39 years that will be permitted per team. NOTE: Each team may consist of 25 players, however only two (2) players between the ages of 31-34 years may play at a time.
- 12.2.2. MALE VETERAN Division
- 12.2.2.1. It is permitted to play with an assigned hitter, extra hitter, and one short-fielder.
- 12.2.2.2. The assigned and extra hitter will only bat and can't enter the field.

- 12.2.2.3. "Re-entry" is permitted for players on the starting line-up, including assigned and extra hitter.
- 12.2.2.4. On "pass-ball or "wild pitch" the runner can advance as far as 3 rd. Pass ball is when the pitcher pitches a ball, and the catcher did not field the ball. If after the 3rd strike the catcher did not catch or field the ball, the batter can advance on his own risk if 1st base is not occupied or if it is more than 1 out.
- 12.2.2.5. Intentional base on ball, the plate/chief umpire will be notified by the pitcher, catcher or manager and the batter will go to the base.
- 12.2.2.6. If batter intentionally attempts to bunt "slash" or "fake bunt" he is out by rule.
- 12.2.2.7. Stealing is not allowed. The runner that steals will be out by ruling
- 12.2.2.8. Only slow-pitch and modified slow is allowed.
- 12.2.2.9. It is not permitted for any team to give up a game, not before or after that the team started to play the game. If the team is responsible for this infraction the team will get a quantity of 10 runs against them. In the case of a game is forfeited, the team or teams will receive 10 runs against them.
- 12.2.2.10. Could play with 9 players minimum and 12 players maximum. Could reduce to minimum by major force, but the player that left the game it will be an out when it's his turn to bat.
- 12.2.3. MALE VETERAN SLOW PITCH PLAYERS
- 12.2.3.1. All players for the 50+ Male league must have 50 years and up with 2 players of age 49 years will be permitted per team. 30 players per team. Only one of the 49-year-olds may play at any time. Players for the 50+ Female league must have 50 years and up, 4 players of 48 years and up will be permitted per team. NOTE: Only one 48, two 49 and nine 50 + can play at the same time. Each team may consist of 25 players.

### 12.3. MISBEHAVIOR & PENALTIES

The following penalties shall be levied by the Disciplinary Committee and/or the Board for misbehavior by players, Managers, and coaches. For the following "players" shall also mean player managers and players. All fines or penalties must be paid or executed before the person/player in question may participate in the following the next eligible game.

12.3.1. **Misbehavior A:** Showing up of the umpires, board members, committee member(s), and /or appointed by the Board (e.g. selection managers, coaches and trainers or representatives, etc. before during or after the game/training resulting or not in ejection by the umpire(s).

Penalty:

- First offense: suspension for one (1) official game.
- By repetition: suspension for two (2) official games or other penalty determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

12.3.2. **Misbehavior B:** use of vulgar language towards the umpires, board members, committee-member(s) and /or appointed by the Board (selection managers, coaches, trainers or representatives) before during or after the game/training resulting in an ejection or not in ejection by the umpire(s).

Penalty:

- First offence: suspension for three 2 official games.
- By repetition: suspension for 3 official games or for the season depending on the infraction (including playoff and finals).
- Depending on the infraction other penalty can be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

12.3.3. **Misbehavior C:** taking a fighting position towards a player, towards the umpires, board members, committee-member(s) and /or appointed by the Board (selection managers, coaches, trainers or representatives) before during or after the game/training will result in an ejection by the umpire(s).

- First offence: suspension for one (1) game.
- By repetition: suspension for two (2) official games.
- Depending on the infraction other penalties can be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

12.3.4. **Misbehavior D:** fighting with a player, towards the umpires, board members, committee-member(s) and /or appointed by the Board (selection managers, coaches, trainers or representatives) before during or after the game/training will result in an ejection by the umpire(s).

- Before or after the game will result in penalty.

- During the game inside or outside the playing field will result in ejecting.  
Penalty:
  - First offence: suspension for mandatory three (3) official games.
  - By repetition: suspension for five (5) official games.
  - Depending on the infraction other penalties can be determined by the Disciplinary Committee

12.3.5. **Misbehavior E:** committing of violent acts against a player, umpire(s), Board members, committee member(s), and /or appointed by the Board (selection managers, coaches, and trainers or representatives) before, during, or after the game/training resulting or not in ejection by the ump

- Penalty:
- First offense: suspension for one (1) year.
  - By repetition: suspension for a minimum of three (3) years and may result in banning for life.
  - Depending on the infraction other penalties can be determined by the Disciplinary Committee and or any legal entity if deemed necessary.

