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**2025**

**Board Members:**

 **Richie Sweetman -- President**

**Kim Lamontagne -- Vice-President**

**Sue Nitso -- Secretary**

 **Richie Sweetman -- Treasurer**

**Team Representatives:**

**Renovate Fitness – Joanna Waring / Sue Brackett**

**NEK – Lyndsey Howe**

**Backyard Ballers – Nicole Wilcox**

**Hopknot – Joppa Frasch**

**SSSE – Kim Laudani / Richie Sweetman**

**ARTICLE I: NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

 The name of this organization is Londonderry Women’s Softball Recreational League.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

 This organization has been formed to provide and encourage Londonderry women, 18 years of age and older, with the opportunity to participate in an organized slow-pitch softball league.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

 Women who will reach or exceed their 18th birthday during the calendar year are eligible to participate. Per the Town of Londonderry’s Sanctioning requirements for Recreation Groups (Ordinance 2006-08(A)) Adopted 10/20/14, a minimum of 60% of the league’s players must be residents of Londonderry.

**ARTICLE IV: LEAGUE FUNDING**

 The league will be funded each year by a player entry fee. The amount of the fee will be determined by the league officers and will be announced by mid-April to each Team Representative. The fees collected will be used to pay for umpires, softballs, league insurance, and all operating expenses for the league. Any surplus of funds will be taken into account when deciding the following year’s budget and player entry fee.

**ARTICLE V: LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

 The league shall be governed by four (4) elected Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (referred to as “Officers”/”Board”) and one representative from each team (referred to as “Team Representative”). The combination of Officers and Team Representatives is referred to as “Full Board”.

**ARTICLE VI: ELECTION OF LEAGUE OFFICERS**

 Nominations for officer positions for the following year’s season will be forwarded to current year officers. All registered players in the current year will be allowed one vote for each of the officer positions for the following year. Voting will take place at the end of the current season for the selection of officers for the following year’s season.

The term of each Officer position is two (2) years.

Per the Town of Londonderry’s Sanctioning requirements for Recreation Groups (Ordinance 2006-08 (A)) Adopted 10/20/14, the governing body of officers must consist of Londonderry residents.

The Full Board will confirm the details for handling the end of the season elections at the beginning of the season, no later than August 1st.

**ARTICLE VII: RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAGUE OFFICERS**

1. The President shall:
2. Preside over all official League meetings.
3. Be authorized to call special meetings at their discretion.
4. Be ultimately responsible for conducting the league and its business.
5. Ensure fields are available through the necessary recreation channels.
6. Assist in the planning and execution of the League Banquet.
7. Purchase and distribute all league equipment
8. Manage League Website (registrations and online payments)
9. The Vice-President shall:
10. Assume the role of President in the absence or vacancy left by the President.
11. Ensure that umpires are scheduled for each game, including playoffs.
12. Assist in the planning and execution of the League Banquet.
13. Generate all press releases and coordinate PR for the league.
14. The Secretary shall:
15. Generate the League regular season schedule.
16. Generate the League play-off schedule.
17. Keep the minutes at all League meetings.
18. Assist in the planning and execution of the League Banquet.
19. The Treasurer shall:
20. Collect revenues and fees from the players mailed into the post office box or any in person registration fees.
21. Maintain the League bank account.
22. Pay debts the League is accountable for out of the League account.
23. Submit a financial statement to the League at League meetings, when requested.
24. Assist in the planning and execution of the League Banquet.

**ARTICLE VIII: SELECTION OF TEAM REPRESENTATIVES:**

 Team members shall select a Team Representative and submit that individual’s name to the League Officers prior to the start of the season.

Per the Town of Londonderry’s Sanctioning requirements for Recreation Groups (Ordinance 2006-08 (A)) Adopted 10/20/14, the majority of the coaches must be Londonderry residents.

