

# **2017 GUERNSEY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES**

## **(Exceptions to ISF Rules)**

### **THIS SEASONS REVISIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

The Guernsey Softball Association ("GSA") adopts the playing rules of the International Softball Federation ("ISF"). The GSA is an affiliated Member of the European Softball Federation ("ESF") and the International Softball Federation ("ISF"). For the full ISF Rules, go to the following link:

[http://isfsoftball.org/english/rules\\_standards/rules\\_standards.asp](http://isfsoftball.org/english/rules_standards/rules_standards.asp)

The link below will take you to the ISF Summary of 2014-2017 Rule Revisions - downloadable PDF:

[http://isfsoftball.org/english/rules\\_standards/summary\\_2014\\_rulechanges.pdf](http://isfsoftball.org/english/rules_standards/summary_2014_rulechanges.pdf)

Rule Exceptions are listed in numerical order, as listed in the ISF Rulebook (with exception to Bat Rules). Any rules that are specific to the GSA are listed following the ISF Rule Exceptions. The ISF Rules will be used for all tournament play, with GSA Tournament Rule Exceptions issued and amended as and when it is deemed necessary by the relevant tournament organising committee/director. The GSA Executive Committee reserve the right to amend the following rules.

### **GSA Bat Standards Rule. (Exception to ISF Bat Standards Rule)**

GSA Legal Bat Standards shall be determined by those applied by the Amateur Softball Association (of America) ("ASA") and updated or amended as often as updates or amendments are applied by the ASA. The link below will take you to ASA Bat Standards (Legal & Illegal).

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-ASA/Certified-ASA-Equipment>

**IMPORTANT:** The above ASA link shows the current/latest updated legal list by manufacturer, however, it should also be noted that there are ASA stamped bats, which are no longer legal and what are referred to as "grandfathered" bats, which are also no longer legal. Links to those can also be found via the above-mentioned link.

### **GSA Rule 1. (Exception to ISF Rule 1. Definitions. Sec 27. DUGOUT)**

Smoking is permitted within the Dugout.

### **GSA Rule 2. (Exception to ISF Rule 1. Definitions. Sec 29. (f & g) FAIR BALL)**

Sec. f. If an outfield fence is in place.

Sec. g. If a foul line pole is in place.

### **GSA Rule 3. (Exception to ISF Rule 1. Definitions. Sec 41. HOME TEAM)**

The Home Team shall be the team whose name appears first on a GSA scheduled fixture. The Home Team of any single game knockout final will be decided by a coin toss, prior to the game. The two competing teams of best of three and best of five knockout finals will alternate as the Home Team as per the GSA fixture. If game three and/or five of the respective knockout final is required, the Home Team will be decided by a coin toss, prior to the game.

The Home Team will occupy the third base dugout.

### **GSA Rule 4. (Exception to ISF Rule 1. Definitions. Sec 79. PRE-GAME MEETING)**

Required for Tournament Play only.

### **GSA Rule 5. (Exception to ISF Rule 2. The Playing Field. Sec 1. (b & c) THE PLAYING FIELD)**

Sec. b. Where possible, the required distances are adhered to.

Sec. c. Predetermined by base stanchions and permanent/semi-permanent foul line fences/back-stop.

### **GSA Rule 6. (Exception to ISF Rule 3. Equipment. Sec 5. SHOES)**

Metal cleats are **ONLY** allowed to be used in Adult Fast-pitch games.

No Metal cleats are allowed to be used for any OTHER level of play in any games organised by the GSA.

**GSA Rule 7. (Exception to ISF Rule 3. Equipment. Sec 6. (b) & (f ii) PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT)**  
(ISF b) The wearing of a catcher's mask **IS** compulsory to all catchers under the age of 18

(ISF f ii) Helmets are not mandatory for Adult Fast-pitch, Slow-pitch & Mixed Fast-pitch games during offense, however, if a player enters the batters box (whether called by the umpire or not) whilst wearing a helmet, he or she must continue to follow ISF **Rule 3. Equipment. Sec 6. (f) 2, 3 & 4.**

**Helmets are compulsory to all under the age of 18 years,** Junior, Youth and School players for Fast-pitch, Co-ed Slow-pitch, Slow-pitch & Mixed Fast-pitch during offensive play, whilst a Batter, Batter-Runner, Runner, On-deck and whilst occupying the first and third base Coaches Box(es) during games organised by the GSA.

**GSA Rule 8. (Exception to ISF Rule 3. Equipment. Sec 8. (a) UNIFORM)**

It is preferable, but not mandatory, that a team wears ball caps that are alike in colour and style. It is not mandatory for male or female players to wear ball caps or visors respectively. Plastic or hard visors are not permitted. Novelty hats or other headwear that is not in keeping with the sport are not permitted to be worn.

**GSA Rule 9. (Exception to ISF Rule 3. Equipment. Sec 8. (c) UNIFORM)**

It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants if one player should choose to wear sliding pants. If more than one player chooses to wear sliding pants, they do not have to be alike in colour or style.

**GSA Rule 10. (Exception to ISF Rule 3. Equipment. Sec 8. (d) UNIFORM)**

Numbers on the back of uniform shirts are not mandatory for uniforms, which were introduced in 2006 or before. With effect from the 2007 season, any team entering with a new or amended uniform must ensure that the ISF shirt number regulations are adhered to. All affiliated players must wear the same colour shirt as the team they are representing.

**GSA Rule 11. (Exception to ISF Rule 4. Coaches, Players & Substitutes. Sec 2. (a1 & 3) LINE-UP CARDS AND ROSTERS)**

Sec. a1. Except where a player will be late due to acceptable commitments, which have been notified by the respective teams' coach or manager to the umpire, the scorer and the opposing teams' coach or manager.  
Sec. a3. Eligible roster members may NOT be added to the available substitute list once a game has commenced.

