

Softball Ireland Board

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

15 February 2020

<http://www.softball.ie/what-is-softball/>

2 Definitions

Amendments to definitions to incorporate BSI into our constitution and adopt the new International Federation name.

SI means Softball Ireland **is a member organisation of Baseball Softball Ireland (BSI) and is recognised by the National Olympic Committee, Regional Confederation and the WBSC as the exclusive authority of the game of Softball in all Forms in the Island of Ireland.**

~~International Softball Federation~~ **World Baseball Softball Confederation** means the association of Federations or Regional Confederations in membership of the ~~International Softball Federation (ISF)~~ **World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC)** in accordance with its Constitution.

Baseball Softball Ireland (BSI) means Softball Ireland is a member organisation of BSI, and will be represented on the Council of that body by the SI President and two other members of the Board.

3 Softball Ireland

3.1 SI is a member of the ~~International Softball Federation~~ **WBSC** and is bound by the **WBSC** Articles, Rules and Regulations of the Game and the General Regulations, included but not limited to all directions, directives and decisions made by relevant entities of the **WBSC** including without limitation **WBSC** standing committees and independent judicial, disciplinary and/or disputes committees or similar and shall comply with, uphold and enforce same within its jurisdiction.

3.2 SI is a member of the ~~ESF~~ **WBSC Europe through BSI** and is bound by the Constitution of **WBSC Europe**.

3.3 SI is responsible for the governing of **the disciplines of softball as agreed with BSI from time to time** ~~the governing body for the sport of softball (in all variations)~~ on the Island of Ireland.

3.4 SI is a not for profit Federation.

4 Objectives

4.11 Promote through our rules and regulations, adherence to the Children First compliance legislation and any other legal requirements set out by the relevant regulatory authorities in Ireland.

4.12 Promote through our rules and regulations adherence to the Child Welfare and protection Policies and Code of Ethics for young people in sport issued by the relevant regulatory authorities in Ireland.

7.1 Annual General Meeting

In line with the recommendation from the independent panel, the SI Board proposes to delete the temporal restriction.

~~7.1 SI shall hold an Annual General Meeting no later than the 30th day of November each calendar year at a place and time determined by the Board.~~

7.1 SI shall normally hold an Annual General Meeting no later than the 30th day of November each calendar year at a place and time determined by the Board, unless the Board shall determine otherwise and so advise the members.

7.3.4 Voting Process

SI Board proposes to make a change to 7.3.4.3 to allow proxy votes from teams outside of the host region. This will recognise that the AGM is generally held in Dublin, thereby disadvantaging clubs based outside Softball Leinster.

~~3. There shall be no voting by proxy at or in connection to any meetings convened by SI or otherwise under these Articles~~

3. Proxy votes will be accepted, by the Secretary General up to 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting, from teams based in regions other than that hosting the General Meeting. Such teams will count towards the quorum of the meeting. A proxy vote may only be cast by a designated Representative of a team, per 7.3.5.b.

7.3.5 Right To Vote at the General Meeting

SI Board proposes to add an additional requirement to 7.3.5 to insist that designated Representatives entitled to vote on behalf of a team must be a registered member of the given club for the most recent season. For the avoidance of confusion.

e. Designated Representatives, entitled to vote on behalf of a team, must be a registered member of the given club for the most recent season.

7.3.5 Right To Vote at the General Meeting

SI Board wishes to clarify the Transitional voting position of the Fastpitch Ireland through the National Women's Team, following a number of concerns and questions being raised.

f. In advance of the establishment of league teams, and to ensure appropriate representation at NGB level, the Fastpitch National Women's Team will be given one vote at SI General Meetings, subject to the same rules as all other teams including being a fully paid up team.

7.3.7 Quorum at a General Meeting

In line with the recommendation from the independent panel, the SI Board proposes to make provision for the event of a meeting failing to meet quorum.

a. The Quorum for a General Meeting shall be 50% of the fully paid up Teams in accordance with Article 7 entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting.

b. Should the quorum not be met then the meeting will be postponed for a period up to one month, determined by the Board, and the quorum will be lowered to 30% of the fully paid up Teams.

9 Officers

Though a 4 year cycle would be the norm, it is felt an increase to 3 years would be appropriate in the first instance for officer terms.

9.2 SI shall elect Officers pursuant to Article 10.6(a) who may serve for a term of ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** years. The Officers shall then be eligible for re-election at the end of his term pursuant to Article 10.6(a) **for a further one term in the office.**

For transitional arrangements.

The Office of President shall be elected **on a three year term with effect from 2021.** The Offices of General Secretary and Treasurer **shall be elected on a three year cycle with effect from 2020** ~~on years finishing in even numbers.~~

9 Officers

While the President must give up any Regional Association positions within 3 months, this restriction is currently absent for the other officers. SI Board believe this restriction should be added. This point was also raised by the Independent Panel.

9.4 The remaining Officers are not required to be independent so the elected General Secretary and Treasurer may also represent a Player or Club but not be an agent of SI. **However, they shall relinquish any office or post held in a Regional Association within three (3) months, and declare any potential conflicts of interest to the Board.**

9 Officers

While members not in good standing with SI are prevented from attending or speaking at a General Meeting by 7.3.6.a, there is nothing to stop them running for office. Proposed addition to this section.

9.10 Candidates for all SI Board positions, including the Officers, must be fully paid up members in Good Standing of SI.

9 Officers

In line with the recommendation from the independent panel, the SI Board proposes to limit the time that people may hold positions without a break in service.

9.11 Individuals may serve up to two consecutive terms as an Officer on the SI Board. Following a break of a minimum of one term from serving as an officer on the Board in any position, the individual is free to serve two consecutive terms again.

9 Officers

In line with the recommendation from the independent panel, the SI Board proposes to empower the Treasurer to demand a financial report from team managers. And similar for a performance report.

9.12 The Treasurer is empowered to require a financial report from a Team Manager appointed by the Board to lead an SI team at a representative tournament, including but not limited to, national slowpitch and fastpitch teams. The report must be delivered within 8 weeks of the team competition concluding.

9.13 The Secretary is empowered to require a performance report (in an approved SI template) from a Team Manager appointed by the Board to lead an SI team at representative

tournament, including but not limited to national slowpitch and fastpitch teams. The report must be delivered within 8 weeks of the team competition concluding.

10 The Board

In line with the recommendation from the independent panel.

10.3.u All powers not reserved to the Annual General Meeting are reserved to the Board.

13 Disciplinary Matters

In line with the recommendation from the independent panel.

13.4 The SI Board is empowered to setup a sub-committee to hear and determine any complaint about the conduct of a member as an Officer or a Team Manager.

13.5 An Officer or Team Manager who is the subject of a sub-committee disciplinary hearing has the right to appeal the decision to a neutral third party panel whose determination will be final.

ARTICLE 18 IRISH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FEDERATION

Update name to Baseball Softball Ireland (BSI)

~~18.1 The Association is a member organisation of the Irish Baseball and Softball Federation, and will be represented on the Council of that body by the SI President, Secretary and Treasurer.~~

18.1 Softball Ireland is a member organisation of Baseball Softball Ireland (BSI), and will be represented on the Council of that body by the SI President and two other members of the Board.

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Conor Sayles

Secretary General