

SOFTBALL ULSTER Byelaws 2010

First published: 17 October 2010

Softball Ulster adopts the Byelaws of Softball Ireland 2010, as published Monday 24th May 2010 (see Attachment 1) with the following additions. Where there is contradiction between this document and the above said Softball Ireland byelaws, this document has precedence.

1. APPLICATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

1.13 The term “Ulster League” refers to the primary weekly coed softball league played each season in the Ulster region.

3. RULES OF PLAY

3.11 The batter will enter the batters box with a zero ball zero strike count in all championship and league games. Tournament rules must specify if this rule is to be applied.

3.12 The maximum pitch arc will be 12 foot for all championship, League and tournament play.

5. EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

5.1 Each club is required to have the following minimum list of equipment for each League or Championship home game.

6. PLAYERS

6.7 One week prior to the first Ulster league game players must be assigned to their primary team.

6.7.1 A player may not play team in their club other than their primary team in two of the secondary teams consecutive games.

6.7.2 A player may only be substituted as per Byelaw 6.7.1 when no other primary player is available for that team.

9. FORFEITS

9.5 A team will forfeit a game for using more than two players substituted through Bye-laws 6.7 and its subsections.

10. LEAGUE, CHAMPIONSHIP & TOURNAMENT STRUCTURES

10.1 The structure and any applicable playing rules for the Championship and the League will be issued to all competing clubs at least 2 weeks before commencement of the competition.

10.2 The league will be based on a top down home and away fixture divisional structure with each division having a maximum of 8 teams.

10.3 The league will be played on the following days:

10.3.1 Sundays 13.00 (1st Game) and 15.00 (2nd Game)

10.3.2 Mondays 19.00

11. TIED STANDINGS

11.4 A date for playoffs as required by 11.3.3 will be set by the SU council at the beginning of the season along with the seasons schedule. This playoff date must be held at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the National Playoffs.

11.4.1 If the playoff can not be held the SU council will resolve the tie by conceded runs.

11.5 Resolution of any circumstances not foreseen here will be decided by SU.

13. COMPLAINTS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND APPEALS

13.6 All requests are to be made to the relevant regional council (i.e. secretary@softballulster.com).

13.7.1 For SU disciplinary matters, the reporting officer will be selected from the list of qualified umpires officiating over the seasons Ulster League and as eligible by Byelaw 13.7.

13.10 No later than 2 weeks from the initial date of the complaint the reporting officer will pass on his/her findings to the SU Secretary.

13.12 An appeal against a decision to impose disciplinary penalties must be made within 1 week in writing to the SU Secretary under Article 9 of the SI constitution, on payment of the fee specified in Byelaw 18.

13.13 The appeal committee will be convened by the SU Secretary within 1 week, and must complete its work within a further 2 weeks.

13.13.1 Where possible 3 suitable non “involved” members will be selected for the appeals committee from the list of qualified umpires.

13.15 The SU Secretary will keep records of each stage of the disciplinary process including any statements given.

13.16.5 Does not apply to SU until it has more than one division of the Ulster League.

13.19 On withdrawal of an appeal, the appeal fee will only be returned to the appeal petitioner if the time and date of the appeal committee meeting has not been set.

15. PROTESTS

15.6 A protest fee will be put on the account of the club lodging a protest. This will be returned to the club if the protest is successful.

18. FEES AND EXPENSES

18.2 Softball Ulster league Fees and Expenses

18.2.1 Ulster League Team Fee

18.2.1.1 Fee per team £50

18.2.1.2 Fee per player £12.50

18.2.2 Ulster League umpire Fees £0

18.2.3 Protest Fee £50

19. SCALE OF PENALTIES

19.3 For the sake of a suspension from a game, the game begins 30 mins prior to official game start time, as per Byelaw 10.3, until the umpire has reached the car park.

19.3.1 In the case that the disciplinary committee state that a player may not play, coach and spectate in a game the player must not be closer than the car park for the duration of the game as per Byelaw 19.3.

First published: 24th April 2010

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1. APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 The word "club" applies to single and multi-team playing organisations. The word "team" refers to any team registered in any Softball Ireland competition.

