



**STANDING ORDERS AND  
REGULATIONS GOVERNING PLAY**  
2020 Edition

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## A) LSL STANDING ORDERS

### 1) DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LSL COMMITTEE

- **Director:** Chairperson of all general and committee meetings in a non-voting capacity except for casting vote in the event of a tied decision. Ex-officio of all sub-committees. LSL representative at BSF / BSUK meetings. Signatory to Bank Account.
- **Secretary:** Responsible for day to day administration and correspondence for LSL, including keeping records of minutes at all meetings and forwarding copies to all committee meetings, maintaining contact lists. Signatory to Bank Account.
- **Treasurer:** Responsible for preparing the annual budget and financial statements; advises and guides LSL Committee on all financial matters. Receives membership fees. Presents report at AGM. Signatory to Bank Account.
- **Technical Officer:** Responsible for liaising with BSF / BASU Technical Officer and to inform LSL committee on all rule/equipment changes; receives and adjudicates on protests
- **Umpiring Officer:** Oversees league umpire training, certification and mentoring.
- **Fixtures Officer:** Responsible for creating fixture programmes for all divisions, including end of season play-offs, ensuring umpires allocated to all games.
- **Tournaments Officer:** Responsible for arranging all LSL tournaments.
- **New Teams / Players Liaison Officer:** Responsible for the coordination and liaison of all new teams and players approaching the league.
- **Development Officer:** Responsible for coordination of development sessions and team / player skills development requirements.
- **Communications Officer:** Responsible for managing website form and content and Committee communications via email and social media.
- **Social Officer:** Organises LSL annual parties and events.
- **General Officers:** To support, as and when needed, the other members of the Committee in discharging their responsibilities and to represent the interests of the section of the league (Majors or Minors) for which they were elected. General Officers may also be mandated by the Committee to carry out specific projects on behalf of the LSL.
- **Community Engagement Officer:** In conjunction with the communication officer, to expand the League's communication through digital and social media and events.

### 2) LEAGUE AND DIVISION STRUCTURE

- a) The League shall be divided into two sections: Majors and Minors.
- b) The League considers all teams playing in the Majors to be of 'A' or 'B' grade competency (with regard to BSF team grading) and all teams playing in the Minors to be of 'C' or 'D' grade competency. Non-LSL tournament organisers may be informed of this to assist in placing LSL teams in appropriate tournament divisions.



- c) New teams entering the League may join either the bottom Majors division or the bottom Minors division. Teams wishing to join the bottom Majors division must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that they are a 'B' grade team. This may be done through a supervised training session, a supervised friendly game and/or consultation with the team's players and LSL players familiar with the team. The Committee shall make this determination as soon as possible and in any event prior to the deadline for paying League affiliation fees, to avoid delay in finalising the divisional structure and schedule for the season.
- d) The number of divisions within each of the Majors and Minors, and the number of teams within each division, shall be determined by the Committee as soon as possible following the team registration deadline and evaluation of any new teams wishing to enter the Majors, subject to the following:
  - (i) The Committee shall aim to keep the number of teams per division at 8, which allows for a 14-game season with every team playing each other twice on a home-and-away basis.
  - (ii) So that the League can grow, the bottom division in the Majors and Minors may expand to more than 8 teams or may be divided into two smaller divisions.
- e) Procedures regarding end-of-season promotions, relegations and playoffs (if necessary) are set out in section 12 of the Regulations Governing Play.

### **3) REGISTRATION OF TEAMS**

- a) Each season, all new and existing teams must register with the League.
- b) Registration forms will be circulated by the Committee at least two months before the start of the season with a deadline for completion.
- c) Registration forms typically will seek the following information:
  - (iii) Name of team;
  - (iv) Name, address, email address and telephone number of at least two team Organisers;
  - (v) Number of years in the League (which is used to determine affiliation fees);
  - (vi) Preferred venue and day of the week for home games;
  - (vii) Confirmation that a team has enough trained umpires to discharge the team's umpiring duties;
  - (viii) For teams in the lowest Minors Division, whether the team has a development affiliation with a higher division team for purposes of the exception to the rule against playing down; and
  - (ix) For new teams, whether entry is sought to the Majors or Minors.
- d) Changes, additions and/or deletions to the registered details must be submitted to the LSL Secretary as soon as practicably possible.
- e) In cases of a pitch/home night being oversubscribed, the League will grant first right of refusal to the team that had the pitch/day combination in the previous season.
- f) Registration does not guarantee entry into the League for new teams – the Committee will seek reassurance from new team organisers that they understand and are prepared to meet the requirements of participation in the league and have enough players to sustain a team through the season. The Committee will also take into account division numbers and scheduling practicalities when considering new team applications.



#### 4) AFFILIATION FEES

- a) Each season, affiliation fees will be set by the Committee and published on the registration form along with a deadline for payment.
- b) The divisional structure and schedule for the season cannot be finalised until all teams' fees are paid. A team's failure to pay the full affiliation fee on time may result in immediate suspension or termination of membership, in accordance with clause 4 of the LSL Constitution.
- c) Fees for participation in LSL tournaments will be charged and collected separately.

#### 5) FILLING VACANCIES LEFT BY DEPARTING TEAMS

- a) If the departure of a team from League means that, even after giving effect to end-of-season promotion/relegation and the addition of new teams qualifying to join the Majors, a division intended to have 8 teams will be left with 7 or fewer, the vacant spot(s) will be filled as follows:
  - (i) the Committee will offer the vacant spot to six teams based on where they finished in the preceding season, ranked in this order (see Section 12(k)):
    - a. the team that finished second to last in the departing team's division;
    - b. the team that finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the division below;
    - c. the team that finished last in the departing team's division;
    - d. the team that finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the division below;
    - e. the team that finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the division below;
    - f. the team that finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the division below;
  - (ii) the highest ranked of these teams to accept the offer will take the vacant spot;
  - (iii) if none of these teams accepts the offer, the vacant spot will be filled by the highest ranked team;
  - (iv) the same process will then be repeated to fill the vacancy left by the team that has been 'promoted'.
- b) The Committee shall commence and conclude this process as soon as possible in order to avoid delays finalising the division structure and schedule for the season.