12.3.6. All incidents and infractions (misbehavior) have to be reported to the Board by the umpire within twenty-four (24) hours after the event.

12.3.7. The Board, upon receiving the report from the Umpire, will send it to the Disciplinary Committee within twenty-four (24) hours.

12.3.8. The Disciplinary Committee, after receiving the report from the Board, has five (5) days to make a final decision and report back to the Board.

12.3.9. The board after receiving the initial Misbehavior complaint, must ensure that the persons(s) involved are notified of the final decision within seven (7) days.

### 13. GAME TIME

13.1. The maximum duration of a game is seven (7) innings. (See WBSC OFFICIAL SOFTBALL RULES Rule Book).

13.2. The maximum time limit of a game is one hour and thirty minutes (1hr 30min) or at least five (5) completed innings.

13.3. Beyond the fifth (5th) inning, no inning may be opened if there are five (5) minutes of playing time left.

- 13.4. The game will be considered an official game after
- a) Three (3) or more completed innings have been played,
  - b) The mercy ruling is implemented (See WBSC OFFICIAL SOFTBALL RULES Rule Book).
- 13.5. The number of players per team needed to start a game is nine (9). In case a team does not have the required number of players to start the game, a waiting period of fifteen (15) minutes will be given to the team in question after the Umpire has called for the start of the game. After the fifteen (15) minutes waiting period, the uncompleted team will lose the game by default. If the team in question does not present a line-up within the allotted 15-minute period. The team will lose the game by default.
- 13.6. The penalty first offense for a default/forfeit game is a hundred and fifty guilders (Fls.150,00). This must be paid to the Treasurer or Assistant at least twenty-four (24) hours before the team's next scheduled game. Penalty: The team will not be allowed to play the following scheduled game(s) and hereby loses the game(s) by default.
- 13.7. The penalty second offense for a default/forfeit game is two hundred and fifty guilders (Fls.250,00). This must be paid to the Treasurer or Assistant at least twenty-four (24) hours before the team's next scheduled game. Penalty: The team will not be allowed to play the following scheduled game(s) and hereby loses the game(s) by default.
- 13.8. The third offense for the default game is four hundred guilders (Fls.400,00) and every forfeited after that will come with a penalty of four hundred guilders (Fls. 400,00). This must be paid to the Treasurer or Assistant at least twenty-four (24) hours before the team's next scheduled game. If the team decides to pull out of the competition. The team will have to cover its debt before registering for the next season.
- 13.9. If a team is expelled before completing the first (1st) round, all games played will be nullified, and also the games in any other round(s).

#### 14. UNIFORMS

- 14.1. All teams must be in complete uniforms (**same color and design shirt, pants, socks, baseball cap, or visor cap**) to play, as well as on the field before games (i.e., during the warm-up period). Penalty: one (1) warning, after which the player(s) will be ejected from the game or the playing field. If the player does not comply with the warning, and the player is ejected, the player will be fined one hundred guilders (Fls.100.00). Playing field is considered within the boundaries of the

fence. This rule will come into play as of the beginning of the Sint Maarten United Softball Association 2024 season.

14.1.1. In the case of a team not being able to comply to the Uniform regulation a formal written letter and request must be sent to the board.

14.2. **No one is allowed to use METAL SPIKES for playing. Penalty: player(s) is ejected from the game without warning and player(s) will be fined fifty guilders (Fls.50.00).** This must be paid to the Treasurer at least twenty-four (24) hours before the team's next scheduled game or will not be allowed to play.

14.3. For International games, this will be reconsidered. However, any team that plans to bring in a team must inform the team of the non-use of metal spikes.

