



## 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” refers to the two leagues that are overseen 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 the Leinster League.
- 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.
- 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 endeavour, 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 clubs business with SL must be through a representative nominated according to the SL constitution.

### 4. Fees and Expenses

4.1 SL Team Fees and Expenses:

4.1.1 Leinster Premier League Team Fee	€250
4.1.2 Leinster Recreation League Team Fees	€150
4.1.3 Leinster League New Team Fee	€0

4.2 Umpire Fees (split by both teams):

4.2.1 SL Approved Umpire Cost (Per game)	€40
4.2.2 Umpire Cost (Per game)	€30

4.3 SI Minimum Player Fees (first 12 players): €300

4.4 Grounds Fees (annual)

4.4.1 Stannaway Park (7 games)	€100
4.4.2 Mount Temple (7 games)	€385

4.5 Appeal Fee<sup>1</sup> €100

<sup>1</sup> The appeal fee must be paid in advance of an appeal but will be refunded if the appeal proves successful.

## 5. The Rules of Play

5.1 The rules of play are those of the International Softball Federation as contained in the current ISF rulebook specific to co-ed slowpitch softball and SI regulations with the following adjustments.

5.2 Where there is a contradiction between the ISF rules or these byelaws, these byelaws have precedence. SI Regulations supersede the ISF rules, and do not contradict these byelaws. Some rules that counter the ISF rules are:

5.2.1 “The Shorthanded Rule” - Teams can begin games and complete games shorthanded with 9 players. If an additional player arrives after the start of the game they can enter as long as they conform to the necessary gender split as indicated below.

5.2.2 “Continued play Rule” – If gameplay is suspended, a game is considered complete once 5 full innings have been played, or 4 ½ if the home team has the lead. If a game is stopped prior to the fifth inning being completed by the umpire due to weather or another valid reason, the game will resume from the point which the game was stopped and continue as normal through the completion of 7 innings or more if extra innings are necessary. No penalty will be given to teams for substitutions, but returning players should bat in the same order they appeared previously. The same gender split should also be maintained.

5.2.3 “Run Ahead Rule” – While in the ISF a “run ahead” rule exists we have pushed it out from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the fifth inning. After 5 innings, a team ahead by 20 runs will be declared the winner, and after 6 innings a team ahead by 15 runs will be declared the winner. Teams may continue to play on as a friendly if they choose but the win can be logged by the umpire if either of those run ahead scores are achieved.

5.3 The required gender split in Softball Leinster can differ between the Premier League, Recreation League or any other SL League.

5.3.1 In 2017, Premier League Competitions teams can play with a gender split of 6&4, 4&6 or 5&5. (or 7&5, 5&7 or 6&6 if applying the extra player rule).

5.3.2 In the Recreation League play teams can play 5&5 or 6&4 (or 6&6 or 7&5 if applying the extra player rule), This allows 6 men and 4 Women or 6 Women and 4 Men, under the conditions as listed below.

5.3.3 When playing equal ratio of Men and Women or with more men, Women must alternate through the batting order. For example, playing 5 men and 5 women batting at either: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

5.3.4 In the Premier and Recreation League, when playing with 6 men and 4 women, the women must play in the spots 2, 4, 6, 8 or 1, 3, 5, 7. When playing with 6 women and 4 men, men must alternate through the batting order in the spots 2, 4, 6, 8 or 1, 3, 5, 7.

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5.3.5 In the Premier and Recreation League, when not playing with an even ratio of men and woman and playing the extra player rule, players must continue to alternate in similar manner as described in 5.3.4.

5.3.4 When fielding there must be at least two female players in the outfield and two female players in the infield, unless a team plays under the short hand rule and the missing player is female. In this case the team must play with two females in the infield, one female in the outfield and one vacant position in the outfield.

5.3.5 Any substitute must be of the same gender as the substituted player.

5.3.6 If a player is playing under the short hand rule then the missing player becomes an automatic out in the last position for that gender in the batting order, in accordance with byelaws 5.3.4. If both teams are playing shorthanded they can choose to play with no automatic out

5.3.7 In the Premier and Recreation League, when playing 6 Men and 4 Women the catcher must be male but there is no requirement that the pitcher must be female. A pitcher counts as an infield position.

