

Manchester Softball League

Captain's Handbook



Season 2022
30th anniversary

Contents

Note: Significant changes and clarifications with respect to last year's Handbook are highlighted in yellow. Some sections have been renumbered.

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Section 1: A Captain's Job

1.1 General remarks

In addition to organising your team, Manchester Softball League requires some additional tasks to be completed by the team captain to make sure that the league runs smoothly. This handbook does contain full details of all that is expected, but below is a summary. If you have any questions, just contact one of the Executive Committee and they will be able to help.

We refer to as “captain” the role that elsewhere (in the WBSC rules for example) is referred to as “manager”. Whatever the terminology, we need to identify a single contact person who is able to make and take decisions on behalf of their team. This person may or may not be captain of the team on the field during a game, but will be responsible for the behaviour of the team, and will be the first point of contact for any disputes or discussions.

MSL play WBSC rules (formerly ISF) with a few local amendments and some regulations of our own. These are detailed in the following sections of this Handbook. If you require any further clarification of the rules, please contact the Umpire-in-chief.

Forfeit in advance. If for some reason you are unable to field a team, you *must* notify the following people: the captain of the opposing team, the Fixtures Secretary fixtures@manchester-softball.co.uk and the Umpire-in-chief (so that they can notify the person scheduled to umpire your game) umpire@manchester-softball.co.uk by 7pm on Sunday for Tuesday games, 7pm on Monday for Wednesday games. Failure to do so makes you liable for the payment of both teams' pitch fees, unless the pitch is used, in which case the payment is shared as normal between the two teams.

1.2 Match day duties

Before the game starts, the Captain should complete the team sheet, using the official MSL form as found at the end of this Handbook;¹ further copies can be downloaded from the MSL website. Before the game begins there is an official **pre-game meeting** between the two captains and, where applicable, the umpire(s). At this meeting, captains must indicate which players are playing as guests, if any of their players are under 18 years of age, since there are strict rules specifically concerning youth players. Any local ground rules (eg overhanging trees, dead-ball line if not clearly marked) should be agreed at this meeting. It is also useful to identify team scorers, so they can exchange scores at the end of each inning. The player who presents at the pre-game meeting will be considered the captain in relation to rules stipulating actions that are restricted to the manager, or if the umpire needs to confer with the captain(s).

¹ To avoid confusion, we introduced a distinction in terminology between “roster”, meaning the list of players registered to each club, and “team sheet”, the list of players playing in any particular game. These were both previously known as “rosters”. The “team roster sheet” is therefore another name for the list of players submitted as part of the pre-season affiliation process.

During the game both teams must keep an accurate record of the score. It is best to agree the score after each inning – it is easier to sort out differences as you go along rather than at the end of the game.

At the end of the game each captain must hand in an official team sheet, listing the players who have played. In addition a single separate score sheet, signed by both captains, must be submitted. The score sheet will show the box-score, home runs, MVPs, umpire's name, pitch number, and reason for shortened game (e.g. "bad light", "serious injury", "run-ahead rule". It is the responsibility of the captain of the **winning team** (or if the game is tied, the home team) to get the shared score sheet signed and submitted.

The team sheet and score sheet **may be handed in to the "Gatekeeper" at the post-match venue or submitted online via the dedicated WhatsApp results group (see 3.5.14.5).** Paperwork forms can be found at the end of this Handbook and on the website. Hand-written match reports for the Review (*Bases Loaded*) are also acceptable. You are also encouraged to submit an online umpire evaluation report.

1.3 Communications

Besides match-day duties, the Captains have a unique role in the MSL: all significant decisions about playing rules, league structure, and expenditure over a certain amount, must be approved by the captains. Captains therefore have a duty to look out for communications from the Executive Committee regarding these matters, and to be available for consultation and, if necessary, a Captains' Meeting. The preferred means of communication between the Exec and the captains is **both email and the Exec and Captains'** Facebook group (see 2.3.2).

Finally, it should go without saying that as Captain you are the main conduit for information from the Exec to the players and vice versa. Please do not neglect this important duty.

1.4 Inclusive gender rules

MSL has adopted its own version of the inclusive gender rules proposed by the BSUK LGBTQ+ Committee. These rules recognize that people defining as gender non-binary are defined as neither male nor female. Further, we recognize that trans* players can identify anywhere along the gender spectrum.

When registering to play in MSL, players will have the option of identify their gender as "male", "female" or "other", and if the last of these will indicate the size of ball they opt to hit. Players identifying as male will be termed "large ball hitters (LBH)". Players identifying as female will be termed "small-ball hitters (SBH)". All other players will indicate which of these two categories, LBH or SBH, they wish to register as. No assumptions regarding gender identity will follow from this choice.

For all rules and situations where formerly a distinction between "male" and "female" was made, the distinction will now be between in terms of "BH size". Note that teams must still consist of equal numbers of LBHs and SBHs (5 of each or 6 of each if playing with extra players), the batting line-up must

alternate between LBH and SBH, and the fielding rules requiring an even mix still apply.

1.5 Players' special needs

Captains and one other (regular) player in each team should be aware of any special needs among their players, especially for example pre-existing medical conditions which may influence treatment of or reaction to any situations that might arise during a game.

1.6 Welfare of under-18s

In accordance with BSUK requirements introduced in 2014 and updated in 2017, any team which includes an under-18 player on its roster must appoint a **Safeguarding**² Officer who will ensure that the appropriate welfare procedures and checks are followed and that there is a process in place to assess whether the young player is competent to play, umpire or coach at the level at which the team is competing. This assessment must be undertaken by the team coach, or the captain, who must be DBS-checked. For further details see Section 6 below. The League's **Safeguarding** Officer will assist and oversee this process.

1.7 Recruiting

Teams who have used eight or more guests must register their shortage of players with the MSL Recruitment Officer and they shall not reject any reasonable players offered to them ("lack of ability" shall not be considered a reasonable objection).

² Previously termed "Welfare Officer".

Section 2 Your Executive Committee



League Head **Paul Fagan**
Head@manchester-softball.co.uk



Secretary & *Bases Loaded* editor **Harry Somers**
Secretary@manchester-softball.co.uk
Review@manchester-softball.co.uk



Treasurer **Position vacant**
Treasurer@manchester-softball.co.uk



Umpire-in-chief **Ian Caird**
Umpire@manchester-softball.co.uk



Recruitment **Jonny Huck**
Recruitment@manchester-softball.co.uk



Coaching & Safeguarding **Linni Mitchell**
Coaching@manchester-softball.co.uk
assisted by **Jane Curley** (Safeguarding)



Communications **Position vacant**
Communications@manchester-softball.co.uk



Social **N-J Dyson**
Social@manchester-softball.co.uk



Tournaments **Position vacant**
Tournaments@manchester-softball.co.uk



Fixtures **Andrew Bogie**
Fixtures@manchester-softball.co.uk

2.1 Duties of Executive Committee members

This section is intended to set out the roles of Exec members in a generic manner, for future as well as present use. In some instances, the duties are taken on by other people by special arrangement, but this should not be seen as defining their respective roles. **Any delegation**

of the duties listed below should be agreed and noted as an Executive Committee minute.

2.1.1 League Head

- Take a lead in proposing policy and direction of the League
- Assist all other Exec members in the execution of their duties
- Chair all Exec committee and Captains' meetings, and any general meetings except the AGM
- In consultation with the Secretary, draw up the agenda for each meeting
- Present an annual report to the League at the AGM
- Represent the League (or ensure that the League is represented) at any national meeting of the BSF or BSUK
- Act as investigating officer on any complaints as defined below (Section 5.5)
- Draft appropriate responses to any enquiries or complaints from outsiders regarding the conduct of the League or any of its events

2.1.2 Secretary

- Send out notifications of meetings, taking care to meet deadlines imposed by the Constitution
- Take minutes of Executive committee and Captains' meetings, and any general meetings including the AGM up to the point where the secretary is elected; and distribute these minutes in a timely manner
- Prepare and disseminate materials necessary to enable teams to register at the start of the season
- Prepare and disseminate necessary materials before the start of the season. These are gathered together as part of the *Captain's Handbook* which should include at least
 - o A fixture schedule for the first part of the season
 - o Contact details for all teams
 - o Templates for score sheets and team sheetsIn addition the Handbook traditionally includes
 - o MSL rules and regulations
 - o Local changes to the WBSK rules
 - o Procedures for complaints and protests
- Maintain copies of team rosters of all league teams, taking care to stay within the requirements of the Data Protection Act. Rosters for any season should be kept until the first week of the following season.
- Maintain an archive of score sheets and team sheets for each game played. These should be kept until the AGM, after which they may be disposed of.
- Liaise with BSF and BSUK on any matter regarding player registration
- Ensure that Permission to Play forms for all youth players are correctly submitted
- Act as investigating officer on any breaches of regulations regarding team rosters and player eligibility as defined below (Section 5.5)
- Register all transfers of players between teams during the season, notifying these to the *Bases Loaded* editor for publication therein
- Liaise with BSF/BSUK regarding MSL teams' participation in Co-ed Nationals. Once a team has agreed to participate, it is that team's responsibility to complete necessary paperwork and payment.

2.1.3 Treasurer

- Prepare an annual budget detailing expected income and expenditure under appropriate headings
- Check on a regular basis that match fees and other payments have been made
- Deal with invoices for pitch fees and other costs in a timely manner
- Arrange for payment of umpires

- ❑ In collaboration with the League Secretary, ensure that all fees owing to BSUK are paid in a timely manner
- ❑ In collaboration with appropriate other Exec members, look out for and coordinate applications for suitable funding grants, as available
- ❑ Act as investigating officer on breaches of regulations regarding payment of fees (see Section 5.5)
- ❑ Present an annual report to the League at the AGM
- ❑ Attend all Executive committee and Captains' meetings, and any general meetings

2.1.4 Umpire-in-chief

Requirement: The Umpire-in-chief should be a (past or current) qualified BASU umpire

- ❑ Liaise with ground staff at WSG and Parris Wood pre-season to check on the positioning and marking out of pitches
- ❑ Liaise with the Treasurer pre-season to set a budget for activities for which the Umpire-in-chief is responsible, and post-season to contribute a financial statement for the Treasurer's report
- ❑ Ensure that umpires are sufficiently familiar with local rules and regulations, as detailed in the *Umpire's Handbook*
- ❑ Liaise with the Fixtures Secretary to assign umpires to games
- ❑ Act as investigating officer on any protests or appeals as defined below (Section 5.5) other than those involving team rosters and eligibility of players (Secretary), payment of fees (Treasurer), or score sheets (Fixtures Secretary)
- ❑ Act as arbiter on any informal queries regarding rules and regulations for example in *Bases Loaded*, and contribute occasional articles to stimulate discussion and understanding of rules and regulations (including items aimed at rookies)
- ❑ Inform the League of changes to playing rules and lead discussion of interpretation and applicability of such changes
- ❑ In collaboration with the ground staff, be available to make decisions on the suitability of playing conditions in general, or on any individual pitch on game nights
- ❑ Assess the need for and if necessary organize sessions at which Umpires can be trained and become qualified
- ❑ Represent the League (or ensure that the League is represented) at any national meetings of BASU where a representative of the League is expected to attend
- ❑ Attend all Executive committee and Captains' meetings, and any general meetings

2.1.5 Coaching & Safeguarding Officer

- ❑ Liaise with the Treasurer pre-season to set a budget for coaching, and post-season to contribute a financial statement for the Treasurer's report
- ❑ Liaise with BSUK local officers to maximize BSUK's local coach training activities, especially those related to coaching MSL teams
- ❑ Assess the need for and if necessary organize sessions at which Coaches can be trained and become qualified
- ❑ Provide a point of contact to assist teams wishing to have qualified coaches attend their training sessions
- ❑ If required, help to appoint a coach or coaches to take regular rookie training sessions
- ❑ Liaise with individual teams with rostered U18 players to ensure that the appropriate welfare procedures and checks are in place and carried out, including assessment of their competence to play, umpire or coach at the level at which the team is competing (see Section 6.3)
- ❑ Attend all Executive committee and Captains' meetings, and any general meetings

2.1.6 Recruitment

- ❑ Liaise with the Treasurer pre-season to set a budget for recruitment, and post-season to contribute a financial statement for the Treasurer's report

- Handle all enquiries by individuals wishing to play softball and where individuals have been recommended to contact specific teams make sure that this has happened, and that the “placement” has been satisfactory.
- Formulate and execute recruitment drives and advertising campaigns as required by the League from time to time
- In conjunction with the Coaching Officer, organize rookie training sessions if appropriate, and oversee the creation of a new team or teams resulting from these sessions.
- Liaise with BSUK local officers to maximize BSUK’s local training and recruitment activities
- Take a lead in helping teams with equipment needs. In the past and recently, these have included the following, responsibility for which has been taken on by various Exec members
 - Bases (new bases bought for the tournament have been sold on to teams)
 - Balls (we have bought balls in bulk and sold them on to teams, saving everyone money)
 - Safety equipment
 - Start-up kit (bats, gloves, bases, helmets) for new teams (initially loaned to teams against a deposit, usually cashed in eventually).
- Attend all Executive committee and Captains’ meetings, and any general meetings

2.1.7 Fixtures Secretary

- Complete a fixture schedule for the season, in time for inclusion in any documentation handed out to captains. The fixture schedule should as far as possible have
 - teams playing an equal number of home and away games, with no more than 2 consecutive home/away games
 - teams playing an equal number of games on each of the available pitches
- Liaise with the Umpire-in-chief to assign umpires to games, ensuring as far as possible that each team gets a roughly equal number of games umpired, and that games are shared out evenly among available umpires.
- Liaise with the Treasurer pre-season to set a budget for activities for which the Fixtures secretary is responsible, and post-season to contribute a financial statement for the Treasurer’s report
- Arrange for the collection of score sheets on match nights, update the website with the weeks’ results as quickly as possible, and pass on all relevant details to the *Bases Loaded* editor in time for inclusion in the next week’s issue.
- Liaise with the ground staff at Parris Wood and WSG and with the Umpire-in-chief about the availability of pitches, and reallocate pitches where necessary
- Handle requests for rescheduling of games under special circumstances, always bearing in mind the League rules and precedents in this regard.
- Handle any revision of the fixture schedule due to postponed, abandoned or replayed games.
- Act as investigating officer on any breaches of regulations concerning score sheets (see [Section 5.5](#))
- Attend all Executive committee and Captains’ meetings, and any general meetings

2.1.8 Tournaments

Requirement: Should have first-hand experience of tournaments up and down the country

- Liaise with the Treasurer pre-season to set a budget for Tournaments, and post-season to contribute a financial statement for the Treasurer’s report
- Organize the Manchester Open, **usually** held on the first weekend in August
 - Recruit helpers
 - Make sure event is advertised nationally with clear deadlines for payment of non-refundable deposit, and balance due
 - Book pitches, arrange for bases, balls, litter bins, portaloos (if needed)
 - Liaise with crew chief (appointed by BASU) to arrange umpires and agree tournament rules
 - Set up and organize manning of control centre

- In collaboration with the Social secretary, organize social event
- Collect tournament fees
- Arrange for provision of first aid, catering and any other services (e.g. equipment sales, batting cage)
- Get trophies and prizes for winners (including medals) and runners-up, MVPs, gifts for umpires and helpers
- Arrange schedule and publish (on the web) a final version preferably 48 hours before the event; the schedule for the Sunday should be confirmed **on Saturday evening**
- At the end of the event, make sure the site is tidied up
- Publicize lost property on the website
- Organize other tournaments as required and agreed by the Exec, currently
 - Firstball, pre-season tournament in mid-April
 - **Lastball, post-season tournament early September**
- Attend all Executive committee and Captains' meetings, and any general meetings

2.1.9 Social

- Liaise with the Treasurer pre-season to set a budget for Social events, and post-season to contribute a financial statement for the Treasurer's report
- Organize the end-of-season prize-giving event
 - Establish a budget for the event
 - Choose and book venue
 - Arrange (live) music, decorations and any other entertainment as appropriate
 - Set a timetable for reservation of and payment for tickets
 - Help to promote the event by meeting teams at post-match venues on occasional Tuesdays and Wednesdays, placing occasional "adverts" in *Bases Loaded*, and on **social media**
 - Arrange for the collection of monies and payment of bills in a timely manner
 - Assist the *Bases Loaded* editor as necessary in producing souvenir brochure if required
- Organize end-of-season trophies, currently (if awarded):
 - divisional champions (including individual medals) for each division
 - **LBH** and **SBH** home run trophies for each division
 - **LBH** and **SBH** MVP for each division
 - Rookie of the Year
 - Young Player of the Year
 - Blu ribbon award for contribution to umpiring
 - Outstanding Contribution award
- In collaboration with the Tournaments officer, organize appropriate social events at the start of the season, and at tournaments
- Attend all Executive committee and Captains' meetings, and any general meetings

2.1.10 Communications

Requirement: Appropriate IT skills

- Liaise with the Treasurer pre-season to set a budget for Communications, and post-season to contribute a financial statement for the Treasurer's report
- Maintain the website
 - Monitor forums³ for spam
 - Manage registrations and access rights for contributors
 - Managing hosting facilities
- Liaise with the *Bases Loaded* editor regarding important announcements
- Make efforts to promote the League in local press and media
- Seek to improve communication infrastructure via website/email/social media etc.
- Attend all Executive committee and captains' meetings, and any general meetings

³ The term "forum" includes any social medium used for discussion.

