

Softball Leinster Byelaws

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Softball Leinster Byelaws:

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1. Application and Definitions

- 1.1. The word “Team” refers to any registered team in any Softball Leinster league or competition.
- 1.2. The word “Club” applies to single and multi-team playing organisations.
- 1.3. The word “League” refers to any Softball League that is played in the Leinster region and overseen by Softball Leinster covered in these byelaws.
- 1.4. The word “Championship” refers to any Softball Leinster knockout competition.
- 1.5. The word “Tournament” refers to all official Softball Leinster one or two consecutive day competitions.
- 1.6. The term “Softball Leinster Premier (Prem) League” or “Softball Leinster Recreation (Rec) League” or “Softball Leinster Men’s League” refers to one of the three leagues that are administered by Softball Leinster.
- 1.7. The term “New Team” refers to any registered team with a minimum of 50% of its roster at the closure of registration comprising of players who were not registered with Softball Ireland or Softball Leinster in the previous year.
- 1.8. The term “Player” refers to any registered member of Softball Leinster and Softball Ireland who participates in all or part of a League, Championship or Tournament.
- 1.9. The term “Primary Team” refers to the specific Leinster League Team within a club to which a Player is registered with based on the records kept by Softball Leinster.
- 1.10. The term “Game” refers to any game of softball played in any League played in Softball Leinster.
- 1.11. The term “Features” shall mean a Player either playing the first inning of a Game or playing for more than three and a half innings of a Game.

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- 1.12. The official representative of each team, known as the “team contact” (e.g. committee member, captain, coach, manager), is required to familiarise themselves with these byelaws, which apply to all league, tournament and championship play.
- 1.13. The Term “SL” means Softball Leinster, the regional council or it’s representative officers or any subcommittee.
- 1.14. The Term “SI” means Softball Ireland, the national council or it’s designated representative officers or any sub committees.

2. SL Committee Recommended Policies

- 2.1. SL committee recommends that each club should adopt the following policies as a matter of good practice. If you would like further advice or information on these policies or would like to share any policies that your club currently uses or is considering implementing, then please contact the SL Secretary.
- 2.2. Each club should have a basic constitution outlining the rights, duties and responsibilities of its members.
- 2.3. Each club should have a bank account with at least two signatories on the account.
- 2.4. SL recognises that consumption of alcohol impairs co-ordination and judgement. While recognising the social nature of softball, SL strongly recommends that individuals show personal responsibility, for their own safety and that of others, when consuming alcohol before or during softball events. SL fully supports any umpires or other nominated officials who exclude an individual from play due to alcohol induced incapacity.
- 2.5. For safety reasons members are strongly advised against playing while pregnant.
- 2.6. Any player who has concerns about insurance coverage (e.g. in case of pregnancy, disability or otherwise) should satisfy themselves, through SL, SI or directly with the insurers, as to whether their needs are met. SL will endeavor, where feasible, to obtain any clarifications or additional cover required with any additional costs to be borne by the player.
 - 2.6.1. In order to compete in a Softball Leinster league, championship or tournament, for insurance purposes, all players must be registered with Softball Ireland.

3. Clubs

- 3.1. To register as a club with Softball Leinster, a club must have paid the appropriate SL team subscription for each of its teams by close of registration for the current season.
- 3.2. All the club’s business with SL must be through a representative nominated according to the SL constitution.

4. Complaints, Disciplinary Procedures and Appeals

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- 4.1. There will be a zero-tolerance policy for player ejections this year. When a player is ejected from a game, even if it occurs after the game is completed, there will be an automatic one game suspension. Following an ejection, SL will review the Umpires report to consider the category of offence and consider if any additional sanction is to be applied in accordance with the Bye-Laws for that player for their first offense. A second offense will warrant a three-game suspension and possible expulsion from the league for the remainder of the season if there is more. Normal appeals process may apply.
- 4.2. Any appeal relating to a disputed game or result must be lodged to SL in writing (email is acceptable) within seven calendar days from the start time of the game. In cases where the timeline is not met the result will stand as reported by the umpire if assigned or by either team captain if no umpire is present.
- 4.3. Any appeal relating to a SL council decision, which adversely affects a member, must be lodged in writing with the SL committee (email is acceptable) within seven calendar days of the member being informed of the decision by the SL committee. In cases where the timeline is not met the decision will stand.
- 4.4. Any SL member may lodge a request for disciplinary action to be taken against another member (or members), team (including non-SL registered visiting teams) for transgressions of these or other appropriate byelaws at a game in which they were involved or which they witnessed.
 - 4.4.1. The umpire should be notified of the incident at the time of the event or at the end of the game of which the incident occurred.
 - 4.4.2. The request for disciplinary action must be lodged in writing with the SL committee (email is acceptable) within seven calendar days. The request must state the date, event when the incident occurred and the reason why disciplinary action is being sought.
- 4.5. All requests are to be made to the SL committee, info@softballleinster.ie
- 4.6. SL will appoint a "reporting officer" to handle the case.
- 4.7. The reporting officer must request statements from the complainant, the accused and any umpire present. The officer may also request statements from team captains and any SL representatives or other witnesses present at the time.
- 4.8. No later than fourteen calendar days from the initial date of the complaint, the reporting officer will pass on his/her findings to the SL committee.
- 4.9. If the reporting officer finds that an offence has been committed, the officers of SL will within seven calendar days, after taking whatever advice they deem necessary, convene a SL council meeting to hear the accused persons defense and if necessary to impose appropriate penalties.
- 4.10. SL will inform the accused club representative, the accused and the complainant of the outcome.