5.3.8 A male batter who is walked will be awarded 2 bases if the next batter is a female player, but only 1 base if another male follows him in the batting order.

5.3.9. When playing under the short hand rule, a male batter who is walked will be awarded only 1 base if he is followed by an automatic out (even if the automatic out should have been a female player).

5.3.10 A team must complete the game with the same gender split it started with.

5.4 A match report and team roster must be completed and signed by the umpire and each team captain on the day after completion of the game. These documents have three copies with the white copy going to the umpire. Match report and Roster forms will be provided to team captains before the start of the season. The match report and player roster is also available to be printed in the SL Links section of [softballeinster.ie website](http://softballeinster.ie).

5.5 Bases need not be spiked.

5.6 The distance between bases shall be sixty-five feet.

5.7 The standard softball for all Softball Leinster Premier League, Recreation League games and SL official tournaments is any brand showing they are approved for ASA play and conforming to following specs: For male batters the balls should be 12" in size and a COR .52 with a compression of .300. For female batters it should be an 11" ball with a .44 COR and .375lb compression.

5.7.1 The responsibility for determining whether the quality of a ball is of a suitably high standard for use remains with the umpires.

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5.8 A courtesy runner is allowed for an injured batter-runner or runner under the below two conditions. It is the discretion of the umpire who may consult with both captains as to whether a courtesy runner is warranted.

5.8.1 A courtesy runner of the same sex is allowed on any base, if the batter-runner or runner is injured in that play

5.8.2 If the batter-runner is already injured then a courtesy runner of the same sex is only allowed on 1<sup>st</sup> base, unless the runner is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base with a walk or a ground rule double.

5.9 In cases where there is any doubt about the applicability or interpretation of any byelaw, the decision ultimately rests with the umpire. Where no umpire is present, the two captains will record any disputed interpretation on the match report and record the position of play (i.e. position of runners, next batting position, outs runs and score) at the time of the dispute. Where possible games should be completed but should an appeal be forthcoming no prejudice shall exist on any side.

5.10 SL will adopt the ASA's banned bat list and ASA approved bat list. The current ASA Bat list can be found here:

[http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/build\\_batlist\\_one\\_page.asp](http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/build_batlist_one_page.asp)

5.11 An umpire has the right, on the grounds of safety, to stop a player or team from using a specific bat that he/she feels is an altered or banned bat. In such a case, the bat shall be removed from play by the umpire and returned to the player after the game. The player or team can appeal this decision to SL. SL will then determine if the bat is banned or has been tampered with. If the bat is banned or has been tampered with, then the bat will not be allowed to be used in any SL organised event. The team will not be allowed to appeal the result of the game.

5.12 The batter will enter the batter's box with a zero ball zero strike count in all SL competitions unless stated otherwise in those competition rules.

5.13 The maximum pitch arc will be 12 foot for all SL tournaments.

## 6 The Field of Play

6.1 Every team must ensure that their home ground is suitable and safe and that they have all the necessary permits to play there. If there is any doubt about suitability and safety, the club representative should request an inspection by SL.

6.2 Ground rules will be set by the umpire, after consultation with both team captains. The ground rules should be recorded in the match report and forwarded to SL.

6.3 If a team's home ground is continually unavailable, SL can instruct them to make alternative arrangements. The team in question may be instructed to play all their games away from home if alternative arrangements cannot be made.

## 7 Equipment and Safety

7.1 Each team is required to have the following minimum list of equipment for each SL competition game. Failure to have the below equipment will result in a forfeit.

7.1.1 Home Team must have one full set of softball bases including one dual-coloured safety base at first base, two single bases, a home plate and a pitchers plate.

7.1.2 At least one legal softball bat.

7.1.3 At least ten softball gloves (nine if playing the Short hand rule).

7.1.4 At least two legal 12" softballs and at least two legal 11" softballs.

7.1.5 Home Team must have where applicable, a letter from the local or government authority certifying authorisation to use the ground.