#### 6) YOUTH TEAMS

- a) BSF minimum age regulations apply to all League games.
- b) A team whose registered players are all eighteen (18) years of age or younger as of 1 September of the preceding year, and which has on its register an adult team manager and adult qualified softball coach (who may be the same person), may apply to be recognised as a "Youth Team".
- c) Youth Teams will receive the following benefits:
  - (i) No League affiliation fees;
  - (ii) All games played at their home ground;
  - (iii) No requirement to provide umpires; and
  - (iv) Special player eligibility rules as follows.
- d) Youth Teams can augment their team for each game with up to 3 adult players if they are not rostered to another LSL team in a higher division (save in accordance with the development exception to the rule against playing down, described below).
- e) Youth Teams may only gain league points for games in which they have complied fully with the rules for player eligibility. In situations where a Youth Team is unable to field an eligible team, it may field ineligible players (i.e. adults from teams in a higher division or more than 3 adult players). This fact must be declared to the Umpire(s) and opposing captain at the start



of the game. Provided that the game is played to its normal conclusion, the opposing team will be awarded a victory regardless of the result.

- f) Youth Teams are only permitted in the lowest Minors division.
- g) Youth Teams finishing in a promotion spot must choose between staying in the lowest Minors division or giving up their Youth Team status to be promoted.

## 7) GENDER INCLUSION

- a) We recognise that people defining as gender non-binary are defined as neither male nor female.
- b) We recognise that trans\* players can identify anywhere along the gender spectrum.
- c) For the purposes of these variations, we are defining genders as female (F), male (M) and non-binary (NB).
- d) As a variation to WBSC rules, LSL regulations permit teams to play with one or two players missing. These are variations to Section B, subsection 12(a):
- e) Please refer to Rules for Gender Inclusion found here for more details:  
<https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/b9g.605.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-GLSML-inclusive-rules-FINAL.pdf>



## B) LSL REGULATIONS GOVERNING PLAY

All LSL league and tournament games are governed by the Official Rules of the World Softball Baseball Confederation (WBSC). In addition to the WBSC rules, the following Regulations will govern all LSL games unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

### 1) FIELDS AND FIXTURES

- a) All teams in the League must provide a booked space on which to play home fixtures. The Fixtures Officer may assist in this regard by block-booking certain softball venues for LSL use and charging the fees to the teams using those venues.
- b) All teams must provide a marked-out field, as defined in the rules. Minimum marking requirements are the foul lines, batters' boxes and if possible dead ball lines.
- c) Teams play each other in accordance with the home and away fixtures schedule each season, where the home team fields first. Youth Teams may elect to play both home and away games on their home field, except for fixtures where two Youth Teams are involved.

### 2) PRE-GAME RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOME TEAM

- a) Contacting the Away Team and umpires not less than 48 hours in advance to confirm the game and location. Email is preferable to verbal confirmation.
- b) Ensuring that the field is marked out to the correct dimensions and in playable condition.
- c) The home team must supply four balls for each game: two 12" and two 11". One 12" ball and one 11" ball must be new. The other balls may be used but the umpire must be satisfied that they are in good condition and suitable for use as game balls.
- d) To be eligible for LSL play, 12" softballs must **not** exceed:
  - (i) a maximum coefficient of restitution (COR) of .52; and
  - (ii) a maximum compression force of 300lb
- e) To be eligible for LSL play, 11" softballs must **not** exceed:
  - (i) a maximum COR of .47; and
  - (ii) a maximum compression force of 375lb(per WBSC Rules governing Championship play, Rule 2.4.3 and Appendix 3), OR:
  - (iii) a maximum COR of .52; and
  - (iv) a maximum compression force of 300lb
- f) The specifications for game balls should be identical, save that the 11" ball specifications may differ from the 12" ball specifications.
- g) Home teams not able to provide the required balls shall pay the amount of £6 per ball or the cost of a new ball, whichever is greater, to the opposing team, if the opposing team is able to supply an acceptable alternative ball. It is the umpire's decision whether this ball shall be used. If there is no suitable ball available, the game shall be considered forfeited and the home team shall have one point deducted in the standings.
- h) Home teams are to ensure that regulation bases are supplied, with a safety base at first-base. If the bases use spikes, then the bases should be securely and safely fastened. The spikes must be below ground level. Any metal buckles shall be taped over, to prevent injury. If any of these safety conditions are not met or the home team fails to supply bases, then the home team may be liable to forfeit the game with the deduction of a point.
- i) Where a Youth Team elects to play away games on their home field, the Youth Team manager must assume all responsibilities listed above for both home and away games.



### 3) BALLS

- a) See Rule 2.c above regarding the home team's obligation to supply two 12" and two 11" game balls.
- b) All male batters must hit a 12" ball.
- c) Female players have the option to choose to hit either 11" or 12" balls. This choice will be confirmed on the line-up shared at the plate conference prior to the game and the player's choice will remain in effect for the duration of the game.
- d) Non-Binary players have the option to choose whether to hit 11" or 12" balls. This choice will be confirmed on the line-up shared at the plate conference prior to the game and the player's choice will remain in effect for the duration of the game.
- e) The batting side is responsible for ensuring the umpire and fielders are aware of which ball each batter is using.
- f) The batting team must ensure that there is a first base coach wearing a glove and holding/covering whichever of the 11" or 12" balls is not in play.
- g) If the wrong size ball is pitched, the batting team shall have the option of accepting the result of the play or requesting a re-pitch using the correct ball at the same ball and strike count.

### 4) WALKS

- a) Any player hitting the 12" ball will receive two bases on a walk, regardless of gender.
- b) Players hitting an 11" ball will receive one base on a walk, regardless of gender. However it must be noted a male hitter can not hit a 11" ball.
- c) When there are two outs, if any player hitting a 12" ball is walked, the following batter (regardless of gender or which ball they are hitting) can opt to walk to first base without batting.