**GSA Rule 12. (Exception to ISF Rule 4. Coaches, Players & Substitutes. Sec 3. (a1) PLAYERS)**

Fast-pitch teams may start or continue a game where only eight (8) players are present. If a team submits a line-up with only eight (8) players to the umpire and scorer, then NO out will be declared each time batting position number nine (9) is reached in the batting order.  
If a team submits a line-up with nine (9) players to the umpire and scorer, but starts or continues a game with only eight (8) players, then an out is declared when the missing player's turn at bat is reached in the batting order (wherever in the order that may be).

It is NOT possible to submit a batting line-up to the umpire or scorer that consists of only eight (8) players, when there is an eligible ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player present in the team area.

NOTE: It IS possible to submit a batting line-up to the umpire or scorer that consists of only eight (8) players, which also includes eligible substitutes that, however, are not present in the team area. Should an eligible substitute become present they MUST enter the game to complete the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) position in the line-up once the team manager or coach has notified the umpire, scorer and opposing teams' manager or coach. However, if after this point a player is unable to continue in the game and the line-up reverts back to only eight (8) players, then an out will be declared when the missing players' turn at bat is reached in the batting order.

NOTE: See **GSA Rule 11.** Sec. a3. Eligible roster members may NOT be added to the available substitute list once a game has commenced.

**GSA Rule 13. (Exception to ISF Rule 4. Coaches, Players & Substitutes. Sec 3. (a3) PLAYERS)**

Slow-pitch (single-sex) teams may start or continue a game where only nine (9) players are present. If a team submits a line-up with only nine (9) players to the umpire and scorer, then NO out will be declared each time batting position number ten (10) is reached in the batting order.

If a team submits a line-up with ten (10) players to the umpire and scorer, but starts or continues a game with only nine (9) players, then an out is declared when the missing player's turn at bat is reached in the batting order (wherever in the order that may be).

It is NOT possible to submit a batting line-up to the umpire or scorer that consists of only nine (9) players, when there is an eligible tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) player present in the team area.

NOTE: It IS possible to submit a batting line-up to the umpire or scorer that consists of only nine (9) players, which also includes eligible substitutes that, however, are not present in the team area. Should an eligible substitute become present they MUST enter the game to complete the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) position in the line-up once the team manager or coach has notified the umpire, scorer and opposing teams' manager or coach. However, if an eligible 10<sup>th</sup> player is not entered into the game prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> batting order position being reached, an out will be declared. If a 10<sup>th</sup> player does enter the game prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> batting order position being reached, but then after this point a player is unable to continue in the game and the line-up reverts back to only nine (9) players, then an out will be declared when the missing players' turn at bat is reached in the batting order.

NOTE: See **GSA Rule 11**. Sec. a3. Eligible roster members may NOT be added to the available substitute list once a game has commenced.

NOTE: A team with less than 9 players shall NOT be eligible and MUST forfeit

**GSA Rule 14. (Exception to ISF Rule 4. Coaches, Players & Substitutes. Sec 3. (a5) PLAYERS)**

Co-ed slow-pitch may have the following fielding configurations providing that a team has a minimum number of nine (9) players: (A team with less than 9 players shall NOT be eligible and MUST forfeit)

A maximum of two (2) male outfielders and a maximum of two (2) male infielders in defense at any one time.

The pitcher and catcher combination MUST remain as one (1) male and one (1) female as pitcher or catcher at all times.

All co-ed slow-pitch teams MUST play with a minimum of three (3) males and a maximum of five (5) males (six (6) if EP's are being used).

All co-ed slow-pitch teams MUST play with a minimum of four (4) females and a maximum of six (6) females (seven (7) if EP's are being used).

NOTE: An out may or may not be declared when two players of the same sex bat back-to-back. Refer to **GSA Rule 19**.

**GSA Rule 15. (Exception to ISF Rule 4. Coaches, Players & Substitutes. Sec 6. (b) EXTRA PLAYER) (SP ONLY)**

If the EP is used, he must be used the entire game. If a line-up that includes an EP is submitted (i.e. eleven (11) offense) the EP must continue to be used throughout the game. Should a team be unable to continue/complete a game with the EP in place, an out will be recorded when the missing EP is due to bat.

Should an EP be used and one (1) of the 10 defensive players become unable to continue in the game (and no substitutes are available), an out will be declared when the missing players' turn at bat is reached.

Should an EP be used and two (2) of the 10 defensive players become unable to continue in the game (and no substitutes are available), the game will have to be forfeited.

Should an EP be used and one (1) of the 10 defensive players and the EP become unable to continue in the game (and no substitutes are available), the game will have to be forfeited.

An EP can only be used in addition to a ten (10) player line-up. For example a line-up of nine (9), with an additional EP giving a total offense of ten (10) can NOT be entered.

NOTE: See **GSA Rule 11**. Sec. a3. Eligible roster members may NOT be added to the available substitute list once a game has commenced.

**GSA Rule 16. (Exception to ISF Rule 4. Coaches, Players & Substitutes. Sec 6. (d) EXTRA PLAYER) (CO-ED ONLY)**

Starting EP's must alternate in sexes as shown in the co-ed SP configuration chart. It is allowed that a male EP may be substituted (off) for a female EP (on), however, a female EP may NOT be substituted (off) for a male EP (on). EP's can only be used in addition to a ten (10) player line-up which is entered with an equal number of males and females, giving a total offense of twelve (12) and all twelve (12) offensive players that are entered in the starting line-up MUST be of alternating sexes. For example a line-up of nine (9), with additional EP's giving a total offense of eleven (11) can NOT be entered.

If a line-up that includes EP's is submitted (e.g. twelve (12) offense) both EP's must continue to be used throughout the game. Should a team be unable to continue/complete a game with both EP's in place, an out will be recorded when the missing EP is due to bat (as per ISF Rule).

