



## LSL AGM: Amendments & Proposed Amendments to Standing Orders & Regulations

This document gives a summary of changes the committee has made and proposes to make for 2024 Standing Orders and regulations. Note that while the Constitution can only be amended at a General Meeting; the Standing Orders and Regulations can be amended by the committee decision.

We have communicated these out through a pre-AGM survey and will hold a short discussion to debate these changes.

### Proposed Amendments

#### A. Standing Orders

##### Section 2.F: LEAGUE AND DIVISION STRUCTURE

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>*move from B7f) to A2f)* 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.</p> <p>g) Any team that voluntarily withdraws from the league shall have the points for each game they played in voided.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>There is currently a clause about a team being ejected from the league, no clause exists for teams that voluntarily withdraw during the season.</p> <p>All games should be voided to prevent any losses to the withdrawn team from affecting the standings.</p> <p>Move the clauses to A2 as that section deals with league structure and teams entering the league. No section describes teams leaving the league.</p>
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li></ul>

#### B. LSL REGULATIONS GOVERNING PLAY

##### 6) START TIMES AND SHORTENED GAMES

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>e) (i) For the main part of the season, matches that do not achieve regulation status as per WBSC rules shall be considered incomplete. For matches at the beginning and end of the season 4 full innings will be declared a full game, if it is called off due to light or weather.</p> <p>e) (ii) The beginning portion of the season will be defined as from the first scheduled fixture until the Monday of the week containing 4th May.</p>
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	(iii) The end portion of the season will be defined as from the Monday of the week containing 13th August until the final scheduled or rescheduled fixture.
<b>Rationale</b>	To define the start and end portions of the season.
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>

#### 14) POSTPONEMENTS

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>c) *For the main portion of the season,* In the event of a postponement, the following process must be adhered to:</p> <p>*NEW* d) For the end portion of the season ONLY, the process described in c) above must be adhered to, with the exception that games may be rescheduled within less than 2 weeks from the original date.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	For the end of the season, to remove the mandatory 2 week waiting period to reschedule games.
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>c) v) i) 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.</p> <p>*NEW* ii) If the fixtures officer and umpiring team are not informed of the details of the final rearranged game, both teams will be subject to a deduction of one league point.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>An issue that arose this past season where teams did not inform the fixtures officer that a game had been rearranged. It is essential we know when and where games are played for insurance purposes.</p> <p>Games have also taken place where the umpiring team was not informed of the details of the rescheduled fixture.</p> <p>We do not want teams to forfeit games they have already played as per c) v)</p>
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>b) Should there be a situation which the committee deems to affect the entire league – weather, tube strikes etc., only one team is required to ask for a postponement.</p> <p>c) Once a postponement has been agreed, the teams must both inform the umpires as soon as possible, no later than 5pm on the day of the game. If a</p>
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	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))
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Avoids a potential situation where a team living local to a ground can travel to a game while a tube strike prevents the other team from travelling.</p> <p>Prevents situations where a team is forced to arrive at the field for the umpire to call the game off before it starts due to weather.</p>
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>

## D) CODE OF CONDUCT

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

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>Any informal or formal complaints should be reported to the Committee by emailing <a href="mailto:Technical.londonsoftball@gmail.com">Technical.londonsoftball@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p>Any complaint regarding a committee member should be reported to the technical officer in the first instance by emailing <a href="mailto:Technical.londonsoftball@gmail.com">Technical.londonsoftball@gmail.com</a>, unless the complaint is against the technical officer in which case it should be sent to any other committee officer.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	To transfer code of conduct breaches away from the responsibilities of the director to reduce their workload.
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>Complaints may be submitted from any player, team organiser, umpire or committee member.</p> <p>Complaints from public bodies, organisations or members of the public shall immediately be escalated to full committee and/or BSF/BSUK.</p> <p>The Technical Officer shall take the lead in gathering evidence and statements from all involved parties. This may include players, team organisers, umpires, committee members, members of the public and public bodies (eg BSUK, BSF, local councils).</p> <p>Due to potential delays gathering this evidence, an open investigation may take longer than 7 days. If this is the case, the Technical Officer shall inform all parties involved on a fortnightly basis until a case is resolved.</p> <p>If the complaint is against the Technical Officer or they are otherwise unable to participate another suitable committee member or BSF/BSUK representative shall be appointed.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	Define and streamline the process for resolving code of conduct disputes.

