

London Softball League

Constitution

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A) ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~~~LSL~~ LONDON SOFTBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

1) NAME

The name of this League is the ~~Greater~~ London Softball ~~Mixed~~ League (~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~).

2) FUNCTION

The ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~~~LSL~~ is established to carry out the following functions:

- a) the promotion of softball in the ~~Greater~~ London area;
- b) the organisation, control and management of softball for ~~its member~~~~the~~ teams ~~in that have met the membership criteria and joined the League Leagues under its jurisdiction,~~ in the ~~Greater~~ London area;
- c) liaison with the British Softball Federation, Baseball Softball UK and other official sporting bodies;
- d) liaison with other softball leagues;
- e) promoting and ensuring the highest standards of technical competence and safety in the game;
- f) upholding and enforcing the rules of the game.

3) MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~~~LSL~~ is open to all teams engaged in the sport of ~~co-ed~~~~mixed~~ ~~gender~~ softball, provided they comply with this constitution, the rules of the game and the standing orders of the ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~.

- a) Members may be admitted to the ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~ at the discretion of the ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~ committee (~~refusal will ordinarily not be exercised unless situations dictate~~).
- ~~b)~~ c) All applications for membership shall be submitted by the date set, and communicated to the members, by the ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~ ~~Committee~~~~committee~~ ~~prior to at~~ the start of each season and accompanied by the appropriate annual membership fee, ~~which shall thereafter be payable on demand~~. The league fee shall be waived for Youth Teams.
~~b)~~ c) Once admitted to the league a team shall be a member of the league for that year.
- ~~e)~~ d) Each member team shall appoint one representative to attend Special or Annual General Meetings: an appointed substitute representative may attend and vote at the meetings, provided the Chair is informed at the beginning of the meeting.
- ~~e)~~ e) All ~~GLSM~~~~LSL~~ meetings are open unless otherwise provided.

~~e) f)~~ To represent the ~~GLSM LSL~~ on any body, members must be a delegate of the ~~GLSM LSL~~. Delegates can only be appointed by the ~~GLSM LSL~~ committee or by a majority vote at a General meeting.

~~f) g)~~ All member teams must affiliate to the British Softball Federation.

~~g) h)~~ All member teams must have at least two qualified umpires on their roster (qualified in line with the requirements set out in the Standing Orders) with the exception of teams in their first year of ~~GLSM LSL~~ membership if they enter the Minors league, and youth teams.

4) SUSPENSION, REFUSAL OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a) The ~~GLSM LSL~~, acting via the ~~GLSM LSL~~ committee, shall be entitled to:
- i. refuse any application for membership on the grounds that such an admission would be prejudicial to the interests of the ~~GLSM LSL~~;
 - ii. refuse renewal of any existing membership or terminate any membership provided that the team representative concerned shall have the right to be heard by the full ~~GLSM LSL~~ committee before a final decision is made. The team may apply for reinstatement of membership at a General Meeting;
 - iii. require the replacement of any representative of the team concerned

Any ~~GLSM LSL member~~ team ~~who that~~ fails to pay ~~its the required~~ fees by the date set, ~~and communicated to the members~~, by the ~~GLSM LSL~~ Committee at the start of each season shall forfeit its right to representation on the committee and at General Meetings and the team will be barred from taking part in any LSL event until such fees are paid. Game points are void until League fees are paid in full.

- b) All players and officials of teams under suspension or disqualification shall be barred from taking part in any match game under the control of the ~~GLSM LSL~~.
- c) Any member team not registering the required number of qualified umpires prior to the start of the season may have their membership suspended, at the discretion of the Committee. Refusal to supply umpires may result in termination of membership.

5) GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM shall be held each year at such time and place as determined by the ~~GLSM LSL~~ committee. At each AGM the following business shall be conducted:

- (i) receive and confirm minutes of the previous AGM;
- (ii) presentation of accounts of the ~~GLSM LSL~~ for the previous year;
- (iii) receive the Director's report of the work done ~~of in~~ the previous ~~year~~ year/season;
- (iv) election of officers;

- (v) make, amend, rescind the constitution;
- (vi) make, amend or rescind any standing orders/rules;
- (vii) any other business brought before the meeting which has been submitted in writing and in the hands of the Secretary not less than seven days prior to AGM, and any other business deemed relevant by the Director.

b) Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

An EGM may be called upon the written demand of:

- (i) 20% of the membership;
- (ii) the Director; or
- (iii) by a two thirds majority of the ~~GLSM LSL committee~~Committee

When an EGM is called, a minimum of 21 days' notice will be given to members, stating the nature of the meeting. Seven days' notice may be given where the Director considers the nature of the business urgent and this timescale is not unreasonable.