## 15. COMPETITION

15.1. The Competition will be played in the following manner:

a) The number of rounds will be decided upon and forwarded to the team representatives before the start of the Competition

b) ADD: All teams must pay all dues/fees to the St. Maarten United Association's Treasurer prior to the start of the annual Softball competition. That deadline payment will be decided in the general meeting prior to the start of the season. Penalty: The team(s) in question will not be allowed to play in the Competition

15.2. DOUBLE – HEADER

15.2.1. Double-header is considered when the same two teams have to play against each other in two consecutive games on the same day. There will be twenty (20) minutes break after the first game ends, before the second game starts

15.3. PLAY-OFFS

15.3.1. If there are four (4) or more teams in the season, the semifinals will be: First (1<sup>st</sup>) place versus Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>), and the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place versus Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place. The series will be the best of three (3) games.

15.3.2. If there are Three (3) teams in the season in the semi-finals; the First (1<sup>st</sup>) place team will receive a bye (sit and wait), while Second (2) place and Third (3) play in a best of five (3) game three series.

15.3.3. In the finals the series goes best of 5 games.



15.3.4. If for whatever reason, such as rain postponed, a game was not played, the Competition Leader(s) and President will decide for the smooth running of the Competition in conjunction with the respective team representatives.

## **16. GENERAL**

16.1. Before the start of any Competition of the St. Maarten United Softball Association, all teams, that took part in the previous competition, must be presented with a Budget and financial statements and the Activity plans. These must be approved by means of signing the list that is attached to the original Budget and Activity Plan. All new teams must adhere to whatever decision results from the vote by the affiliate Teams.

16.2. There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages and no smoking (cigarettes, cigars, vape pens, or cannabis) on the playing field or in the dugouts.

16.2.1. NOTE: the SUSA bar will prohibit the selling of alcoholic beverages to players during warm-up and game time.

16.3. Teams that will be TRAVELLING or that will be HOSTING team(s) locally tournaments, must inform the SUSA board prior to the season of their scheduled events in writing. Failure to comply can be suspended from the Association for one (1) season.

## **17. FINAL STIPULATIONS**

17.1. In any and all cases where the RULES (Bylaws and WBSC OFFICIAL SOFTBALL RULES) do not apply, the Board, along with the respective Committee(s) will decide.

17.2. If a player is listed on a Teams list before the start of the competition, and wishes to change Teams before the first-round ends, that player can do so in writing and would have to pay a fee of (fls 150.00) to the Treasurer of the St. Maarten United Softball Association to change teams.

## 18. AMENDMENTS

- 1) Articles 1.4 and 1.5 were combined and are now 1.4, 1.4.1 and 1.4.2. To ensure transparency and integrity during a re-election process the Secretary and treasurer will also be determined/ voted on at the General meeting with the President. The other board member including a Vice-president was added which will be determined after the 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting with the elected executive board.
- 2) Article 1.13 was removed, and the new board structure will only be functioning with one Treasure.
- 3) Article 1.20.1 was removed, board members will volunteer their time and won't be receiving any stipend for the 2024 Softball season, as the SUSA is completely focused on revamping, investing, and developing the sport of Softball in Sint Maarten. However, SUSA aims to utilize and contribute these funds to further enhance and offer training and courses to all members.
- 4) Article 2.0 Committees: One Board member will have the task of being the League's Team Representative. The separate committees for each division (Male, Female, Vets league, etc.) have been combined.
- 5) Article 3.1. The AGM has been shifted to an earlier month (October of the season year) to provide the board (new board) and teams ample time to prepare for the new season which is to start in January of the following year.
- 6) Article 3.4.8. The fine for not attending the annual AGM has been amended to Fls. 25,00.
- 7) Article 8.1. SUSA incorporates three softball divisions, Fast, Modified, and Slowpitch (veteran's).
- 8) Article 8.2. All SUSA Division will adhere to the WBSC International Official Softball Rules, referred to in 8.4
- 9) Article 9. To uphold high standards and fair play of the game, SUSA has amended the articles to ensure that the highest quality of umpires and scores will be in action during the games. Various criteria were added to article 9 (9.1,9.2,9.3).
- 10) Article 9.6. The stipends and compensations for the Umpires and Scores have been specified and adjusted.
- 11) Article. 11. The age of the players eligible to compete in the Modified/Fast Pitch Division Male or female was extended to 13 years.
- 12) Article 12.3 Misbehavior & Penalties was rewritten for deeper clarifications. Also, an addition has been made which highlights the ability of the disciplinary committee to determine a penalty depending on the magnitude of the infraction.
- 13) Article 16.2. The banning of selling alcohol to players during warm-up and game time has been added to the 16.2.1.