**GSA Rule 17. (Exception to ISF Rule 5. The Game. Sec 5. (a1) RUN AHEAD RULE)**

The slow-pitch (including mixed fast-pitch) Run Ahead Rule shall be; Twenty (20) runs after four (4) innings and Fifteen (15) runs after five (5) innings.

There may be exception to **GSA Rule 17** for tournament play.

**GSA Rule 18. (Exception to ISF Rule 5. The Game. Sec 8. CHARGED CONFERENCES)**

There shall be no limit to the amount of Charged Conferences during an inning or game.

There may be exception to **GSA Rule 18** for tournament play.

**GSA Rule 19. (Exception to ISF Rule 7. Batting. Sec 2. (b) BATTING ORDER)**

An even number of alternating male and female players should be used whenever possible, however, where it is not possible to do so, the following configurations MUST be used: (take note of the automatic OUT consequences where applicable)

The uneven player line-up options are **NOT** flexible and if your line-up is unable to follow one of the below options you will be required to forfeit.

NOTE: Alternating sexes MUST be used as far as possible from the start of your line-up. I.e. two males or two females CANNOT bat back-to-back in positions 1 & 2, 2 & 3 etc.

Batting Order	With 9	With 10	With 10	With 10				
1	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
2	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
3	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
4	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
5	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
6	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
7	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
8	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
9	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	A/OUT	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
10	A/OUT	A/OUT	A/OUT	MALE	A/OUT	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE
EP's								
11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	MALE	FEMALE
12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FEMALE	MALE

OF COURSE A LINE-UP OF 10, WITH 5 AND 5 ALTERNATING SEXES CAN ALSO BE USED WITHOUT EP's

MALE EP CAN BE SUBBED FOR A FEMALE, HOWEVER, TWO FEMALE EP's CANNOT START

**GSA Rule 20. (Exception to ISF Rule 10. Umpires. Sec 1. (c1-8) POWERS AND DUTIES)**

Although preferable, umpires are not required to follow the formal umpire dress code. Common sense should be used in order that clothing colour does not match those of the teams' uniforms.

NOTE: Umpires are required to adhere to the jewellery rule, **ISF Rule 10. Umpires. Sec 1d.**

# **2017 GUERNSEY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES**

## **(GSA Specific Rules)**

**THIS SEASONS REVISIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

### **GSA Rule 21. (REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS)**

A fully completed GSA Player Sign-on Form (V3 version or as amended thereafter by the GSA) must be received by the GSA Registrations Secretary, not less than twenty four (24) hours prior to each persons/players first appearance with each of the teams that they are wishing to play for and affiliate to. A separate GSA Player Sign-on Form must be fully completed by any person/player, for each team that they are eligible to play for and affiliate to. The required fee must accompany each completed GSA Player Sign-on Form.

No team(s) shall be represented in GSA fixture league, knock-out or competition play or any other official game organised by the GSA, by a player or players, other than those who are officially registered to the GSA, having submitted the appropriate Player Sign-on Form to the GSA Registrations Secretary.

NOTE: It MUST be made clear, where a club has more than one (1) team of the same name, which team a player is registering to. For example; *Club/Team name "A or 1"* or *Club/Team name "B or 2"* etc. must be indicated on the official GSA Sign-on Form in the appropriate place.

EXCEPTION: Any team(s) participating in an event organised by the GSA, which is classed as an "Open" event, may use players that are not registered or affiliated in any way to the GSA.

### **GSA Rule 22. (REGISTRATION OF TEAMS)**

Team registrations must be received by the Registration Secretary, NOT later than February 28<sup>th</sup> (or a date otherwise indicated by the Executive Committee) for the current year/season. Each team or club must submit a cheque or cash for the required fee accompanied by a fully completed GSA Team Registration Form V2 (or as amended thereafter).

NOTE: Failure for a Registered Team (Member) to be present at the official GSA Meeting, which takes place for the purpose of deciding league structures, for the current year/season will result in the forfeit of their right to voice on this matter and the Meeting will place them as they see appropriate.

### **GSA Rule 23. (REGISTRATION OF AFFILIATED TEAMS)**

Teams that wish to be affiliated to teams in lower divisions of play for the purpose of utilising their players must notify the GSA Registrations Secretary and the GSA Fixtures Secretary in writing, NOT later than Seven (7) days from the date of the league structures being decided. The Executive Committee will provide notification of that date accordingly, however, it will normally be on the first Thursday in March of the current year/season. Any request for team affiliations may NOT be honoured if received after the Seven-day deadline has passed.

### **GSA Rule 24. (TEAM WITHDRAWAL)**

If at any time and for any reason a team should decide to withdraw its submission of entry to the GSA after the Team Registration deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February (or as otherwise indicated by the Executive Committee) it will forfeit any Team Registration Fees, whether they are submitted or outstanding.

### **GSA Rule 25. (REGISTRATION FEES)** (all subject to annual review January each year)

Senior Team (Member) Registration Fee:	£275.00
Junior Team (Member) Registration Fee:	£ 10.00
Senior Player (Associate Member) (sixteen (16) years of age and above) Registration Fee:	£ 30.00
	<b>*£ 15.00</b>
Junior Player (Associate Member) (fifteen (15) years of age and under) Registration Fee:	£ 15.00
	<b>*£ 5.00</b>
Non-player (Associate Member) Registration Fee (Minimum):	£ 1.00

**\* A temporary player may register for a maximum of 5 games in Co-Ed Division 2 & the Men's Division only.**

NOTE: If a person/player is to reach the age of sixteen (16) on or before May the 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year/season they shall be deemed to be a Senior Player.

### **GSA Rule 26. (INELIGIBLE PLAYER)**

No team(s) will knowingly or unknowingly allow a person/player to play in a GSA organised league fixture, knock-out, competition play or any other official game organised by the GSA (other than Open classed events) who is not officially registered to the GSA, having submitted the appropriate Player Sign-on Form to the GSA Registrations Secretary. Doing so will result in the offending team being awarded a minimum fine of £5.00 and any points or winning result gained shall be null and void.