2.2 Non-Exec roles

2.2.1 Assistants

All Exec members are encouraged to recruit assistants to help them carry out their duties, who may from time to time be invited to Exec meetings to report or discuss issues. The elected Exec committee member will remain responsible for their allotted tasks, and only they are allowed to vote at Exec meetings, unless a proxy vote is established by prior agreement. Assistants will not normally be granted access to any restricted forum, and may be asked to leave meetings while confidential or sensitive matters are being discussed.

2.2.2 Bases Loaded editor

The *Bases Loaded* Review has traditionally been an independent publication which the League supports and contributes to. Editorial policy has always been to publish all and any contribution as long as it is not offensive, libellous or anonymous. The Exec has always retained the right to appoint (and by implication remove) the Review editor. The Review is also required to carry official announcements from the Exec, e.g. results of protests or appeals, and these are traditionally identified with a distinctive typeface and a clear attribution. Other than that, it is what its editor wishes it to be.

2.2.3 AGM chair

In consultation with the Secretary, set the agenda for, and act as Chairperson at the AGM and any special or emergency GMs. **The AGM chair is by tradition not a member of, nor up for election to, the Exec.**

2.3 MSL Website and social media

2.3.1 Website: www.manchester-softball.co.uk.

The MSL has its own website which is useful for providing more up-to-date information than is possible in a printed handbook. This information includes:

Results, Fixtures and Standings – Some of the most important information on the website enabling you to check the latest results.

Resources and information – You can access downloadable documents including the score sheet and team sheet that must be handed in after games. Besides the score sheet and team sheet, this handbook and other relevant documents are also available to download. An online umpire feedback form is also available.

MSL weekly Review ‘Bases Loaded’ – is available to download from the website with an email subscription option also available.

News items and announcements relating to tournaments, Captains’ meetings, training sessions and social events are regularly posted on the website.

MSL archive: League records, roll of honour and some other items.

2.3.2 Social media

MSL Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/manchestersoftballleague/ for news, communications and information.

Players Wanted Group: [www.facebook.com/groups/ 485285915005989/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/485285915005989/)

This group is for Manchester teams who need to find a Manchester-based player for league night games or tournaments, as well as Manchester players looking to pick up a game or tournament.

Exec and Captains' Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1702240093409458/>. This invitation-only group is for the Executive Committee and team captains to communicate and exchange information. In addition, there is a dedicated WhatsApp group exclusively for the submission of post-match paperwork.

Umpires' Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1715125502093232/>

Manchester Tournaments Group: www.facebook.com/groups/1017964088265888/. A group to let people know about upcoming Manchester Tournaments, fixtures, results, etc.

Follow MSL on **Twitter** @mslsoftball

Section 3 MSL Regulations

3.1 AFFILIATION

3.1.1 Fees

All teams must affiliate to the league each year by paying their affiliation fees on the due date. Both the affiliation fee and the due date are set by the Executive. For all teams this date will be near the end of March, two or three weeks before the start of the season. Any team that fails to pay their fee in advance will be automatically relegated to the lowest division. For match fees see [3.5.15](#))

New teams may be permitted to join the League in mid season, if the structure of the bottom division permits this. New teams will be required to pay the full fee for the season, as this is a BSF requirement.

3.1.2 Rosters

All players must individually register to play softball before playing. Registration, which is online and can take place at any time before game time, need only be done once per season. Registration can be confirmed at this webpage <http://manchester-softball.co.uk/player-checklist/>. However, this page sometimes takes a while to date automatically, and captains may be advised to record proof of registration if this is done immediately before a game. Registration requires the following obligatory information (which is required for BSF affiliation):

Name, home address, date of birth, and, if gender "other", nominated ball size.

In addition the league may request information such as email address, umpiring and coaching qualifications, squad number, rookie status, and so on.

Players must be at least 14 years old. Any player under 18 must be accompanied at games by their parent or guardian, or by an adult who has passed a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service, formerly CRB) check for the MSL, or has the written consent of the parent or guardian identifying the adult accompanying the player. The parent or guardian must have completed a BSUK "Permission to Play" form (see [Section 6](#)), which must be sent to the League Secretary.⁴ Spectators under 18 must also be accompanied by an adult.

Players may be registered to one team only.

⁴ It is no longer required to provide a copy for inspection by the umpire.

3.1.2.1 New player

New players may register at any time during the season, as long as they do so before their first game.⁵

3.1.2.2 Derostering

A player may be removed from a team's roster on notification to the League Secretary. That player then becomes a free agent. Should they subsequently play for another team (or play for the team from whose roster they were removed), they will be considered to have transferred to that team in accordance with the transfer rules (see 3.1.3). They do not need to reregister.

3.1.3 Transfers

Players wishing to change teams ("transfer") during the season may do so as long as the League Secretary is notified in writing or email by 6.30 pm on the day on which the player wishes to play for their new team. They do not need to reregister. Notification of transfer should be confirmed by all three parties: the player, the team transferred from, and the team transferred to. In case of dispute, the individual player's wishes take priority, though rule 3.1.2 still applies.

3.1.3.1 Second transfer

Any player transferring or obliged to transfer (see 3.5.5) for a second or subsequent time will miss the first fixture with their new team. They are also ineligible to play (as a guest) for their previous team's first fixture. If the game scheduled to be missed is postponed as part of a global postponement of games, the following game will be missed. If the game scheduled to be missed is forfeited in advance, this will count as the missed game.

3.1.3.2 Transfer deadline.

Starting from a date three weeks before the end of the official season no transfers are permitted of any player, except where that player is transferring to a higher division than the one they are currently rostered in. The transfer deadline date is fixed in advance, and will not be changed in case of rainouts or postponements. The official transfer deadline this year is **Wednesday August 10th** for all divisions.

3.1.4 Special rules for playoffs

Different rules apply for transfers after teams have been involved in pre-season playoffs (see 3.2.5). Players that play for a team in a playoff game who were not on the roster of that team during the previous season may not transfer to another team within the first 5 fixtures of the year, irrespective of whether the team wins or loses. This rule does not however apply to players playing as guests.

⁵ Note that rostering a player by listing their details on the team sheet after the game is no longer allowed.

3.2 LEAGUE STRUCTURE and FIXTURES

The structure and format of the league, including promotion and relegation issues, shall be determined at the pre-season Captains' Meeting.

The league is comprised of four divisions.

Divisions 1 and 2, both consisting of eight teams, will play on Wednesday nights, beginning April 27th. Games will be played at WSG. Games in week 13 will be split over two weeks (July 20 and 27) due to pitch availability at WSG. Divisions 3 and 4, consisting of seven teams will play on Tuesday nights, beginning April 26th, all games at Parrs Wood.

All four divisions will play two rotations and then split into top and bottom to play a further half-rotation.

Final games will be August 23rd (Divisions 3 and 4) and 24th (Divisions 1, 2), assuming no postponements.

Division 4 will be able to accommodate one or two new team(s) from week 8 (June 14th). If two new teams join, there will not be time for a third half-rotation.

Rest weeks and Postponements: If a general rainout occurs, fixtures will be rearranged so as to complete that rotation before starting the next. Where possible, fixtures will be rearranged so as to preserve previously announced rest weeks for individual teams. If any individual game is postponed or rescheduled (under rule 3.2.6) affecting a divisional split, special arrangements to play that game may have to be made. In Divisions 3 and 4, there will be a universal rest week on July 26th, the week before our main tournament, unless there has previously been a rainout or any postponements.

Home advantage: In all divisions, when teams play each other for the second time, home advantage will be the inverse of when teams first met. When teams play each other a third time, there will be no home team (see 3.5.3.4).

League points are in general carried over whenever possible, i.e. where all teams in a given division or subdivision have played a full rotation against each other, all points from that rotation are carried forward. An exception to this is where a new team joins the league mid-way through the season, in which case the missed games do not count.

3.2.1 League position calculation

For all league games, 2 points are awarded for a win, and 1 for a tie. An additional point is awarded to both teams, whatever the result, as long as a legal side is fielded, the match fee is paid, and the post-match paperwork submitted satisfactorily (see 3.5.14.2 **Error! Reference source not found.** and 3.5.15). The extra point is not awarded in the case of a forfeit in advance. A win by walk-over is not affected. Teams may not bilaterally agree to the result of a game, neither beforehand nor in the case of an incomplete game, since the result could affect other teams in the division.

League standings in each division will be shown (in *Bases Loaded* and on the website) using points percentage and games behind, though it should be

understood that the points assignment is still in effect. Forfeits in advance will be counted as $\frac{1}{3}$ of a game, as will any points deductions.

Teams with the same number of points and the same points percentage will be separated (1) by head-to-head win-loss record. Where this is inconclusive, positions will be determined (2) on the basis of aggregate scores for/against each other, then (3) by total of runs conceded in all games then (4) run difference in all games. In the case of a tie between more than two teams, if pairwise head-to-head records do not provide a conclusive ordering, then all of the above criteria just in games between the tied teams will prevail, and then criteria (3) and (4) in all games, will determine the order.⁶

3.2.2 Promotion and relegation

Although promotion and relegation between each of the divisions is normally on the basis of the top two teams being promoted, the bottom two being relegated, in order to expand Divisions 1 and 2 so as to reintroduce the Playoff Division next year, promotion/relegation will be as follows: between Divisions 1 and 2, two up, one down; between Divisions 2 and 3 three up, one down; and the same between Divisions 3 and 4.

No team will be excused promotion.

3.2.3 Qualification for the Nationals

Places in the BSF Nationals have been offered to all divisional winners, and also to tournament-only teams meeting the qualification requirements.

Places at the A comp and Single-sex Nationals are not restricted, so the MSL would have no say in allocation of places. Selection of the team(s) to represent MSL in the All-Star nationals, should they be reintroduced, will be the responsibility of the Exec, who will delegate (an) appropriate person(s) to take charge of trials and training for this event.

3.2.4 New teams

A team merely changing its name does not constitute a “new team”.

New teams will normally enter the league in the lowest division. If and only if the league structure permits, a new team may apply to enter the league in a higher division appropriate to the strength of its roster; the Executive will determine what is the best solution for the integrity of the league in general, which may include offering a place on a competitive basis (see [3.2.5](#)).

However, it sometimes happens that existing teams disband or split and (a) new team(s) is/are formed, both claiming the place of the old team. The Executive will determine how to accommodate such instances, but in case of dispute will be guided by the team affiliations of players the previous year: the

⁶ Note that in a tie involving more than two teams, application of aggregate score and other criteria can result in a team being below another team despite a superior *pairwise* head-to-head record.

league place will normally go to whichever team has more players who were rostered to the old team the previous year.

3.2.5 Filling spare places

Any spare places caused by teams folding or by league expansion shall be filled by eligible teams competing in pre-season playoffs. Where one place is available, the playoff will be between the highest ranking relegated team and the highest ranking not promoted team according to the final standings from the previous season. If either team declines the opportunity, the other team will automatically be promoted. Should more than one place be available, they will be offered to the next highest ranking relegated teams and not-promoted teams and then offered to teams in order through the standings from the previous year. Multiple playoffs will be seeded so as to favour the higher ranking teams in each category: for example if relegated teams R7 and R8 are to play not-promoted teams NP3 and NP4, the higher ranked R7 will play the lower ranked NP4. Any team relegated for disciplinary or administrative reasons will not be eligible to fill such spare places. Under exceptional circumstances, spare places may instead be generally offered to any team, again on a playoff basis. Playoffs will take place before the start of the season (including, if possible, at the end of the preceding season) on a date and at a venue to be determined by the Exec, which may not necessarily be a normal softball night.

3.2.6 Fixtures

All games must be played on the date and pitch specified by the Fixtures Secretary. In principle, no rearranging of fixtures is allowed.

3.2.6.1 Rescheduling allowed

However, rearrangement of a game **that would otherwise be forfeited** may be permitted if requested (a) in good time (at least a week before the scheduled date) (b) by the team that would otherwise **win** by walk-over, (c) if a suitable time, place and umpire can be arranged and (d) as long as the rearrangement does not interfere with the league structure, e.g. by delaying any league split. Such requests should be initiated by the team that would otherwise win by walk-over (**not** by the forfeiting team) and addressed to the Fixtures Secretary.

3.2.6.2 Rescheduling of postponed games

In case of postponement or abandonment, e.g. due to weather, the remainder of the fixture list will be adhered to, and the postponed games arranged at a later date. Fixtures will not be “shunted” down the calendar.

In case of postponements, the league season will be extended by one week unless provision has been made for a rainout week. This extension will not affect the transfer deadline (see rule 3.1.3).

Postponed or incomplete games will **otherwise** be replayed **or completed** on a date to be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, **which may include** a weekend, with games played under tournament rules **if necessary**. If teams affected can

agree an alternative date for playing outstanding fixtures, **and** a suitable venue is available, then the league **may** give permission for the fixture to be rearranged. Coercion of opponents to play the fixtures on an alternative date will not be tolerated. Games for which no date can be found and which do not affect the overall standings may be declared void.

3.2.6.3 Incomplete games

Incomplete games will normally be completed from the point at which they were halted, as long as at least two full innings have been played. If less than two innings have been completed, the game will be replayed from the start. Teams may not bilaterally agree to let the result of an incomplete game stand, as the result could affect other teams in the division. If it is necessary to fit in the completion with another game (for example as a double header), the Executive will determine whether any special playing rules apply, for example a time limit, or playing rules such as 1&1 count to speed up the game.

3.2.7 Double headers

If necessary some games will be played as double headers. In this case, the first games will start as usual at 7pm, but will be played as a timed game, with no new inning after 8.15. The current inning at that time will be completed; there will be no rollback of scores. The second game should start as soon as both teams are ready, or at 8.30 at the latest, and will be a regulation game. Fixtures will be arranged so that all teams are either on the same pitch for both games, or have to move to an adjacent pitch. The starting ball-strike count may be set at 1-1 for either or both games.

Home teams in the first game should provide the bases, leave them in place for the second game, to be collected afterwards. Home teams for both games should provide two new balls, as usual.

The two games are independent, so line-ups can be different, substituted players from the first can play in the second. A player may play for two different teams (cf rule [3.5.4](#)) as long as both games are played under double header rules. Two sets of paperwork should be handed in after the game: two team sheets for each team, and one score sheet per game. The fee for the evening will be equivalent to a single match fee. Where teams have had the same umpire for both games, a single online umpire assessment is acceptable.

3.3 EQUIPMENT

3.3.1 Banned bats

BSF follows the WBSC in policy on banned bats. All bats must have one of the ASA certifications, or the 2005 ISF certification mark, or the current WBSC certification mark as show here, and must not appear on the current ASA non-approved bat



list (even though it might have a certification mark) available at <https://www.doubleaasports.com/page/show/3026875-2020-non-approved-asa-bat-list>. Players should note that further bats might be added to the non-approved list over time. This is out of the BSF's control, and can be checked on the ASA website. Manufacturers continue to submit additional bat models for testing, and the ASA will update this list as test results become available.

In addition to banned bats, players and umpires are reminded that bats which are dented, cracked or altered (e.g. having more than two layers of tape on the bat grip, or having a flared or coned grip) are also illegal (WBSC Rule 2.1.1).

3.3.2 MSL regulation balls

MSL regulation balls shall be used for all games. Regulation balls conform to ASA standards with a spec of **.52 or .44** COR and <300 lbs compression for the 11" balls, **.52** for 12" balls. Modern balls of both sizes have a diamond logo stamped on them, while the older .44 cor balls have a circle logo: **11" balls with the circle logo may be used, but not 12" balls, which must have the diamond logo.** See [3.5.3.2](#) and [3.5.3.4](#) concerning provision of balls. Captains should be aware that newer bats designed for use with the new ball spec could be damaged by the balls previously used in MSL.



New logo – OK Old logo – **11" only**

3.3.3 Gloves

All fielders shall wear a softball glove, or mitt (if playing catcher or 1st base). Although not prescribed by the rules of the game, MSL imposed this local rule to uphold the spirit of the game, and as a safety measure, since some new players insist they can do better without a glove.

3.3.4 Footwear

WBSC rule 2.5.2 states that "all players must wear shoes". Open-toed sandals, flipflops and bare feet are not suitable for softball, due to the danger of tripping, or being stamped on by a player wearing studs/cleats.

Captains should ensure that their players wear suitable footwear, especially in wet conditions. Players slipping and sliding out of control are a danger to themselves and to other players, and umpires are entitled to eject players wearing unsuitable footwear.

Note also that studs, spikes or cleats made of metal, hard plastic, nylon or polyurethane are illegal. Detachable studs that screw **into** the shoe are allowed, but not those that screw **onto** the shoe. These rules are for the safety of opponents.

3.3.5 Helmets, masks, and gumshields

Helmets are mandatory for all batters and runners, and for under-18 players additionally when base coaching, or “while in the dugout” (i.e. in the team area next to the pitch). If playing pitcher or catcher, under-18 players must wear a mask. Under-18 players shall wear a gum shield or a mask if playing in the infield.