1.2 The word "league" refers to any co-ed softball league that decides to adopt these byelaws.

1.3 The term "Leinster League" refers to the primary weekly co-ed softball league played each season in the greater Dublin area.

1.4 The word "championship" refers to the Softball Ireland Brian Walshe Cup, Plate and Bowl competitions or any derivations of that competition.

1.5 The word "tournament" refers to all official Softball Ireland one or two consecutive day competitions.

1.6 The official representative of each team, known as the "team contact" (e.g. committee member, captain, coach or manager), is required to familiarise themselves with these byelaws, which apply to all league, tournament and championship play.

1.7 The term "SI" means Softball Ireland, the National Council or its designated representative officers or any sub committees.

1.8 The word "umpire" includes any person officiating a game under the regulation of Softball Ireland.

1.9 The term "SI provincial leagues" refers to the provincial leagues recognised by Softball Ireland.

1.10 Teams in top division of each SI provincial league are defined as "Grade A" Teams in all divisions below the top tier of each SI provincial league are defined as "Grade B" teams.

1.11 The "Softball Ireland League Championship" is contested by the winners of the provincial leagues

1.12 These byelaws apply to all members of SI for the 2010 calendar year.

2. SI COUNCIL RECOMMENDED POLICIES

- 2.1 SI Council 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 SI Secretary. (secretary@softball.ie).
- 2.2 Each club should have a basic constitution outlining the rights, duties and responsibilities of its members. A basic constitution, which can be used as a template can be made available by request.
- 2.3 Each club should have a bank account with at least two signatories on the account.
- 2.4 SI recognises that consumption of alcohol impairs co-ordination and judgment. While recognising the social nature of softball, SI strongly recommends that individuals show personal responsibility, for their own safety and that of others, when consuming alcohol before or during softball events. An effective working guideline is: if you have had too much drink to legally drive, you shouldn't play softball. SI fully supports any umpires or other nominated officials who exclude an individual from play due to alcohol induced incapacity.
- 2.5 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 SI or directly with the insurers, as to whether their needs are met. SI will endeavour, where feasible, to obtain any clarifications or additional cover required with any additional cost to be borne by the player.
- 2.6.1 In order to compete in a Softball Ireland tournament, for insurance purposes, non Leinster League players must either be registered with Softball Ireland, or be in a position to provide Softball Ireland with suitable proof of an alternative insurance policy.
- 2.7** SI Council recommends that all clubs adopt the SI Club Charter. The charter will be reviewed annually by the council to reflect best practice and rewards clubs who adopt the policies proposed by the charter.

3 RULES OF PLAY

3.1 The rules of play are those of the Amateur Softball Association (the “ASA”, <http://www.asasoftball.com/>) for adult co-ed slow pitch softball as contained in the current ASA rulebook, with the following adjustments:

3.2 In the championship and the Leinster League, teams may opt to play with 6 men and 4 women (or 7 men and 5 women if applying the Extra Player rule) under the conditions as listed below. This option is only open to teams in tournaments if clearly specified in the tournament rules or by the tournament organiser.

3.2.1 The women must alternate through the top of the batting order, batting at either: 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 or 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 in the order.

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

3.2.3 When fielding, there must be at least two females in the outfield and two in the infield, unless a team plays under the Short Handed Rule (i.e. 9 players in the line up) and the missing player is female, in which case the team must play with two females in the infield, one female in the outfield and one vacant position in the outfield.

3.2.4 If a team is playing under the Short Handed Rule and the missing player is female, then the missing player becomes an automatic out in position 8 or position 7 in the batting order, in accordance with Byelaw 3.2.1.

3.2.5 The catcher must be male but there is no requirement that the pitcher must be female. (Note for clarification: if a team opts to play under the 6 and 4 rule and has a female pitching then in order to comply with Byelaw 3.2.3 there must be three male infielders and one female; and two male outfielders and two female).

3.2.6 A male batter who is walked will be awarded only 1 base if he is followed in the batting order by another male.

3.2.6.1 Note for clarification that this includes the following situation: if a team is playing under the Short Handed Rule and the male who is followed by an automatic out, in place of a female, is walked then the male is awarded only one base.