### **GSA Rule 27. (MINIMUM AGE)**

The minimum age requirement to play in 1<sup>st</sup> division fast-pitch/1<sup>st</sup> division slow-pitch/any fixture featuring a 1<sup>st</sup> division GSA registered team (i.e. All Division Knock Outs & GSA Open Tournament) is fourteen (14) years of age (on or after his/her birthday in the current year/season).

The minimum age requirement to play in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> division fast-pitch and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> division slow-pitch is thirteen (13) years of age (on or after his/her birthday in the current year/season). The above requirements are exempt for GSA sanctioned junior, youth or school league, knock-out and any other competition play organised by the GSA that is classified as junior, youth or school competition.

NOTE: Where there is only one division of play/competition, that division shall be classed as 1<sup>st</sup> division.

### **GSA Rule 28. (SINGLE TEAM REGISTRATION)**

Any club that is not associated or affiliated with or to another that is wishing to enter a team into a GSA league must provide to the GSA Registrations Secretary a list of their registered players. Consisting of a minimum of nine (9) for fast-pitch teams and a minimum of ten (10) for slow-pitch teams. The team players lists will be available to all team coaches upon request. The current method of signing on and providing the GSA with registration documents would indicate that the list(s) will be available not less than 24 hours before a teams' first fixture and updated accordingly thereafter.

### **GSA Rule 29. (MULTIPLE CLUB TEAMS IN MULTIPLE DIVISIONS)**

In the event of a club wishing to register a multiple of teams in different divisions of the same league, each club must provide to the GSA Registrations Secretary a list of their registered nine (9) for fast-pitch and ten (10) for slow-pitch for each of their associated teams. The team players lists will be available to all team coaches upon request. The current method of signing on and providing the GSA with registration documents would indicate that the list(s) will be available not less than 24 hours before a teams' first fixture and updated accordingly thereafter.

No registered player(s) may be de-registered without the final approval of the Executive Committee. Any appeal against the Executive Committee's decision on player registrations must be received in writing within 48 hours of the Executive Committee's meeting/decision.

### **GSA Rule 30. (MULTIPLE CLUB TEAMS IN MULTIPLE DIVISIONS - PLAYER USAGE)**

Any player may play up to an associated team in a higher division. I.e. A player registered in a club's 3rd division team may play up in the associated clubs' 2nd or 1st division team and a player registered in a club's 2nd division team may play up to the associated clubs' 1st division team.

EXCEPTIONS: Any player is only permitted to play up to an associated club's higher division team(s) a maximum of four (4) **DAYS** during any one season. It is NOT of consequence if the appearances for a higher division club team are consecutive nor is it of consequence if the player is assigned to the starting line-up or enters the game as a substitute. Any appearance for an associated higher division club team will count as one (1) day played. This is not limited to a specific competition and can be used in league matches, All Division Knockout and the First Division Knockout providing matches are played on the same day.

NOTE: **Playing up for a 5th day** by a player for an associated higher division club team will automatically deem that player re-registered with that team. That player may then not play for an associated club's lower division team. De-registration can only take place at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

### **GSA Rule 31. (MULTIPLE CLUB TEAMS IN THE SAME/ONLY DIVISION)**

(This rule applies to all divisions of play).

In the event of a club having more than one team registered in the same/only division, the club must provide the GSA Registrations Secretary with three (3) named "Floaters" for Fast Pitch & (3) named "Floaters" of each sex for Co-Ed. The named floaters are able to appear for either team as many times as required without penalty.

However, the floaters can only be derived from what is judged by the Executive Committee to be the lower ranked team.

NOTE: Any request to change eligible floaters MUST be undertaken directly with the GSA Registrations Secretary in writing with a minimum of 24 hours' notice of any player being utilised as a floater.

### **GSA Rule 32. (PLAYER TRANSFER)**

Applications for the transfer of a player(s) must be made in writing to the GSA Secretary and can only be made between the opening day of the GSA season and the 31<sup>st</sup> July (inclusive). Any applications received after July 31<sup>st</sup> will not be accepted unless exceptional or reasonable circumstances can be proven to the Executive Committee. No transfer prior or post 31<sup>st</sup> July should be considered a foregone conclusion without GSA Executive approval.

The following conditions apply when transfers are requested:

A completed player Transfer Form must be submitted.

OR

1. The applicant must include their reason for the transfer request with their application.
2. The applicant must first have communicated and notified his/her present club/team secretary/manager/coach with their intentions to apply for a transfer.
3. If objectionable reason to the transfer request is reached by the secretary/manager/coach of the club/team concerned, he/she must send written communication to the GSA Secretary detailing the reasons for objecting the transfer request. The objection MUST be received within fourteen (14) days of the written transfer request being received by the GSA Secretary.

If the reasons to object the transfer request given by the club/team concerned are considered to be satisfactory, the Executive Committee may not grant the transfer application.

If no objectionable reason is received from the club/team concerned, the Executive Committee shall proceed to administer the proposed transfer application.

The transfer shall not take effect until the following conditions have been fulfilled:

1. The mandatory £5.00 fee has been received by the GSA Treasurer from the club/team that the player(s) is proposing to be transferred to together with a completed Player Transfer Form.
2. The player(s) in question has previously submitted an official GSA sign-on form to the GSA Registrations Secretary.
3. The player(s) in question has been registered to his/her original club/team for a minimum of 14 days.
4. The player(s) in question is not restricted to transfer by the conditions of **GSA Rule 33**.

The transfer may take force with immediate effect upon the above criteria being in place.

### **GSA Rule 33. (PLAYER TRANSFER RESTRICTION)**

No player shall be allowed to complete a transfer of affiliation from one club/team to another (see **GSA Rule 32**) if they are found to owe the club/team that they wish to transfer from, any money or property.