**ARTICLE IX: RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM REPRESENTATIVES**

 The Team Representatives shall:

1. Collect or coordinate the players’ entry fees prior to the start of the season.
2. Provide to the Secretary of the League an accurate team roster, which will include the following for each player on the team:

a. Player’s first and last name

b. Player’s home address, city and state

c. Player’s phone number

d. Players date of birth, if under 25

1. Ensure their team complies with the 60% Londonderry resident rule.
2. Ensure their team abides by the LWS Bylaws and Rules.
3. Vote on all League matters.
4. Attend all League meetings or send a backup representative if unable to attend.
5. Ensure players on her team are not under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the game.
6. Rake and prepare the field prior to the start of every home game.

**ARTICLE X: CODE OF CONDUCT**

 All Players, Coaches, Managers, Scorekeepers, and League Officials must abide by the League By-laws, General Rules, and USSSA Rules.

All Players, Coaches, Managers, Scorekeepers, and League Officials must abide by the below Code of Conduct.

* I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of all players ahead of my desire to win.
* I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development.
* I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for all players.
* I will help provide a sports environment for my team that is free of profanity, drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use during practices and games.
* I will be knowledgeable of the Londonderry Women’s Softball Bylaws and rules.
* I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all teammates, opponents, coaches and officials at every game and practice.
* I will treat all players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or ability.
* I will not abuse or damage equipment, fields or facilities.
* I will refrain from obscene, abusive, racist, sexist language or gestures.
* I will demonstrate good sportsmanship to all players, coaches, officials and fans.
* I will at all times encourage and support my teammates.
* If a person is ejected by the umpire, they will automatically be suspended for the following LWS league game and softball complex.  If the umpire or league President deems the infraction to be severe enough, a league hearing will be scheduled before the board. (Added by Team Representative vote on 10/3/16)

**ARTICLE XI: TEAM STRUCTURE**

 Teams are encouraged to carry a minimum of fifteen (15) players on its roster.

 Teams are required to submit a preliminary team roster to the League Officers by May 15th for that year’s season. Before the 1st game, the Officers will publish (to all teams) confirmed rosters for each team. Only players who have submitted a signed registration form and registration fee will be included on the confirmed rosters.

 A minimum of 60% of the team’s players must be residents of Londonderry.

**ARTICLE XII: AMMENDMENTS**

These bylaws became effective upon league approval as of April 17, 2007.

These bylaws may be amended only after a proposal for change has been presented at a League meeting and a majority of the quorum votes is reached in favor of the proposed changes.

A quorum shall consist of at least six (6) voting members.

## LONDONDERRY WOMEN’S SOFTBALL -- GENERAL RULES

1. There are 7 **Innings** per game**.**
* There will be NO time limit on games.
1. There is a **15 Run Mercy Rule** after 5 complete innings (4½ innings if the home team is ahead) or 6 complete innings (5½ innings if the home team is ahead). Players can decide to continue playing for fun.
* 15 Run Mercy Rule applies to 5th and 6th Inning
* 15 Run Mercy Rule does not apply to Playoff games