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

3.3 A match report must be completed and signed by each club captain on the day for all games. The match report template is available on www.softball.ie.

3.4 Bases need not be spiked.

3.5 The standard softball for all League games and SI official tournaments for 2010 is any brand specifying a COR of .44 and a compression of .375lbs and 12” in size for male batters, and 11” softballs of the same COR and compression will be used for female batters only.

3.5.1 The responsibility, for determining whether the quality of a ball is of a suitably high standard for use, remains with the umpire.

3.6 A courtesy runner is allowed for an injured batter-runner or runner on any base after time has been called. It is at the discretion of the Umpire who may consult with both captains as to whether a courtesy runner is warranted. In the absence of an umpire, both team captains must agree that a courtesy runner is allowed.

3.7 Where there is a contradiction between the ASA rules and these Byelaws, these Byelaws have precedence.

3.8 In cases of doubt about the applicability or interpretation of any byelaw, the decision 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 dispute. Wherever possible games should be completed but should an appeal be forthcoming no prejudice shall exist on any side.

3.9 SI will adopt the ASA’s banned bat list and ASA approved bat list. Refer to www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp or the Downloads page on the SI website.

3.10 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 SI. The SI or relevant Regional Council will then determine if the bat is in fact a banned bat and therefore the bat will not be allowed to be used in any SI organised event or if the bat is not a banned bat and therefore will be allowed to used in future matches. The team will not be allowed to appeal the result of the game.

3.11 The batter will enter the batters box with a zero ball zero strike count in all championship and Leinster League games. Tournament rules must specify if this rule is to be applied.

3.12 The maximum pitch arc will be 12 foot for all championship, Leinster League and tournament play.

4. THE FIELD OF PLAY

4.1 Every club must ensure that their home ground is suitable and safe and that they have all necessary permits to play there. If there is any doubt about suitability and safety, the club representative should request an inspection by SI or relevant Regional Council at the start of the season.

4.2 Ground rules will be set by the umpire following consultation with both team captains. Any regularly occurring grounds rules must be forwarded to SI by the club and will be provided to the umpires.

4.3 If a team's home ground is continually unavailable SI or relevant Regional Council 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 are not made.

5. EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

5.1 Each club is required to have the following minimum list of equipment for each Leinster League or Championship home game

5.1.1 One set of softball bases with one dual-coloured safety base at first base

5.1.2 A home plate and a pitcher's plate

5.1.3 At least one legal softball bat

5.1.4 At least 10 softball gloves (9 if playing short handed)

5.1.5 At least two legal 12" softballs and at least two legal 11" softballs. Legal softballs are defined by Byelaw 3.5.

5.1.6 Where applicable a letter from the local or government authority certifying authorisation to use the ground.

5.2 Players must wear acceptable footwear which 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:

5.2.1 All metal studs;

5.2.1 Metal baseball cleats;

5.2.3 Screw on studs (screw in studs are acceptable, once they are rubber);

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

6. PLAYERS

6.1 Players must be paid up members of SI i.e. they must be registered for the current season with the club for which they play.

6.2 An umpire or any other SI 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. SI may require the team or player to substantiate this identification at a later date.

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

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

6.4.1 A team may apply to SI or relevant Regional Council for an exemption for players aged 14 to 17 years of age. An exemption may be granted subject to agreement of the appropriate council.

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

6.6 A player may not play for more than one club in a season without applying for and being granted a transfer of registration under the conditions listed below. This does not exclude a player playing for both teams of a multi-team club in a season as listed in Section 6.7 below.

6.6.1 SI will transfer a registration within seven days, provided:

6.6.2 The required fee has been paid

6.6.3 There is no unfair advantage to any third party

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

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

6.6.5.1 For transfers involving Grade A teams, the three games refers to the regular season provincial league schedule, it does not include provincial playoffs or the "Softball Ireland League Championship".

6.7 A player is registered for a club. A player may not play for a lower ranked team in a club if they have featured in the most recent game of that competition for the higher ranked team. Featured shall mean either starting a game or playing for more than 3 and 1/2 innings.

