



GLSML
GREATER LONDON
SOFTBALL
MIXED LEAGUE

Supporting information – agenda items raised by members

9 team divisions – Badgers

Playing in Minors 1 this season has not gone well for the following reasons:

1. By definition, only eight teams can play at once and so this creates two weeks in the season when you have no games.
2. The season is therefore extended by two weeks and for most teams this means giving up two perfectly good weeks in the middle of the season and instead adding them to the beginning and end of the season when it is very likely that these two games will be cut short due to lack of light.

Throw in a couple of circuses and tube strikes and you end up with a very disjointed season. We ended up with 4 weeks in the middle of the season when we had no games.

Walk rules – Finsbury Dazzlers

We would like to propose that the rule whereby a team can choose to walk a female player to 1st base if there are 2 outs and the preceding male has been walked or has received 4 balls should be removed from GLSML play.

We believe that this rule is in place to prevent male batters being deliberately walked when there are 2 outs in order to then be able to pitch to an 'easier' batter. In our experience, we have never seen any batters being deliberately walked during league play and the current rules where male players walk to 2nd base is enough of a punishment for not being able to pitch 3 strikes during an at-bat. So in support of our proposal: firstly, this is recreational softball – having a team use this rule just creates a bad atmosphere within the fielding team and is a double punishment against a pitcher who is probably trying their best to pitch appropriately. Secondly, it creates resentment within the batting team if a captain suggests that a batter should take the walk when she believes that she should bat – irrespective of whether she actually bats. Thirdly, the rule goes against any treating all players more equally. Why just keep the rule for 2 outs – if the intention is to prevent deliberate walking then we should be offering the following female batter a walk in all circumstances where the preceding batter walks. Fourthly, it removes an optionally applied rule and makes game playing better defined.

As for the argument that this rule is part of the ISF rulebook. We believe that the GLSML courtesy runner rule (whereby an injured player can be replaced from whatever base they have reached on their hit) is not in the ISF rulebook so the precedent has already been set.