### **GSA Rule 34. (PLAYER/TEAM PARTICIPATION RESTRICTION)**

Any GSA Member (Team/Club or Individual) that is found to owe money and/or property to the Guernsey Softball Association (subject to having been sent a notification of moneys and/or properties owed and having received reasonable notice from the GSA Treasurer and/or GSA Secretary of any out-standings) will not be eligible to participate in any GSA sanctioned fixtures or competition play including events classed as "Open" in current or future years/seasons/ until the GSA has been reimbursed in full including any interest that may have been applied or accrued.

NOTE: The inability of a Registered Team/Member to participate due to the above circumstance shall constitute forfeiture and the associated penalty shall also be imposed under **GSA Rule 53**.

### **GSA Rule 35. (UNIFORM COLOUR(S))**

Any new team/club or an existing team/club wishing to include, alter, or amend their uniform colour(s) must firstly gain approval to do so by way of written application to the GSA Executive Committee. Teams/clubs are only obliged to register their "Primary Colour(s)" with the GSA. Teams/clubs that are registered in the same league of play may not register like Primary Colours.

However, a team/club may wear any colour(s) uniform providing that there is a clear difference with the opposition's uniform colour(s) and providing that the ISF Rule relating to uniforms is followed (subject to any relevant GSA Exceptions). In all cases, the team wearing their registered Primary Colour(s) will take precedence over the opposing teams' chosen uniform colour(s). Any team that should present themselves at a fixtured game in non-registered uniform colour(s) that are too much alike in colour(s) to their opposition who are wearing their registered Primary Colours and that are not able to change into suitably different colour(s) in time for the scheduled game start time, shall forfeit the game and the opposition shall receive the win and be awarded any associated points where applicable. The forfeiting team will be issued with a £50.00 fine.

NOTE: New and existing teams must seek uniform colour(s) approval, by writing to the GSA with enough notice to allow for any changes in their proposed colour(s) to be made should their request be turned down. Putting in a written request at the meeting that follows the team registration deadline (28<sup>th</sup> February) is leaving it too late. If another teams' "Primary Colour(s)" have previously been approved and are relevant to the same league of play, then a late request may be denied, leaving little time to make the changes required in order to comply with this rule.

### **GSA Rule 36. (GSA APPOINTED UMPIRES/OFFICIALS)**

An official umpire/official may be appointed by the GSA Umpires Secretary or at the discretion of the Executive Committee to officiate in games that are sanctioned by the GSA. By doing so the GSA agrees to pay an appointed umpire/official a fee of £5.00 per regulation game officiated.

### **GSA Rule 37a. (NON-GSA APPOINTED UMPIRES/OFFICIALS)**

Prior to opening day of each season and at a date established at the discretion of the GSA Secretary and/or Executive Committee, each team/club must provide a roster/rota of eligible (minimum of two (2) years relevant playing experience) base umpires, plate umpires and scorers (the latter should have attended a GSA scoring school session).

NOTE: Teams may not necessarily be required to provide all of the above-mentioned officials for each/every allocated game.

Two (2) base umpires (and sometimes a plate umpire and/or a scorer) must be supplied to officiate at each teams'/clubs' assigned fixtures. If a team/club fails in their duty to ensure that the correct officials are in attendance for their assigned game, the following penalties will be enforced where applicable:

### **GSA Rule 37b. (ANY MISSING OFFICIAL)**

Slow-pitch teams that are required to supply four (4) officials, i.e. one (1) plate umpire, two (2) base umpires and one (1) scorer, but supply only three (3) or less, shall be fined £5.00 for each of the missing officials. Any or all of the officials who fail to officiate as per the roster/rota shall receive a one (1) game suspension, which is to take immediate effect and the team in question shall also receive a £5.00 fine for each missing official.

Scorers who inaccurately mark umpiring crews on the scoresheet, knowingly or unknowingly, shall also receive the (1) game suspension. If the scorer is not a player in the relevant league then it is the responsibility of the plate umpire to ensure this is done correctly.

NOTE: The game suspension will ONLY apply within the relevant league of play (i.e. slow-pitch Men's or Co-Ed), but is not restricted to league games only and will be applied to the next available game league, knockout or any other competition game.

NOTE: If for any reason a team/club has not submitted a base umpiring roster/rota to the GSA by the imposed deadline, then the GSA Executive Committee reserves the right to enforce the mandatory one (1) game suspension to a player or players of their choosing from the team/club that is accountable. A £5.00 fine/penalty will also be imposed on the team/club concerned. If **GSA Rule 37** infractions occur in a situation where a player

or players have no games remaining in the year/season of play from which they can be suspended, then the suspension will carry over to the next year/season of play.

### **GSA Rule 38. (GAME TIME LIMITS)**

1<sup>st</sup> division co-ed slow-pitch - No time limit.

2<sup>nd</sup> division co-ed slow-pitch - No time limit.

3<sup>rd</sup> division co-ed slow-pitch - Two (2) hour limit. No new innings to begin after one hour, 45 minutes (1:45) of play.

Junior/school league - Ninety (90) minute limit. No new innings to begin after one hour, 15 minutes (1:15) of play.

Women's fast-pitch - Two (2) hour limit. No new innings to begin after one hour, 45 minutes (1:45) of play.

Men's fast-pitch - No time limit.

Single-sex slow-pitch - No time limit.

There may be exception to **GSA Rule 38** for tournament play.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the plate umpire to keep time or to appoint someone to keep time on his/her behalf. The plate umpire should take note of **ISF Rule 10. Umpires. Sec 1d** regarding the wearing of jewellery, as a watch worn on the wrist will be classified as jewellery.