7.1.6 Any other gear as deemed necessary by Softball Ireland, the national governing body, including the required three helmets that are National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) approved softball batting helmets.

7.2 Players must wear acceptable footwear which is in the opinion of the umpire does not create a danger to other players' safety. An umpire has the right, on the grounds of safety, to stop a player from wearing footwear, which in the umpire's opinion may threaten the safety of other players. Footwear which may be deemed unsafe for play includes:

7.2.1 All metal studs.

7.2.2 Metal baseball cleats.

7.2.3 Screw on studs (screw in studs are acceptable, once they are rubber).

7.2.4 Any plastic or rubber stud, which through wear and has become worn or sharp to the touch and in the opinion of the umpire, may cause injury to any other player.

7.3 If a team attends a fixture without a full uniform then the minimum acceptable standard will be tops of similar colour. This will be based upon the judgement of the assigned umpire.

7.3.1 Players may wear outer garments due to weather conditions.

## 8 Players

8.1 Players must be registered with Softball Ireland and designate a primary team playing within Softball Leinster. Their Softball Ireland player registration fee should be paid through their primary team.

8.1.1 Players can be registered to play on two different teams, if one team is in the Premier League and one team is in the Recreation league. They do not need an exemption as described in 8.6.3 or 8.7.

8.2 An umpire or any other SL official is entitled to ask for proof of identity of any player. In the absence of satisfactory proof of identity, the player may be asked for a signature, and allowed to play under caution. SL may require the team or player to substantiate this identification at a later date.

8.3 Impersonation of another member is a category 3 offence by the player and the team.

8.4 The lower age limit for participation in any SL competition is 18 years with the following exception listed below:

8.4.1 A team may apply to SL or SI for an exemption for players aged 14 to 17 years of age. An exemption may be granted subject to agreement by the SL committee or the SI council. Under 18 players must conform to the SI underage player requirements.

8.5 SL does not accept any liability in cases where the player's condition renders them excluded from SI's insurance policy.

8.6 A player may not play for more than one club in SL competitions in a season without applying for a cross team/club exemption as described in section 8.7.4 or applying for and being granted a transfer of registration under the conditions listed below. This does not exclude a player playing for more than one team in a multi-team club in a season as listed in section 8.7.

8.6.1 SL will transfer a registration within seven days, provided:

8.6.1.1 The required fee, if one exists, is paid.

8.6.1.2 The player is not subject to any disciplinary penalties or proceedings at the time.

8.6.1.3 There are at least three games (excluding playoffs) still to be played by the destination club.

8.6.2 Players can transfer between teams within a club once during the season with these conditions:

8.6.2.1 The required fee, if one exists, is paid.

8.6.2.2 The player is not subject to any disciplinary penalties or proceedings at the time.

8.6.2.3 There are at least three games (excluding playoffs) still to be played by the destination team.

8.6.2.4 Exemptions used previous to the transfer are carried over for that player.

8.6.3 Within the Recreation League Male players can request a one-time exemption to play with another team outside of their club. Female players can play with another team twice.

8.7 Players should be registered to a specific team within a club and can be registered with multiple teams as long as they play in different Leagues, but players can play for another team within their club by emailing a notification to [exemptions@softballleinster.ie](mailto:exemptions@softballleinster.ie) within 24 hours from the start of the game. No response is needed for approval but playing a player without marking it on player lineup sheet or sending an exemption email within 24 hours from the start of game will result in that team forfeiting the game as described in section 10.6.

8.7.1 Playing up: A player registered on a lower ranked team according to TLS is allowed play for a higher ranked team within their club 5 times during the season. Once this player has played 5 times for any higher ranked team they must return to their original team and will not be permitted to play for another higher ranked team.

8.7.2 Playing down: Players registered on a higher ranked team according to TLS can play for a lower ranked team within their club according to the following conditions.

8.7.2.1 The number of players allowed to play down each week is either 2 females, or 1 male and 1 female.

8.7.2.2 Each player can play 5 times per season for a lower ranked team within their club. Once the player plays for any lower ranked team in their club to a total of 5 times they are not permitted to play anymore games for any lower ranked team for the remainder of the season.