1. There is a **6 Run Mercy Rule** for all innings, except the last inning.
* Once a team scores 6 runs in their 1/2 inning, that 1/2 inning is over.
* All runs scored on the hit that scores the 6th run DO count. (e.g. If a player hits a single and scores the 6th and 7th runs of that 1/2 inning on that single, both runs count and the 1/2 inning is over).
* There is NO run limit in the final inning of the game.
* If the umpire declares an inning to be the last inning of the game due to darkness, time, weather, etc, there is NO run limit for that inning.
* 6 Run Mercy Rule does not apply to Playoff games.
1. In the event of a **Tie Score** at the end of 7 innings, both teams will agree to a solution of either a tie or extra innings, if field conditions and time allows.
2. There will be at least **1 Official USSSA Umpire** scheduled per game.
3. The **Home Team:**
* is the last team listed on the schedule and is responsible for providing the new (wrapped) game ball (11”), and any equipment.
* is responsible for e-mailing the **score** of game to the league secretary. The opposing coach must be copied on the e-mail. If there is a discrepancy in the score, it must be brought to the attention of the league secretary within two days of the score being reported.
* The Home team will use the Dugout along the First Base Line; The Visitor team will use the Dugout along the Third Base Line.
1. **A Double 1st Base** will be used to help avoid collisions and injuries at 1st base.
* The 1st Baseman must play the white bag when making a play at 1st. The white bag is positioned in fair territory.
* If over-running 1st base, the runner must use the orange bag and they must run through 1st base. The orange bag is positioned in foul territory.
* If running past 1st base, in route to 2nd base, the runner can use the white bag.
* If the orange bag is not used by the runner when it should be, the runner may be called out at the umpire’s discretion.
* During the initial throw to get the runner out, if that throw pulls the defense off of first base into foul ground, the defense and the batter may use either the white or orange portion of the base. (USSSA Rule 2, sec. 7-4)
1. **Sliding** is permitted (and encouraged), except at 1st base.
* If a runner chooses not to slide, they must avoid collisions with the fielder covering the base/plate.
* If a runner does not slide and interferes with the fielder attempting to make a play, the runner may be called out at the umpire’s discretion.
* A **Fielder** covering a base/plate **cannot block the base path** of the runner. All calls will be at the umpire’s discretion.
* Whenever the catcher or any fielder clearly has the ball and is waiting to tag the runner, the runner MUST slide or attempt to avoid contact. If, in the umpire’s judgment, the runner deliberately and forcefully runs into the defensive player, the runner is declared out and shall be ejected from the game. The ball is declared dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.(added per USSSA Rule 8, Section 5:V)
1. **No Leading Off**.
2. **No Stealing**.
3. **No Bunting**.
4. **No Intentional Walks.**
5. The **Dropped Third Strike Rule** does not apply to this league.
6. The **Infield Fly Rule** does apply to this league.
7. **Home Run Rule**: Each team is limited to 3 home runs per game. Each additional home run will be scored as an out.
	* After the 3 run limit is reached, on any subsequent home runs, there is no advancement of base runners.
	* The home run rule applies to the High School field only.
	* Only home runs hit over the fence will be subject to this rule. Any “in the park” home runs will not count towards the 3 home run limit.
8. A **1-1 Pitch Count** is in effect. When the batter is up they start with 1 ball and 1 strike. (Full count is still 3 balls 2 strikes.)
	* The Batter is out if she has a second strike and then hits a foul ball & the ball is dead.)(per USSSA rule 7, section 2:D)
9. If a batter **Hits Out of Order**, it is an automatic out if the other team calls it.
10. All **players present at the game must bat**, even if she is not playing the field that particular inning. It is a **continuous batting order**.
	* If a player is not present at the game when her position in the lineup is reached, the player must be moved to the end of the batting order (for the remainder of the game).(See Rule 19 for additional stipulations on a late player).
	* If a player can no longer play in the game (due to injury or needing to leave early), that team must notify the other team to remove the player from the batting order. The team will not incur an out for departing player.
11. If a **player shows up late to a game**, if the first pitch of the 4th inning has been thrown, the player can’t play. If the player arrives prior to the 1st pitch of the 4th inning, the player can be added to the end of the batting order and they can play.
12. If a batter is injured and reaches a base, she can have a **Designated Runner**. The runner will be the player who made the last out in the current inning. If there are no outs in the current inning, it will be the player who made the last out in the previous inning. If it’s the first inning and there are no outs, it will be the last batter in the line-up.
	* Once a batter takes a designated runner, she is obligated to take a runner for the duration of the game, and cannot proceed past 2nd base on subsequent hits. If the batter hits a home run over the fence at the High School, they are entitled to proceed to home plate.
13. **Injuries:**
* If a player is **Hurt** and is unable to take her turn at bat, she is no longer allowed to re-enter the game.
* A player who exhibits signs consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game. Participants removed by the umpire shall not return to play until they have complied with USSSA procedures.(per USSSA Rule 5, sec 4:D and USSSA policy on concussions)
1. The **Pitcher** may go in and out of position throughout game.
