

Dirt in the Skirt Barrie 2026

TOURNAMENT RULES & PLAYER INFORMATION

NSA Slo-Pitch rules apply unless specifically modified below.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN Please have a team captain or rep come to the Pavilion HQ when you arrive before your first game to check in and grab your team package. Every player on your roster must be registered in the NSA system and have a rank. It only takes a few minutes to sign up at <https://nsacanada.ca/player-registration/>

Tournament Rules & The DITS Vibe

1. Start of Game

Teams must be ready to play with a completed lineup card 5 minutes before their scheduled game time. One copy to the ump, one to the walk-up song person if at a featured diamond. JERSEY NUMBERS MUST BE LISTED!

Failure to do so may result in a forfeit at the umpire's discretion.

2. Game Length

Games are 1 hour maximum.

No new inning will begin after 50-55 minutes, as per umpire's discretion (7 full innings for semis & finals).

The umpire's watch is official.

Staying on schedule is essential to ensure every team receives their full tournament experience.

3. Starting Count

Games will begin with a 1 Ball, 1 Strike count.

4. Bunting & Sliding

Bunting and sliding ARE permitted.

(We encourage it! 🤪🔥)

5. Defensive Players Must Bat

If you take the field on defense, you must be included in the batting lineup.

Unlimited defense is not permitted.

6. Lineups & Late Players

Teams may begin with 9 players without taking an automatic out.

If your 10th player arrives after the game begins, they may immediately enter the lineup.

Players cannot be added unless they appear on the original lineup card or are listed as a spare.

7. Automatic Outs

Automatic outs must be declared when the lineup card is submitted.

Players may be scratched from the lineup prior to their first at-bat.

8. Injured Players

Players injured during the game will not become an automatic out.

The injured player may not return during that game.

If a team drops below 8 players, the game will be considered a forfeit.

An injury report must be completed by the umpire & forwarded to the UIC.

9. Courtesy Runners

Each team is permitted 3 courtesy runners per game.

Pitcher courtesy with 2 outs remains in effect and does not count toward your three courtesy runners.

Once a substitute has been used as a courtesy runner, a different eligible substitute must be used for the next courtesy runner whenever possible.

***Buy extra courtesy runner tickets at HQ for \$5 each ;)**

10. Pitching

Pitching masks are mandatory.

Pitching distance is between 50ft and 60ft.

Pitching height: 6 ft to 12 ft arc.

Wooden strike boards will be used.

11. Base Running & Sliding

Standard 65ft base paths.

Tagging is permitted at any base.

Commitment line is 22 feet from home.

Scoring line extends from home plate to the fence.

Sliding is permitted at every base.

There will be NO IPDS (runners starting from the fence).

Bats must have a USSSA/NSA thumbprint (exception wooden softball bats). Use of an illegal bat will result in the batter being out. Second occurrence to the same team will result in an out and ejection.

12. Defensive Play

Outfielders may throw directly to first base.

Teams may use a 5-player infield.

Infielders must begin on the dirt.

13. Scoring & Mercy Rule

Maximum:

+5 runs per inning.

The trailing team may match and exceed that limit when appropriate.

Mercy Rule:

15 runs after 5 innings (4½ if home team.)

14. Home & Away

Round Robin: Coin flip determines Home/Away.

Playoffs: Higher seed is Home Team.

15. Round Robin Standings

Round Robin games may end in a tie.

Standings are determined by:

• Wins • Ties • True Plus/Minus

16. Playoff Games

Playoff games must have a winner.

International Tie Breaker applies.

The last out begins on second base with one out.

17. Scorecards

Winning team must return the signed umpire lineup card to Tournament HQ within 15 minutes of game completion.

18. Featured Games with Walk Up Songs

Please make sure your walk up songs are submitted. We want to provide the best experience for our players. Name, Jersey #, Artist & Song (we cannot do timestamps for Niagara walk up songs, sorry)

Please submit a copy of your lineup at least 5-10 minutes before the game to the walk up song volunteer, and if possible please have your scorekeeper sitting close to them to better assist in making sure the right songs are being played! This will enhance the experience for everyone!

19. Player Eligibility

At Dirt in the Skirt, our mission has always been to celebrate women through sport, friendship, empowerment and community. We strive to create an environment where every player feels respected, supported and welcome.

DITS is committed to operating in accordance with applicable Canadian federal and provincial human rights legislation, including protections relating to gender identity and gender expression.