### **GSA Rule 39. (GAME BALLS)**

It is the requirement of the team that is designated as the home team, to supply a minimum two good quality GSA regulation balls. In Co-Ed it is the requirement of the team that is designated as the home team, to supply a minimum two each good quality GSA regulation balls (2 x 12" & 2 x 11"). Both balls of the same size must be of the same type & colour for all league and knockout fixtures. The GSA shall only provide game balls for knockout finals and open classed events. Teams/clubs shall only use game balls that are provided by the GSA. Game balls must be inspected and approved by the umpire in charge prior to each game. Balls used (which may or may not be marked) in GSA knockout finals, open classed events, Murattis and Uptons remain the property of the GSA and must be returned to an official after use or at game end. Players or teams found to be in possession of GSA balls without the permission of the GSA after such an event may be fined and charged accordingly.

### **GSA Rule 40. (MVP "PLAYERS' PLAYER" VOTES)**

At the completion of each fast-pitch and slow-pitch game, each team MUST provide the scorer with the name of a player from the opposing team whom they agree to have been the most outstanding player during the game. One (1) name is required for all fast-pitch games and two (2) names are required for all slow-pitch games (one (1) female and one (1) male). Where a tie in player votes occurs once the names are collated during post season, the GSA Executive Committee shall have the deciding vote.

NOTE: Names should be given from observations made during the game and not from score sheet information.

### **GSA Rule 41. (PLATE UMPIRE VOTING)**

The Umpire of the Year award is be decided via voting by GSA team delegates and the GSA Executive Committee.

### **GSA Rule 42. (PRE-GAME TEAM WARM-UP)**

The team that is designated as the Away Team according to the fixture is entitled to use the softball field to warm up between 30 minutes and 20 minutes before the scheduled game start time. The team that is designated as the Home Team according to the fixture is entitled to use the softball field to warm up between 20 minutes and 10 minutes before the scheduled game start time. The Home Team (starting) Pitcher and Catcher are allowed to remain on the diamond to continue to warm-up until the game start time.

NOTE: This may not always be possible due to a previous fixture.

### **GSA Rule 43. (MOBILE PHONES/DEVICES)**

At no time will any player, coach, umpire or other official, for the purpose of communication or entertainment, use a mobile phone/device on the diamond or field of play throughout the duration of a GSA sanctioned game.

At no time should any player, coach, umpire or other official allow an audible ring or tone to emit from a mobile phone/device whilst on their being or in their control whilst on the diamond or field of play throughout the duration of a GSA sanctioned game.

Mobile phones/devices are permitted to be carried only by officials throughout the duration of a GSA sanctioned game for the purpose of time keeping, however, they MUST be switched to silent mode. No player shall be allowed to carry on his or her person a mobile phone/device whilst on the field of play during a GSA sanctioned game.

Any player, coach, official or GSA member, whether in a playing, officiating or spectator capacity has the authority to report an infraction of this rule to a GSA official. See **Committee Procedures** for GSA Rule 43, 44 & 45 Infractions.

For all in-game instances where an official of the said game has noted an infraction, the official should ensure that the relevant team Manager or Coach is made aware at the earliest convenience that an infraction has been noted, the person or persons concerned have been warned and that the infraction will be reported to the Executive Committee.

**PENALTY:** The first offence shall result in a warning. Should the same person or persons commit a second offence during the same game, the result shall be an immediate removal from that game and an automatic suspension from the offender's next game within the league or division relative (where applicable) to that where the offence was committed.

**NOTE:** Out of courtesy to the players it would be preferred if mobile phones/devices are switched to silent mode whilst in operation in the dugout or behind the backstop fence close to the batters boxes/infield.

#### **GSA Rule 44. (SMOKING)**

At no time will any player, coach, umpire or other official be allowed to smoke cigarettes/cigars/pipes or any other type of combustibles on the diamond or field of play throughout the duration of a GSA sanctioned game.

Any player, coach, official or GSA member, whether in a playing, officiating or spectator capacity has the authority to report an infraction of this rule to a GSA official. See **Committee Procedures** for GSA Rule 43, 44 & 45 Infractions.

For all in-game instances where an official of the said game has noted an infraction, the official should ensure that the relevant team Manager or Coach is made aware at the earliest convenience that an infraction has been noted, the person or persons concerned have been warned and that the infraction will be reported to the Executive Committee.

**PENALTY:** The first offence shall result in a warning. Should the same person or persons commit a second offence during the same game, the result shall be an immediate removal from that game and an automatic suspension from the offender's next game within the league or division relative (where applicable) to that where the offence was committed.

#### **GSA Rule 45. (ALCOHOL)**

At no time will any player, coach, umpire or other official be allowed to consume alcohol on the diamond, field of play or within the dugout area throughout the duration of a GSA sanctioned game.

Any player, coach, official or GSA member, whether in a playing, officiating or spectator capacity has the authority to report an infraction of this rule to a GSA official. See **Committee Procedures** for GSA Rule 43, 44 & 45 Infractions.

For all in-game instances where an official of the said game has noted an infraction, the official should ensure that the relevant team Manager or Coach is made aware at the earliest convenience that an infraction has been noted, the person or persons concerned have been warned and that the infraction will be reported to the Executive Committee.

**PENALTY:** The first offence shall result in a warning. Should the same person or persons commit a second offence during the same game, the result shall be an immediate removal from that game and an automatic suspension from the offender's next game within the league or division relative (where applicable) to that where the offence was committed.

**GSA Rule 46. (ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCORE)**

The umpire shall approach the scorer at the top of each inning after the first (1<sup>st</sup>) in order to request the current score. The umpire shall announce the score to both teams. The score shall be binding if the manager or coach of either team makes no objection to the scorer within a reasonable amount of time of the umpire's announcement. A time-out may be required to hear and resolve any objections, on which the umpire in charge will have the final decision. The score sheet will be used as the official result of each game (with exception to games that are being played under protest).