### 5) BATS

- a) All bats must have either an ASA/USA or ISF/WBSC stamp to be considered legal for play except if the bat appears on the ASA/USA banned bat list (which is updated from time to time). Please see BASU's New WBSC and USA Softball Bat Certification Stamps document for further clarification.  
[https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/b9g.605.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Updated\\_Bat\\_Certification\\_Jan\\_2020.pdf](https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/b9g.605.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Updated_Bat_Certification_Jan_2020.pdf)
- b) Any batter stepping into the batter's box with a banned bat, shall be called out.

### 6) START TIMES AND SHORTENED GAMES

- a) League games are required to start at 7pm. The role of the umpire/s is to ensure that games start promptly.
- b) Umpires may delay the start of the game for up to 15 minutes to allow both teams to field a complete team. The game should begin as soon as both teams have 10 eligible players on the field (with an even gender balance), or at 7.15pm if both teams have eligible teams (i.e. a minimum of four male and four female players), whichever comes first.
- c) The start time can also be delayed by up to 15 minutes if the rostered plate umpire has not arrived. If the rostered plate umpire has not arrived by 7.15pm, team captains should agree how they want to proceed, for example whether to wait longer for the rostered umpire to arrive, use a stand in umpire who is present (e.g. as a player/spectator/coach) or to reschedule the game.
- d) Teams and umpires may agree in advance to an earlier start time. This is recommended for early and late season games where fading light may become a factor.





- e) For the main part of the season, matches that do not achieve regulation status as per WBSC rules shall be considered incomplete.
- f) The Committee will issue guidance before the start of the season allowing for timed games in the early and late parts of the season to avoid games being played in poor light / dangerous conditions.
- g) Umpires have sole responsibility for determining if weather, pitch condition or fading light means it is unsafe to continue play. Umpires must prioritise player safety and have regard to the ability of the least experienced or able players on the field. If both teams arrive for a game which is subsequently called off by the umpires due to weather, the game must be rescheduled in accordance with the procedure set out below. If only one team arrives, they will be awarded a forfeit win regardless of whether the game would have been played.
- h) Interrupted and incomplete matches that cannot be completed on the originally scheduled night (e.g. due to light or weather) must be replayed from the start.

## 7) FORFEITS

- a) Teams may forfeit a game either by notifying the opposition in advance or by failing to provide an eligible team by the required time on the night of the game. As a courtesy, team organisers are encouraged to give as much notice as possible to the opposition captain and umpires if they will not be able to fulfil a fixture and will therefore have to forfeit.
- b) A forfeit will apply on the night of the scheduled game if one team is ready with a team of eligible players at 7.15pm and the other team does not have a team of eligible players present on the field or dugout.
- c) In the event of a forfeit declared after 5pm on the night of a game, the team at fault will be responsible for paying all umpire and field hire fees in full.
- d) In the event of any forfeit, the result of the game should be recorded as a forfeit win by the team not at fault. This will show on the results table as a 0-7 loss to the forfeiting team, who will also receive a one-point penalty deduction in the league standings.
- e) In relation to any game which is the last or penultimate regular season game for either team, a forfeiting team will incur a penalty point deduction in both the current and following LSL seasons.
- f) At the Committee's discretion, any team with three or more forfeits shall be ejected from the League. Upon ejection, all points accruing from that team's games shall be voided.

## 8) RESULTS

- a) If playing conditions allow, games must be played to a conclusion, i.e. not a tie. The Umpire has sole responsibility in determining if it is safe to continue play.
- b) It is the responsibility of the winning team captain/organiser to confirm the score after each game and to promptly register this on the BSF website ([www.britishsoftball.org](http://www.britishsoftball.org)).
- c) Any results not registered by the last eligible day of play will be declared no-results.
- d) Points will be awarded as follows:
  - (i) 3 points for a win;
  - (ii) 1 point for a tie/draw;
  - (iii) 0 points for a loss;
  - (iv) -1 point for a forfeit loss;
  - (v) 0 points for each team for a no-result.

## 9) PLAYER ROSTERING AND RESTRICTIONS

- a) All players must be rostered to their team through the BSF Website ([www.britishsoftball.org](http://www.britishsoftball.org)) prior to playing for that team. If website access/rostering is not possible, it is the



- responsibility of the team to forward a written copy of rostering details to the LSL Secretary prior to any applicable rostering deadline.
- b) Individuals may only be on the roster of one LSL team at any one time as a regular player. (They may be listed as team organisers for other teams, or as players for non-LSL tournament teams.)
  - c) It is the responsibility of team organisers to ensure they field teams compliant with rostering rules and restrictions. Save as permitted below, use of an unrostered player may result in forfeiture of a game.
  - d) New players
    - (i) Players joining the League mid-season must choose a team and be rostered as soon as possible.
    - (ii) Team Organisers should make all new players aware of the League's rostering rules and playing up / playing down restrictions.
    - (iii) If a team fails to roster a new player within seven (7) days of their first league game, that game will be forfeited if protested by the opposition, save where the failure was due to the new player deciding to join a different team.
  - e) Playing up / playing down:
    - (i) Teams may use fill-in players who are rostered to a team from any lower division, however they must not use the same individual more than three times over the course of a season. If an individual wants to play for the same higher division team more than three times, they must transfer to that team's roster.
    - (ii) Fill-in players can field in any position but must bat in the lowest position(s) in the line-up.
    - (iii) Save for the exceptions outlined below, under no circumstances are players allowed to play for a team in the same or a lower division to the team with which they are rostered. A team found to have used a player from a higher division will forfeit any games in which that individual has played.
    - (iv) Roster rules for Playoff games are addressed below.
  - f) Lowest Minors Division exception: Players rostered to a team in the lowest Minors Division are permitted to "play across" for other teams in their division. Each appearance is counted as one of the player's three permitted opportunities to play for that team, as outlined in sub-clause (e)(i) above. Players may not switch teams within the same division during the season, and so may not play across for the same team a fourth time.
  - g) Development exception: teams in the lowest Minors Division may field players rostered to a higher division team for purposes of team development and on-field guidance. However:
    - (i) This exception is limited to teams with recognised "development affiliations". The Committee recognises development affiliations within established Clubs in the LSL. All other development affiliations must be notified to the Committee prior to the start of the season by the relevant Minors team.
    - (ii) This exception only applies to regular season games played in the first half of the season (cut-off date to be confirmed by the Fixtures Officer);
    - (iii) There is a limit of one (1) higher-division player, per gender, per game;
    - (iv) The higher-division player(s) must play Catcher or Right Field;
    - (v) The higher-division player(s) must bat in the bottom position(s) in the line-up.
  - h) Team organisers must declare any unrostered players, playing up, or playing down or across, at the captains' meeting before the start of play.
  - i) The rostering and playing down restrictions exist to ensure that the League complies with its insurance obligations and to promote player safety. The playing up rule exists to help teams field replacement players at late notice to avoid forfeits and to encourage development by allowing players to try higher division play. Any actions which breach the spirit of these rules