6) RULES OF PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) A minimum of 21 days' notice (or seven days in the case of Section 5.b.iii of this Constitution) must be given to all member teams / representatives regarding the date, time and location of general meetings.
- b) The Director shall chair the meetings, or in their absence the Secretary or a nominee from and by the ~~GLSM LSL~~ committee.
- c) Each member team shall designate one person to serve as team representative for all AGMs and EGMs. All representatives must register with the Secretary prior to the start of each meeting. An appointed substitute representative from the same team may attend and vote provided the Chair is informed at the beginning of the meeting. Any committee member may act as a team representative for the team to which they are rostered, except the Chair.
- d) Any ~~member~~ team that does not have a representative registered at the AGM will be deducted a point at the start of the following season, should they re-register.
- e) Each ~~member~~ team shall have one vote.
- f) All votes shall be determined by a simple majority: in the event of a tie, the Chair may exercise a casting vote.
- g) The quorum shall be one-third or 15 such members whichever is the smaller.
- h) The Secretary shall keep minutes of meetings and record all proceedings and resolutions.

7) ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO ~~GLSM LSL COMMITTEE~~COMMITTEE

- a) The majority of members of the GLSM~~L~~LSL committee shall be individuals rostered to drawn from the categories of membership 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) The ~~Committee~~committee will notify league members of the list of ~~Committee~~committee positions in advance of the AGM and request nominations, to be ~~sent submitted~~ in writing to the Secretary with a brief supporting statement.
- c) The Secretary shall send all representatives a list of all nominations and statements not less than 7 days prior to AGM.
- d) The election of candidates to the GLSM~~L~~LSL committee shall be by paper ballot of all those present and entitled to vote.
- e) In the case of any positions for which no nominations have been received in advance of the AGM, nominations may be received at the meeting itself and must be seconded.

8) MEMBERS OF THE GLSM~~L~~LSL COMMITTEE

The GLSM~~L~~LSL committee shall consist of the following positions as a minimum:

- Director
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Technical Officer
- Fixtures and Results Officer
- Communications Officer
- General Officer representing a Majors team
- General Officer representing a Minors team

A full list of committee positions will be set out in the Standing Orders, with positions to be reviewed annually and added, amended or removed in response to the changing needs of the league.

- a) All members of the GLSM~~L~~LSL committee must be elected annually at the GLSM~~L~~LSL AGM from a list of nominees, and shall hold office from election until the conclusion of the subsequent year's AGM.
- ~~b) All the above members of the Committee are entitled to one vote each, except the Director who may exercise a casting vote on a tie.~~
- b) The GLSM~~L~~LSL committee may co-opt ~~persons~~new committee members to fill any vacancies, ~~which may arise arising~~ during the year, with the exception of the Director post. Any such appointments to will terminate at the end of the AGM or sooner as appropriate. Vacancies should be advertised to the league membership and ~~co-opted~~

Commented [KM1]: Remove – duplicated below.

- ~~new~~ members must be approved by ~~a two-thirds majority at a quorate Committee Meeting of the remaining committee members.~~
- c) ~~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.~~
 - d) No members of the ~~GLSM\LSL~~ committee shall receive any remuneration from the ~~GLSM\LSL~~. Reasonable expenses incurred in the carrying out of ~~GLSM\LSL~~ activities will be reimbursed on approval; ~~evidence of the expenditure such as~~ receipts etc. will be required.
 - e) ~~Any member of the GLSM\LSL committee may also be a direct supplier or an officer, director, paid worker or employee of a company supplying a paid service to GLSM\LSL, but must declare any conflict of interest and withdraw from and must not vote on any discussion and votes involving activities which they or their company have a financial interest in.~~
 - 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 committee-Director can call a committee vote will require a 2/3 majority on whether to remove-require the committee member the person to step down and make the post vacant. Such a vote will require a two thirds majority-thirds majority of committee members to pass.~~
 - g) ~~If the league-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 call a vote and if there is a 2/3rds majority on whether the Director will-should be removed from their post and the post made vacant. Such a vote will require a two thirds majority of committee members to pass.~~
 - e)h) ~~Any-Should any committee member that has been to found to have seriously breached the LSL or BSF Code of Conduct (subject to the appeals process), a vote will be held -will (subject to the appeals process) be voted on-at the next committee meeting on whether to remove them from their post.~~
 - 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.~~