6.7.1 On an application to competitions@softball.ie or relevant Regional Council in writing (including email) an exemption from this rule may be granted to a club for a total of 2 players per week, only one of which can be male, subject to the restriction that no individual player may avail of this exemption more than four times in one season.

6.7.2 When registering players, multi team clubs must declare the player's primary team. Players must receive an exemption in accordance with byelaw 6.7.1 in order to play for a team ranked lower than their primary team in the first week of the season.

6.8 Players may register with Softball Ireland as affiliate players, independent of any club. Affiliate members are eligible to play in tournaments and the Championship, but are not eligible to play in the Leinster League. Affiliate members do not have a right to vote at the SI AGM.

6.9 Each player registered with Softball Ireland may only compete for one Grade A team in one SI provincial League.

6.9.1 Players competing for a Grade A team, in one SI provincial League may also compete for one or more Grade B teams(s) in the other SI provincial league(s).

6.9.1.1 For clarification: players may move up and down in a multi-team club, which their Grade A team is a part of, within the restrictions imposed by these byelaws.

6.9.1.2 For clarification: players may move up and down in a multi-team club, which their Grade B team is a part of, within the restrictions imposed by these byelaws. However they may not represent the club's Grade A team if they also compete for a Grade A team in another provincial league.

6.9.2 Players competing for a Grade B team, in one SI provincial league may also compete for a Grade B team(s) in a different SI provincial league(s).

6.10 Players may transfer between Grade A teams within a single SI provincial league, under the same rules as for club transfers (see byelaw 6.6).

7. CLUBS

7.1 To register, a club must have paid the appropriate subscription by the close of registration for current season.

7.2 All the club's business with SI or relevant Regional Council must be through a representative nominated according to the SI Constitution.

8. FIXTURES

8.1 All fixtures are the property of the organising body. No club may rearrange a fixture without the express consent of the organising body.

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

8.2.1 SI will grant postponements, upon written request, to a team for any game scheduled to take place during the week of the ESF “European Championship Co-Ed Slowpitch” if 3 or more members of the team’s club have been selected to represent their country in a playing or coaching capacity.

8.2.2 SI will grant postponements, upon written request, to a team for any game scheduled to take place during the week of the ESF “European Cup Co-Ed Slowpitch” if the clubs’ team has been selected to represent SI.

8.3 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.

8.4 A game suspended for reasons of light, safety or any other reason determined by an umpire (or agreed by the captains in the absence of an umpire), before the conclusion of a legal game must be advised to the organising body, 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 suspension. The game will resume from the exact point of the suspension of play of the original game and will continue to completion.

8.5 All postponed or 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 a date, Softball Ireland may set the date of the fixture at its discretion. Failure to play any re-arranged fixture by a date set by the organising body where reasonable notice was given may result in one or both teams forfeiting the game in accordance with Bye-law 9.1.

9. FORFEITS

9.1 A forfeit is awarded against any club that does not have enough registered players available to begin a game within 15 minutes of the designated start time. A double forfeit applies if both clubs are short of players.

9.1.1 If the club has enough players to begin the game under the Short Handed Rule before 15 minutes have elapsed from the designated start time then the game must not be further delayed.

9.2 A forfeit is awarded against a club that is unable to continue due to the departure, injury or ejection of players. The minimum number to start or continue is nine.

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

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

9.4 In the event of a forfeit, the organising body will determine who will pay any applicable costs.

9.5 A club found to play a higher ranked player for a lower ranked team within the club in breach of Bye-laws 6.7 or 6.7.1 will forfeit all points for all games in which the player(s) breached Bye-laws 6.7 and 6.7.1. The opposing team will be awarded the win and appropriate points for a win.

9.6 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 or in the absence of an assigned umpire then by agreement of both captains.

9.6.1 If players need to wear outer garments due to weather conditions then they cannot wear colours that are similar to the opposing team.

10. LEINSTER LEAGUE, CHAMPIONSHIP & TOURNAMENT STRUCTURES

10.1 The structure and any applicable playing rules for the Championship and the Leinster League will be issued to all competing clubs at least 2 weeks before commencement of the competition.