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- 4.11. An appeal against a decision to impose disciplinary penalties must be made within seven calendar days in writing to the SL committee and include the appropriate fee.
- 4.12. The appeal committee will be convened by the SL committee within seven working days and must complete its work within 14 days.
- 4.13. The SL committee will keep records of each stage of the disciplinary process including any statements given.
- 4.14. SL, on behalf of any SL member, may take disciplinary action against an umpire.
- 4.15. SL may take disciplinary action against a team, club or any player in SL on recommendations given to them by an umpire.

5. Umpiring

- 5.1. An umpire appointed to a game is due the expenses fee agreed by SL for the competition in question.
- 5.2. Fees shall be:
 - 5.2.1. Shared equally between the teams when game is played.
 - 5.2.2. Shared equally in full between the teams when a game is suspended.
 - 5.2.3. Shared equally in full between the teams when a game is continued from suspension on a new day.
 - 5.2.4. Paid by the team not showing up in the case of a forfeit by no show.
 - 5.2.5. Paid in full by the forfeiting team where a game is forfeit due to ejection.
 - 5.2.6. Paid by the home team where a ground is unavailable, and the home team made no attempt to confirm availability
 - 5.2.7. Paid by Softball Leinster where umpire was not informed of a game being cancelled.
 - 5.2.8. In any unforeseen circumstance SL will determine who should pay.
- 5.3. In the event of no umpire being present both teams should agree on a basis for umpiring the game.
- 5.4. The home club captain shall assume responsibilities for reporting of the match result that day and for submission of the signed match report card the following day.
- 5.5. Where the two teams fail to agree on an umpiring arrangement, both team captains should contact SL within 24 hours and report the reason for the failure.
- 5.6. SL will schedule umpires to games and will have an umpiring chief who, with SL, will deal with all related umpire queries.

6. Protests

- 6.1. A protest may be lodged in writing to SL by a team captain in the following instance:
 - 6.1.1. The captain on the field of play has appealed the decision of an umpire based on the umpire's interpretation of the WBSC rules, SI Regulations and these byelaws.
 - 6.1.2. The captain advises the umpire the game is being completed under protest.
 - 6.1.3. Umpiring judgement calls may not be protested.
- 6.2. Any protests will be decided by the SL committee in consultation with the SL umpire coordinator.
- 6.3. A written protest must be made by the protesting club representative to SL within seven days of the game.
- 6.4. SL will issue its decision to both teams and the umpire (if applicable) within fourteen days of receiving the protest.
- 6.5. Protest decisions cannot be appealed.

7. Individual and Club Conduct

- 7.1. The following reasons for disciplinary action against an individual and/or their team/club as determined by SL:
 - 7.1.1. Failure of a team captain, manager or coach or other club members to intervene within a reasonable time to prevent or discourage misconduct.
 - 7.1.2. Ejection from a game. See section 9.1 for penalty details.
 - 7.1.3. Assault either physical or verbal on a player, umpire or member of the public.
 - 7.1.4. Coercion or forcing of any participant into in-human, degrading or illegal activities.
 - 7.1.5. Conduct likely to damage the good name of Softball or Softball Leinster.
 - 7.1.6. Failure of the team captain, manager, coach or other club members to intervene, within a reasonable time, in any activity or behavior listed in 7.1.1, 7.1.3, 7.1.4 or 7.1.5 where the perpetrator is a bystander who can be related to a specific club.
- 7.2. Destruction of, damage to, or failure to return SL equipment or intellectual property is a category 1 offence.
- 7.3. SL may refuse to renew membership of, grant new membership to, suspend existing membership of, or prevent participation in any SL event of any individual or group involved in an ongoing legal dispute with SL or any member of SL.

8. Drugs in Sport

- 8.1. No affiliated player may contravene the relevant doping laws of the following organisations:
- 8.1.1. International Olympic Committee (IOC)
 - 8.1.2. World Anti-Doping Association (WADA)
 - 8.1.3. WBSC – Softball Division
 - 8.1.4. European Softball Federation (ESF)
 - 8.1.5. Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI)
 - 8.1.6. Sport Ireland
- 8.2. A full list of prohibited substances can be obtained from <http://www.sportireland.ie/Anti-Doping/> . It is the responsibility of the player to be aware of their obligations in accordance with byelaw 8.1.
- 8.3. Infraction of byelaw 8.1 will be a category 4 offence at minimum and penalties will be in line with those applied by other comparable associations and federation and/or national or international anti-doping organisations.
- 8.4. Members in the following categories are liable for testing for illegal substances:
- 8.4.1. All premier and division 1 players.
- 8.5. Testing of SL members may be performed by duly appointed representatives of the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit at any or all of the following:
- 8.5.1. All Premier and Division 1 games.

9. Scale of Penalties

- 9.1. Depending on the seriousness of the offence, SL may impose any combination of the penalties within the following ranges for infraction of these byelaws.

| Category of | Range of penalties for individuals |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Permanent expulsion.2. Suspension for more than one season. |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Suspension for one season.2. Suspension for more than five games or |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Suspension for less than five games or weeks.2. Suspension for more than two games or weeks. |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Suspension for one game or one week.2. Fined between €75 and €150.3. Community service of up to ten hours. |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Fine of less than €75.2. Written caution.3. Community service of up to five hours. |

- 9.2. Incurring more than two written cautions for any individual or club in any three-month period is a category 4 offence.