8.7.2.3 An exempted male can only play catcher, right field or pitcher - An exempted female can avail of any position.

8.7.3 Exemptions used previous to the transfer are carried with the player to his new team.

8.7.4 Teams can avail of an exemption of up to two players per week from any team or club in the league.

8.7.4.1 The number of players allowed to play down each week is either 2 females, or 1 male and 1 female.

8.7.4.2 An exempted player can only play once for that team during the season and their exemption does not count towards the 5 exemptions that players might use within their club.

8.7.4.3 An exempted male can only play catcher, right field or pitcher - An exempted female can avail of any position.

8.7.5 No exemptions are needed to play on a SL designated All Star Team and do not count towards their overall club exemptions.

## 9 Fixtures

9.1 All fixtures are the property of SL. No club may rearrange a fixture without the express consent of SL.

9.2 In exceptional circumstances a club may make a written request for postponement. SL has the complete discretion to grant or refuse a postponement and where granted, will reschedule the fixture. All written requests must be submitted to SL. Postponements will only be granted in extreme circumstances, with the following exceptions:

9.2.1 SL will grant postponements or reschedule games upon written request prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May and no less than 30 days prior to the date the game is scheduled to take place if 2 or more members of the team have been selected to represent Ireland in a playing or coaching capacity and will be away during the time the scheduled game is set to take place. No more than 2 days travel time within Europe and 3 days travel time outside of Europe will be considered.

9.3 Where a field appears unsafe for play and in the absence of an umpire, either club captain can refuse to play and seek retrospective permission for a postponement without incurring a forfeit.

9.4 A game suspended for reason of light, safety or any other reason determined by an umpire (or agreed by the captains in absence of an umpire), before the conclusion of a legal game must be advised to SL, who will reschedule the fixture. Details of such a suspension must include the position of play (i.e. line-ups, position of runners, next batting position, outs, runs, strikes/balls and score) at the time of the suspension. The game will resume from the exact point of the suspension of play of the original game and will continue to completion.

9.5 All postponed and suspended games must be concluded by the end of the nearest appropriate free week in the schedule, or two weeks, if there are no free weeks. If both clubs are unable to agree date, SL may set the date of the fixture at its discretion. Failure to play any re-arranged fixture by a date set by SL where reasonable notice was given may result in one or both teams forfeiting the game in accordance with byelaw 10.1.

## 10 Forfeits

10.1 A forfeit is awarded against any team that does not have enough registered players available to begin within 15 minutes of the designated start time. A double forfeit applies if both teams are short of players.

10.1.1 If a team has nine registered and eligible players to commence the game under the shorthanded rule before 15 minutes have elapsed from the designated start time then the game must begin.

10.2 A forfeit is awarded against a team that is unable to continue due to the departure or ejection of players. The minimum number to start or continue is nine.

10.2.1 In accordance with ISF rules, if a player is ejected then the team must have a legal replacement available to continue and avoid a forfeit.

10.3 A Forfeit is not awarded against a team that is unable to continue with the minimum numbers of players due to an injury that happened during that game. However a seven nil loss will be awarded.

10.4 A team will forfeit a game for using a player who is not registered with the club at the start of the game.

10.5 In the event of a forfeit, SL will determine who will pay any applicable fees.

10.6 A club found to play a player from another team within their club without an exemption will be in breach of byelaws 8.7 or subsequent subsections found within 8.7, will forfeit all points for all games in which the player(s) breached the same byelaws. The opposing team will be awarded the win and the appropriate points for a win.

## 11 League, Championship & Tournament Structures

11.1 The structure and any applicable playing rules for SL competitions will be issued to all competing clubs at least two weeks before commencement of each competition.

11.2 Softball Leinster will have two or more leagues and will be scheduled based on the number of teams in those leagues. Teams will play an equal number of home and away fixtures, or will be as close to equal as possible depending on the number of teams in their division.

11.2.1. The Premier League will consist of one division and the division will be named Premier (or *Prem*)

11.2.2 The Recreation League will have two or more divisions starting with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and so forth.