10.2 The league will be based on a top down home and away fixture divisional structure with each division having a maximum of 8 clubs. The top ranked division will be named Premier and all subsequent divisions will be named Division One, Two, Three and so forth. Divisions with less than 8 clubs will be adjusted accordingly to ensure a fair and equal number of games.

10.3 The divisions of the League will play on the following nights:

10.3.1 Tuesday: Premier

10.3.2 Wednesday: Division One & Division Four

10.3.3 Monday: Division Two & Division Three

10.4 The home team will be designated according to the schedule as issued by the organising body.

10.5 In the event of a gap developing in the league schedule due to the non-participation of a club, the organising body may fill the position according to the procedures in Byelaw 12.

10.6 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 in question to remove their impact on the division.

10.7 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.

10.8 At the end of the season the team with the lowest amount of points in each division will be relegated to the division below and the team with the highest amount of points will be promoted to the division above.

10.9 The team that finishes with the second lowest amount of points will play off with the team in the division below who finished with 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 replace the team they beat and be promoted to the higher division and the team that lost will be relegated to the division below.

10.10 The “Softball Ireland League Championship” is contested by the winners of the provincial leagues.

10.10.1 Only Grade A teams are eligible to compete in the Softball Ireland League Championship.

10.10.2 The format of this competition will be chosen by Softball Ireland and scheduled to follow the completion of the SI provincial leagues.

10.10.3 The winner of this competition will represent Ireland at the ESF “European Cup Co-Ed Slowpitch (ECCS)” held the following season.

10.10.4 Players must be registered with the club of a qualifying Grade A team before the end of their SI provincial league season, in accordance with these byelaws, to qualify for the “Softball Ireland League Championship”.

10.10.5 When a Grade A team, which is part of a multi-team club, qualifies for the Irish Softball League Championship, the team may select any player from their club who is not tied to another Grade A teams subject to the normal exemption rulese in these byelaws.

11. TIED STANDINGS

11.1 In the event of teams being tied on number of league points, the following criteria will be applied to produce a two-way tie or ties, whereupon the procedure for two-way ties will apply (thus in a three way tie, the criteria will be used to produce a lowest ranked team and a two-way tie, and in a four-way tie, two two-way ties will be produced).

11.2 Tie involving three or more teams:

11.2.1 Rank the teams by inverse number of walkovers.

11.2.2 If still tied, rank by head-to-head results.

11.2.3 If still tied, rank by number of wins.

11.3 Tie involving two teams:

11.3.1 The team with the least walkovers is the highest ranked.

11.3.2 If still tied, rank by head-to-head results.

11.3.3 If still tied a playoff between the teams will determine the higher ranked.

11.4 Resolution of any circumstances not foreseen here will be decided by SI or the organising body.

12. TEAM LEAGUE STANDING

12.1 A team's league standing (TLS) is based on its final league position at the end of the preceding season (after promotions 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.

12.2 The TLS and seeding is the joint property of the players registered to the team.

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

12.4 A newly merged team must choose the TLS of one of its 'parent' teams.

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

12.6 After the final closing date for registration, any vacant league position will be filled by a team from the division below. The position will first be offered to the team with the highest TLS. If this team declines the position, it will be offered to the next team, and so on. Should no team in the division accept the offer, the team with the highest TLS will be allocated the position and must accept it.

12.7 Resolution of any circumstances not foreseen here will be decided by SI or the organising body.

13. COMPLAINTS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND APPEALS

13.1 Any appeal relating to a disputed game or result must be lodged with the SI Secretary or relevant Regional Council in writing (email is acceptable) within 1 week of the actual incident. In cases where this timeline is not met the result will stand as reported by the umpire if assigned or by either team captain if no umpire was present.

13.2 Any appeal made under Article 9.1 of the constitution, relating to a SI Council decision which adversely affects a member, must be lodged in writing with the SI Secretary (email is acceptable) within 1 week of the member being informed of the decision in writing (email is acceptable) by the SI Secretary. In cases where this timeline is not met the decision will stand.

13.3 Any SI member may lodge a request for disciplinary action to be taken against another member (or members), team (including non-SI registered visiting teams) for transgressions of these or other appropriate byelaws at a game in which they were involved or which they witnessed.