In Ontario, the **Ontario Human Rights Code** protects individuals from discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression. In keeping with these protections, **transgender women are eligible to participate in DITS women's leagues and tournaments**, subject to the same general registration requirements, competition rules and codes of conduct as all other participants.

We recognize that conversations surrounding eligibility, fairness and inclusion in women's sports can involve different perspectives. DITS remains committed to listening respectfully, prioritizing player safety, maintaining fair competition and fulfilling our responsibilities under applicable law.

All participants are expected to treat fellow players, officials, volunteers and organizers with dignity and respect. Harassment, bullying or discrimination will not be tolerated.

Our goal remains the same: to bring women together, celebrate the game we love and create a positive, empowering experience for everyone involved.

Uniform Policy

Official Dirt in the Skirt uniforms are mandatory.

No exceptions except under extraordinary circumstances approved by Tournament Headquarters.

If a dress is damaged or another unexpected issue occurs, please visit Tournament HQ.

We have a limited supply of spare random team dresses available for emergency situations.

All other Rules shall be used from the 2026 NSA Canada Rule book. <https://nsacanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NSA-Rule-Book-2026-REDUCED-1.pdf>

Rules Protest

If a team feels that a rule has been misinterpreted, they have the option to protest. This does NOT apply to judgement calls.

- 1 - The captain must protest before the next pitch is thrown.
- 2 - The captain must provide the umpire with \$100 cash.
- 3 - The umpire stops the game, contacts the UIC/convenor immediately.
- 4 - The UIC/convenor either upholds or overrules the call and then the game proceeds (expect a delay).
- 5 - If the call is upheld, the protest fee is kept by the tournament.
- 6 - If the call is overturned, it is corrected on the diamond and the \$100 is refunded to the captain.

Roster Protests

We honestly feel that there should be no need for this but when using rosters, we need to provide this option to teams that feel they are being cheated. If you feel that a player on an opposing team is either not on their roster or not ranked properly follow this procedure (Note it is the same as NSA)

- 1 - A team must submit a \$100 deposit to protest a player rank. (one player per protest).
- 2 - All protests must be submitted before the first pitch of the fourth inning.
- 3 - The team protests to the umpire with the players name that they are protesting and gives the ump the \$100.
- 4 - The umpire calls the UIC/convenor right away, asking them to come to the diamond and proceed with the game.
- 5 - The umpire gives the convenor the information.
- 6 - The UIC/convenor will refer to the team roster, and any other information available. Be aware that any player may be asked to show I.D. as proof of their identity. If the protest is upheld then the team protesting is refunded their \$100, the player protested is ejected, and the team defaults the game. If the protest is not upheld the game is recorded as official. Note: If proof is not found then it is up to the protesting team to provide the proof required.

Our Culture Matters

Zero Tolerance Policy

Dirt in the Skirt exists to celebrate women, community, sportsmanship and charity.

We have zero tolerance for:

- Abuse toward any person at Dirt in the Skirt • Bullying • Harassment • Intimidation • Excessive negativity

Our umpires have been instructed to immediately eject any individual whose behaviour negatively impacts the tournament atmosphere.

This includes:

Players

Coaches

Spectators

Anyone attending the event.

Ejections may also result in:

- Suspension for the remainder of the tournament
- Removal from the sports complex
- Suspension from future Dirt in the Skirt events

Please remember...

Leave any personal differences at home.

Play hard.

Compete fiercely.

Lift each other up.

Help create the positive, empowering environment that makes Dirt in the Skirt so special.

Tournament Activities

Sliding Queen

Every legitimate slide during a live play earns a Sliding Queen Ticket from the umpire.

Write your name on the back and drop it in the Sliding Queen box at Tournament HQ.

One lucky player will be crowned the 2026 Sliding Queen at the awards ceremony!

Umpire of the Tournament

Each team receives one vote.

Please vote at Tournament HQ after your final game.

Best Dressed Team

Spectators will vote throughout the tournament.

Show us your best 1940s style!

Top 3 teams announced at Awards Ceremony and receives \$100 off one 2027 DITS Team fee.

Team Photos

One of our volunteer photographers will get your team pic after one of your games. If you haven't had a team pic taken by Sunday afternoon, let HQ know and they will make arrangements.

Awards Ceremony

Starts shortly after the upper and lower finals are complete.

Most Important Rules

- ✓ Have fun.
- ✓ Be kind.
- ✓ Support one another.
- ✓ Dance and sing your hearts out!
- ✓ Crush balls.
- ✓ Drop bunts.

- ✓ Cheer loudly.
- ✓ Slide all you want!
- ✓ Celebrate women.  