3.3.6 Uniforms

MSL plans to introduce uniform rules in the long term. All teams are expected to identify at least the main colour of their uniform, and all players are expected to wear a top of this colour. When playing against a team whose uniform is the same colour, the away team should if possible wear a different colour. When it is raining, players are permitted to wear a waterproof top over their uniform. For the time being, teams are not penalised if players are not in uniform, but it is planned to introduce stricter rules in future. However, umpires may legitimately request any individual player wearing a shirt the same colour as the opponent’s uniform to wear a different shirt, preferably the correct colour. Exception: if both teams have a similar uniform, for the time being this colour clash will be tolerated. It is not planned to enforce other official uniform rules regarding matching caps, undershirts, trousers, or numbers (WBSC Rule 2.6) though see MSL Reg. 18.

3.4 UMPIRES

3.4.1 Payment

Umpires who have are qualified as BASU umpires will receive £25 per game. Umpires who have passed the BASU qualification but are awaiting assessment will receive £20. Those that have no current qualifications will get £15 per game.

Payment will normally be by bank transfer.

3.4.2 Allocation

Umpires are selected from those known to be available (provided by the resting team(s), and others) by the Umpire-in-chief in consultation with the Fixtures Secretary. Allocation of umpires is on the basis of need, past provision of umpires by the teams involved, and finally with a view to ensuring that provision of umpires is spread evenly and fairly across the teams.

3.4.3 Neutral umpire

Where no umpire has been appointed, a neutral umpire may be agreed by both teams. A player who is rostered to one of the teams involved but happens not to be playing may umpire the game if this is acceptable to the opposing team, and will be counted as an umpire for the purpose of payment as described in 3.4.1.

3.4.4 Objecting to an umpire

A team cannot reject an umpire selected by the Umpire-in-chief. Other umpires who turn up "on spec" must be acceptable to both teams.

3.4.5 Umpire feedback

An umpire feedback form (see [11.3](#)) can be completed online after any game. This may be completed by any player from the game and should be completed as soon as possible after the game has concluded. It is not necessary to fill in every section of the form. The form will be sent to the Umpire-in-chief at the earliest opportunity who will review the content and consider if any action is required, including optionally notifying the umpire evaluated of the content of the form, if appropriate. Confidentiality will be maintained.

3.5 GAME TIME

3.5.1 Forfeits in advance

If unable to field a team, the captain shall notify **all** the following people: the captain of the opposing team, the Fixtures Secretary and the Umpire-in-chief umpire@manchester-softball.co.uk at least **48 hours** before the official start time of the game in question. Failure to do so shall make the team liable for the payment of **both teams' pitch fees**, unless the pitch is used, e.g. for a practice game, in which case both teams shall pay their share, as normal. The Fixture Secretary's and Umpire-in-chief's email addresses and phone numbers are both listed above (see [Section 2](#)). Contact numbers for all team captains are listed below (see [Section 8](#)).

Any game which is forfeited in advance of a match night when all games are postponed or abandoned as in [3.5.2](#) will not count as a forfeit. (NOTE: the reason for this is that a team should not be penalized for having been courteous.)

3.5.2 Start time

Game time is 7 p.m. Other start times may be determined by special circumstances (e.g. potential lack of light, double headers, special events requiring an earlier or later start or finish). Captains may mutually agree to make an earlier start either by prior arrangement or at the time (e.g. because everyone, including the umpire, is ready to start early). Teams wishing to change the start time by prior agreement must submit their request to the Fixtures Secretary at least **four** days in advance of the game being played, to enable appointment of an umpire. Any team unable to start by the officially agreed time will forfeit the game.

Pitches at Parris Wood are available only from 6.30 p.m.

3.5.3 Home team

The home team is the team listed **second** in the fixture schedule. The home team has various responsibilities and entitlements.

3.5.3.1 Setting out the pitch

The home team is responsible for providing and setting out home plate, pitcher's plate, and three bases including safety base at 1st. These shall be set out in good time before the start of the game.

3.5.3.2 Providing balls

In all divisions, the home team shall provide two new league-sanctioned game balls (one 12" ball and one 11" ball) for each game played. **They should also provide the umpire with one good-quality used ball of each size.** Balls are provided to all teams on registration at the beginning of the season. Provision of balls for games with "no home team" is shared between the teams: see rule 3.5.3.4.

3.5.3.3 Batting second

The designated home team shall have the option of batting first or second. If the home team opts to bat first, this should be clearly indicated on the score sheet in the space provided. The box scores should show the team batting first above the team batting second. In the event of a tie it is still the designated home team's responsibility to fill out the score sheet.

3.5.3.4 No home team

Certain games are indicated as "no home team" in the fixture schedule (e.g. cup games, playoff games, games in a third rotation) by use of "v" rather than "at" or "@" in the listing. Teams toss up at the start to decide home advantage. In these games, the team listed second is responsible for setting out the pitch and, in the case of a tie, filling out the score sheet. Teams shall provide one **new and one used** match ball each: the team listed first will provide **two** 12" balls, while the team listed second will provide **two** 11" balls.

When it comes to filling out the score sheet, the team batting second is the "home" team irrespective of which team was listed first or second in the schedule, or which team won the toss.

3.5.4 Line-up

As mentioned in WBSC Rule 3.2.2a.iv, teams may play 6&6. If during the game the number of available players drops below 12, the team must play one-short (see 4.1 Rule 3) (Effect: they cannot revert to 5&5). Contrary to WBSC rule 3.2.1b, players need not be present at the start of the game: late-arriving players may join the game at any time. In the case of a team playing one-short, the late arrival may enter the playing area only once the ball is dead.

No player may play for more than one team on a given match night. (This rule is designed to prevent a guest whose "first" game has finished from joining the game for tactical reasons.) A player listed in the starting line-up but who is

substituted before taking the field or making a plate appearance is not counted as having played.

3.5.5 Guests

3.5.5.1 Maximum two guests

During a game each team can have up to **two** guests at any one time in their line-up. Guests playing in a higher division than the one in which their team is rostered (playing “up”) are subject to the batting restrictions, but not fielding restrictions, set out below.

3.5.5.2 Limit on playing “down”

Guests may play no more than two divisions below the division in which they are rostered. Interdivisional games (if any) for the purposes of this rule are considered to be games in the lower division of the teams involved.

3.5.5.3 Playing 6&6

A team may not use (a) guest(s) to play 6&6.⁷

3.5.5.4 Using a guest when a rostered player is guesting elsewhere

A team may not use a guest if on the same night any of their players of the same **BH size** is playing as a guest for another team. Teams planning to use a guest from a team scheduled to play on the same night should as a courtesy inform the captain of that team.

3.5.5.5 Obligatory transfer of regular guest

If a guest plays for the same team **five** times, they must transfer to that team.^{8,9} The respective captains and, if possible, the individual player, will be notified by email if invocation of this rule is imminent (i.e. after **four** guest appearances).

3.5.5.6 Fielding restrictions

Guests playing in the same or a lower division than the one in which their team is rostered (“playing down”) are subject to the following restrictions: guests can field in any of the following positions (no order implied): pitcher, catcher or right field, subject to the usual restrictions on **BH size** balance of in the field.

⁷ To clarify, this rule also prohibits a guest coming on as a substitute in a 6&6 line-up.

⁸ The transferred player can play for their original team as a guest and subject to the restrictions detailed here, **provided Rule 3.1.3.1 does not apply**. Note that transferring back to the original team does **not** reset the appearance counter to zero. The respective captains and, if possible, the individual player, will be notified by email if invocation of this rule is imminent (i.e. after **four** guest appearances).

⁹ **This rule has been changed back to five games after last year’s change due to COVID. Note also that the rule has been extended to all players, not just those guesting “up”.**

3.5.5.7 Batting restrictions

All guests must bat as low as possible in the batting order, subject to the rule regarding **BH size** of batters. Exception: a guest may enter the batting line-up as a substitute at any place in the line-up, subject to the rule regarding **BH size** of batters, as long as the player¹⁰ they are replacing has completed at least one turn at bat. When playing “one-short” the automatic out should precede any guests in the batting order, if a late-arriving rostered player is to take up the vacant position in the batting order. **There is no requirement for a guest from a lower division to bat before a guest from a higher division, as long as they are both as low as possible.**

3.5.5.8 Guests vs. new players

Note that a “guest” is a player rostered to another team: this is not the same as a “new player”, who is not rostered to another MSL team, and who is therefore not subject to fielding restrictions. The new player **must register with the league before the game as in 3.1.2**, and that player will **thenceforth** be considered as rostered to that team. This applies even to one-off players who are not likely to play again. Players rostered to softball teams in other leagues are not regarded as “guests”.

3.5.5.9 Applying the rules

Responsibility for ensuring that rules applying to guests are observed remains with those involved with the game, i.e. the umpire and opposing captain. The Exec however reserves the right to investigate any breach of these rules in the normal manner. See 4.1 Rules 14 and 15 for rules relating to guests batting and fielding in the wrong order or position. Appeals regarding guests fielding in the wrong position will not be accepted unless the game has been played under protest, as defined by WBSC Rules 1.2.9-14. See also 5.3.1.

3.5.6 Ground rules

Umpire and captains shall agree any ground rules (e.g. hazards in the playing area, dead-ball line if not clearly marked etc).

3.5.6.1 Pitches with fences

Note that additional rules apply on any pitch which has fences and/or a backstop.

On any pitch with outfield fences, a batted ball hitting a tree overhanging the outfield fence will be considered a home run.

3.5.6.2 Trees

On any other pitch with overhanging trees, a ball hitting a tree will be called dead. If a batted ball, it will be called foul. A thrown ball hitting a tree will count as a ball thrown dead, and the usual base awards will apply. These ground rules apply even if the tree overhangs fair territory.

¹⁰ This exception does not permit a guest to replace an automatic out higher than the lowest possible place in the line-up. But a late-arriving guest can join the line-up if the normal guest batting rule is respected.

3.5.6.3 Parrs Wood pitch 7

On pitch 7 at Parrs Wood, a batted ball hitting the overhead powerlines will be called foul. A thrown ball hitting the power lines will count as a ball thrown dead, and the usual base awards will apply.

3.5.7 Warm-up

Teams must not use the diamond or batter's boxes for warming up, with the exception of the pitcher and catcher, who may occupy the diamond for up to 5 minutes before the game starts. Batting practice should use 1st and 3rd bases. This is to minimize wear and tear on the batter's boxes, and to avoid disputes about "having the diamond".

3.5.8 Pre-game meeting

At the beginning of the game, captains and neutral umpire, if provided, will meet to confirm the following: whether they are playing 6&6, the status of players on the line-up (guests, under-18s), to agree ground rules, whether the home team opts to bat first, and if applicable to toss up. The player who presents at the pre-game meeting will be considered the captain in relation to rules stipulating actions that are restricted to the manager, or if the umpire needs to confer with the captain(s).

3.5.8.1 Declaration of guests and under-18s

At the beginning of the game, captains must clearly and explicitly indicate to the umpire and to their opposing captain which players are playing as guests. They must also indicate if any of their players are under 18 years of age, and if so confirm that all the provisions for under-age players have been met (see [3.3.5](#)).

3.5.8.2 Toss to see who is "home" team

Where necessary (see [3.5.3.4](#)), captains shall toss to see who has the option of fielding/batting first.

3.5.9 Weather and ground conditions

On all questions of fitness for play, any global decision made by the Umpire-in-chief **or their appointed deputy** in consultation with the ground staff will overrule decisions made by individual neutral umpires or the players themselves. This applies in particular to conditions at the start of play, and any decision to abandon play due to lightning.

Regarding the suitability of individual pitches, for example due to standing water, or sunlight in pitcher's/fielders' eyes, any decision to relocate shall be taken by the umpire only. Teams should not set up on an alternative pitch before the game starts. If the conditions are such that players feel there is a danger, umpires should first ensure that players have appropriate equipment. In the case of sunlight, the game can be suspended for a short time until the sun's position changes or the weather changes. Any game that is abandoned because of the conditions before 5 innings have been completed will be

rearranged and replayed from the point at which it was suspended or, if less than two innings have been completed, replayed from the start.

3.5.9.1 Notification of cancellation

The ground staff at WSG and Parrs Wood will undertake to notify the Umpire-in-chief and/or League Head of cancellation **by 2pm on match day** in case of persistent bad weather. All players should assume the games go ahead unless they hear explicitly otherwise. In case of cancellation, team captains will be notified by email, and a notice will be posted on the MSL website, on the MSL Facebook page, **in the Captains' WhatsApp group** and by an announcement on Twitter.

As already stated, unless Captains hear otherwise games will go ahead. **Captains must NOT make independent bilateral decisions on this issue.** If in doubt, turn up.

3.5.9.2 Rain

As stated above, WSG and Parrs Wood in consultation with the Umpire-in-chief **or their appointed deputy** have the final say on whether a pitch is playable or not. Rain on its own is not usually sufficient cause for abandonment: long-term damage to the pitch and safety of players are the main concerns. If a team refuses to play then they shall be deemed to have lost the game (see [3.5.12.3](#)). As mentioned above ([3.3.4](#)), captains should ensure that players have suitable footwear for wet conditions.

3.5.9.3 Wind

Wind shall not prevent any games being played unless large debris (e.g. tree branches) are being blown across the playing area. If so, then play should stop until the wind has calmed down or debris has cleared. Umpires shall not change their calling of balls and strikes because of windy conditions.

3.5.9.4 Lightning

All players should be aware that the danger of being struck by lightning is increased in open spaces, near trees, metal fences, electricity pylons, and when holding long metal objects. A distant thunder storm does not pose an immediate threat, but if the gap between the lightning flash and the sound of thunder is less than 30 seconds (i.e. the lightning is less than six miles away), then play must stop immediately, and players should seek shelter (do not shelter under the trees). If after **30** minutes there is no further **thunder**, then the game shall resume. **Otherwise**, all games shall be abandoned. **See [3.5.12](#) for rules regarding incomplete games.**

3.5.9.5 Sunlight

Every effort has been made to locate the pitches so that the setting sun should not be shining from behind the plate into a pitcher's eyes. However if this does happen, the umpire shall decide if it is dangerous and if so, they shall move the pitch or delay the game until the sun has moved out of the pitcher's eyeline. If there is no neutral umpire then both captains must agree before the pitch is moved. Batter facing the sun is less dangerous and shall not usually be a reason for moving the pitch.

3.5.9.6 State of the pitch

This item refers to pitch markings (or lack of), length of grass, condition of the batter's box, uneven ground and other hazards.

Pitches should be freshly marked out for every game, the grass mown, and batter's boxes filled if necessary. If this is not the case, please report this to the Umpire-in-chief. Bear in mind however that in rainy conditions, freshly painted lines may get washed out.

Should any of the above be unsatisfactory, this should nevertheless not be taken as a reason for moving the pitch, unless they constitute a danger to players. If players notice any dangerous conditions (e.g. a goalpost hole), they shall warn fellow players, and notify the Umpire-in-chief after the game. Any conditions impinging on the playing rules (e.g. overhanging trees) are "ground rules" and shall be agreed by the umpire and captains at the pre-game meeting (see [3.5.4](#)).

See [3.5.13](#) for rules concerning the playing conditions deteriorating during the game.

3.5.10 Pitchside music

Teams are requested to be mindful when choosing their playlists for pitchside music to avoid songs where lyrics might be offensive or inappropriate, especially considering that a number of players are minors, and spectators often include young children.

3.5.11 Injuries and incidents

It is important that every team be aware of their responsibilities in case of injury. [Section 7](#) provides information about reporting injuries and other incidents, including a two-page guideline with important phone numbers and instructions, which team captains should keep with them as part of their match-day pack. It is hoped that each team will have at least one qualified first aider.

The BSF policy on head injuries is to recommend that all injuries, no matter how trivial they might seem, shall be taken to A&E.

In conjunction with BSF, the league would like to keep a record of serious injuries (e.g. requiring hospital attendance and/or resulting in long-term inability to play). Any such injuries should be recorded on the back of the score sheet and/or reported on the BSF website (see [7.1](#)) using the form provided.

3.5.12 Incomplete or tied game

3.5.12.1 Regulation game and tied game

A minimum of five innings must be completed for a result to stand (WBSC Rule 1.2.1c), unless a game is subject to the run-ahead rule after 4 innings.¹¹ Tied games should be resolved by extra innings (WBSC Rule 1.2.1b) if the conditions permit. Note that tie-break rules apply in extra innings (start with a runner on 2nd). However, should the conditions prevent continuation, a game can be declared a tie. For any game that does not run its full course, the reason should be stated on the score sheet.

3.5.12.2 Cancelled or non-regulation games

Any games cancelled or incomplete when curtailed by bad weather or darkness will be completed at a later date, see 3.2.6.3. **As long as at least two full innings have been completed**, games will start from the point at which they were halted, and so it is important for score sheets to be kept. The batting line-up for each team should be the same as before, though any players who are unavailable for the continuation game may be substituted in the normal manner. A team which started the original game playing 6&6 but is unable to field 12 players in the continuation game may, exceptionally, request permission to revert to 5&5 **before** the start of the game, omitting two players from the line-up (though they may not do this once the game has restarted, eg due to injury). **Any game abandoned with less than two innings completed will be replayed from the start.**

3.5.12.3 Game forfeited after it has started

Any game forfeited after it has started will be recorded as a 20-0 loss to the team at fault, unless the score at the time of the forfeit represents a bigger loss. All home runs scored before the forfeit shall count towards the home-run trophy. The forfeiting team will still be awarded the 1 point for the loss, as long as all other requirements are fulfilled (see 3.2.1). Note that forfeiting a game after it has started is not the same as a forfeit in advance (see 3.5.1), and can result from not having sufficient players to continue after an injury or ejection (WBSC rules 1.2.2h) or for the continuation of an incomplete game, fielding an ineligible substitute (1.2.2i), refusing to play on (1.2.2c) or any act or behaviour causing the umpire to abandon the game.