11.3 The home team will be designated according to the schedule as issued by SL.

11.4 In the event of a gap developing in the league schedule due to the non-participation of a team, SL may fill the position according to the procedures in byelaw 13.

11.5 In the event of a team withdrawing or being expelled from the league, all of their fixtures will be removed from the schedule and any league points gained in fixtures against them will be deducted from the other teams in the division.

11.6 Points for all league games will be 5 for a win or walkover, 2 for a loss and 0 for a forfeit or conceding a walkover.

11.6.1 For interleague or non-divisional games both teams will be awarded 5 points each and 0 points for a walkover.

11.7 At the end of the season the team with the lowest amount of points in the division or the lowest conference within that division will have a TLS lower than the team who won their division in the lower division.

11.8 The team that finishes with the second lowest amount of points will play a relegation match with the team in the division below who finished with the second highest amount of points. If the team from the higher division wins the game, both teams will stay in their respective divisions. If the team from the lower division wins the game they will move up as many as 2 spots in the TLS, but still below any team which finished higher than them during the season. If the team that lost the relegation match was from the upper division they will move as many as two TLS spots but still ahead of any team they finished higher than during the season.

11.8.1 If there is only one division in a league there will be no relegation or promotion. New teams can enter at the lowest TLS for the League until enough teams warrant splitting the league into two or more divisions.

11.9 SL will nominate the highest ranked eligible team(s) in the Softball Leinster Premier Division at the completion of the full league season to represent Softball Leinster at the Softball Ireland National Club Championships (SINCC).

## 12 Tied League Standings

12.1 In the event of teams being tied on number of league points, the following criteria will be applied.

12.2 Rank them in the order

a) Rank the teams by inverse number of walkovers.

a) By the results in their games amongst themselves. Maintaining the points designated for wins, losses and walkovers. (This is creating a new mini table with just the tied teams)

b) If all or some teams are still tied then rank the remaining tied teams by their runs against record in the games amongst the themselves; The teams with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others.

12.3 Resolution of any circumstances with regard to a tied league standing not foreseen here will be decided by the Softball Leinster Committee.

## 13 Team League Standings

13.1 A team's league standing (TLS) is based on its final league position at the end of the preceding season (after promotion and relegations and taking account of any relevant disciplinary penalties in force). Each team is given a seeding corresponding to its TLS, so that "1" represents the seeding of the highest placed team.

13.2 The TLS and seeding is the joint property of the majority of registered players on the team from the seeding season.

13.3 Any team registered before the due date will be offered a league position in accordance with their TLS.

13.4 A newly merged team must choose the TLS of one of its 'parent' teams. A TLS may be assigned by SL based on the registered players from the player's previous season.

13.5 All other TLS's revert to SL for re-allocation and teams will move up within their division to leave any vacancies at the bottom.

13.6 After the final closing date for team registration, any vacant league position may be filled by a team from the division below. The position will be first offered to the team with the highest TLS, then the next team and so on.

13.7 To fill a vacant spot in the Prem division and leave the division with an even number of teams, SL may create an All Star team made up of players from the lower divisions. This team will be assigned points for wins and losses and will act as any other team in the Prem division in the Leinster League, except that it will not be assigned a TLS at the end of the season and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division players will not need an exemption to play for this team.

13.8 Resolution of any circumstances with regard to Team League Standing not foreseen here will be decided by the Softball Leinster Committee.

## 14 Complaints, Disciplinary Procedures and Appeals

14.1 There will be a zero 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 offence. A second offence 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.

14.2 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.

14.3 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.

14.4 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.

14.4.1 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.

14.4.2 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.

14.5 All requests are to be made to the SL committee, [info@softballleinster.ie](mailto:info@softballleinster.ie)

14.6 SL will appoint a “reporting officer” to handle the case.

14.7 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.

14.8 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.

14.9 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.

14.10 SL will inform the accused club representative, the accused and the complainant of the outcome.

14.11 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.

14.12 The appeal committee will be convened by the SL committee within seven working days and must complete its work within 14 days.