should be brought to the Committee’s attention and may be sanctioned, including by warnings or point deductions. Without limitation, such conduct may include:

- (i) Clubs rostering top-level players to their lowest club teams at the start of the season in order to allow them to play, effectively, for two club teams for a portion of the season;
- (ii) Teams calling on players from lower-division teams to play in priority to individuals on their own roster (especially for important late-season games); or
- (iii) Teams calling on players from other leagues to fill in for games at an inappropriate level (e.g. NSL-registered players from the Windsor League filling in for Minors teams).

## 10) NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a) The minimum number of players required to start a League game is eight: No more than 4 players of the same gender . An automatic out will be enforced for each missing player at the point at which they are due up to bat.
- b) Teams may also start with nine players (No more than 5 players of the same gender (automatic out for the missing player)).
- c) A full team is considered when a team has 10 players, with no more than 5 players of the same gender.
- d) Teams may play with up to 12 players (10 fielders and 2 extra hitters). No more than 6 players can be of the same gender in total in the batting lineup and no more than 5 players of the same gender on the field at any time.
- e) The two extra hitters must be different genders
- f) Late players may be added to the line-up as they arrive to make 5 and 5 or 6 and 6.
- g) For the avoidance of doubt, the LSL recognises ‘male’ and ‘female’ as meaning an individual’s identified gender, which may not be the same as the gender they were assigned at birth. (please refer to section A, subsection 7.

## 11) BATTING ORDER

- a) In the starting line-up, no two players of the same gender can bat consecutively (regardless of whether they are hitting 12” or 11” balls)
- b) Extra hitters must be of two different genders

*Examples of valid and invalid starting line-ups:*

- A = 1 x NB player
- B = 2 x NB players

Batting order	A1 Valid	A2 NOT Valid		B1 Valid	B2 NOT Valid	B3 NOT Valid
1	M1	M1		M	M	M
2	F1	F1		F	F	F
3	M2	M2		NB	M	M
4	F2	F2		M	F	F
5	NB1	NB1		F	NB	NB
6	F3	M3		M	NB	F
7	M3	F3		F	M	M
8	F4	M4		NB	F	NB
9	M4	F4		M	M	F
10	F5	M5		F	F	M
11	M5	F5		M	M	F
12	F6	M6		F	F	M



## 12) FIELDING POSITIONS

- a) The defensive outfield must consist of a maximum of two players from any one gender.
- b) The defensive infield must consist of a maximum of two players from any one gender.
- c) The pitcher and catcher must be of a different gender.

*Examples:*

Outfield: LF – Male, LC – Female, RC – Non-Binary, RF – Non-binary.

Infield: 3B – Non-binary, SS – Female, 2B – Male, 1B – Female.

Pitcher/Catcher: P – Male, C – Non-binary

## 13) SUBSTITUTIONS

- a) Non-binary players may be substituted by or for another player of the same or a different gender, providing that the rules for overall player numbers and fielding restrictions are maintained
- b) The introduction of a substitute of different gender to the player they are replacing may result in consecutive genders in the line-up. This is permitted.
- c) The team making a substitution must notify the opposition captain and/or scorer and confirm which size ball the substitute player will hit.
- d) If a player sustains an injury during a game and no appropriate substitute is available, a team may replace said injured batter/base runner with a Temporary Runner, subject to the batter/base runner having reached a base under their own power. (NOTE: Bases awarded by the umpire can be obtained by the Temporary Runner, subject to WBSL Rule 9.1.i.)

The following conditions apply:

- (i) Temporary Runners can be brought in at any base (i.e. even if the batter-runner reaches second or third).
- (ii) The Temporary Runner must be the last available player (of the same gender, or Non Binary, as the batter/base runner) who batted before the injured runner.
- (iii) Should a Non Binary player get injured, please refer to Subsection 14(a) above.
- (iv) Any such use of a Temporary Runner will be outside of the official substitution rules, must be made after 'time' is called and must be announced to the opposing captain and umpires.
- (v) This rule does not apply to any players that may choose to commence a game with pre-existing injuries, save that where multiple games are played in a single day (e.g. tournaments, double-headers, playoffs), players injured in earlier games may make use of the Temporary Runner in subsequent games.
- (vi) The Temporary Runner may only be used for one injured player. Additional injured players should be substituted as per the official rules.

## 14) POSTPONEMENTS

- a) Lack of available rostered players due to work, travel difficulties, conflicting events or otherwise is not an acceptable excuse for postponing a game, except as per (e) below.
- b) If both teams agree to postpone a game because of exceptional hardship - weather, tube strikes, etc., they must inform the umpires as soon as possible, no later than 5pm on the day of the game. If a decision has not been made to postpone a game by 5pm on the day, it becomes the umpires' responsibility to decide whether play can start (see section 4(g))
- c) In the event of a postponement, the following process must be adhered to:
  - (i) **Within two weeks** of the original fixture date the home team must offer the away team 2 date options for the rescheduled game. The dates offered must be on normal league playing nights (unless agreed otherwise with both the away team and umpiring team) and not conflict with LSL games or umpire duties for the away team. Both dates offered must be at least two



weeks' away and must be before the deadline for normal league fixtures to be completed. The offer must be made in writing and copied to the umpiring team captain/s and the Fixtures Officer.