<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>
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**Table:  
Informal Complaint:**

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>For informal complaints, the Technical Officer may solely investigate and rule either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) No further action or</li> <li>ii) Required reading of the code of conduct.</li> </ul> <p>In this case the committee must be informed of the outcome. Should any higher sanction be required, this must be escalated to a Disciplinary Sub-Committee once the initial evidence is gathered. Should any appeal of the ruling be made, this must be escalated to a Disciplinary Sub-Committee.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	To provide quick responses to informal complaints and reduce the workload of the rest of the committee.
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>

**Table:  
Formal Complaint:**

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>If the complaint is upheld, the Technical Officer, after forming a Disciplinary Sub-Committee, can enforce one or more of the following remedial actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) No further action</li> <li>ii) Required reading of the code of conduct</li> <li>iii) Single game suspension</li> <li>iv) Multiple game suspension</li> <li>v) Game forfeit</li> <li>vi) Point(s) deduction</li> <li>vii) Expulsion of individual from the league</li> <li>viii) Expulsion of team from the league</li> <li>ix) Removal from the committee</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>To formalise the range of penalties that may occur.</p> <p>These penalties may apply to Complaints/Code of Conduct breaches only.</p> <p>Penalties for protests are already codified in the WBSC slowpitch rulebook (1.2.8 through 14).</p>
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>

**17) PLAYOFFS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

<p><b>Inclusion</b></p>		<p>Team Standings shall be calculated by the following order of tie breakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Points (3 per win, 1 per draw, 0 per loss, -1 per forfeit, other penalty points as described in “Penalties”)</li> <li>ii) Head to Head (involving all teams tied on the same number of points)</li> <li>iii) Results vs 1st place (only results vs the 1st ranked team in the league who is NOT part of the tiebreak process at this point shall count)</li> <li>iv) Results vs 2nd place (only results vs the 2nd ranked team in the league who is NOT part of the tiebreak process at this point shall count)</li> <li>v) Continue with results vs 3rd, 4th, and so on as necessary.</li> <li>vi) Mandatory play-off. If both teams are still tied and neither team has forfeited a game, or both teams have an equal number of forfeits, then they must play a decider before the annual All Star event. If a team refuses to play or cannot raise a team, then it is deemed a forfeit and either they are relegated, or the other team is promoted.</li> <li>vii) Drawing of lots. If no team can compete in a playoff, then drawing lots is the last resort.</li> </ul> <p>Rankings for all teams shall be calculated from the 1st place team first, then 2nd until the entire division is ranked.</p>
<p><b>Rationale</b></p>		<p>To simplify the league standings tiebreakers. Propose to remove the reference to "mini-leagues" and replace this with results versus highest ranked teams.</p> <p>Drawing of lots refers to “picking numbers out of a hat”. This change from a coin flip allows more than 2 teams to be separated should the need occur.</p> <p>This would enable up to 6 times more tiebreakers than the previous mini leagues, further reducing the potential need for playoffs which are very difficult to schedule.</p>

		<p>This will also allow an easy and robust way to tiebreak:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Multiple teams on the same points/H2H score and</li> <li>2. Teams at the top of each division for qualification for league nationals.</li> </ol> <p>A full ranking of teams would be produced for positions 1-8 (or more depending on the division capacity).</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, runs for, against or difference are never used for the purpose of tiebreaking, and are already in the SO's under clause B17d.</p>
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	•	• Do members agree with the proposed change?

### C) WBSC RULES NOT ADOPTED BY LSL

#### RULE 2.1.5 - DUGOUT (SIDELINES)

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>B) LSL REGULATIONS GOVERNING PLAY</p> <p>1) FIELDS AND FIXTURES</p> <p>*NEW* d) Any person involved in an LSL game (including coaches, base coaches, umpires, substitutes) shall not consume alcohol or tobacco products at any time on the field or in the dugout area during the game.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, the game is defined as from the start of the pregame plate meeting until the fielding team and umpires have left the field after the final inning is completed. Spectators are not included within this ruling. The sanctions are a team warning in the first instance then ejection after a second infraction.</p> <p>5) UMPIRES</p> <p>i) Umpires' responsibilities and powers:</p> <p>viii) Ensure that alcohol and tobacco products are not used on the field or in the dugout area for the duration of the game.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>These regulations already apply to all BSF sanctioned tournaments.</p> <p>Remove RULE 2.1.5 from the SOs and add the proposed wording to the relevant sections.</p>

<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>
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## 9) PLAYER ROSTERING AND RESTRICTIONS

### e) Playing up / playing down:

<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>e) (i) Teams may use fill-in BBH who are rostered to a team from the same or any lower division.</p> <p>(iv) ... under no circumstances are players allowed to play for a team in a lower division to the team with which they are rostered.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	To reevaluate the ringer rule now teams have had 2 years of recruitment post pandemic.
<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>

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<b>Issues / questions for discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do members agree with the proposed change?</li> </ul>