2026-27 Resolutions

R.1: Incorporation of the London Softball League
Suggested by: Committee

Context and Rationale:
Incorporation of the LSL has been in the works for multiple years. We have drafted Articles of Association based heavily on our existing Constitution. We would like the membership to ratify these Articles - at that point, the committee would submit them to Companies House and form London Softball League Limited, a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee. The initial membership will be those individuals who cast a vote on this resolution and are willing to act as members (**Note:** The initial members may be required to provide additional data, sign paperwork, or validate changes to the draft articles)

A summary of the changes are included in the AGM documents.

R.2: Trialing light meters in the 2027 season.
Suggested by: David Jenn, Diamond Dogs

Context and Rationale:
Our current rules leave it to the umpire to determine if there is enough light to play. In the event of darkness, the umpire can end the game, reverting to the last completed inning.

In close games, teams can put pressure on the umpire to end or extend the game, based on their advantage. Because there is no objective measure of "too dark", teams can argue that previous games had been played (or stopped) in similar conditions.

Some sports use light meters to take an objective measure of light.

This change would empower the committee to trial light meters in the 2027 season. The committee would purchase multiple light meters and work with teams to get readings at each pitch throughout the season. The goal would be to establish a baseline for use in future seasons (i.e. create guidlines for umpires to call a game when the light level reachs a given value)

Note: A yes vote does not change the current Standing Orders, but empowers the committee to:

1. Spend a reasonable sum of money to obtain light meters
2. Use light meters to determine suitability of play at selected games

If the trial is successful, a formal rule change will be presented at the next AGM.

2026-27 Proposed Standing Order Changes

SO.1: Disallow ringers if a team is at 5 and 5

Suggested by: Steve Karmeinsky, Buccaneers

Context and Rationale:
This change would forbid a team from using a non-rostered BBH and a non-rostered SBH in the same game, except to avoid playing short-handed. In other words, a team may not use a BBH ringer and a SBH ringer to go 6 and 6.

Teams would be allowed to use multiple ringers to play 6 and 6 (i.e. a team with 6 rostered SBHs and 4 rostered BBHs would be allowed to play with 2 non-rostered BBHs).

New subsection under B.9.5:
A team may not simultaneously use a non-rostered BBH and a non-rostered SBH to field a lineup of 6 BBH and 6 SBH.

SO.2: Minimum percentage of rostered players

Suggested by: Steve Karmeinsky

Context and Rationale:
We currently have no limit on the number of non-rostered players that a team may use in a game. This would ensure that the majority of players on the field for a given team were rostered to that team.

New subsection under B.9.5:
A minimum of 50% of players in a team's lineup must be rostered to that team.

SO.3: Split costs arising from postponements

Suggested by: Sophie Aversa, London Asteroids

Context and Rationale:
When a game is rescheduled, the home team is responsible for finding and booking a new pitch. They may or may not get a refund for their original booking, and the new pitch may cost more than their home pitch. This can result in a significant increase in fees over the course of the season, largely out of the team's control. This change would split any financial costs between both teams.

New subsection under B.14.3:
Any additional costs associated with rescheduling the game shall be split by both teams.

SO.4: Commitment line between third base and home plate

Suggested by: Jon Clanton, Director

Context and Rationale:
The 2026 season involved multiple accidental collisions at home plate. Some leagues use a commitment line between third base and home plate - a runner who crosses the commitment line may not return to third base and must advance past home without touching home plate. All plays at home plate become force outs, giving the catcher sole ownership of home plate.

New Section B.6:
Commitment Line
1. The commitment line is a line halfway between third base and home plate
2. A runner who advances beyond the commitment line and attempts to return to third base is out
3. A runner scoring at home must run past home plate in foul territory without touching home plate. A runner who touches home plate is out.
4. A catcher may make a force out by touching home plate while in possession of the ball at any point after a runner has advanced beyond the commitment line and before that runner reaches home.

SO.5: Require batter-runners to discard the bat in a controlled manner

Suggested by: Cal Armstrong, PI's

Context and Rationale:
Most players will discard their bat in foul territory on the way to first base. Some players will - either accidentally or out of habit - let go of the bat at the end of the swing, tossing it behind them. This can result in the bat striking the catcher, umpire, or a player standing in dead ball territory.

There are currently no penalties for the release of the bat in this manner. In league discussions, some umpires will warn the player and escalate to ejection under the "unsportsmanlike conduct" clause. Other umpires do nothing, given that there is no specific rule against it.

This would add a specific rule within LSL making it clear that accidentally throwing the bat is unacceptable. The first instance would result in a warning / reminder - subsequent instances would result in an out.

Intentionally throwing a bat at someone would still qualify as unsportsmanlike conduct and would result in immediate ejection.

New Section B.5.3:
Batter-runners must discard the bat in a controlled and safe manner. Failure to do so will result in a warning in the first instance, and outs in subsequent instances.