- (ii) **Within one week** of being offered the dates, the away team must respond in writing to confirm which date they have selected, copying in the umpiring team and Fixtures Officer. This will finalise the fixture and the home team must accept the away team's choice.
- (iii) The umpiring team from the original fixture is responsible for providing umpires for the rescheduled game, unless the rescheduled date clashes with a fixture they are playing in. In the event of such a clash, the umpiring team will not be penalised for not providing umpires but should attempt to find replacement umpires, seeking help from the Committee and home/away teams (i.e. everyone should make a joint effort to source suitable umpires).
- (iv) The home team is responsible for arranging a playing ground, so should confirm venue availability for the dates they offer. If their home ground is not available, the home team can arrange for the game to be played at any other ground in London ordinarily used for LSL games.
- (v) If the home or away team does not meet their obligations as set out above, eg does not communicate within the required timeframes, this will be grounds for a forfeit.
- d) Any disputes arising over efforts to reschedule a game should be referred to the Technical Officer immediately.
- e) Dispensation for Teams with GB Players:
  - (i) Teams with 3 or more GB slow-pitch softball players are entitled to certain dispensation should a League game conflict with a GB scheduled event, tournament or training session;
  - (ii) Affected teams must notify their opponent at least 2 weeks in advance of their scheduled game.
  - (iii) The first course of action must be to reschedule the game, within two weeks of the originally scheduled game where possible. All attempts to replay the game must be made.
  - (iv) Only in the case that the affected team cannot play the rescheduled game for reasons not relating to GB commitments will the opposition be awarded a forfeit win.
  - (v) All affected teams must consult the League schedule as soon as it is circulated and check for any conflicts with GB events.
  - (vi) Any such occasions arising in the season should be reported to the Committee.

## 15) UMPIRING

- a) Teams participating in the LSL are expected to promote the principles of (i) respect towards umpires, and (ii) umpire development through broad participation in training and mentoring programmes.
- b) To qualify to officiate at LSL games, umpires must have completed an umpire's course, recognised by the Committee, at the appropriate level, within the previous 4 years, or be currently certified by BASU.
- c) All teams, except for Youth Teams and teams in their first year, must have on their roster at least two qualified umpires, as outlined above. Teams in their first season must send at least one player to umpire training arranged by the Committee.
- d) The 'outsourcing' of umpiring duties to individuals or other teams is discouraged and teams that do so frequently should be reported to the Umpiring and/or Technical Officers.
- e) It is the responsibility of team organisers to identify, on the LSL Schedule, the games for which they are required to supply umpires.
- f) Two qualified umpires must be supplied for all games in Majors Divisions 1 and 2.



- g) Two umpires are recommended for games in all other divisions, however only one plate umpire is required.
- h) A penalty of one point will be deducted from the supplying team if the required number of umpires do not attend the game in time for play to start (i.e. 7.15pm), unless the non-attendance was due to incorrect fixture information being posted on the BSF website or an unforeseen circumstance affecting the entire League. Otherwise, the penalty is applied regardless of fault.
- i) Each umpire shall be reimbursed £20 per game for their expenses, with the teams to pay half the cost each. A BASU certified umpire will be reimbursed £25 per game if umpiring alone and wearing a BASU uniform. Umpires shall still be reimbursed in the event of a forfeit or rainout if they were not informed of the cancellation of the game before the 5pm cut-off time.
- j) Umpires' responsibilities and powers:
  - (i) Umpires' powers and duties are set out in the Official Rule Book. Umpires have a responsibility to discharge their duties to the best of their abilities.
  - (ii) Umpires are always entitled to the players' respect, courtesy and appreciation of the fact that they are volunteers. The LSL Code of Conduct (section D) sets out expected standards of behaviour for league members.
  - (iii) Umpires have a responsibility to respond to any incidents of abuse directed at players or umpires, or other unsporting or unseemly conduct. If such incidents occur, umpires are encouraged to respond by issuing player or team warnings in the first instance but may eject players or team managers for repeated or egregious incidents.
  - (iv) Where a player is ejected from a team, they may be replaced in the field or batting order if the team has available substitute players. If there is no suitable substitute available, provided that the team still has at least 4 males and 4 females in the line-up, the game shall continue with an automatic out being recorded in the ejected player's spot in the batting order.
  - (v) If an ejection results in a team having fewer than 4 males and 4 females in the line-up, the game is forfeit.
  - (vi) Umpires shall report to the Committee any incidents of behaviour breaching either the rules or the LSL Code of Conduct, even if the incident was dealt with on the field. The Committee will consider whether any further action should be taken, following the guidance sent out in the Code of Conduct.
  - (vii) Teams may report incidents of unreasonably poor or inappropriate umpiring to the Technical Officer, who will consider if the umpire or supplying team should be provided with further instruction or guidance.

## 16) TECHNICAL PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

In addition to the WBSC rules regarding Protests the following regulations will govern LSL games:

- a) Any team wishing to lodge a protest must submit a written statement of protest to the LSL Technical Officer within seven (7) days of the protested game. Where possible, score sheets or other relevant information should support the protest.
- b) Within seven (7) days after receipt of the Protest, the Technical Officer must render a decision based on the WBSC Rule Book 1.2.9 and the LSL Standing Orders and Regulations Governing Play and, if appropriate, in consultation with the LSL Committee and/or after seeking appropriate input from the Umpires, teams and players involved.
- c) Where the Technical Officer has an interest in the dispute, they must appoint a suitably qualified Officer, who is independent of the dispute, to undertake the adjudication.
- d) Decisions of the Technical Officer may be appealed to a Protests and Disputes Committee by giving notice to the Technical Officer within seven (7) days of communication of the initial decision.





- e) A Protests and Disputes Committee shall be convened as soon as practicably possible to hear any such appeal. This Committee shall consist of three independent, suitably qualified delegates appointed by the LSL Committee, excluding anyone connected with the team or individuals concerned in the dispute.
- f) The Protests and Disputes Committee shall hear and adjudicate upon all questions referred to it by the Technical Officer within fourteen (14) days of referral.
- g) The decision of the Protests and Dispute Committee will be final.