**GSA Rule 47. (ON-FIELD TRAINING)**

Any GSA team/club wishing to use softball field/pitch number two (2), also known as the bottom field/pitch for training or "friendly" match purposes, must first seek permission from either the GSA President or the GSA Secretary. If permission is granted, a fee of £7.50 will be applied to each team/club that is using the field/pitch. Failure to seek permission for using the field/pitch will result in a £50 fine being issued to each offending team/club.

All Island squads will have first refusal on the use of field/pitch number two (bottom) and no team/club other than the Island squad shall be allowed to use the number one (top) field/pitch for training or friendly match purposes without the explicit permission of the Executive Committee. Unauthorised use of field/pitch number one will also result in a £50 fine being issued to each offending team/club.

NOTE: The above applies between the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and the 14<sup>th</sup> of September unless otherwise specified.

**GSA Rule 48. (LEAGUE DECIDER/PLAY-OFF)**

In the event of two teams finishing their season tied for first place in their respective league/division of play, then an outright league/division winner will be decided with a one (1) game play-off between the two teams concerned. The GSA Fixtures Secretary will allocate an appropriate date for the play-off match.

**GSA Rule 49. (PROMOTION AND RELEGATION)**

At the close of season, the first placed team of any slow-pitch or fast-pitch division two (2) and division three (3) (if applicable) will be considered in-line for promotion by one (1) division for the following year/season. The last placed team of any slow-pitch or fast-pitch division one (1) and division two (2) (if applicable) will be considered in-line for relegation by one (1) division for the following year/season.

However, the above will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Any formal request for promotion or relegation by a team or teams will also be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

**GSA Rule 50. (PLAYER DE-REGISTRATION)**

Primarily, no player shall be de-registered to a team in a lower league/division without the approval of the Executive Committee. Secondly, no player shall be allowed to de-register to a team in a lower league/division from their own league/division if the lower team has three (3) or less league games remaining, unless the player concerned is injured and has missed his present teams' previous five (5) or more league fixtures. Any appeal to the ruling of the Executive Committee's decision must be received in writing within 48 hours of the notification.

**GSA Rule 51. (GAME(S) VENUE)**

The Executive Committee shall decide the venue of all Guernsey Softball Association games.

**GSA Rule 52. (NON-PLAY DATES)**

Any team wishing NOT to have games fixtured on particular dates must forward their requested date(s) to the GSA Fixtures Secretary by the 28<sup>th</sup> of February of the current year/season (or a date otherwise indicated by the Executive Committee). Furthermore, no team shall request the postponement of any game unless a player(s) is involved with Island/National or International selection for sporting events (softball or otherwise) and/or activities. In both respects, all requests will be taken into account and honoured where possible, but no guarantee can or will be made that requests will be accommodated.

**GSA Rule 53. (FAILURE TO FULFIL A FIXTURE)**

Any team that fails to fulfil a GSA fixture or re-arranged fixture, whether that be a league, knockout, competition or any other official fixture or re-arranged fixture organised by the GSA, will be deemed to have forfeited the game along with any possible win or points that could have otherwise been achieved.

Penalty: A fine of £5.00 shall also be imposed to an offending team for each unfulfilled fixture and in regard to League fixtures a 1 (one) point deduction shall also be imposed.

#### **GSA Rule 54. (ABSENCE OF THE UMPIRE IN CHARGE)**

In the event of an umpire in charge being absent from their dedicated fixture date and time, an attempt should first be made to contact the absent umpire (if known). Should the umpire be unreachable or unable to attend, then it is the responsibility of the two teams concerned to locate a suitable replacement umpire, within a reasonable period of time. Both team managers and/or coaches must firstly agree on the suitability of a replacement umpire, after which point the game should commence at the earliest possible time. The agreed replacement umpire will assume all the powers, duties and responsibilities of an umpire as described in the ISF Rules subject to any GSA ISF Rule Exceptions.

#### **GSA Rule 55. (ABSENCE OF THE OFFICIAL SCORER)**

In the event of an official scorer being absent from their dedicated fixture date and time, an attempt should first be made to contact the absent scorer (if known). Should the scorer be unreachable or unable to attend, then the primary source for a replacement should come from the Home Team, providing that they have player numbers available and a player who understands and is capable of scoring and who is not initially involved in the game. Failing this, the onus is on the Away Team, providing that they have player numbers available and a player who understands and is capable of scoring and who is not initially involved in the game (teams will be issued with score sheets for such incidents). Failing both of the above, then a suitable scorer should be sought elsewhere.

NOTE: If either team is capable of providing a suitable player to initially become the scorer, but during the game that player is required by their team manager and/or coach to enter the game for whatever reason, then another person must be found to continue as the scorer.

#### **GSA Rule 56. (FIRST AID KIT)**

Each team must be in possession of a suitably equipped First Aid Kit and the kit must be present at all of that team's fixtured games and available for inspection at the request of the umpire in charge.

#### **GSA Rule 57. (END OF SEASON AWARD VOTES)**

Any team that fails in their duty to provide a vote or votes during the season or post-season as required or as requested by the Executive Committee shall be subject to a £50.00 fine.

#### **GSA Rule 58. (ISLAND SQUAD/TEAM COACHES)**

A Coach of an Island Squad/Team is ordinarily required to be a non-player in any Island Squad/Team that they are coaching, however, if it is deemed necessary for a Coach to enter a game for the benefit of the game and the game result, due to a lack of players or suitably qualified positional players, injuries or any other justifiable reason, then it shall be allowed.

#### **GSA Rule 59. (ISLAND SQUAD/TEAM SELECTION)**

In order for any player to be eligible for selection to an Island Squad/Team they must be a registered player in the corresponding discipline.

Island Men's Fast-pitch Squad: A player must be registered to a team in the GSA Men's Fast-pitch Division(s).

Island Slow-pitch "A" & "B" Squad: A player must be registered to a team in the GSA Slow-pitch Divisions 1, 2 or 3.