13.4 Disciplinary action may also be requested in relation to SI members' behaviour at other events, including social functions organised by SI or subsidiary bodies, or public events attended as SI members or officials.

13.5 A request pertaining to Byelaw 13.3 or 13.4 must be in writing (letter or e-mail) stating the date and event when the incident occurred and the reason why disciplinary action is being sought.

13.6 All requests are to be made to the SI Secretary (secretary@softball.ie)

13.7 SI will appoint a "reporting officer" not barred by Article 8 of the SI Constitution to handle the case.

13.8 The reporting officer must request statements from the complainant, the accused, and any umpire present, and may also request statements from team captains and any SI representatives or other witnesses present at the time.

13.9 No later than 2 weeks from the initial date of the complaint the reporting officer will pass on his/her findings to the SI Secretary.

13.10 If the reporting officer finds that an offence has been committed, the officers of SI not barred by Article 8 will, within a week and after taking whatever advice they deem necessary, convene a SI Council meeting to hear the accused person's defence, and if necessary to impose appropriate penalties.

13.11 SI will inform the accused's club representative, the accused and the complainant of the outcome.

13.12 An appeal against a decision to impose disciplinary penalties must be made within 1 week in writing to the SI Secretary under Article 9 of the SI Constitution, on payment of the fee specified in Byelaw 18.

13.13 The appeal committee will be convened by the SI Secretary within 1 week, and must complete its work within a further 2 weeks.

13.14 Reasonable expenses may be paid to members of the appeal committee.

13.15 The SI Secretary will keep records of each stage of the disciplinary process including any statements given.

13.16 "Involved" in Articles 8 and 9 of the Constitution should be interpreted to include:

13.16.1 Direct personal involvement in the incident under investigation

13.16.2 Direct involvement of immediate family (parent, partner, sibling or offspring) in the incident

13.16.3 Playing or coaching for one of the teams involved

13.16.4 Membership of one of the teams involved

13.16.5 Playing or coaching in the same division as the team involved

13.16.6 Being a sponsor of a team under investigation or being employed by such a sponsor.

13.16.7 Failure of an official to declare such involvement may be grounds for upholding an appeal.

13.17 SI, on behalf of any SI registered member, may take disciplinary action against an umpire.

13.18 SI may take disciplinary action against a team, club or any member of SI on recommendations given to them by a registered umpire.

14. UMPIRING

14.1 An umpire appointed to a game is due the expenses fee agreed by the organising body for the competition in question.

14.2 Fees shall be shared equally between the teams or as determined by SI.

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

14.4 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.

14.5 Where two clubs fail to agree on an umpiring arrangement, both team captains should contact the organising body within 24 hours and report the reason for failure.

15. PROTESTS

15.1 A protest may be lodged in writing to the organising body by a team captain in the following instance:

15.1.1 The Captain on the field of play has appealed the decision of an umpire based on the umpires interpretation of the ASA rules and these Byelaws;

15.1.2 The Captain advises the umpire the game is being completed under protest; and

15.1.3 Umpiring judgment calls may not be protested under Section 15 of the SI Byelaws.

15.2 Protests are decided by the organising body in consultation with the Irish Umpires Association.

15.3 A written protest must be made by the protesting club representative to the organising body within seven days.

15.4 The organising body will issue its decision to both clubs and the umpire (if applicable) within two weeks of receiving the protest.

15.5 Protest decisions cannot be appealed.

16. INDIVIDUAL & CLUB CONDUCT

16.1 The following are reasons for disciplinary action against an individual and/or their club as determined by SI:

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

16.1.2 Ejection from any game.

16.1.3 Assault either physical or verbal, on a player, Umpire or member of the public.

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

16.1.5 Conduct likely to damage the good name of softball or SI or Regional Council.

16.1.6 Failure of the team captain, manager, coach or other club members to intervene, within a reasonable time, in any activity or behaviour listed in 16.1.1, 16.1.3 or 16.1.4, where the perpetrator is a bystander who can be related to a specific club or team.