## 17) PLAYOFFS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- a) At season's end, the top two and bottom two teams in each division will be automatically promoted and relegated respectively.
- b) If two or more teams tie in the standings, teams will be separated by (in order):
  - (i) head-to-head results (including forfeit wins). If 3 or more teams are tied, the head-to-head results between those teams will be pooled. Game scores are irrelevant;
  - (ii) a playoff game or, if 3 or more teams remain tied on their pooled head-to-head results, a playoff series (in a format to be determined by the Committee); or
  - (iii) coin toss.
- c) Teams can elect not to participate in a playoff game (i.e. forfeit) without incurring a point penalty the following season.
- d) For the avoidance of doubt, runs for/against are not used as a tiebreaker in League play
- e) All promotion and relegation playoffs must be completed prior to the LSL's end of season awards night. The Committee may exercise discretion and allow games later than this deadline if teams have committed to dates and locations, however all games MUST be played prior to the start of the next season.
- f) As soon as the need for a play-off game has been identified, the Committee will use a coin toss to assign roles for organising the fixture, and will inform both teams as soon as possible:
  - (i) Once roles have been assigned the 'home' team must **within one week** offer the 'away' team three possible playing dates; one of these must be the All Star game date if this has not already passed and the other two dates must have at least two weeks' notice and be outside normal working hours.
  - (ii) **Within one week** of being offered playing dates, the 'away' team must respond with their selected date, which the 'home' team must accept.
  - (iii) Once a date has been confirmed, if the All-Star game date is not being used, the 'home' team will be responsible for booking a suitable playing field and the 'away' team will arrange for two qualified umpires. The teams will share location and umpiring costs evenly.
  - (iv) For the game itself, a coin toss will be used to determine home and away teams.
- g) If either team fails to fulfil its responsibilities or is unable to provide an eligible team for the agreed date, this will be considered a forfeit.
- h) Only rostered players who have played three or more games for that team during the season will be eligible to play in a play-off game. Any requests for dispensation must be made in writing to the Technical Officer at least three days in advance of the game, stating the player's name and rostered team (or league and division if rostered to a non-LSL league), copying in the opposing captain. Both teams will be notified as to whether any dispensation requests have been approved.
- i) Otherwise, all playoffs shall be played under the normal rules of the LSL, unless directed otherwise by the Committee.
- j) If a scheduled play-off game cannot be completed by the deadline for reasons that are not the fault of one team (e.g. bad weather), the committee will toss a coin to determine placings at the next committee meeting after the end of season awards night.



- k) To determine placings other than the top two or bottom two in a division, rule (12)(b)(i) will be used. If teams are still tied, no play-off will be required. If an additional promotion is required to fill a vacant spot (see section 5) a coin toss will be used to separate teams.

## **C) WBSC RULES NOT ADOPTED BY LSL**

There are some WBSC rules which the LSL do not enforce. These are:

### **RULE 2.1.5 - DUGOUT (SIDELINES)**

Paragraph refers to smoking, consumption of alcohol or use of chewing tobacco and vaping. Though not encouraged, LSL does not enforce any of these. During play, players on the field itself, base coaches and umpires, should not partake in any of these activities.

### **RULE 2.4.1 - THE OFFICIAL BAT**

Please see section B.5.a

### **RULE 2.4.3 - THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL**

Paragraph (a) refers to an official WBSC / ISF Stamp, which is not required by LSL. This exception also applies to the Ball Standards as outlined in Appendix 3 of the WBSC Rules.

It is recommended that balls have a leather cover, although synthetic covers are permitted. Balls may be white or yellow.

### **RULE 2.6 & 2.7 - UNIFORM & COACHES UNIFORM**

Paragraphs a, b, c, d and e relate to Caps, Undershirts, Pants/Sliding Pants and do not apply to LSL, Numbers and Names are not enforced by LSL.

Paragraphs f and g refer to plaster casts and jewellery restrictions. These rules do apply.

LSL Does not enforce any requirement for coaches' uniforms.

### **RULE 3.2.1 - LINE-UP CARDS AND ROSTERS**

Paragraph a) Line-up card rules are not enforced by the LSL.

Paragraph b) Subject to LSL late arrival rules, players do not have to be present at the start of the game.

### **RULE 3.2.2 - PLAYERS**

In the LSL teams may start with 8 players (with 2 automatic outs) or 9 players (with 1 automatic out) and may add the late players to their line-up as they arrive. See section B.10

### **RULE 3.2.6 – SUBSTITUTES**

The LSL enforces WBSC Substitution rules, except where superseded by the 'Temporary Runner' rule. See section B.13





## D) LSL CODE OF CONDUCT

### 2) Purpose

This document sets out standards of behaviour expected from all players, coaches, administrators and officials involved with the LSL. The Code of Conduct applies in the following contexts:

- All LSL games
- League-run tournaments, events and meetings
- Use of LSL official social media accounts
- General communications between players, team organisers, umpires and committee members regarding LSL games and events.

All members of the LSL are also subject to the British Softball Federation (BSF) Code of Conduct, which is available on the BSF website. This LSL code is intended to supplement the BSF code by setting out local values and a local procedure for responding to any issues or incidents. Under the BSF code, players, umpires, teams, leagues, tournament organisers or regions may refer issues directly to the BSF.

### 3) Introduction

The LSL is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members, ensuring a positive and enjoyable experience for all. The league believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and officials associated with the league should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. As a league, the values we want to promote on and off the field are:

- Respect
- Inclusion
- Fairness
- Safety

### 4) Equality and Diversity Statement

The League is committed to ensuring that equality is incorporated across all aspects of its development.

- Sports equality is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.
- We expect all members to respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of the sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- The League is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- All League members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- The League will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to the disciplinary procedures set out below.

### 5) Code of Conduct

Everyone participating in the LSL as a player, coach, official or volunteer is expected to uphold and promote the following standards of behaviour, both on and off the field:

- Be positive role models, treating other players and officials with the same level of respect you would expect to be shown to you.
- Take responsibility for ensuring you are up to date with the rules; understand and adhere to them.