2. The Pitching Rubber will be positioned at 50 feet. However it will become a "pitching plane up to 56 feet" - this means the pitcher can pitch from anywhere within the 50 foot to 56 foot area or plane.  The pitcher's plane will extend the same width of the pitcher's mound, but will extend back to 56 feet.
* **Pitching Arc:**This is a slow pitch league. The pitched ball must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the pitcher’s hand and before it passes any part of home plate.
* The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground.
* The ball must be pitched underhanded at slow speed.
1. If a **Batter is Hit by a Pitch** the ball is dead and the pitch counts as a ball.
2. **Base Coaches** are not permitted to touch any runner during live play. If they do, the runner may be called out at the umpire’s discretion.
3. Each player must play a **Minimum of 3 Innings**, unless the game is shortened. Players should not sit for more than two innings in a row.
4. **A Minimum of 8 Players** is required to field a team to play the game.
* If a team must forfeit a game due to lack of players, the teams can decide if they would still like to play for fun.
* The start of the game can be delayed a maximum of 15 minutes to wait for an 8th player to show up for the game. The start of the game will not be delayed to wait for a 9th or 10th player.
* If there is a 2nd and/or 3rd game in a night (under the lights), the start of those games will be NOT be delayed by 15 minutes to wait for the 8th player. If at least 8 players for a team are not at the field by the game start time, the team must forfeit.
* Registered LWS players, who sign up to be a sub, may play for a team that otherwise would need to forfeit the game. See the “Substitutions” section of this document for full details and rules on substitutions.
1. Players:
* Only registered LWS players may play.
* All registered LWS players must be listed on an updated roster or approved by an LWS Board Member prior to playing in a game.
* If there is a waiting list with Londonderry residents, the Londonderry residents will be placed on teams that have < 16 players, starting with the team with the least amount of players. (
* All players must be registered by June 30th. If the deadline has passed, the Board must approve a player wishing to register. The Board will determine the team assignment of the new player.
* The League’s Full Board may decide, on an exception basis, to allow a team to add a player to their roster after the June 30th deadline.
* Should wear their Uniform shirts to play.
* If a LWS player is missing a uniform shirt, a similar color shirt should be worn and the number should be taped to the back of the shirt.
* Jewelry should not be worn during the game.
1. If a **Rule is in Question**, the coach requests time out and only the coaches from each team should approach the umpire for discussion. Teammates and fans are not allowed to interfere with the discussion, unless asked by the umpire. Interference may result in forfeiture of the game or ejection of a player at the umpire’s discretion.
2. **UnSportsman Like Conduct:**
* No excessive pushing, rough play, or **Unsportsman-like Conduct** is allowed. It is the umpire’s discretion to give a player, coach, or fan 1 warning for unsportsman-like conduct. If a second incident occurs, the umpire can eject the person from the field. Frequent incidents of unsportsman-like conduct by the same person can be brought to the Board for resolution.
* Team Coach/Representative must report any game ejections by an umpire to the Board for resolution.
* If a person is ejected by the umpire, they will automatically be suspended for the following LWS league game and softball complex.  If the umpire or league President deems the infraction to be severe enough, a league hearing will be scheduled before the board.
1. **Game Cancellations** will be determined, if possible, by the LWS Board and/or the umpire. If a cancellation notice is not posted on the website ([www.lws-nh.info](http://www.lws-nh.info)) by **1 hour prior** to game time, the teams should go to the field.
* During playoffs, the board will additionally call each coach to let them know of cancellation.
* Teams involved in a **Game Cancellation** due to rain, inclement weather, etc, will be given the next available make-up game date by the Board, based on the chronological order of the schedule. No earlier than 2 calendar days from cancelled game.
* The date and time will be subject to Umpire Availability.
1. If a game is called by an Umpire due to the fitness of the ground, weather, etc, the game is considered a **Regulation Game** if 5 or more innings have been played. If the home team is ahead at the end of 4 ½ complete innings, the game is considered a regulation game.
2. If a game is called by an Umpire due to fitness of the ground, weather, etc, and the game is **NOT a Regulation Game** (as defined by rule 36), the game will be re-played, and the incomplete game will NOT count. All runs and innings will be erased. The game will start over, in the 1st inning with NO score. Any player on the team’s roster may play in the new game, even if the player did not play in the original, incomplete game.
* The Board will assign coaches a makeup date based on schedule. No earlier than 2 calendar days from cancelled game.
1. If any of the **League Rules are Broken or Disputed**, an Arbitration Board made up of one representative from each team will evaluate the circumstances and provide a ruling.
* A plan for arbitration will be communicated within a week of the incident.
* Resolution to the issue will be completed within 10 days of the incident.
* Individuals or Teams directly involved in the incident will not vote on resolution.
* The option will be given to parties involved to share their story in front of the arbitration board.
1. Only Individuals who have **Signed a LWS League Waiver** are allowed on the Field of Play.
2. **Forfeited Games** will be scored 7-0.