16.2 Destruction of, damage to, or failure to return, SI equipment or intellectual property is a Category 1 offence.

16.3 SI may refuse to renew membership of, grant new membership to, suspend existing membership of, or prevent participation in any SI event of any individual or group involved in an ongoing legal dispute with SI or any member of SI.

17. DRUGS IN SPORT

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

17.1.1 International Olympic Committee (IOC)

17.1.2 World Anti-Doping Association (WADA)

17.1.3 International Softball Federation (ISF)

17.1.4 European Softball Federation (ESF)

17.1.5 Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI)

17.1.6 Irish Sports Council (ISC)

17.2 A full list of prohibited substances is available from SI. Players who have any doubt about any substance should contact SI for clarification.

17.3 Infraction of this bylaw will be a category 4 offence at minimum, and penalties will be in line with those applied by other comparable associations and federations and/or national or international anti-doping organisations.

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

17.4.1 Any player/manager/coach on international duty, which is defined as being:

17.4.1.1 Currently serving on any international squad;

17.4.1.2 Making themselves available for selection for any international squad;

17.4.1.3 All League Premier and Division One players;

17.4.1.4 Making themselves available for selection for any provincial squad

17.5 Testing of SI members may be performed by duly appointed representatives of the Irish Sports Council (the Irish Anti-Doping Agency) at any or all of the following events:

17.5.1 Any matches involving international squad players.

17.5.2 Premier and Division One League matches.

17.5.3 Championship matches involving at least one Premier or Division One team.

17.5.4 All official SI 1 or 2 consecutive day tournaments

17.6 Out Of Competition Testing is performed by duly appointed representatives of the Irish Sports Council (the Irish Anti-Doping Agency) at their discretion.

18. FEES AND EXPENSES 2010

No changes have been made to fees and expenses, all remain at 2009 levels.

18.1 SI Fees and Expenses

18.1.1 Leinster League Player Registration Fee €7.50

18.1.2 Leinster League Player Transfer Fee €7.50

18.1.3 Leinster League Team Registration Fee:

18.1.3.1 1st Team €625.00

18.1.3.2 Additional¹ Team(s) €325.00

18.1.3.3 New² Team €325.00

18.1.4 Appeal Fee €30.00

18.1.5 Interschool Fees:

18.1.5.1 Fee per Team³ registered €50.00

18.1.5.2 Fee per Player⁴ €7.50

18.1.6 Non Leinster League Team Fee:

18.1.6.1 Fee per Team €50.00

18.1.6.2 Fee per Player €7.50

18.1.7 Umpire Fess (per league & Cup game) €35.00

18.1.8 Affiliate Membership €7.50

¹ The reduced fee for “Additional Teams” does not apply in the first year of a merger between two existing clubs or teams.

² The reduced fee for “New Teams” applies in the first year the team is registered for the Leinster League, at least 80% of the new team must comprise of players who have not registered with SI before.

³ The “Fee per Team” applies to interschool teams where proof of insurance cover provided by college is provided to SI.

⁴ The “Fee per Player” applies to interschool teams where players are not covered by the college insurance policy or where no proof of such a policy has been provided to SI.

18.2 All Leinster league teams must ensure that their team and player registration fees are fully paid by the close of business on the first day of the league. Failure to do will result in each fixture being counted as a forfeit until such time as all outstanding funds have been paid to SI or relevant Regional Council.

19. SCALE OF PENALTIES

19.1 Depending on the seriousness of the offence, SI or relevant Regional Council may impose any combination of the penalties within the following ranges for infraction of these byelaws.

19.2 Incurring more than two written cautions for any individual or club in any 3 month period is a category 4 offence.

Category Of Offence	Range of penalties for individuals
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permanent expulsion; 2. Suspension for more than one season; 3. Suspension from National Squad for more than two years.
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suspension for one season; 2. Suspension for more than 5 games or weeks; 3. Suspension from National Squad for up to two years.
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suspension for less than 5 games or weeks; 2. Suspension for more than 2 games or weeks; 3. Community service between 10 and 20 hours.
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suspension for 1 game or 1 week; 2. Fine between €75 & €130; 3. Community service up to 10 hours.
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fine less than €75; 2. Written caution; 3. Community service up to 5 hours.