- Prioritise safety and avoid aggressive play that may endanger players, officials, coaches or spectators.
- Respect game officials and accept their decisions. Judgement calls are not to be questioned, and if an umpire or game official has made a procedural error there are established rules in place on how to action an appeal.
- Act fairly and honestly at all times, including not taking advantage of a lack of knowledge from newer players and/or umpires.
- Avoid negative comments, assumptions and stereotyping of people on the basis of their gender identity, gender expression, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, nationality, class, disability, religion, beliefs, age, accent or culture.
- Accept people's self-identified gender for all purposes.
- Shouting, swearing, harassing, threatening or humiliating behaviour (verbal, physical or sexual) towards anyone else is never acceptable, even if in response to an action by them.
- Be polite in dealing with members of the public, for example if there is a need to ask people to move away from the playing area.
- The LSL does not prohibit adults from consuming alcohol during games, however team organisers are expected to maintain an awareness of players' levels of intoxication and ensure that any player who is not fit to play is 'benched' for the remainder of the game (Umpires may eject an intoxicated player on the grounds of safety if they believe that the player may endanger themselves or other players).
- When young people are present, either in a game or as spectators, behave considerately and give attention to their safety and comfort (This could mean for example being more careful with language, not smoking close to young people etc.).
- Anyone found using illegal drugs or performing any illegal activity should be reported to the Police in accordance with UK law.

Additionally, team organisers, officials, umpires and committee members are also expected to:

- Display consistently high standards of behaviour.
- Consider the well-being and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play).
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the National Governing Body and the LSL Committee.
- Never exert undue influence over members to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Team organisers and coaches of teams which include youth players or vulnerable adults are responsible for ensuring that all relevant safeguarding policies procedures are complied with.

## **6) What happens if the Code of Conduct is breached?**

Please let the Committee know as soon as possible if you experience or witness anything that makes you feel uncomfortable or which may be in breach of the Code of Conduct. Even if you do not want anything done, please still let us know by talking to or emailing a member of the committee.

- Any informal or formal complaints should be reported to the Committee by emailing [director@londonsoftballLSL.co.uk](mailto:director@londonsoftballLSL.co.uk).
- Any complaint regarding a committee member should be reported to the league director in the first instance by emailing [director@londonsoftballLSL.co.uk](mailto:director@londonsoftballLSL.co.uk), unless the complaint is against the league director in which case it should be sent to any other committee officer.
- Umpires should report any incidents involving a breach of the code of conduct to the committee even if the incident has been dealt with on the field.
- Any criminal activity should be reported, as soon as is practical, directly to the Police.



Type of incident / complaint	Response
Informal Complaint (i.e. the person raising the issue does not ask for it to be dealt with formally)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The committee’s focus in dealing with informal complaints will be on raising awareness and promoting understanding of the code of conduct</li> <li>● Any complaint/feedback will be reviewed by at least 2 committee members, neither of whom have a conflict of interest (i.e. as a member of a club/team that is involved or a subject of the complaint)</li> <li>● A nominated committee member will contact those involved in the incident to discuss what has happened, and will notify relevant team organisers that an issue has been raised</li> <li>● The committee members will then review the information received and decide on a response, which may include issuing a warning or asking for an apology to be given</li> </ul>
Formal Complaint / More serious incidents / repeated complaints	<p>The Committee will form a Protests and Disputes Sub-committee with 3 or more members, none of whom has a conflict of interest.</p> <p>The Sub-committee will review the details of the complaint and request written accounts from those involved, including team captains.</p> <p>If the complaint is upheld, the Sub-committee may take any of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Issue a warning to an individual or a team</li> <li>● Suspend an individual for a number of games</li> <li>● Ask an individual to step down from the Committee</li> <li>● Ban an individual from the League</li> <li>● Declare a forfeit against a team</li> <li>● Dock points from a team</li> </ul> <p>If the Sub-committee decides that an incident, or serious of incidents, merits the expulsion of a team from the league this will be referred to the full Committee for decision.</p> <p><i>Right to appeal:</i> An individual or team has the right to appeal decisions made by a Protests and Disputes Sub-committee. Appeals will either be referred to the full LSL Committee or the BSF.</p>
Serious breaches of code of conduct	<p>Players, umpires, teams, leagues, tournament organisers or regions may refer issues to the BSF directly if they wish.</p> <p>The League Committee may refer incidents to the BSF where there is a breach of the BSF code of conduct.</p>



## E) Version Control

For purposes of version control and tracking, the following outlines recent changes to the Constitution and Standing Orders.

### 1) Changes in 2007

- a) Changes to Standing Orders
  - (i) Creation of a Development Officer role (Section 1)
  - (ii) Clarification of Technical Officer role (Section 1)
  - (iii) Registration and rostering clarifications (Sections 2.e, 2.f, 5.d and 7.h).
  - (iv) Changes to umpire reimbursements (Section 3.e).
  - (v) Clarifications regarding incomplete games (Sections 6.f, 6.g, 6.h).
- b) Changes to Rules Governing Play
  - (i) None
- c) Changes to ISF RULES: rules not adopted by GLSML
  - (i) None

### 2) Changes in 2008

- a) Changes to Standing Orders
  - (i) Pitch allocation conflicts (Creation of Section 2.b.i.)
  - (ii) Revisions to the "Playing Up" rule (Section 5.c, including the creation of sections 5.c.i, 5.c.ii and 5.c.iii)
- b) Changes to Rules Governing Play
  - (i) None
- c) Changes to ISF RULES: rules not adopted by GLSML
  - (i) None

### 3) Changes in 2009

- a) Changes to Standing Orders
  - (i) None
- b) Changes to Rules Governing Play
  - (i) None
- c) Changes to ISF RULES: rules not adopted by GLSML
  - (i) None