3.5.13 Decision to abandon game

If the playing conditions deteriorate during a game (and assuming no global decision to abandon has been taken by the Umpire-in-chief or ground staff as in 3.5.2), it will be up to the neutral umpire alone to decide whether to abandon a game. If possible, one inning's notice should be given.

If there is no neutral umpire, then the decision to halt play will be taken by a majority vote of 10 players on each side. If a team unilaterally decides to stop

¹¹ To clarify, if the team batting second is ahead after 4½ innings, the game is regulation. Likewise, the run-ahead rule applies after 3½ innings if the team batting second is 20 runs ahead).

playing, they will be deemed to have lost the game (WBSC rule 1.2.2c) and the game will be recorded as a 0-20 defeat or the score at the time if the defaulting team is losing by more than 20 runs after the last complete inning. The defaulting team will still get its 1 point for losing, as long as the game started and all other requirements are fulfilled (see [3.2.1](#)).

3.5.14 Score sheets, score cards and team sheets

3.5.14.1 Score cards during the game

Score cards¹² should be correctly filled in during the game, showing batting order, substitutions, and other details needed in case of a protest or dispute; this makes the flow of the game easier (“Who’s up next?”). Therefore it is important that teams have a suitable number of players who know how to score, at least to the level of detail needed for the MSL.

A copy of the batting line-up shall be made available to the opposing team’s scorer at the start of the game upon request.

3.5.14.2 Team sheet

Both teams will hand in **or submit online** a **team sheet** (see [11.1](#)),¹³ listing in batting order the players used, giving both forename and surname, their status (rostered player, new player, guest), their starting fielding position, and any substitutions. Changes of fielding position need not be indicated, unless substitutions involved guests whose fielding positions are restricted.

For guests, indicate the name of the team they are rostered to. **New players must have registered on-line before the game starts.**

3.5.14.3 Score sheet

A single final **score sheet** (see [11.2](#)) showing inning-by-inning box score and final score, signed by both captains, shall be handed in **or submitted online by the winning team**, or in the case of a tie, by the home team. **Note that even if submitting online, the opposing captains’ signature is required.** The final score sheet shall also be used to indicate the pitch used, reason for playing less than a full game, any home runs scored, to nominate agreed **LBH** and **SBH** MVPs for each team, and the name of the neutral umpire. If captains cannot agree on the four MVPs, the opposing captain’s choice in each case should be taken. There is no rule against nominating a guest as MVP. The score sheet should indicate explicitly if any of the players named (as HRs or MVPs) are guests.

3.5.14.4 Serious injuries

Please also indicate any serious injuries that occurred during the game on the back of the score sheet.

¹² This terminology is used to distinguish the sheet used during the game to record each at-bat from the summary sheet (score sheet) handed in afterwards (see below).

¹³ See footnote 1.

3.5.14.5 Online submission of paperwork

Paperwork submitted online should be sent before midnight on the day of the game, and should be sent **only** to the dedicated WhatsApp group in the form of a screenshot or photo of the paperwork (including signatures) in portrait mode. Other formats, media or submission methods cause considerable inconvenience.

3.5.14.6 Penalties for incorrect paperwork

Failure to hand in **or submit** a satisfactorily completed team sheet, failure to countersign the final score sheet, or signing off an incorrect score sheet shall render both teams liable to **penalties** as determined by the standing tariff as described in Section 5.3, subject to investigation of the circumstances.

The Fixtures Secretary or their deputy will record the result of the game as indicated on the score sheet, and will award both teams 1 point, as long as they are satisfied that the paperwork has been completed correctly and match fee paid. Late payment of fees will incur an additional charge **proportionate to the lateness of payment as stipulated in 5.3.5**.

3.5.14.7 Umpire feedback

In addition, an umpire feedback form may be completed online (see 3.4.5 and 11.3).

3.5.15 Match fees

Match fees are £50 per team in **all** divisions. Match fees should be paid online **by 6pm the day following the day on** which the game is played.¹⁴ The League's bank details are as follows:

Account name: Manchester Softball League
Sort Code: 50-41-10
Account No: 55587828

Any other form of payment must be agreed with the Treasurer **in advance**. Teams paying by cash, or by cheque (which should be made payable to Manchester Softball League) or paying late by agreement with the Treasurer, will pay an additional service charge of £5. Otherwise late payment of fees will incur an additional charge **proportionate to the lateness of payment, or other penalties if fees are excessively or repeatedly late**.

3.6 Trophies

3.6.1 Winners' medals

Divisional winners will take possession of the divisional shield, which they keep for a year. They will also receive a permanent trophy, and individual medals for rostered players who have made at least four appearances. Additional medals e.g. for regular coaches, scorers, etc may be requested.

¹⁴ Note that online payment is the required method of payment. Payment by cheque or cash will be subject to a £5 handling charge.

3.6.2 Home run trophy

The League will award trophies for the **LBH** and **SBH** players hitting most home runs in each division. Only home runs scored by rostered players will count towards the trophy (not guests), but all home runs should nevertheless be credited.

Home runs scored in abandoned or incomplete games (see 3.5.12.2) including **in** games subsequently forfeited due to breach of regulations, **or in games replayed from the start, or in incomplete innings when a game is rolled back**, will count towards the home run trophy. If the winning run (or 15th or 20th run in the case of a victory by run-ahead rule) is batted in by a home run, that homer will count towards the home run trophy.

3.6.3 MVP

The League will award trophies for the **LBH** and **SBH** players with the most MVP nominations in each division, as shown on the final **score sheet** (see 3.5.14.3). Captains are asked to agree to nominate one **LBH** and one **SBH** MVP per team.

3.6.4 Rookie of the Year

The League will award **a trophy** for the rookie of the year, as determined by the Exec at the end of the season. Nominations will be invited, which should include a brief supporting statement, near the end of the season. A “rookie” is defined as a player new to the game, not just new to the league.

3.6.5 Blu ribbon award for Umpire of the year

The League will award a trophy to the person who has made the greatest contribution to umpiring during the year, if appropriate.

3.6.6 Young Player of the Year

The League will award a trophy to the best under-18 player(s), as determined by the Exec.

Section 4 Differences between WBSC rules and local rules

MSL games are played according to WBSC rules (Version 2018-2021). These rules were redrafted in 2018, with simplified text, and a few rules re-numbered, which is reflected here. We have a small number of local additional rules, and there are some WBSC rules which are not enforced. Some of Differences between WBSC rules and local rules these differences are local to MSL, while others are in common with other leagues in the country, and are found at tournaments.

In the following, a “Rule” is a WBSC Rule unless stipulated as a “local rule”, while a “Reg” is an MSL regulation as listed in the previous sections.

In all WBSC rules which refer to “male” or “female” players, substitute “LBH” and “SBH” for “male” and “female” respectively. And rules referring to “gender balance” will be understood to be referring to a balance between LBHs and SBHs and rephrased in terms of “BH size”.

4.1 Local additional rules

These are extra rules which do not relate to any existing WBSC rules.

1. DECLARATION OF GUESTS/YOUTH PLAYERS. At the beginning of the game, captains must indicate to the umpire and to their opposing captain which players are playing as guests in accordance with Reg 3.5.4. They must also indicate if any of their players are under 18 (see Local rule **25**).
2. COURTESY RUNNER. The WBSC rules make no mention of courtesy runners, other than to indicate that a batter-runner may be substituted in the normal way. In MSL (as elsewhere in Britain), the convention is to permit an injured batter to be replaced by a courtesy runner (rather than a substitute) having got to 1st base, once the ball is dead. (Effect: the courtesy runner cannot take over running the bases while the ball is live, for example if the batter has hit big). If a batter is able to get further than 1st base (other than as the result of a 2-base award), they are deemed not to require a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner must be the last batter of the same **BH size to have been out** or, if there have been no outs in the whole game, the last batter **of the same BH size** due up at the time. If the batter so defined is currently on base or at the plate or becomes the on-deck batter, they may be replaced by the next batter who fits that definition. The reasoning behind this quite explicit rule is to eliminate the possibility for either side to choose who the courtesy runner should be and thereby try to gain an advantage. It also introduces an element of randomness so that the same runner is not always used. **If the wrong player is used as a courtesy runner, on appeal by the defence, they will be replaced by the correct runner with no penalty.** A courtesy runner is, as the name suggests, a courtesy, not a right, and will be allowed only with the opposing captain’s permission. **It is not up to the umpire to decide whether to allow a courtesy runner or not.** A courtesy runner should not be requested for a player who is merely slow, and captains should consider using a substitute if available. A player who comes into the game with a pre-existing injury should not normally be

granted a courtesy runner, especially if playing 6&6. Note that the batter must be able to reach 1st; a courtesy runner from home is not allowed.

3. **PLAYING ONE-SHORT.** The WBSC rules do not allow for a team to play one-short. MSL however will permit teams to start one-short (i.e. with 9 players, or 11 if playing with EPs), and to continue to play if injury (though not ejection) leaves the team one-short. A team playing one-short must take an automatic out in place of the missing player in the batting line-up. This is usually the last place **for** the appropriate **BH size** in the batting order, but need not be.¹⁵ When playing one-short the automatic out should precede any guests playing down in the batting order, if a late-arriving rostered player is to take up the vacant position in the batting order. If a team is playing with EPs and due to injury the number of available players drops to 11, the team must play one-short, i.e. they may not revert to 5&5. If a team is playing one-short and suffers a further injury and cannot replace that player, the game is deemed to have been lost. To clarify, if the ejection of a player (rather than injury) leaves the team one short (including if playing with EPs), they may not continue to play one-short, and the game is deemed a loss.
4. **LATE ARRIVALS.** Contrary to Rule 3.2.1b, players need not be present at the start of the game: late-arriving players may join the game at any time. In the case of a team playing one-short, the late arrival may enter the playing area only once the ball is dead.
5. **BATTERS MUST WEAR A HELMET** as defined in Rule 2.1.8. If a batter enters the batting box without a helmet, the batter will be ordered to go and get their helmet. If they refuse, they will be given out (Rule 5.4.4a.ii).
6. **DIGGING IN.** Batters may not dig in at the batter's box. Batters may smooth the dirt out, and may rotate the balls of their feet to get a grip (though not excessively), but may not kick dirt out or plant their toe into the ground. A first offense will result in a team warning, followed by ejection for subsequent offenses.

4.2 Local rule changes

These are rules for which the MSL has its own version.

7. **OFFICIAL SOFTBALL** – In addition to Rule 2.4.3, we require that two new official MSL balls, one 12" and new 11", be provided by the home team (see 3.5.3.2).
8. **PLAYERS MUST WEAR A GLOVE.** Rule 2.5.1a says any player *may* wear a glove; we have a local rule making wearing a glove mandatory.
9. **LINE-UP CARDS.** We *do* have line-up cards (Rule 3.1.14) (or 'team sheets' see 11.1) to be submitted at the *end* of the game, but do not require them to be exchanged at the pre-game meeting (1.1.8), list uniform numbers or identify the manager (captain) (3.2.1). Nor do we

¹⁵ The original ASA rule on which this local rule is based stipulated that the auto-out must be in place of the last batter of the appropriate sex. This part of the old rule is not adopted: the auto-out can be anywhere in the line-up.

require all starting players to be present at the start of the game (3.2.1b). The requirement (3.2.1a.i) to list full names should be followed.

10. FITNESS OF GROUND (Rule 3.6.2a) See Regs 3.5.2 and 3.5.13 regarding calling of games.
11. REGULATION GAME (Rule 1.2) A game may be called if conditions make playing dangerous. Besides the plate umpire, games may be universally called off, or, if there is no neutral umpire, by a majority of 10 players from each side as stipulated in Reg 3.5.13. While WBSC rule 1.2.1f calls for an incomplete game to be replayed from the beginning, our local rules (see 3.5.12) call for the game to be completed from the point at which it was halted.
12. TIED GAME (Rule 1.2.1d). A regulation tie is not replayed, but recorded as a tie.
13. FORFEIT (Rule 1.2.7c) The score of a forfeited game shall be 20-0, or, if forfeited after it has started, the score at the time of forfeit if this represents a bigger losing margin for the team at fault. Any home runs scored before the game is forfeited shall count towards the home run trophy.¹⁶
14. BATTING ORDER (Rule 5.4.1) All guests must bat as low as possible in the batting order, subject to the rule regarding **batters' BH size**. Exception: a guest may enter the batting line-up as a substitute at any place in the line-up, subject to the rule regarding **alternating BH size**, as long as the player¹⁷ they are replacing has completed at least one turn at bat. When playing one-short the automatic out should precede any guests playing down in the batting order, if a late-arriving rostered player is to take up the vacant position in the batting order. If during a game a guest batter is found to be in the wrong position in the line-up the following options are available:
 - a. If appealed before the batter has made their first plate appearance, then the subsequent batting line-up must be reordered so as to conform to the guest rules.
 - b. If appealed while the batter is at the plate for the first time, the guest batter must exchange places with a batter lower in the line-up such as to conform to the rules: that batter continues the at bat with the current ball-strike count.
 - c. If appealed while the guest batter is on base then EITHER they can be replaced with a legal substitute (but NOT another player already in the line-up, even if they have not yet batted) with no immediate penalty OR an out is recorded, they become an ineligible batter, and the position in the line-up becomes an automatic out.

¹⁶ See 3.5.1 and 3.5.12.3 for the difference between a forfeit in advance and a game forfeited after it has started.

¹⁷ This exception does not permit a guest to replace an automatic out in the line-up.

- d. If appealed after the guest has batted at least once, and is not on base, then EITHER they can be replaced with a legal substitute (but NOT another player already in the line-up, even if they have not yet batted) with no immediate penalty OR they become an ineligible batter and the position in the line-up becomes an automatic out.

Effect c & d. All actions before the last legal or illegal pitch that have occurred while the illegal batter was in the game stand. If the batter is not substituted then they can continue to field, but may not bat again in the game. The fielding side has the option to continue the game under protest if they believe the guest batter has had an effect on the outcome of the game. This is a matter for the on-field umpire to resolve, and for the opponents to protest, if they wish. If no protest is made, then no penalty is incurred. This offence no longer incurs an automatic penalty. Note that these rules are based on, but not identical to, the normal rules for batting out of order.¹⁸

15. FIELDING RESTRICTIONS Guests rostered to a team in the same or a higher division (“playing down”) must field in one of the following positions: pitcher, catcher, right field, subject to the usual restrictions on balance of LBHs and SBHs in the field. If a guest is discovered to be fielding in an illegal position, on appeal by the batting side, the player must move to a legal fielding position. The batter will have the choice of allowing the result of the last pitch to stand, or having the pitch annulled. However, if more than one pitch is received with the fielder in an illegal position, only the last pitch can be replayed. This is an “option play” as defined by WBS Rule 1.73. The batting side has the option to continue the game under protest if they believe the guest fielder has affected or may affect the outcome of the game. This is a matter for the on-field umpire to resolve, and for the opponents to protest, if they wish. If no protest is made, then no penalty is incurred. This offence no longer incurs an automatic penalty.¹⁹
16. UMPIRES (Appendix 5). Not all games are umpired by neutral umpires (Aa). All rules relating to umpires’ clothing (Ac) are taken as guidelines.
17. MANAGER/COACH. Rules 2.8, 3.2.8 and 5.10.3a.xiii stipulate ejection of the manager/coach. If the manager/coach is also in the line-up at the time, and their ejection would lead to forfeit due to insufficient players, the manager/coach will not be ejected, unless in the umpire’s opinion this was wilful gamesmanship. The player who presents at the pre-game meeting with the umpire will be considered the ‘manager/coach’ for the purpose of these rules.

4.3 Rule changes generally found in British softball

18. UNIFORM (Rule 2.6) We do not currently enforce these rules, except 2.6f (casts), but see Reg. 3.3.6. Rule 2.6g was revised (in 2020) so that

¹⁸ Where a game has been completed under protest regarding guest batting or fielding rule infractions, and the protesting side has won, the matter will not normally be taken further

¹⁹ See footnote 18

jewellery is allowed as long as it is not distracting or a danger to players, in the umpire's opinion.

19. SCORING. Appendix 6 is taken as a guideline, except for Ga (score by inning and final score), Ge (home runs) and Go (name of umpire if neutral), all of which must be recorded on the official score sheet (see Reg. 3.5.14)
20. CHARGED CONFERENCES. Rules relating to charged conferences are ignored. (Rules 4.1.1, 4.2, 5.1.10, 5.2)
21. HEAD COACH/MANAGER. We generally use the term 'captain' to refer to the role of head coach/manager referred to in various rules. The player who presents at the pre-game meeting will be considered the captain ('manager/head coach' Rule 3.1.6) in relation to all WBSC rules stipulating actions that are restricted to the manager, for example: giving notice of a protest 1.2.11c, 3.6.6a, option plays 5.1.34, 5.5.1c, 5.7, or if the umpire needs to confer with the captain(s).
22. No smoking or consumption of smoking products (including e-cigarettes) or alcohol in the 'dugout' area (new rule in 2006, amended 2019) – not enforced (Rules 2.1.5, 3.5.1b). However, umpires are encouraged to ask captains to take action if any player becomes unfit to play due to alcohol consumption.
23. In addition to the requirement for youth players to wear a batting/running helmet when base-coaching, or acting as bat-boy/girl, and to wear a catcher's mask if playing pitcher or catcher (see 25 below), youth players must also wear a mask or a gumshield if playing infield.