Island Men's Single-sex Slow-pitch Squad: A player must be registered to a team in the GSA Men's Single-sex Slow-pitch Division(s).

#### **GSA Rule 60. (REFRESHMENT VAN & BBQ)**

It is mandatory for each and every GSA registered team to spend a required amount of time manning and operating the GSA's Refreshment Van & BBQ when it is in place for specific events and/or tournaments that are organised by the GSA. Suggested rosters will be drawn-up by the Executive Committee, then issued to teams and adjusted accordingly if required. A set-up, operate and shutdown procedure list will be issued if and when required.

NOTE: The failure of a team/club to fulfil their allocated dates and times will result in the offending team/club being issued with a fine, the amount of which will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

**GSA Rule 61. (GROUND RULE – PITCH ONE/TOP)**

Any batted fair ball that travels over or down the sloped field area at the left field corner of the pitch will continue to be a live ball (subject to no perimeter fence being in place). If spectators on the left field side of the pitch deflect a batted fair ball, the ball shall also remain live (subject to no perimeter fence being in place). Any batted fair ball that travels to left field and bounces over the perimeter fence shall be considered a dead ball, providing that the ball was not previously touched by a defensive player. Result the batter-runner shall be awarded 3rd base and any base-runners will be advanced to home without liability to be put out (subject to all other rules being adhered to).

Any batted fair ball which travels over the perimeter fencing, without having first touched the ground, shall be considered a dead ball. The batter-runner shall be awarded a home-run and any base-runners will be advanced to home without liability to be put out (subject to all other rules being adhered to).

There may be exception to **GSA Rule 61** for tournament play.

**GSA Rule 62. (GROUND RULE – PITCH TWO/BOTTOM)**

Any batted fair ball that rolls and/or bounds over the edge of the level playing field area at the right field side of the pitch shall be considered a dead ball, providing that the ball passed the clearly visible tree stump on its right hand side and it was also not previously touched by a defensive player (subject to no perimeter fence being in place).

Result: The batter-runner shall be awarded 3 bases and any base-runners will be advanced to home without liability to be put out (subject to all other rules being adhered to).

Any batted fair ball which travels over the edge of the level playing field area at the right field side of the pitch, without having first touched the ground, shall be considered a dead ball, providing that the ball passed the clearly visible tree stump on its right hand side or hit the afore-mentioned tree stump without having previously touched the ground.

Result: The batter-runner shall be awarded a home-run and any base-runners will be advanced to home without liability to be put out (subject to all other rules being adhered to).

There may be exception to **GSA Rule 62** for tournament play.

**GSA Rule 63. (CO-ED MURATTI – JERSEY VENUE)**

The GSA agrees to pay the cheapest day return fare (by sea or air) for each confirmed Playing and Coaching Member of the official Island Squad, when travelling to Jersey on the bi-annual trip for the purpose of the Co-ed Muratti.

NOTE: The 2009 Player sign-on fee was increased by one (1) Pound (to £14) to support the cost of travel.

**GSA Rule 64. (Co-ed JUNIOR TEAM & JUNIOR MALE QUALIFICATION AS A FEMALE PLAYER)**

**NOTE: GSA Rule 64 (and its appendages) is not able to be used in Co-ed League Div.1 (SP1)**

A team shall qualify as a Junior Team when it consists of not more than three (3) senior age players (16 years of age or more as at 1<sup>st</sup> May in the year of competition). The three (or less) senior players can be of the same or different gender. All other team members will be 15 years of age or less (as at 1<sup>st</sup> May in the year of competition & subject to **GSA Rule 27** qualification). Junior Males qualify to play as Females.

**GSA Rule 64a.**

Four (4) or more senior age players (16 years of age or more as at 1<sup>st</sup> May in the year of competition) on a team line-up will qualify the team as a Senior Team. The remainder of the team/line-up can be made up of Junior Males (15 years of age or less as at 1<sup>st</sup> May in the year of competition & subject to **GSA Rule 27** qualification) playing as Females, but only if the seniors in the team/line-up include a minimum of 50% Female players.

For example: Four (4) seniors – Two (2) must be Female  
Five (5) seniors – Three (3) must be Female

**GSA Rule 64b.**

EP's can ONLY be entered to the team line-up when the Player Positions 1 – 10 are fulfilled with actual Female & Male players in a five (5) & five (5) gender alternating configuration. A Junior Male CAN be entered as a Female EP

**GSA Rule 64c.**

Actual Female players are not permitted to remain on the bench/line-up as a Registered Substitute Player whilst a Junior Male is included in the team line-up as a Female player.

**GSA Rule 64d.**

Should a Female player become injured and unable to continue and at the discretion of the Umpire In Charge and with the agreement/acceptance of the opposing team Manager/Coach, a Junior Male is able to replace a Female player if no actual Female player is legally able to do so.

**NOTE: GSA Rule 64d** will only be permitted to be applied once by each team in any one game.

**GSA Rule 65. (MATTERS ARISING)**

Any matter that should arise that is NOT provided for within these GSA Rules shall be referred to the GSA Executive Committee in the first instance for their deliberation and resolution.

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## COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

**For: GSA Rule 43, 44 & 45 Infractions**

Upon an offence being reported to the Executive Committee or an individual Executive Committee Member either in writing or verbally the Executive Committee will act as follows:

NOTE: This procedure applies to any and each instance of an infraction being reported.

1. An Executive Committee Member will be appointed to contact the team Manager, who will advise that an infraction has been reported and recorded with the Executive Committee.
2. An Executive Committee Member will be appointed to formally send (by mail) a written notification of the infraction being reported, to the person or persons concerned, which will also advise that their team Manager has been notified of the infraction being reported.

Should the infraction be a first offence for the person or persons involved, the formal written notification will serve as a First Warning.

A second infraction will result in the above procedure, however, with a formal written notification of an immediate One Game Suspension from the league or division relative (where applicable) to that where the offence was committed.