### 4) Changes in 2010

- a) Changes to Standing Orders
  - (i) New requirement for teams to state BSF grade at time of registration, to enable placement into Majors or Minors (Section 2.a.v.)
  - (ii) Exceptions added to the "playing down" rule to allow for development (Revisions to Section 5.c.ii and creation of Sections 2.c.i. – 2.c.vii. and Section 5.c.iv.)
- b) Changes to Regulations Governing Play
  - (i) Revision to points system as per the AGM / committee changes implemented in 2009 via the BSUK website (Section 1.g.)
  - (ii) New clauses added to the Playoffs section to clarify the regulations of movement of teams between Majors and Minors (Creation of Sections 4.a.i, 4.a.ii. and 4.b.i.; 2016 - moved to Standing Orders)
  - (iii) Section C.4 "PLAYOFFS" renamed as "PLAYOFFS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION"
  - (iv) Updated "temporary runner" clause (C.8.b).
  - (v) Miscellaneous changes throughout this section to clarify grammar or other areas that had previously been misinterpreted.
- c) Changes to ISF RULES: rules not adopted by GLSML
  - (i) Inclusion of clarifications regarding official bats (Rule 3.1)



- (ii) Clarification of Player requirements (Rule 4.3)

## 5) Changes in 2011

No changes

## 6) Changes in 2012

- a) Changes to Standing Orders
  - (i) None
- b) Changes to Rules Governing Play
  - (i) Change of tie-break rules in the event of a points tie.
- c) Changes to ISF RULES: rules not adopted by GLSML
  - (i) None

## 7) Changes in 2013

No changes

## 8) Changes in 2014

- a) Changes to Standing Orders
  - (i) Addition of Umpiring Officer role to list of Committee Members (Section 1).
  - (ii) Clarification of season mid-point (Section 2.d.i).
  - (iii) Clarification of rules regarding playing for other teams; including addition of clause related to 'playing across' for Minors 3 players (Section 5.c).
  - (iv) Deletion of duplicate rule regarding 7-day registration grace period (Section 5d).
  - (v) Miscellaneous re-wording for clarification.
- b) Changes to Regulations Governing Play
  - (i) Revision to rule regarding umpire eligibility, increasing the minimum training period to four years (Section 3.a).
  - (ii) Clarification of head-to-head tiebreaker situation at the end of the season (Section 4.d).
  - (iii) Addition of wording to establish umpire entitlement to funds in the case of a late postponement (Section 6.b).
  - (iv) Amendment of ball standards to allow for usage of ASA 52/300 balls (Section 8.a).
  - (v) Miscellaneous re-wording for clarification.
- c) Changes to ISF RULES: rules not adopted by GLSML
  - (i) Amended rule to allow for new ASA certification mark (Section 3.1).

## 9) Changes in 2016

- a) Changes to Standing Orders
  - (i) Amended officer role descriptions (section 1).
  - (ii) Added language regarding League structure, confirming 'B' Grade status of all teams in GLSML Majors, and evaluation process for new Majors teams (section 2).
- b) Changes to Regulations Governing Play
  - (i) General tidy up of structure and language to minimise duplication/confusion.
  - (ii) Made 11" balls mandatory, while permitting females to elect to hit 12" if notified before the game (sections 2 and 8).
  - (iii) Added additional penalty point for late-season forfeits.
  - (iv) Clarified rostering rules for new players, non GLSML players and playoff games.
  - (v) Clarified rules regarding umpire training, non-attendance, abusive conduct and ejections (section 10).



- a)
- 10) Changes in 2017**
- a) Changes to Regulations Governing Play
    - (i) Amendments to rostering and Playing Up rules.
    - (ii) Clarification on gender rules.
    - (iii) Minor changes to postponements
    - (iv) Changes to umpire rules reflecting new training.
    - (v) Changes to process for arranging play-off games.
- 11) Changes in 2018**
- a) Changes to Standing Orders
    - (i) Amendments to registration process notes to account for AGM date change
    - (ii) Clarification that the Committee can exercise discretion as to whether to accept new team applications
  - b) Changes to Regulations
    - (i) Minor wording amendments, e.g. adjusting gendered language
    - (ii) Clarification that the Committee will issue guidance to allow for shortened games during the early and late parts of the season (section 4)
    - (iii) Changes to process for rescheduling postponed fixtures (section 9)
    - (iv) Changes to umpiring section to reference new Code of Conduct (section 10)
  - c) Section D – Code of Conduct
    - (i) Replacement of references to BSF Code of Conduct with new LSL Code of Conduct
- 12) Changes in 2019**
- a) Changes to Regulations Governing Play
    - (i) Section 6: Game start time changed from 6.45pm to 7pm; clarification regarding what captains/umpires should do in the event of a delayed start
    - (ii) Section 5(c): A team forfeiting on the night of a game will be liable to pay umpire fees in full
    - (iii) Section 7(e): Fill-in batters must bat at the bottom of the order
    - (iv) Section 10(h): Umpiring fees amended
    - (v) Section 10(i): Ejected players can be substituted if there is a substitute available
    - (vi) Minor wording clarifications
    - (vii) Minor spelling/grammatical and replace ISF with WBSC as governing body and all references to WBSC rules
    - (viii) Remove reference to rules that no longer exist
- 13) Changes in 2020**
- a) Updated logos
    - (i) Title page logo changed from GLSML logo to LSL logo
    - (ii) Header logo changed from GLSML logo to LSL logo
  - b) Update name
    - (i) Replaced Greater London Softball Mixed League with London Softball League, both in headers and body
    - (ii) Replaced GLSML to LSL
  - c) Update of emails to reflect new email addresses
  - d) New Headings to tidy up Regulations
    - (i) Section B.3 - 11" Balls to Balls
    - (ii) Section B.4 - New Heading - Walks
    - (iii) Section B.5 - New Heading - Bats
      - (a) Inclusion of BASU rules for approved bats
    - (iv) Section B.10 & B.13 - Split of old heading into two headings: Number of Players & Substitutes
    - (v) Section B.11 - New Heading - Batting Order



- e) Inclusion of Gender Inclusion Rules
  - (i) Section A.7
  - (ii) Section B.3
  - (iii) Section B.10
  - (iv) Section B.11
  - (v) Section B.13
- f) Changes from ISF to WSBC
  - (i) Change of rule references from old ISF rule book linking to new WBSC rulebook.
- g) Addition of Community Engagement Officer in section A.1