4.4 Points of emphasis

24. Rules relating to use of 11" balls.
 - a. The plate umpire is responsible for changing balls with the pitcher at the end of each at-bat.
 - b. If the wrong ball is inadvertently used, the batter will have the choice of allowing the result of the pitch to stand, or having the pitch annulled (Rule 2.4.3b). However, if more than one pitch is received with the wrong ball before the mistake is noticed, only the last pitch can be replayed. This rule applies for both male and female batters.
 - c. "Wrong ball" is a dead-ball appeal and can be made by either team.
 - d. Any mistaken use of either ball can be rectified only before the next pitch is thrown or in the case of the last out of an inning, players leaving the field.
25. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. Various rules make helmets mandatory for youth age players when batting (5.4.2a), base coaching (3.4.3e), being the on-deck batter (5.3c.ii). Local rule 5 makes helmets mandatory for all players when batting and running. Rule 2.5.3a states that if playing catcher, youth players must wear a mask and helmet. Youth age players must also wear a gumshield when playing infield (BSUK requirement), or a mask. In MSL in addition, if pitching, they must wear a mask. The term

youth age player is taken to mean any player under 18. Some rules are worth emphasising now that helmets are compulsory:

(1) **Failure to wear** the batting helmet when ordered to do so by the umpire shall cause said player to be declared out (5.4.4a.ii).

(2) Deliberately wearing the helmet improperly or **deliberately removing** the helmet during a live ball play, except on a home run hit over the fence, and seen by the umpire as a deliberate act, shall cause the violator to be declared out immediately (5.8a). The ball remains live. If a thrown or batted **ball contacts the deliberately removed helmet**, or a fielder comes into contact with the deliberately removed helmet while attempting to make a play, the ball becomes dead and runners must return to the last base held at the time of such contact (5.8b.i).

(3) If a helmet is **accidentally dislodged** from its proper place on a batter, batter-runner or runner, there is no penalty and the ball remains live. If a thrown or batted **ball hits the accidentally dislodged helmet** while it is detached from its proper place on his person and this contact interferes with the play being made, or a defensive player comes in contact with the helmet while it is on the ground and this contact prevents them from making a play, the ball is dead, the offensive player who was wearing the helmet shall be called out, even if they had scored and the run is nullified (5.8b.ii). All runners must return to the base last held at the time of such contact.

26. RE-ENTRY (Rule 3.1.16), SUBSTITUTES (Rule 3.1.20, 3.2.6) and REPLACEMENT PLAYERS (3.2.5). The official rule states that **starting players** may be substituted at any time, and may later re-enter the game **once** in the same batting position as before. Substitutes may **not** re-enter the game once they have been withdrawn. There are no rules regarding any requirement to bat and field. An exception to the re-entry rules concerns 'Replacement players'. A **replacement player (RP)** is defined (Rule 3.1.18) as a player permitted to enter the game for a 'withdrawn player' (3.1.22), i.e. "A player who must leave the game due to an injury that is bleeding and cannot be stopped in a reasonable time or when the player's uniform becomes covered with blood." Players otherwise ineligible to re-enter the game (a starting player who has re-entered once and been substituted, or a substitute who has been withdrawn) *can* play as an RP. Players eligible to play as an RP include: a substitute who has not yet entered the game or who has entered the game but subsequently been withdrawn; a starting player who is no longer eligible. The rule itself states that any player who is bleeding, or has blood on their clothes, must be removed from the game until the bleeding stops and their clothes changed. The RP may act for the withdrawn player for the remainder of the inning in progress, and for the following complete inning only. But if the bloodied player does not return within that time, the withdrawal is subject to the normal substitution rules: if the RP is not an eligible substitute, then one must be found; and if none is available the team must play one-short, or forfeit. The RP rule applies only to blood-related situations, not all injuries in general.
27. TIE BREAKER (Rule 1.2.4) Note the requirement to start tie-breaker innings (8th onward) with a runner on second. The runner shall be the player who is scheduled to bat 10th (12th if playing 6&6) in that half-

inning. If playing one-short, and that batting position coincides with an automatic out, the base is left open, but no out is recorded.

Section 5 Protests, Rule Breaches, Complaints and Sanctions

5.1 Protests lodged during a league game

The WBSF Rules of play clearly define the allowable protests during a game, and the procedure for making a protest during a game (Rule 1.2.8-14). Protests about player eligibility may additionally be made after the end of a game but must be made within a “reasonable” time (normally 48 hours) after the infringement is discovered. Any protest not made following these procedures shall be rejected.

A team that makes a protest must also pay a protest fee of £25 to the League and after the game must supply a written description of the protest. Both must be received by the Executive Committee within 7 (seven) days of the protest first being made. Receipt shall be acknowledged in writing. Once an official protest has been made the fee is payable even if the protest is subsequently withdrawn and/or no written description is received. If the protesting team won the game any protest shall be ignored and no fee shall be charged. (A protest about player eligibility may separately be investigated as a breach of league rules). If the protest is upheld the fee may be refunded at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

If a protest is upheld the actions that must follow are laid out in the WBSC rulebook (Rule 1.2.14), but the League may also apply additional sanctions if the investigation concludes that the rules breach was a result of unacceptable conduct by the offending team.

5.2 Reasons for taking disciplinary action

From time to time it may be necessary for the League to impose sanctions on individual members or teams within the League.

Possible reasons for sanctions being imposed include, but are not limited to:

- Failure of an individual or team to comply with the rules and regulations of the League
- Unacceptable conduct, by an individual or team, either on or off the pitch.

The imposition of sanctions shall usually follow an investigation prompted by:

- A complaint to the Executive Committee lodged by any person, whether a member of the League or not.
- A decision of the Executive Committee that a breach of the League’s rules and regulations may have occurred.

5.3 Breaches of the League’s rules and regulations

Among possible breaches of the rules and regulations that might occur, punishment tariffs for some have been set by precedent as follows. These

tariffs will normally be applied automatically, without the need for an investigation.²⁰

5.3.1 Forfeit of the game in question (Type A)

Use of ineligible player in a league fixture (eg illegal guest, suspended player)

Contravention of the guest batting or fielding rules deemed to have affected the result (eg legal guest playing in an influential position). The affected team must lodge an appeal in the normal manner.

5.3.2 Automatic one-point deduction (Type B)

Failure to submit score sheet

Failure to submit team sheet

Playing 6&6 with a guest or guests

A second Type D offence

5.3.3 Automatic one-point deduction suspended (Type C)

Use of an unrostered player in a league game

Filling in or countersigning a score sheet showing an incorrect result

Excessively late submission of score sheet (winning team)

Failure to countersign score sheet

5.3.4 Warning (Type D)

Contravention of the batting or fielding restrictions by a legal guest as long as this has not affected the result

Failure to provide bases and/or new balls when home team

Submission of an inaccurate or incomplete team sheet

Excessively late submission of team sheet

Signing a score sheet showing the correct result but with incorrect box-score details (eg innings scores and total do not tally)

5.3.5 Fine (Type E)

Excessively late payment of match fees (amount of fine to be proportionate to lateness)

²⁰ While all the rules have been introduced at one time or another to address a specific problem, a distinction is made between those that cause only inconvenience, for which a suspended sentence or warning (or a fine if the breach is financial) are appropriate, avoiding undue influence on the standings, as opposed to rule breaches that undermine the integrity of the league, for which forfeit or points deduction are a suitable deterrent and punishment.

Where multiple breaches occur in connection with the same game, only the most severe will be punished.

Sanctions involving points deductions should allow for a range of points deductions, potentially on a punitive basis (i.e. not just the points at stake in that game) so that repeat transgressors can be punished to a greater extent, but even a first offence should normally result in the loss of at least 1 league point.²¹

Where points deductions are suspended, any subsequent **Type A, B or C** breach of league rules will result in the points being deducted, as well as the appropriate penalty for the second offence. **Note that the difference between Types C and D is that a second Type D offence does not incur a double penalty.**

In all the above cases, the Exec reserves the right to take into consideration the circumstances of the misdemeanour. Teams being served with notice of a tariff punishment may appeal the decision and request an investigation as detailed below and in 5.5.3.

Protests and appeals regarding breaches of the League's rules and regulations that are subject to an automatic tariff must be made within 48 hours of notification of the tariff. Other protests and appeals may be made within a reasonable time after the alleged offence has taken place. Protests may be normally made only by parties who are affected by the rule breach, including teams affected by the result of a game between two other teams. The Exec may choose to investigate any rule breach that comes to its attention, regardless of whether an official complaint or protest has been received, but will do so only if it judges that such an investigation to be in the League's interest overall.

5.4 Unacceptable Conduct

Individuals and teams within the League have an obligation to obey the rules and regulations of the League and conduct themselves in a manner that does not endanger or give offence to others. Unacceptable behaviour may attract sanctions from the League.

5.4.1 Individual Conduct

Possible sorts of unacceptable behaviour by an individual include, but are not limited to:

- Assault of a player or official, on or off the pitch. This shall be deemed a category 1 offence.
- Serious verbal assault, including threats, on or off the pitch, of a player or official. This shall be a category 2 offence.
- Continued or sustained abuse of a player or official, on or off the pitch. This shall be a category 3 offence.

²¹ This text has been move from elsewhere in the document.

- Coercion or forcing of any member of the sport, where such member is incapacitated by means of age, disability, mental state or any other reason, into inhuman, degrading or illegal activities, including, but not limited to sexual abuse. This shall be deemed a category 1 offence.
- Conduct by individuals identifiable as members of the League, where such conduct is damaging to the good name of the sport. This shall be deemed a category 3 offence.
- Where such conduct is prolonged and/or seen to have lasting negative consequences it shall be deemed to be category 2 offence.

5.4.2 Team Conduct

Possible sorts of unacceptable behaviour by a team include, but are not limited to:

- Complicity with unacceptable player conduct as outlined above. This shall be deemed a category 3 offence for the team.
- Co-ordinated or prolonged intimidatory behaviour. This shall be a category 3 offence.
- Non-co-operation with reasonable demands by an umpire in connection with the officiating of a game. This shall be deemed a category 2 offence.
- Conduct by individuals identifiable as members in any capacity in the sport of Softball where such conduct is damaging to the good name of the sport. This shall be deemed a category 3 offence.
- Where such conduct is prolonged and/or seen to have lasting negative consequences it shall be deemed to be a category 2 offence.

5.4.3 Player expelled or game abandoned by umpire

Any incident resulting in a player or other person being expelled by the umpire, or the game being awarded to either side by the umpire, shall automatically be reported to the Umpire-in-chief and/or League Head and investigated, preferably before the next game involving that player/team.

Whenever an umpire ejects a person from a game, that umpire must complete the **MSL Umpire's Ejection Report Form**. This form must be submitted to the Umpire-in-chief as soon as possible and, in any case, within 48 hours. If the ejected player wishes to submit a written account of the circumstances surrounding the ejection then this information must also be with the Umpire-in-chief, within 48 hours, to be considered. These submissions can either be handwritten at the post-match venue if the Umpire-in-chief is present, or submitted electronically to **umpire@manchester-softball.co.uk**.

The Umpire-in-chief will then consider the information and decide if any sanction should be imposed. This decision will be provided electronically at the earliest opportunity but within 5 days from the time of the ejection. It is therefore essential to obtain a current e-mail address for the person under consideration. The decision will be provided to the ejected person, the umpire,

the MSL Executive Committee members and the editor of *Bases Loaded*. This may involve a suspension but this is not automatic. See [5.6](#) for details of suspensions.

NB: If the Umpire-in-chief was a player or umpire in the game when the ejection took place, the process will be administered by another member of the MSL Exec who was not involved in the game nor has a conflict of interest. The Umpire-in-chief will indicate who this should be.

Any **appeal** of the decision should be dealt with under [5.5.3](#) on payment of the appropriate fee.

The final outcome, including the umpire's report and the player's initial submission, will be published in the *Bases Loaded* magazine.

5.5 Investigation and processing of complaints, protests, and breaches of League rules

Complaints, protests and possible breaches of League rules and regulations, (incidents) other than automatic tariff penalties are all processed in the same way once they have come to the attention of the Executive Committee. The League is intent upon ensuring all parties are given full and fair opportunity to bring all the relevant evidence to investigation.

5.5.1 Investigating officer and judicial committee

First the Exec shall appoint an **investigating officer**. For rule breaches concerning team sheets and player eligibility the investigating officer shall normally be the Secretary. For rule breaches concerning score sheets the investigating officer shall normally be the Fixtures Secretary. For rule breaches concerning payment of fees the investigating officer shall normally be the Treasurer. For protests and other rule breaches, the investigating officer shall normally be the Umpire-in-chief. For complaints the League Head shall normally be the investigating officer. If the default investigating officer is personally involved in the case or has a vested interest in the outcome the Exec shall appoint another of their number, or an outside party, to investigate. The remaining members of the Executive Committee, excepting any individuals who are personally involved in the complaint, shall form a **judicial committee**, the purpose of which is described below. The judicial committee shall have a minimum of **three** members, and shall appoint members from outside the Exec if necessary. If all of the Exec are implicated, a Captains' meeting shall be called that shall appoint one of their number to be the investigating officer and at least three others to form the judicial committee.

5.5.2 Initial evidence and finding

Once selected, the investigating officer shall ask for written submissions from each party (team or individual) involved in the incident. These must be supplied within 7 days. If submissions are not forthcoming, the investigating officer shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the parties involved are aware of the request for submissions, and have explicitly declined to provide them. The investigating officer may also require team representatives or

individuals to make themselves available for questioning about the circumstances surrounding the incident. The background to the request for information shall be explained clearly to individuals who are questioned in this way. All evidence supplied to the investigating officer shall be made available to all interested parties and must be attributable to an individual: no anonymous evidence shall be accepted.

The investigating officer shall then study the evidence supplied. Within 7 days of receiving the written submissions s/he shall provide the (other) members of the judicial committee with:

- 1) copies of all submissions
- 2) his/her conclusions about the incident under investigation
- 3) his/her recommendation as to what, if any, sanctions shall be applied as a result.

The judicial committee then have 7 days to discuss the investigating officer's submission and agree how to deal with the incident and what if any sanctions to apply. The results of the investigation and of any subsequent sanctions, together with a summary of the submissions made, shall be supplied to the captain of each team involved and any other interested parties and also shall be published in *Bases Loaded* and on the MSL website.

5.5.3 Appeal

Once informed of the outcome of the investigation all interested parties have a right of appeal. If a party appeals they must inform the League of their intention to appeal within 48 hours, and then must pay a fee of £50 to the League and supply a written summary of their appeal within a further 5 days of receiving the original judgement. Any sanctions imposed by the original judgement shall normally be suspended until after any appeal is heard.

Once an appeal is received an **appeal committee** shall be set up by the judicial committee. The appeal committee shall consist of:

- 1) A chairman, who shall normally be a neutral third party not involved in the original investigation.
- 2) The original investigating officer
- 3) A representative of the party that has lodged the appeal (see below)

The appeal committee must meet within 7 days of being created to discuss the case. They may request additional material from all interested parties and meet on further occasions after no more than 7 additional days to complete their deliberations. They shall then produce a report (including a recommendation about possible sanctions) which they shall supply to the original judicial committee. If they cannot agree on a course of action they may make individual representations to the committee. The judicial committee will then rule on the appeal and decide on any sanctions to be applied. The report(s) of the appeal committee and the decision of the judicial committee shall be published in *Bases Loaded* and on the MSL website.

5.5.4 Appellant's representative

If the appellant is an individual they can pick any other member of the League to represent them. If the appellant is a team they can pick any League member from outside that team to represent them.

5.6 Imposing Sanctions

Sanctions are imposed by the Executive Committee, who are the ultimate arbiter on individual and team sanctions within the League. Sanctions come into force immediately the Exec imposes them (subject to any appeal).

5.6.1 Possible Sanctions

5.6.1.1 For individual members of the League

Possible sanctions vary according to the seriousness of the offence as follows:

Category 1 – Any or all of: Permanent expulsion, suspension for a period of up to one calendar year.

Category 2 – Any or all of: Suspension for less than 8 games.

Category 3 – Any or all of: Suspension for less than 3 games, written caution.

5.6.1.2 For teams within MSL

Possible sanctions vary according to the seriousness of the offence as follows:

Category 1 – Any or all of: Permanent expulsion, suspension for a period of up to one calendar year, financial penalties.

Category 2 – Any or all of: Suspension for less than 8 league games, deduction of league points, overturning of game results, financial penalties.

Category 3 – Any or all of: Deduction of league points, overturning of game results, written caution, financial penalties.

5.6.1.3 Repeated offences

Repeated category 3 offences by a team or individual shall be deemed a category 2 offence, with the proviso that any such sanctions imposed for repeated offence shall be imposed in addition to, and not concurrently with, any other sanctions imposed.