**Substitutions:** (This entire substitution section was confirmed by a vote from Team Representatives on 2/11/08)

1. Women, who are registered LWS players, may register to be an Official Substitute for other teams in the LWS League.
2. Official Substitutes must register by June 30th of the current season to participate in that season.
3. Official Substitutes may play an unlimited number of LWS games during the season.
4. ~~LWS teams may use Official Substitutes for a limit of 5 regular season games.~~ Removed per vote by team reps 3/10/20
5. Official Substitutes may only be used during regular season play. They may NOT be used during the Playoffs.
6. A maximum of 2 Official Substitutes may be used by a team in a game. (Note: both teams playing each other may use up to 2 Official Substitutes)
7. If an LWS team has only 6 or 7 registered players for a game, they may use up to 2 Official Substitutes for that game.
8. If using Official Substitutes, a team may NOT play with more than 9 players.
9. The List of Official Substitutes will be provided to team reps by LWS Board Members (Substitute Contacts)
* Official Substitutes will be added to the List in the order that they register.
* When an Official Substitute is needed, the Substitutes are called in the order they are listed, starting at the top of the list, until a substitute confirms they can play.
* contact subs using honor system and official sub list provided by the board.
* If no sub on the list is available, other registered LWS players may volunteer to sub.
1. An LWS team who needs to use an Official Substitute should call one of the Substitute Contacts by 5:00pm on Game Day, the more advance notice the better.
2. If an Official Substitute starts a game (with a max of 9 players) and an additional team player shows up for the game, either the team player or the Substitute cannot play. (Because if one or more subs are playing, the team cannot play with more than 9 players).
3. If an Official Substitute starts a game (with a max of 8 players) and an additional team player shows up for the game, BOTH the team player and the substitute may play in that game and bring the game to a max of 9 players.

**Equipment:**

1. Only **Official USSSA Softball Bats** are allowed. Baseball bats are not allowed. (Requirement of USSSA in 2008)
	* Bats must be on the USSSA legal bat list to be used in a league game (due to insurance liability).
	* Bats that fail a USSSA Compression Test or have been altered are not allowed in the LWS league. (USSSA Rule 2, Sec. 2)(Added by a vote from Team Representatives on 10/25/12 to reiterate USSSA rule)
2. Only **Official 11’ USSSA Softballs** are allowed.
3. 1st and 3rd**bases** should be lined up with the yellow/orange pole in the outfield (if the pole exists). The umpires should confirm the bases are in the proper place.
* 1st and 3rd – should be 21 paces from home plate
* 2nd – should be lined up 21 paces between 1st and 3rd and lined up in line with the pitcher’s mound and home plate.
1. Each team will be provided with:
* Game Balls
* A Scorebook
* A USSSA Rulebook
* Ice Packs
* A key for the HS lights

**Playoffs:**

1. There will be **1 Division in the Playoffs**. (Revised by Team Representatives on 5/8/07)
	* If there are an odd number of teams in the league, the last two teams at the end of the regular season will play each other (one game) for a spot in the playoffs. The winner of that game plays as the last seed in the playoffs.