14.13 The SL committee will keep records of each stage of the disciplinary process including any statements given.

14.14 SL, on behalf of any SL member, may take disciplinary action against an umpire.

14.15 SL may take disciplinary action against a team, club or any player in SL on recommendations given to them by an umpire.

## 15 Umpiring

15.1 An umpire appointed to a game is due the expenses fee agreed by SL for the competition in question.

15.2 Fees shall be

15.2.1 Shared equally between the teams when game is played.

15.2.2 Shared equally in full between the teams when a game is suspended.

15.2.3 Shared equally in full between the teams when a game is continued from suspension on a new day.

15.2.4 Paid by the team not showing up in the case of a forfeit by no show.

15.2.5 Paid in full by the forfeiting team where a game is forfeit due to ejection.

15.2.6 Paid by the home team where a ground is unavailable and the home team made no attempt to confirm availability

15.2.7 Paid by Softball Leinster where umpire was not informed of a game being cancelled.

15.2.8 In any unforeseen circumstance SL will determine who should pay.

15.3 In the event of no umpire being present both teams should agree on a basis for umpiring the game.

15.4 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.

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15.5 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.

15.6 SL will schedule umpires to games and will have an umpiring chief who, with SL, will deal with all related umpire queries.

## 16 Protests

16.1 A protest may be lodged in writing to SL by a team captain in the following instance:

16.1.1 The captain on the field of play has appealed the decision of an umpire based on the umpire's interpretation of the ISF rules, SI Regulations and these byelaws.

16.1.2 The captain advises the umpire the game is being completed under protest.

16.1.3 Umpiring judgement calls may not be protested.

16.2 Any protests will be decided by the SL committee in consultation with the SL umpire coordinator.

16.3 A written protest must be made by the protesting club representative to SL within seven days of the game.

16.4 SL will issue its decision to both teams and the umpire (if applicable) within fourteen days of receiving the protest.

16.5 Protest decisions cannot be appealed.

## 17 Individual and Club Conduct

17.1 The following reasons for disciplinary action against an individual and/or their team/club as determined by SL:

17.1.1 Failure of a team captain, manager or coach or other club members to intervene within a reasonable time to prevent or discourage misconduct.

17.1.2 Ejection from a game. See section 14.1 for penalty details.

17.1.3 Assault either physical or verbal on a player, umpire or member of the public.

17.1.4 Coercion or forcing of any participant into in-human, degrading or illegal activities.

17.1.5 Conduct likely to damage the good name of Softball or Softball Leinster.

17.1.6 Failure of the team captain, manager, coach or other club members to intervene, within a reasonable time, in any activity or behaviour

listed in 17.1.1, 17.1.3 or 17.1.4 where the perpetrator is a bystander who can be related to a specific club.

17.2 Destruction of, damage to, or failure to return SL equipment or intellectual property is a category 1 offence.

17.3 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.

## 18 Drugs in Sport

18.1 No affiliated player may contravene the relevant doping laws of the following organisations:

18.1.1 International Olympic Committee (IOC)

18.1.2 World Anti-Doping Association (WADA)

18.1.3 WBSC – Softball Division

18.1.4 European Softball Federation (ESF)

18.1.5 Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI)

18.1.6 Sport Ireland

18.2 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 18.1.

18.3 Infraction of byelaw 18.1 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.

18.4 Members in the following categories are liable for testing for illegal substances:

18.4.1 All premier and division 1 players.

18.5 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:

18.5.1 All Premier and Division 1 games.

## 19 Scale of Penalties

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

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

Category of Offence	Range of penalties for individuals
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Permanent expulsion.</li><li>2. Suspension for more than one season.</li></ol>
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Suspension for one season.</li><li>2. Suspension for more than five games or weeks.</li></ol>
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Suspension for less than five games or weeks.</li><li>2. Suspension for more than two games or weeks.</li><li>3. Community service between ten and twenty hours.</li></ol>
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Suspension for one game or one week.</li><li>2. Fined between €75 and €150.</li><li>3. Community service of up to ten hours.</li></ol>
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fine of less than €75</li><li>2. Written caution.</li><li>3. Community service of up to five hours.</li></ol>