



## GLSML AGM: Proposed Amendments to Constitution

Below is a summary of substantive changes the committee proposes to make for 2020. A full copy of the constitution with tracked changes will be provided at the AGM.

### League Name Change

<b>Proposed Change</b>	The committee proposes changing the name of the league from Greater London Softball Mixed League to London Softball League.
<b>Rationale</b>	The proposed name is shorter and simpler than the current league name. As we are initiating work to develop a new website, there is an opportunity to refresh league branding.

### Section 7.a:

*“The members of the GLSML committee shall be drawn from the categories of membership as set out in clause 3 of this Constitution”*

<b>Proposed Change</b>	Replace with: “The majority of members of the LSL committee shall be individuals rostered to teams that are members of the LSL, as set out in clause 3 of this Constitution. Individuals who are not currently rostered to an LSL team but who have an interest in the league, and have relevant skills and experience, may be elected to committee posts with the exception of the following posts, which must be filled by current rostered players or team administrators: Director, General Officer (majors or minors), Technical Officer.”
<b>Rationale</b>	This clause as currently worded implies that only current rostered team members can be on the committee and – if enforced – would prevent us benefitting from the involvement of volunteers with relevant skills and experience, eg retired players, administrators, BSUK representatives.

### Section 8: Filling committee vacancies

*“The GLSML committee may co-opt persons to fill any vacancies, which may arise during the year, such appointments to terminate at the end of the AGM or sooner as appropriate. Vacancies should be advertised to the league membership and co-opted members must be approved by a two-thirds majority at a quorate Committee Meeting.”*

<b>Proposed Change</b>	Replace with:
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	<p>“8.c: The LSL committee may co-opt new committee members to fill any vacancies arising during the year, except for the Director post. Any such appointments will terminate at the end of the AGM or sooner as appropriate. Vacancies will be advertised to the league membership and new members must be approved by two-thirds of remaining committee members.</p> <p>8.d: If the Director resigns or is removed from the committee during the year, the committee will vote on whether to continue to operate without a Director until the next AGM or to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect a new Director.”</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>While the committee can co-opt new members into all other posts, we propose that there is an exception for the Director role and that if there is a vacancy in this role then it should only be filled by a full membership vote at an AGM or EGM. As the Director role is a key post in representing the league, replacing someone in this role should require full member approval.</p>

### Section 8: Removal of committee members

No current clause relating to this.

<b>Proposed Change</b>	<p>Proposed addition under 8.e:</p> <p>8.f: “Should a committee member fail to attend and participate in committee meetings, or not perform the duties expected of them within their role, the committee may vote to remove them from the committee and make the post vacant. In the first instance the committee member will be warned by the current Director (unless that person is the Director, in which case refer to section g) and if the committee member continues to miss meetings or fail in their duties then the Director can call a committee vote on whether to require the committee member to step down and make the post vacant. Such a vote will require a two thirds majority of committee members to pass.”</p> <p>8.g: “If the Director is failing in their duties or failing to attend meetings, any committee member can propose to hold a vote at the next committee meeting and if there is a two thirds majority the Director will be removed from their post and the post made vacant.”</p>
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	8.h: “Should any committee member be found to have seriously breached the LSL or BSF Code of Conduct (subject to the appeals process), a vote will be held at the next committee meeting on whether to remove them from their post.”
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>We currently have no mechanism in the Constitution or Standing Orders to remove someone from the committee if they are not participating. While there is no specific issue prompting this proposed change, the committee sees it as an important provision in case a situation arises where someone is elected to a role but does not then do what the role requires and the committee needs to address this.</p> <p>There is a note in the code of conduct to the possibility of asking a committee member step down if a code of conduct complaint is upheld, but no current reference to this possibility in the constitution.</p>

### Section 8: Majors/Minors voting rights

*8.f: “Any league committee decisions that will result in a change to the Standing Orders or Rules Governing Play and that will also affect and/or impact only one group as opposed to the entire league (e.g. Majors or Minors) will only be voted on by the general officers.”*

<b>Proposed Change</b>	Remove this clause
<b>Rationale</b>	The committee thinks this was meant to be imply that everyone on the committee can vote on an issue that specifically affects majors or minors only, except for majors’ or minors’ officers – whoever isn’t directly affected. The committee doesn’t agree with this and thinks everyone should be able to vote on all issues unless they have a specific conflict of interest.

### Section 9: Committee procedures

<b>Proposed Change</b>	<p>Additional clauses to account for alternate ways of holding committee meetings and how individuals participate in these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow phone and video conferencing as a format for meetings</li> <li>• Allow individuals to ‘dial in’ to in person meetings if they are unable to attend in person</li> <li>• Confirm that attendance will be recorded by the secretary</li> <li>• Allow the committee to vote on some issues using online communication technology, outside of meetings</li> </ul>
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<b>Rationale</b>	To account for the use of modern technology, which enables the committee to work in a more flexible and maximises participation in discussions and decision-making.
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**Section 10: Standing Orders and Regulations**

*“The Standing Orders and Regulations Governing Play do not form part of the Constitution. The Committee has the power to adopt, issue and vary Standing Orders and Regulations Governing Play and these shall come into force immediately provided they have been approved by the Committee at a Committee Meeting.”*

<b>Proposed Change</b>	<p>Replace with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Standing Orders and Regulations Governing Play do not form part of the Constitution. The committee has the power to adopt, issue and vary Standing Orders and Regulations Governing Play.</li> <li>b) Any changes to the Standing Orders and Regulations must be approved by the committee at a committee meeting and will require the approval of at least 50% of the committee members in post.</li> <li>c) The committee will ensure that league members are given adequate notice of changes to the Standing Orders and Regulations and will not ordinarily make or implement any formal changes to Regulations during the league season. Some clarifications or minor adjustments may be made in exceptional circumstances.</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>To embed a common sense principle of not changing the rules during the season</p> <p>The requirement of a 50% majority to pass rule changes is to ensure that there is widespread support and changes are not pushed through by a small group of members at a committee meeting with low attendance.</p>

**Other changes:**

- Minor wording clarifications throughout (see tracked changes document)