Example: In a 9 team league, the 8th and 9th place teams at the end of the regular season play each other for a spot in the playoffs. The winner of that game will be the 8th seed in the playoffs. In round one of the playoffs, 1 plays 8, 2 plays 7, 3 plays 6, and 4 plays 5.

1. At the end of the regular season, if there is a tie between the records of any teams, the **Tie Breaker** will be determined by the following criteria, in the order listed:
* Best regular season record
* Head to Head regular season record between the tied teams
* Least number of runs scored against tied teams, in games played between the tied teams
* Greatest number of runs scored for tied teams, in the games played between the tied teams.
* Least number of runs scored against the team, for the entire season
* Greatest number of runs scored for the team, for the entire season
* Coin Flip
1. Playoffs will be double elimination.
2. There is NO minimum % of the regular season games that must be played to be eligible to play in the playoffs. All players on the official rosters are eligible to play in the playoffs.
3. Playoff brackets will be determined at the end of the regular season.
4. Prior to the start of Playoffs, if a team cannot field a team of at least 8 players for playoffs, the team should notify the Board.
5. A 3-2 pitch count will be in effect for ALL playoff games.
6. Home Run Rule (#15) applies to the playoffs

Important Note: Rules are posted at beginning of season and will not be altered during the season. Any conflicts that initiate proposed rule modifications can be brought to the board for a vote for following season

Rain Cancellations: Primary Contact - Richie Sweetman

* Unless otherwise stated, if the first game is cancelled due to weather, then the second game is also cancelled.
* If the first game is “a go”, it is up to the umpire to determine the second game.
* Game cancellations will be posted 1 hour before game time.

Master Roster: Primary Contact s Richie Sweetman / Sue Nitso

Head Umpire: USSSA

**Game Start Times:**

 MT: 6:15pm

 HS: First game – 6:15pm

 Second game – 7:30pm

 Playoffs - TBD

Cheat Sheet

* Game:
	+ 3-2 Pitch Count, 7 Innings, no time limit
	+ 15 Run Mercy Rule for the game
	+ 15 Run Mercy Rule does not apply to playoffs
	+ 6 Run Mercy Rule per inning, except for last inning (all runs scored on the hit that scores the 6th run Do count)
	+ 6 Run Mercy Rule does not apply to playoffs
	+ No Bunting
	+ No Intentional Walks
	+ The Infield Fly Rule does apply
	+ In the event of a Tie Score, both teams can agree to either a tie or extra innings, if field conditions and time allows
	+ The ball is dead and The Batter is out if: She hits first foul after one strike.
	+ The ball is alive and in play: When a first (strike) foul ball is legally caught
	+ Home Run Rule: Max of 3 Home runs (over the fence at HS) per team. Additional home runs after 3 are treated as an out.
* Pitching Arc:
	+ 3’-10’ arc from the point of release by pitcher
	+ Ball must be pitched at slow speed. No fast pitch is allowed
* Courtesy Runner:
\*After a player receives a “Courtesy Runner”, the player is not allowed to advance past second base on subsequent at bats, unless they hit a home run over the fence at the HS.
\*The first request for a courtesy runner can be made at any base
\*The "Courtesy Runner" will be the last recorded out.
* \*During the first inning if a "Courtesy Runner" is requested prior to a recorded out, the "Courtesy Runner" will be the batter that is furthest away in the lineup but not currently on base.
* Bat Requirements:
* Bats must have the New USSSA Logo
* Bats must not be on the USSSA banned bat list

Notes:

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