5.6.2 Serving suspensions

Suspensions will be served immediately unless explicitly stated otherwise. If a game which a player was due to miss because of suspension is forfeited in advance (i.e. before it begins), then that game will not count towards the player's sentence. Likewise, if a game is incomplete (less than 5 innings) having been abandoned due to playing conditions, that game will *not* count towards the player's suspension. The player will miss the next game (not the continuation of this game). Note that an incomplete game, which, having

started, is subsequently forfeited, *will* count towards the suspended player's sentence.

Suspensions may also be expressed in terms of a time period. Suspensions will apply to games scheduled to be played by the team to which the suspended player is rostered. But a suspended player may not, while suspended, play as a guest for another team, nor may such a planned appearance count as fulfilling the suspension. A suspended player who transfers to another team while suspended shall serve out their suspension with their new team. Suspensions will not be scheduled to begin before a suitable time has elapsed which allows captains to organize replacements for a suspended player. This will usually be understood to be three full days from notification of the suspension being received.

Players who are suspended are prohibited from participating in any activities associated with normal league games, including coaching, scoring, umpiring or spectating. Suspended players may also be asked to refrain from attending the post-match venue, depending on the reason for the suspension.

Suspensions will not normally extend to activities associated with MSL but not part of league play, such as tournaments, representative teams, or social activities other than the after-match gathering, unless explicitly mentioned as part of the sanction.

Section 6 Child Protection

The BSUK in 2014 year introduced a mandatory set of requirements for under-18s playing adult softball. While MSL has for several years had child-protection measures in place, the BSUK requirements go further in some respects. In November 2017, the BSUK published a further set of requirements (see [6.3](#)).

6.1 Introduction

Everyone who participates in softball is entitled to do so in a fun, enjoyable and safe environment. These principles apply to all participants, but young people in particular are entitled to a higher duty of care.

To encourage the continuing development of best practice, the British Softball Federation has produced requirements for slowpitch and fastpitch leagues and clubs when considering whether young people under 18 years of age are competent to play in an adult team or to coach or officiate in an adult game. While BSUK does not set a minimum age for players, the MSL has set this at 14 years old. The younger the player, the more rigorous the assessment of competence needs to be.

These requirements are minimum standards to be followed by all BSF-affiliated teams, whether competing in local leagues, in tournaments or internationally. Teams, leagues and tournaments can introduce additional requirements governing the participation of young players on adult teams as they see fit.

6.2 Requirements

- Each team **shall appoint a Safeguarding Officer**²² who will ensure that the appropriate welfare procedures and checks are followed and that there is a process in place to assess whether the young player is competent to play, umpire or coach at the level at which the team is competing.
- Each player who is under 18 **shall be assessed for this purpose by the Team Coach**. If the team does not have a nominated coach, the Team Captain shall undertake the assessment. Where the coach or umpire is under 18, an authorised club member or BASU member shall make the assessment.
- Four areas shall be considered when deciding if a young player is competent to take part in an adult team or game:
 - General physical capability
 - Social development
 - Emotional development
 - Softball skills and ability.

²² The 2017 guidelines use instead the term “Safeguarding Officer”.

- A brief record of the player's name, date of the assessment, competency for all or specified positions and any observations or comments **shall be made in the Team Coach's notebook.**
- The young person's parent or guardian **shall complete a Permission to Play form** in all cases where the young person is competing with an adult team or taking part in an adult game. Forms can be downloaded from the MSL website at "www.facebook.com/download/190936715038822/BSUK Parent Guardian Permission Form.docx". Send the form, once completed, to the MSL Secretary. It is no longer necessary to show the form to the umpire on the day of the game. If the under-18 player is intending to play in any tournaments under the aegis of BSUK, then a further copy of the form should be sent to **BaseballSoftballUK** Ariel House, 74a Charlotte Street, London W1T 4QJ.
- If a parent/guardian is unfamiliar with softball, a club representative shall explain the risks of the sport to them. **Copies of the completed form should be sent to both BSUK and to the league Secretary.**
- The Team Captain must ensure the young person is included on the team roster and is therefore covered by BSF Civil and Public Liability insurance, and by Personal Accident and Injury insurance if taken out by the team.
- The team shall arrange regular training and coaching sessions which young players should attend in order to progress their softball development and skills.
- Young players shall wear a helmet when batting and baserunning. Also, in accordance with WBSC rules, all players under 18 who are coaching, umpiring or acting as batboys or batgirls shall wear a helmet when on the field.
- Young players **shall wear a gumshield if playing in the infield.**
- Young players must wear a catcher's mask if playing that position.
- Young players shall wear appropriate sports footwear.
- The Team Coach or Captain **shall review a young player's competence to continue playing should game conditions change** – for example, due to adverse weather, a change in the level of play or the conduct or aggressiveness of the opposing team.
- If an **Umpire is unsure about the competence of a young player**, they shall make their concerns known to the Team Captain.

6.3 BSUK updated safeguarding requirements

As of November 2017, the following rules apply to teams with under-18s (copied from <http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/safeguarding/> requirements)

- All team coaches on a team that accepts players under 18 years of age shall have a valid DBS check completed on them within the last calendar year before the start of the season in question.

- All youth clubs or teams must name a designated **Safeguarding** Officer within their organisation who has appropriate safeguarding training to be determined by BaseballSoftballUK.
- All teams must provide BaseballSoftballUK with contact details for their designated **Safeguarding** Officer and coach(es) and ensure that these details are kept up to date.

Teams intending to take under 18s to tournaments should be aware of the following regulation:

All teams undertaking overnight trips shall complete a **Travelling Team Details** Form and submit it to BaseballSoftballUK at least seven days prior to the commencement of the trip. This is so that BaseballSoftballUK has the main trip details and contacts and is able to assist in an emergency by providing a helpline for all enquiries. All travelling teams must have a suitably-trained **Safeguarding** Officer with them. The **Travelling Team Details Form** is available to download from the BSUK website: www.baseballsoftballuk.com/uploads/_documents/Files/Welfare/Traveling Team Details Form.docx

DBS Checks can be completed quickly and easily. It's a simple form to complete with an option to sign up for the update service to save having to complete yearly. For info or to arrange a DBS check, please email welfare@bsuk.com or call 0207 453 7055.

Section 7 Incidents and injuries

The BSF have asked us to report all serious incidents and injuries so as to enable them to become aware of any issues that are affecting the game nationwide. The following also includes advice concerning incidents that might lead to an insurance claim.

7.1 The steps for reporting an incident

Details should be captured in writing at the time of the incident when they are still fresh in the minds of those present. Incidents are most likely to be injuries to an individual or damage to property. It would be ideal if the incident report is compiled by a team captain, umpire, coach or event organiser, by speaking to the people involved and any witnesses.

The BSF's standard incident report form (available at [www.baseballsoftballuk.com/uploads/_documents/Files/Insurance/Incident Report Form.pdf](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/uploads/_documents/Files/Insurance/Incident_Report_Form.pdf), see also [11.5](#)) can be used as a guide to what information is required. This form should be completed and submitted either online or on paper, with a copy to the League Secretary.

In the case of an incident that might lead to a claim on the civil liability insurance (i.e. where someone might claim negligence on the part of your club) it is crucial you **do not** admit liability or agree to pay for any damage caused as this could result in the insurers not meeting the claim. Compensation payment should not be made on the assumption that it will be reimbursed when the insurance claim is processed. Liability will be assessed by the insurers should a claim subsequently arise.

If a subsequent insurance claim arises, the insurers will refer to the submitted incident report for information. They might also need to follow up with those involved to help in assessing the claim. Communication between the insurers, claimants and other relevant parties is usually handled through BSUK.

7.2 Important guidelines from the insurance brokers

Please read these additional guidelines from our insurance brokers, Perkins Slade:

7.2.1 Claims Notification Requirements

The contract of insurance does have certain conditions imposed, meaning that we ask clubs and individuals meet these requirements:

You are required to give BSUK immediate written notice with full particulars of any claims or circumstances which may give rise to a claim.

Every letter, claim, writ, summons and process in connection with such circumstances must be forwarded to BSUK immediately on receipt.

Written notice must be given to BSUK immediately you have knowledge of any prosecution, inquest or inquiry in connection with any circumstances, which may give rise to liability under the policy.

We ask that you notify us immediately of any incident that involves:

- A fatal accident
- An injury involving either referral to or actual hospital treatment
- Any allegations of libel/slander
- Any allegations of Professional Negligence i.e. arising out of tuition, coaching or advice given
- Any investigation under any child protection legislation
- Any circumstance involving damage to third party property

An injury is defined as:

- Any head injury that requires medical treatment [Doctor or Hospital]
- Any fracture other than to fingers, thumbs or toes
- Any amputation, dislocation of the shoulder, hip, knee or spine
- Loss of sight [whether temporary or permanent]
- Any injury resulting from electrical shock or burn, leading to unconsciousness or requiring resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- Any other injury leading to hypothermia, heat induced illness or to unconsciousness which requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- Loss of consciousness caused by asphyxia or by exposure to a harmful substance or biological agent.

Please note the above list is not exhaustive and if you are unsure as to whether an incident should be reported, then please do not hesitate to contact BSUK for further advice.

We would remind you that in NO circumstances should you admit liability or agree to pay for any damage caused as this may prejudice the position of insurers and could result in the withdrawal of any indemnity. Please note that on the civil liability policy the insurers decide if negligence attaches to you. Therefore any payments you make to third parties will not necessarily be reimbursed.

If you have any questions, please contact BSUK.

A summary of the insurance cover is available on the web at www.baseballsoftballuk.com/insurance/summary. Guidelines for making a claim are at www.baseballsoftballuk.com/insurance/claims.

7.3 In case of injuries

In case of serious injury,²³ contact the ambulance service using **999**. They will ask for basic information, namely:

- Location
- Problem / medical emergency
- What happened?

²³ Thanks to Nathan Gulam for researching this document

- Gender (including non-binary)
- Age
- Are they conscious?
- Are they breathing?
- Is there any serious bleeding?
- Are they completely alert?
- What part of the body is injured?
- If they have a chest or neck injury, is the casualty having trouble breathing?
- When did the incident happen?

The following details would be sufficient to provide the location for the casualty.

Parrs Wood Sports Facility

Parrs Wood High School
Wilmslow Road
East Didsbury
Manchester M20 5PG

Access to pitches 1-5 is round the back of the school through the gate near the all-weather pitch (near pitch 1). While the ambulance is on its way, someone should go to check that the gate is open, then go to the front of the school to meet the ambulance and direct them to the casualty.

If the gate is locked, or if the incident is on pitch 5, it may be preferable to get onto the field via the gate at the top end of the field near the traffic lights. However, this involves getting the gate unlocked (see below).

Access to pitches 6-8 (south of the river) is through the gate near pitch 6. You should notify the ambulance service that you are on Manchester Road, Cheadle, Stockport past the Parrs Wood Leisure Complex in the direction of Cheadle Village. This gate will normally be locked, so you should contact the Sports Centre on 0161 445 2379 and ask them to ask Security to unlock the gate. Alternatively you can go directly to the Security office, which is just behind the main reception of the school. Because the security and/or sports staff may be hard to locate, it is better to follow up both these alternatives. Someone should also meet the ambulance at the roadside to direct them to the casualty.

Wythenshawe Sports Ground

Willenhall Road
Wythenshawe
Manchester, M23 0BD

There is no problem of access to the fields (as long as cars are not parked across the access route). While waiting for the ambulance service someone should go to the car park near to the entrance of sports ground centre. They can then direct them to the casualty.

Nearest Hospitals:

Wythenshawe Hospital

Accident and Emergency

Southmoor Road
Wythenshawe,
Manchester, M23 9LT

0161 998 7070

Manchester Royal Infirmary

Accident and Emergency
Upper Brook Street, (near to the junction Grafton Street)
Manchester, M13 9WL

0161 276 4147

Stepping Hill Hospital

Accident and Emergency
Poplar Grove
Hazel Grove
Stockport, SK2 7JE

0161 419 4108

Section 8 Team Details

Squad details show player registrations up to 23 April

8.1 Division 1

8.1.1 Manchester Thunder (THU)

Main contact: Kellie Whitaker

Phone:

Second contact: Luis Arrevillagas

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Dark blue with gold trim

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/mcrthunder/>

History and form: Founded 2006; Champions (1) 2021; runners-up 2016; POD winners 2010. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D1)1-5-5-4-2

Arrevillagas, Luis

Edwards, Josh

Grantham, Joe

Hadwin, Brad

Hannessen, Kim

Hutchen, April

Jarratt, Beth

Leverton, David

Leon, Juan Luis

Lott, Julie

Lott, Mike

Payne, Sian



8.1.2 Manchester Greensox (GRX)

Main contact: Danny Gunn

Phone:

Second contact: Vicky Green

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: White

History and form: Founder member (1992) as Akihero Greensox, (Manchester) Greensox since 2019; Champions (9) 2004, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2019; runners-up 2002, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2021. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D1)2-1-3-3-3

Addison, Sophie

Burton, Tanya

Dee, Andrea

Fagan, Max

Green, Vicky

Gunn, Danny

Kidley, Paul

Lochery, Tanya

March, Linda

Marenco, Oscar

Miotk, Natasha

Russell, Thomas

Sanders, Mark

Scholes, Jack

Tomlin, Ben



8.1.3 Lion Dodgers (LDS)

Main contact: Nichola-Jane Dyson

Phone:

Second contact: Nigel Peters

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Royal Blue

History and form: Founded 1993 as Mostly Harmless, renamed Just Lust 1995, Jammie Dodgers 1996-98, (Manchester) Jammy Dodgers 1999-2021, current name on merger with Lions 2022; Runners-up 1998, 2003, 2006. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D1)9-6-4-5-5

Duerden, Nicola

Dyson, David

Dyson, Nicola-Jane

Hepburn, Simon

Jepson, Lisa

Kendrick-Walker, Lee

Killion, Angela

Mannion, Christopher

O'Farrell, Lindsay

Peters, Nigel

Ryan, Hiroe

Thwaite, Abbie



8.1.4 Travelling Dodgers (TDS)

Main contact: Jonathan Huck

Phone:

Second contact: Rachael Shkurko

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Black and blue

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/travellingdodgers/>

History and form: History and form: Founded 2011 as Tigers, current name since 2021. D2 winners 2019; D3 winners 2018; D4 winners 2016. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D1)4-(D2)1-(D3)1-2-(D4)1

Allen, Aaron

Bell, Matthew

Brooks, Craig

Currie, Miranda

Downes, Annie

Downes, Daniel

Gaskell, Michael

Huck, Jonathan

Jessop, Katie

Langford, Jane

Macey, Georgina

Martin, Luke

Sharp, Shane

Shaw, Jade

Shkurko, Nikita

Shkurko, Rachael

Steele, Sam

Swann, George



8.1.5 Mossley Mayhem (MHM)

Main contact: Zoe Le Roux

Phone:

Second contact: Caroline Jones

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Navy & red



History and form: Founded 2011; D2 winners 2018; D3 winners 2012. Last five years (excl. 2020) (D1)5-7-(D2)1-4-5

Aghtarafi, Anissa
Barratt, Nathan
Carlino, Alfonso
Carlino, Luis

Garcia Reyes, Anthony
Jones, Caroline
Le Roux, Zoe
Marks, Sarah

Mitchell, Linni
Warren, David

8.1.6 Manchester Mavericks (MAV)

Main contact: Adam Cole

Phone:

Second contact: Sherry Kenyon

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Red

Website: <http://manchestermavericks.co.uk>

History and form: Joined MSL 1994; Champions (11) 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009; runners-up 1996, 1999, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2017, 2018. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D1)6-3-2-2-4

Ahluwalia, Baljit
Basu, Tanya
Blease, Ian
Buckley, Ellie

Cole, Adam
Cook, Charlie
Cracknell, Leanne
Durisin, Lubo

Gresty, Maddy
Kenyon, Sherry
Pearmain, Laurence



8.1.7 Spittin' Camels (CAM)

Main contact: Adam Hugill

Phone:

Second contact: Adam Brookbanks

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Black with orange

Social media: <https://camelssoftball.teamapp.com/>,

<https://twitter.com/CamelsSoftball>,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171644839656234>

History and form: Founded 2007; D2 winners 2017. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D1)7-4-6-(D2)1-(D1)7

Atkinson, Thomas
Bragg, Laricia
Cassin, Sarah

Christofi, Charleen
Green, Matthew
Hugill, Adam

McKie, Colin
McTear, Hayley



8.1.8 Sharks (SHA)

Main contact: Stephen Shearer

Phone:

Second contact: Mike Hulme

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Royal blue

Social media: @seftonsharkssoftball

History and form: Joined MSL 2014 as Sefton Sharks, current name since 2016; D2 winners 2021; D4 winners 2014. Last five years (excl. 2020) (D2)1-4-4-6-6.