9) PROCEDURE OF THE ~~GLSM\LSL~~ COMMITTEE

- a) The Director shall act as Chair to the ~~Committee~~committee: in the director's absence they shall nominate another member of the ~~Committee~~committee to act as chair-

Commented [KM2]: Remove – we think this was meant to be imply that everyone on the committee can vote on an issue except for majors or minors officers – whoever isn't affected. Committee agreement to propose deletion – we think everyone should be able to vote on all issues unless they have a specific conflict of interest.

- b) The Secretary should give committee members at least 14 days' notice of any meeting of the GLSM~~L~~~~L~~~~S~~ committee; in an emergency the Director may call a meeting at 4 days' notice.
- c) ~~The~~ quorum at any meeting shall be one third or 6 of those members of the ~~Committee~~committee entitled to vote at a meeting, whichever is the smaller.
- d) Committee meetings may be held in person, or using phone / video conferencing facilities, or a combination of these.
- e) A record of attendance at committee meetings (in person or via phone / video) will be kept by the Secretary.
- e) ~~—~~
- e)f) All members of the GLSM~~L~~~~L~~~~S~~ committee as listed in Section 8 above shall be entitled to vote, any matters arising determined by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- g) Members may abstain from voting but no member shall have the power to veto.
- e)h) The committee may use other forms of communication to vote on issues arising in between meetings, for example an online discussion forum. In such circumstances, the Director will state a timeframe for responses to the vote and at least 50% ~~simple~~of committee members must participate in the vote for it to be considered valid.

10) STANDING ORDERS AND RULES OF THE GLSM~~L~~~~L~~~~S~~

- a) The Standing Orders and Regulations Governing Play do not form part of the Constitution. The ~~Committee~~committee has the power to adopt, issue and vary Standing Orders and Regulations Governing Play.
- b) Any changes to the Standing Orders and Regulations must be approved by ~~and these shall come into force immediately provided they have been approved by the~~ ~~Committee~~committee at a ~~Committee~~committee ~~M~~meeting and will require the approval of at least 50% of ~~the~~ committee members in post.
- c) The committee will ensure that league members are given adequate notice of changes to the Standing Orders and ~~Regulations, 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.

11) SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

The GLSM~~L~~~~L~~~~S~~ committee may appoint sub-committees or working groups, as it may deem necessary, to deal with the matters of the GLSM~~L~~~~L~~~~S~~. The proceedings of all such committees shall report to the GLSM~~L~~~~L~~~~S~~ committee. Sub-committees and working groups may include ~~non~~ ~~committee~~non-committee members but ~~should~~must be chaired by a current committee member.

B) Version Control

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

| Year | Summary of changes |
|-------------|--|
| 2007 | Creation of a Development Officer role (Section 8) |
| 2008 | No changes |
| 2009 | No changes |
| 2010 | <p>a) Umpire exclusion now limited to new <u>GLSMLLSL</u> Minors teams and Youth teams. New <u>GLSMLLSL</u> Majors teams must always provide 2 umpires. (Section 3h)</p> <p>b) Three (3) General Officers to be replaced by two (2) General Officers from each of the Majors and Minors groups – resulting in four (4) General Officers in total. (Section 8)</p> <p>c) New section added to clarify voting procedure for issues affecting only one group within the league (Section 8f)</p> |
| 2011 | No changes |
| 2012 | Unclear from records whether changes were made |
| 2013 – 2016 | Records unclear but no version of Constitution found more recent than 2012 version |
| 2017 | <p>Minor grammatical changes throughout</p> <p>(5) Removed implication audited accounts are <u>required</u></p> <p>(7) Simplified nomination process</p> <p>(8) Committee roles – full list moved to Standing Orders. New requirement to advertise committee vacancies, two thirds majority of committee to vote co-opted members, co-opted members can vote.</p> |
| 2018 | Approved at AGM: Addition of clause 6(d): Any member team that does not have a representative registered at the AGM will be deducted a point at the start of the following season, should they re-register. |
| 2019 | <i>To be added once any changes are approved</i> |

Commented [SK3]: This may need to go in again if LSL becomes a company/etc