Bankier, Megan

Cranny, Lewis

Ebo, Rebecca

Hulme, Anthony

Hulme, Hayley

Hulme, Michael

Jameson, Richard

Kidd, Stevie

Miley, Sean

Obrien, Su

Rosaria, Joicey

Shearer, Kate

Shearer, Stephen

Temple, Sophie



8.2 Division 2

8.2.1 Meerkats (MKT)

Main contact: Sonia Hine

Phone

Second contact: Matthew Fairweather

Phone:

Emails

Shirt colour: Purple

History and form: Founded 2010; D2 winners 2014, 2016. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D1)8-(D2)2-7-(D1)7-(D2)1

Altena, Keith

Barlow, Kate

Beattie, Tyler

Coupland, Katy

Fairweather, Matthew

Gibson, Rory

Hill, Lisha

Hine, Sonia

Miller, Amy

Narain, Matthew

Seed, Ellie

Seed, Laurel

Shaw, Darren

Stevens, James

Stockton, Kath

Ukai, Tadanori

Von Orel Bonte, Igor

Werakso, Beth

Whatmore, Sam



8.2.2 Manchester Thunder II (TH2)

Main contact: Andrew Bogie

Phone:

Second contact: **Bryony James**

Phone



Emails:

Shirt colour: Dark blue with gold trim

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/mcrthunder/>

History and form: Founded 2010 as Drizzle, did not enter 2014, current name since 2019; D3 winners 2011, 2019. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D2)2-(D3)1-3-6-(D4)2

Bogie, Andrew
James, Bryony
Miller, Emma

Pearce, Benjamin
Rhead, Kat
Swaby, Ashley

Swiszcowski, Amy
Taylor, Jon
Wadeson, Becci

8.2.3 Manchester Speeders (SPE)

Main contact: Matt O'Casey

Phone:

Second contact: Jeremy Fothergill

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Navy/white

History and form: Founder member as Fog Lane Foghorns 1992, named Three Base Speeders 1998-2010 and 2019-21, Speeders 2011-18, current name since 2022. Champions (1) 1996; D2 winners 1998, 2002, 2003, 2006. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D2)3-3-3-3-4

Barratt, Carolyn
Bennett, Emma
Claridge-Ingham, Alex
Faloon, Adam
Faloon, Jenny

Fothergill, Jeremy
Hunter, Christine
Jones, Duncan
Lennon, Chris
Lyon, Elizabeth

McNeill, Siân
Osborne, Warren
Reuben, Jonathan
Yung, Marianne



8.2.4 Camels II (CM2)

Main contact: Dan Jarman

Phone:

Second contact: Jenny Douglas

Phone:

Emails:

History and form: Founded 2009 as Spittin' Camels II, current name since 2022. D4 winners 2013. Last five years (excl. 2020) (D2)4-5-5-7-(D3)2

Battersby, Conor
Bennison, Soozey
Booth, Nicola
Brooks, Jennifer
Douglas, Jennifer

Drayton, Chris
Fagan, Felicity
Higgs, Claire
Jarman, Dan
Kubacki, Anna

Paschali, Alia
Pearn, Leo
Simpson, Emma
Wooderson, Jame



8.2.5 Titans (TTN)

Main contact: Aimee Dyble

Phone:

Second contact: Richard Taylor

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Navy

History and form: Founded 2016. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D2)6-(D3)3-(D4)3-4-10

Baker, Sam

Conway, Zoe

Cooper, Karyn

Cowbury, Robbie

Dyble, Aimee

Kenworthy, Gabriella

Nelson, Luke

O'Brien, Dan

Taylor, Richard

Winfield, Kate

Wright, Ben



8.2.6 Manchester Mavericks II (MV2)

Main contact: Jane Curley

Phone:

Second contact: Mike Goff

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Red

Website: <http://manchestermavericks.co.uk>

History and form: Founded 2015, did not enter 2021; D3 winners 2016, D4 winners 2015. Last five years (excl. 2020): N/A-(D1)8-(D2)2-5-(D3)1.

Bradley, Jan

Curley, Jane

Dunlop, Faye

Dunlop, Natalie

Gavaghan, Finn (U18)

Gavaghan, Rachael

Goff, Mike

Gresty, Chris

Kellett, Steven

Lowther, Becky

Marrs, Ali

Martin Baez, David

Maskell, Ross

Moore, Helen

Williams, Ian

Wycherley, Diane



8.2.7 Los Bandidos (BND)

Main contact: Adam Morrison

Phone:

Second contact: Chloe Llewellyn

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: black / anthracite

History and form: Founded 2019; D3 winners 2021; D4 winners 2019. Last two years (excl. 2020): (D3)1-(D4)1



Birch, Lauren
Birch, Ross
Costello, Carol Ann
Davidson, Kate

Kneen, Jason
Llewellyn, Chloe
Morrison, Adam
Morrison, Liam

O'Hare, Peter
Sandez Sanchez, Ignacio
Somers, Harry

8.2.8 Tigers (TIG)

Main contact: **Tereza Kokocińska**

Phone:

Second contact: David Wareham

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Orange

Website: www.tigerssoftball.co.uk

History and form: Founded 2019 as Tiggers, current name since 2021. Last two years (excl. 2020): (D3)2-(D4)5

Beddows, Steve

Bridges, Glen

Covington, Ed

Drake, Caroline

Gape, Louise

Goar, Richard

Jones, Alyssa

Karayannis, Stéphane

Kokocińska, Tereza

Lawrence, Robert

Saunders, Bailey

Smith, Holly

Thompson, Richard

Wright, James



8.3 Division 3

8.3.1 The Didsbury Bats (BAT)

Main contact: Jerry Seabridge

Phone:

Second contact: Beryl Lannin-Jones

Phone:

Emails:



Shirt colour: Dark blue

History and form: Founder member (1992); D2 winners 1997, 2004, 2010; D3 winners 2017. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D2)7-6-(D3)1-5-4

Bates, Alex

Donovan, Suzanne

Dos Ramos, Carlos

Fitzpatrick, Sean

Frost, Amber (U18)

Gibson, Sue

Goldsworthy, Robert

Hung, Arthur

Khwaja, Shawn

Lannin-Jones, Beryl

Martinez Payan, Hector

Merrie, Rachel

Seabridge, Jerry

Wakefield, Claire

Yates, Dawn

8.3.2 Hackers (HAC)

Main contact: Ian Mills

Phone:

Second contact: Dan Johansson

Phone



Emails:

Shirt colour: Black

History and form: Founder members (1992) as UMIST Hackers, current name since 1999; D3 winners 2004. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D3)2-4-(D4)2-(D3)8-(D4)3.

Bell, Harry

Corner, Darren

Johansson, Daniel

Mills, Alex

Mills, Ella

Mills, Grace

Mills, Ian

Naylor, Rachel

Radford, Ian

Rushton, Peter

8.3.3 Thunder III (TH3)

Main contact: **Laura Somers**

Phone

Second contact: Dilan Bastiampillai

Phone:

Emails:



Shirt colour: Dark blue with gold trim

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/mcrthunder/>

History and form: Founded 2010 as Hurricanes, current name since 2019; D4 winners 2018. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D3)3-5-(D4)1-6-3

Aarndell, Sahida

Bastiampillai, Dilan

Bennett, Farrah

Boydell, Elliot (U18)

Childs, Kelly

Childs, Tomm

Cull, Dean

Sanchez, Luna

Sans, Elaine

Sarver, Richard

Somers, Amy

Somers, Laura

Thompson, Angie

Wright, Joe

8.3.4 Mayhem Freeze (FRZ)

Main contact: Kris Timms

Phone:

Second contact: Malyn Wainwright

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Blue & white

History and form: Founded 2014 as Mossley Mayhem Freeze, current name since 2015. Last five years (excl. 2020) (D4)3-3-(D5)3-5-(D4)8

Ashby, Emma

Bamford, Darren

Bertalot, Laura

Hayward, Mark

Hyland, Rachel

Jarvis, Jack

Mitchell, Mary

Salfred-Ingham, Kelly

Salfred-Ingham, Laurie

Steiner, Josh

Timms, Kris

Wainwright, Malyn

Wrigley, Jonathan



8.3.5 Southport Seagulls (SGL)

Main contact: Mike Connolly

Phone:

Second contact: **Gina Amos**

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: White

History and form: Joined MSL 2021; D4 winners 2021. Last year (D4)1

Amos, Gina

Elmsley, Carl

Hughes, Katherine

Bhagdev, Jai

Glennie, Hollie

Oliver, Toby (U18)

Chong, Cindy

Henderson, Anthony

Speers, Estelle

Coyles, Shane

Howarth, Laura

Wallace, Gemma



8.3.6 Manchester Stingers (STG)

Main contact: Chloe Patient

Phone

Second contact: **Jack Rains**

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Yellow/black sleeves

History and form: Founded 2019. Last two years (excl. 2020): (D3)5-(D5)4

Batho, Conny

Hoysted, AJ

Scambler, Lee

Bradshaw, Nicola

Hull, Natalie

Sims, Nicholas

Cleator, Michelle

Normie, Josh

Stokwicz, Kristian

Fisher, Michelle

Patient, Chloe

Sykes, Amy

Fox, Richard

Rains, Jack

Hotchkiss, Eleanor

Roszas, Charlotte



8.3.7 Enforcers (ENF)

Main contact: Mike Davies

Phone:

Second contact: **Jordan Wilcock**

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Black with red trim

History and form: Founded 2010; D3 winners 2013. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D4)3-4-(D5)4-2-(D3)6

Bowen, Charlotte

Grainger, Simon

Stevens, Rebecca

Davies, Mike

Ngang, Emile (U18)

Whatmore, Andrew

Ebbit-Ngang, Hannah

Ngang, Mary (U18)

Wilcock, Jordan

Flame, Rhiannon

Priest, Lucy

Williams, Lisa

Gilbert, Mitchell

Rastrepaveva, Sofia



8.4 Division 4

8.4.1 Manchester Thunder IV (TH4)

Main contact: **Simon Ronksley**

Phone:

Second contact: **Nikki Pugh**

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Dark blue with gold trim

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/mcrthunder>

History and form: Founded 2013 as Colt 45s, **current name on merger with Thunder IV 2022**. D5 winners 2017. Last five years (excl. 2020): (D4)6-(D5)2-1-(D4)7-7.

Broadstock, Louise
Cosgrove, Philip
Dixon, Karen
Hartley, Graham
Jones, Rachel

Malik, Atiyah
Osborne, Rachel
Pedley, Roger
Pugh, Nicola
Rayton, Janette

Saul, Jamie
Schofield, Daniel
Sugden, Gary
Wetton, Lorraine



8.4.2 Tiggers (TGG)

Main contact: **Oliver Sharpe**

Phone

Second contact: **David Wareham**

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Orange

Website: www.tigerssoftball.co.uk

History and form: Founded 2021. Last year (D4)4

Blazek, Michal
Crawford, Rebecca
Gambl, Jenna
Loubo, Jennifer

Lyons, Matthew
Orton, Georgia
O'Sullivan, Conor
Peakman, Aiden

Pritchard, Emma
Schulte, Harry
Sharpe, Oliver
Wickowski, Natasha



8.4.3 Manchester Swingers (SWI)

Main contact: Alex Hartley

Phone:

Second contact: Pete Gordon

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: White and orange



History and form: Founded 2019. Last two years (excl. 2020): (D4)5-(D5)5

Boag, Rhianna
Callaghan, Laura
Frith, Jae
Gordon, Peter
Hartley, Alex
Humphries, Sam

Leeks, Ben
Marcroft, Greg
Millyard, Esme
Perry, Sean
Regan, Joe
Rocca, Ben

Sensier, Josie
Vandermotten, Justine
Webb, Chris
Webb, Samuel (U18)

8.4.4 Manchester Screwballs (SCR)

Main contact: Catherine Millan

Phone

Second contact: Megan Early

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Black

History and form: Founded 2021. Last year: (D4)7

Dubuc, Javier

Morris, Zak

Strayer, Daniel

Early, Megan

Rastrepaev, Artem

Thomas, Clare

Guevara, Irene Carolina

Reeves, John

Tillyard, Hannah

Millan, Catherine

Reeves, Peter

Westmacott, Olivia



8.4.5 Manchester Raiders (RAI)

Main contact: Richard Valentine

Phone

Second contact: Alex Wall

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Red/black

History and form: Founded 2021. Last year: (D4)8.

Allsop, Eliza

Loggenberg, Rachel

Simcox, Claire

Crannage, Mark

Mannifield, Gabrielle

Valentine, Richard

de Zwart, Abbie

Nechvatal, Milan

Wall, Alex

Jubber, Ross

Ronchetti, Jessica

Wood, Natalie



8.4.6 Barflies (BFL)

Main contact: David Dean

Phone:

Second contact: Chris Radford

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Brown



History and form: Founded 2012, did not enter 2021. Last five years (excl 2020): N/A-(D3)4-(D4)2-5-5.

Aspinall, Aleck

Fagan, Gabby

Sims, Hayley-Jane

Cooney, Mike

Hassan, Ebrahim

Smith, Chris

Dean, David

Holden, Claire

Warburton, Helen

Douglas, Sarah

Radford, Chris

Warburton, Paul

8.4.7 Sluggababes (SLG)

Main contact: Georgina Pugh

Phone:

Second contact: Mat Tanner

Phone:

Emails:

Shirt colour: Maroon

History and form: Founded 2022.

Beall, Emma

Lemmers, Johan

Tanner, Mat

Cotter, Emmie

Pugh, Georgina

Wake, Rachel

Farthing, Danielle

Roberts, Tim

Wardle, Alex

Harris, Eleanor

Scaldwell, Rachel

Young, Mike

Lemmers, Antoon (U18)

Tanner, James



Section 9 Fixture schedule

Note that pitches at WSG have now been relocated, and renamed A to F. Pitches 1 to 7 are at Parrs Wood. Division 1 and 2 Fixtures on 20th and 27th July will be spread over two weeks, pitch allocations TBC.

9.1 Division 1

	CAM	GRX	LDS	MAV	MHM	SHA	TDS	THU
27 Apr	MAV h B	SHA h A	TDS h D	CAM a B	THU a C	GRX a A	LDS a D	MHM h C
4 May	LDS a G	THU a F	CAM h G	MHM a E	MAV h E	TDS a H	SHA h H	GRX h F
11 May	THU h A	MHM h D	SHA a B	TDS h C	GRX a D	LDS h B	MAV a C	CAM a A
18 May	MHM a F	LDS h H	GRX a H	SHA h G	CAM h F	MAV a G	THU h E	TDS a E
25 May	TDS h C	MAV a A	THU a D	GRX h A	SHA a B	MHM h B	CAM a C	LDS h D
1 Jun	GRX a E	CAM h E	MAV h F	LDS a F	TDS a G	THU a H	MHM h G	SHA h H
8 Jun	SHA a D	TDS a B	MHM a A	THU h C	LDS h A	CAM h D	GRX h B	MAV a C
15 Jun	MAV a F	SHA a E	TDS a H	CAM h F	THU h G	GRX h E	LDS h H	MHM a G
22 Jun	LDS h A	THU h B	CAM a A	MHM h D	MAV a D	TDS h C	SHA a C	GRX a B
29 Jun	THU a E	MHM a H	SHA h G	TDS a F	GRX h H	LDS a G	MAV h F	CAM h E
6 Jul	MHM h B	LDS a C	GRX h C	SHA a D	CAM a B	MAV h D	THU a A	TDS h A
13 Jul	TDS a H	MAV h G	THU h E	GRX a G	SHA h F	MHM a F	CAM h H	LDS a E
20/27 Jul	GRX h	CAM a	MAV a	LDS h	TDS h	THU h	MHM a	SHA a
3 Aug	SHA h F	TDS h G	MHM h E	THU a H	LDS a E	CAM a F	GRX a G	MAV h H

10 August: 4th v 1st, 3rd v 2nd, 5th v 6th, 7th v 8th

17 August: 1st v 3rd, 2nd v 4th, 7th v 5th, 8th v 6th

24 August: 2nd v 1st, 4th v 3rd, 6th v 7th, 5th v 8th

9.2 Division 2

	BND	CM2	MKT	MV2	SPE	TH2	TIG	TTN
27 Apr	MV2 h H	TTN a F	SPE a G	BND a H	MKT h G	TIG h E	TH2 a E	CM2 h F
4 May	TTN h C	MKT a A	CM2 h A	TIG h D	TH2 h B	SPE a B	MV2 a D	BND a C
11 May	TIG a F	MV2 h G	TH2 a H	CM2 a G	TTN a E	MKT h H	BND h F	SPE h E
18 May	TH2 a D	TIG h C	TTN h B	SPE h A	MV2 a A	BND h D	CM2 a C	MKT a B
25 May	SPE a H	TH2 h E	TIG a F	TTN a G	BND h H	CM2 a E	MKT h F	MV2 h G
1 Jun	CM2 h B	BND a B	MV2 a C	MKT h C	TIG h D	TTN h A	SPE a D	TH2 a A
8 Jun	MKT a E	SPE h G	BND h E	TH2 h F	CM2 a G	MV2 a F	TTN h H	TIG a H
15 Jun	MV2 a D	TTN h B	SPE h C	BND h D	MKT a C	TIG a A	TH2 h A	CM2 a B
22 Jun	TTN a E	MKT h H	CM2 a H	TIG a G	TH2 a F	SPE h F	MV2 h G	BND h E
29 Jun	TIG h C	MV2 a B	TH2 h D	CM2 h B	TTN h A	MKT a D	BND a C	SPE a A
6 Jul	TH2 h G	TIG a H	TTN a F	SPE a E	MV2 h E	BND a G	CM2 h H	MKT h F
13 Jul	SPE h A	TH2 a C	TIG h B	TTN h D	BND a A	CM2 h C	MKT a B	MV2 a D
20/27 Jul	CM2 a	BND h	MV2 h	MKT a	TIG a	TTN a	SPE h	TH2 h
3 Aug	MKT h A	SPE a D	BND a A	TH2 a C	CM2 h D	MV2 h C	TTN a B	TIG h B

10 August: 4th v 1st, 3rd v 2nd, 5th v 6th, 7th v 8th

17 August: 1st v 3rd, 2nd v 4th, 7th v 5th, 8th v 6th

24 August: 2nd v 1st, 4th v 3rd, 6th v 7th, 5th v 8th

9.3 Division 3

	BAT	ENF	FRZ	HAC	SGL	STG	TH3
26 Apr	SGL a 7	rest	STG a 8	TH3 h 6	BAT h 7	FRZ h 8	HAC a 6
3 May	TH3 h 2	SGL a 3	rest	STG a 4	ENF h 3	HAC h 4	BAT a 2
10 May	ENF a 6	BAT h 6	TH3 a 7	SGL h 8	HAC a 8	rest	FRZ h 7
17 May	HAC h 3	STG h 4	SGL h 2	BAT a 3	FRZ a 2	ENF a 4	rest
24 May	rest	TH3 a 8	HAC a 6	FRZ h 6	STG h 7	SGL a 7	ENF h 8
31 May	FRZ a 4	HAC h 2	BAT h 4	ENF a 2	rest	TH3 h 3	STG a 3
7 Jun	STG h 6	FRZ a 7	ENF h 7	rest	TH3 a 8	BAT a 6	SGL h 8
14 Jun	SGL h 2	rest	STG h 3	TH3 a 4	BAT a 2	FRZ a 3	HAC h 4
21 Jun	TH3 a 7	SGL h 6	rest	STG h 8	ENF a 6	HAC a 8	BAT h 7
28 Jun	ENF h 3	BAT a 3	TH3 h 2	SGL a 4	HAC h 4	rest	FRZ a 2
5 Jul	HAC a 8	STG a 7	SGL a 6	BAT h 8	FRZ h 6	ENF h 7	rest
12 Jul	rest	TH3 h 4	HAC h 3	FRZ a 3	STG a 2	SGL h 2	ENF a 4
19 Jul	FRZ h 8	HAC a 7	BAT a 8	ENF h 7	rest	TH3 a 6	STG h 6
26 Jul	Rest week						
2 Aug	STG a 4	FRZ h 2	ENF a 2	rest	TH3 h 3	BAT h 4	SGL a 3

9 August: 4th v 1st, 3rd v 2nd, 5th v 6th, 7th v 8th

16 August: 1st v 3rd, 2nd v 4th, 7th v 5th, 8th v 6th

23 August: 2nd v 1st, 4th v 3rd, 6th v 7th, 5th v 8th

9.4 Division 4

One or two new teams may join at start the 2nd rotation. If one, "rest weeks" in the second rotation will be replaced by fixtures against the new team. If two, fixtures will be significantly revised. Pitch allocation to be confirmed.

	BFL	RAI	SCR	SLG	SWI	TGG	TH4
26 Apr	SLG h 4	TGG a 2	rest	BFL a 4	TH4 a 3	RAI h 2	SWI h 3
3 May	TGG h 8	SWI a 6	TH4 a 7	rest	RAI h 6	BFL a 8	SCR h 7
10 May	rest	SLG h 3	SWI h 2	RAI a 3	SCR a 2	TH4 h 4	TGG a 4
17 May	SCR a 8	rest	BFL h 8	TH4 h 6	TGG h 7	SWI a 7	SLG a 6
24 May	TH4 a 3	SCR h 4	RAI a 4	TGG a 2	rest	SLG h 2	BFL h 3
31 May	RAI h 7	BFL a 7	TGG h 6	SWI h 8	SLG a 8	SCR a 6	rest
7 Jun	SWI a 2	TH4 h 4	SLG a 3	SCR h 3	BFL h 2	rest	RAI a 4
14 Jun	SLG a	TGG h	rest/NEW	BFL h	TH4 h	RAI a	SWI a
21 Jun	TGG a	SWI h	TH4 h	rest/NEW	RAI a	BFL h	SCR a
28 Jun	rest/NEW	SLG a	SWI a	RAI h	SCR h	TH4 a	TGG h

5 Jul	SCR h	rest/NEW	BFL a	TH4 a	TGG a	SWI h	SLG h
12 Jul	TH4 h	SCR a	RAI h	TGG h	rest/NEW	SLG a	BFL a
19 Jul	RAI a	BFL h	TGG a	SWI a	SLG h	SCR h	rest/NEW
26 Jul	Rest week						
9 Aug	SWI h	TH4 a	SLG h	SCR a	BFL a	rest/NEW	RAI h

9 August: 4th v 1st, 3rd v 2nd, 5th v 6th, 7th rests (or plays new team)

16 August: 1st v 3rd, 2nd v 4th, 7th v 5th, 6th rests (or plays new team)

23 August: 2nd v 1st, 4th v 3rd, 6th v 7th, 5th rests (or plays new team)

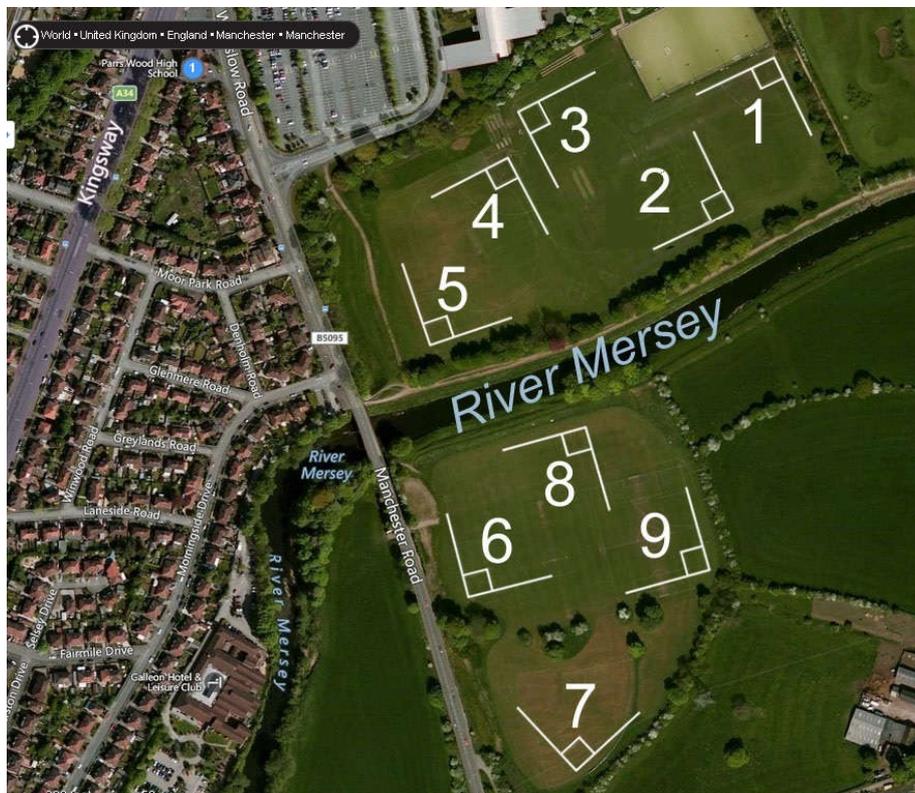
Section 10 Pitch maps and post-match venues

10.1 Pitches at WSG

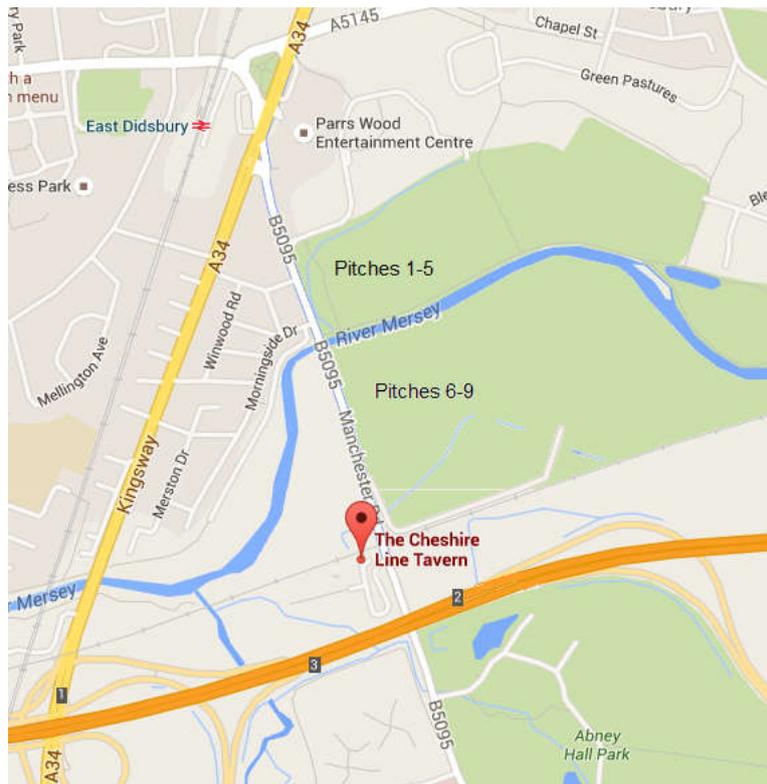
Please note further revised pitch locations and renaming.



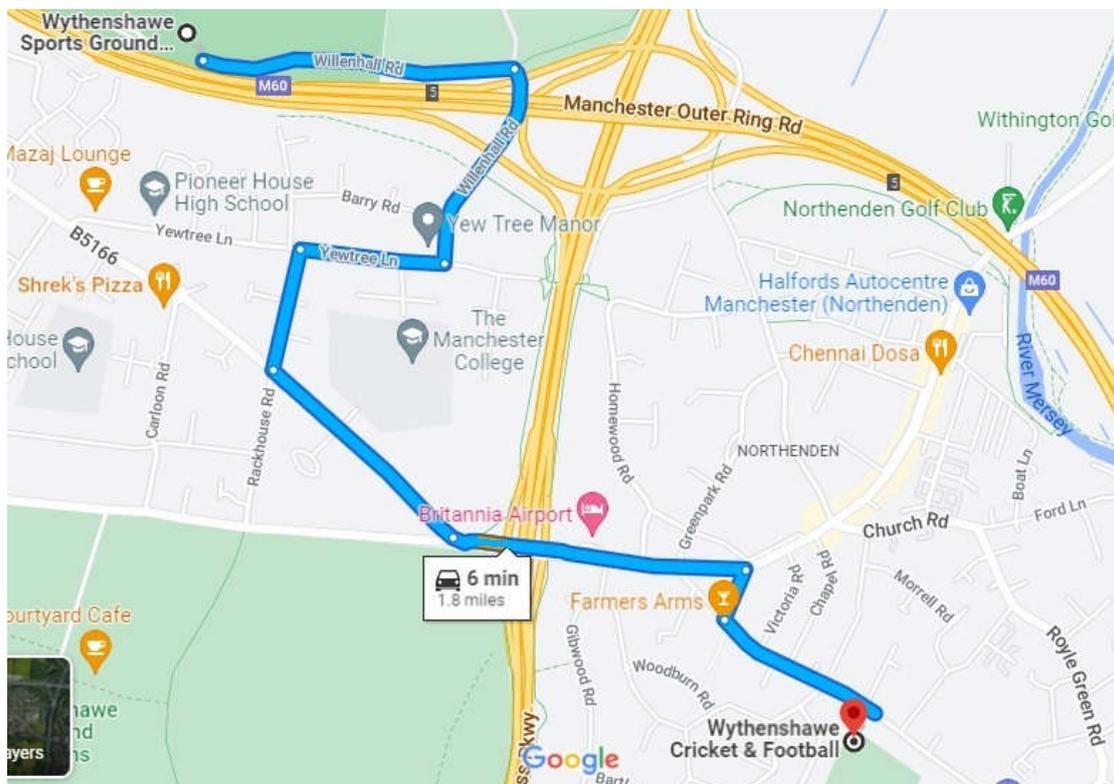
10.2 Pitches at Parrs Wood



10.3 Post-match venues



Location of Tuesday night venue: Cheshire Line Tavern



Location of Wednesday night venue:
Wythenshawe Cricket Club, Longley Lane

Section 11 Forms

On the next pages we present the paperwork and/or online reporting needed/available for the MSL.

11.1 Team sheet

Please indicate players' names in batting order, showing full names, and fielding position at start. For guests (G) please also indicate their rostered team. New players can no longer be added to the roster using this sheet but must register via the online form before the game. Fielding positions can be indicated as follows: P – pitcher; C – catcher; 1B – first base; 2B – second base; 3B – third base; SS – short stop; LF – left field; LC – left centre; RC – right centre; RF – right field; EP – extra player (if playing 6&6). If preferred, use numerical codes: P=1, C=2, 1B=3, 2B=4, 3B=5, SS=6, LF=7, LC=8, RC=9, RF=10, EP=11.

Subsequent changes of fielding position need **not** be indicated, unless they involve a guest player whose fielding position is limited.

11.2 Score sheet

Remember that only one score sheet is needed for each game. It is the responsibility of the winning team to fill this in. Due to confusion resulting from home teams batting first, we have clarified the terminology on the score sheet: in the box-score, put the team batting first in the top row, regardless of which team was "home team". This may differ from what you have filled in for your own teams' use on the scorebook. Use '0' to indicate no runs scored; 'x' to indicate half-inning not batted (just the last one).

The space below the box score is for **home runs** only. Only fill in the names of home-run scorers here. Full names should be used. Please indicate if any of the homers was a **grand slam**, as this will be noted in *Bases Loaded*. Home runs scored by guests will not count towards the home run trophy, but they should still be indicated here.

Nominate one **LBH** and one **SBH MVP** per team.

Be sure to include the (full) name of the umpire: if you don't know their name, just ask.

Indicate on the back of the score sheet any serious injuries.

It is the duty of **both captains** to sign the score sheet. Failure to do so can result in **penalties**. It is the **winning captain's** responsibility (or in the case of a tie, the home captain) to get the sheet filled in, but they should not have to go round chasing the **losing captain** for a signature, whose responsibility it is in turn to make themselves available to the winning captain: if either is not going to the after-match venue, get the sheet signed on the field at the end of the game.

If there is any **dispute** about the final score, indicate this on the score sheet, which must still be signed by both captains.

If the game is incomplete, the score sheet should still be filled in as above, indicating the stage at which the game was stopped, and the reason.

11.3 Umpire feedback

This umpire evaluation sheet can be completed online after any game. This may be completed by any player from the game and should be completed as soon as possible after the game has concluded. It is not necessary to fill in every section of the form. The form should be sent to the Umpire-in-chief at the earliest opportunity who will review the content and consider if any action is required, including optionally notifying the umpire evaluated of the content of the form, if appropriate. Confidentiality will be maintained.

11.4 Under-18s permission to play form

This form is available for download at [www.facebook.com/download/190936715038822/BSUK Parent Guardian Permission Form.docx](http://www.facebook.com/download/190936715038822/BSUK_Parent_Guardian_Permission_Form.docx) or from the MSL website. Send the form, once completed, to the MSL Secretary. You are advised to have a second copy which should be kept by the team captain or youth **Safeguarding** Officer. It is no longer necessary to show the form to the umpire on the day of the game.

If the under-18 player is intending to play in any tournaments under the aegis of BSUK, then a further copy of the form should be sent to **BaseballSoftballUK** Ariel House, 74a Charlotte Street, London W1T 4QJ.

11.5 Incident report form

The BSF's standard incident report form (available at [www.baseballsoftballuk.com/uploads/_documents/Files/Insurance/Incident Report Form.pdf](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/uploads/_documents/Files/Insurance/Incident_Report_Form.pdf)) can be used as a guide to what information is required. This form should be completed and sent to the MSL secretary.



Manchester Softball League

SCORE SHEET

Submit one form signed by both captains.

DATE -

AWAY TEAM -	HOME TEAM -
-------------	-------------

Tick here if designated home team elects to bat first

NEUTRAL BLU -	PITCH
---------------	-------

SCORE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					total
team batting first												
team batting 2nd												

Indicate reason for incomplete game: (eg bad light)

PLEASE GIVE DETAILS OF ANY SERIOUS INJURIES OVERLEAF

TEAM:		TEAM:	
HOME RUNS (indicate GS for grand slam, G for guest)			
player's name	tot.	player's name	tot.
OPPONENTS' MVPs			
SBH		SBH	
LBH		LBH	
SIGNATURES			

TEAM SHEET

TEAM NAME		DATE	
------------------	--	-------------	--

R = Rostered Player, G = Guest Player. For GUESTS please indicate which team they are rostered to.
 In Fielding column, indicate **starting position** only (P/1, C/2, 1B/3, 2B/4, SS/6, 3B/5, LF/7, LC/8, RC/9, RF/10, EP).
 Do not use rows 11 and 12 for substitutes if playing 5&5.

Batting order	Fielding position	Player Name (Given name + surname) Substitute	R/G
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

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