

# Guidance Documents for the Sandia Laboratories Softball Association

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**Document 1: Constitution**

**Document 2: By-Laws**

**Document 3: Rules of Play**

# Constitution

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## *Of the Sandia Laboratories Softball Association*

Revised 1995

Revised December 2011

Revised March 4, 2014

Revised March 29, 2018

### **Article I. Name**

The official name of the organization shall be the Sandia Laboratories Softball Association, henceforth referred to as either the SLSA or the Association.

### **Article II. Membership**

Membership in the Association shall be limited to members of the Sandia Employees Recreation Program (henceforth referred to as SERP). To be considered a member of the Association you must be registered on an Association team for the current season and have a current, validated SERP release form on file with the SERP office.

Members of other affiliated organizations (i.e. Softball Solutions for Sandia Laboratory, SSSL) are not considered members of SLSA unless they are also separately registered on a SLSA team. A player may not be registered on a SLSA and SSSL team in the same league during the same season.

### **Article III. Government**

#### **Section 3.01**

The governing body shall be the Executive Board, which shall consist of at least three members: President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, plus additional members at large.

#### **Section 3.02**

The Executive Board should consist of at least one member from each established league (i.e., Men's A, Men's B, Men's C, Co-Ed, and/or Women's).

#### **Section 3.03**

The Executive Board shall exercise and discharge all duties and powers as granted and required by the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Play.

## Article IV. Amendments

### Section 4.01

Any change to the Constitution, By-Laws, or Rules of Play requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Executive Board.

### Section 4.02

At a minimum, these guidance documents of the SLSA shall be reviewed every three (3) years. The Executive Board shall create a committee for this purpose.

### Section 4.03

The Constitution and the By-Laws are subject to the approval by Sandia Employee Recreation Program (SERP) Manager and/or Director.

## Article V. Liability

### Section 5.01

Association members shall participate at their own risk. Neither Sandia National Laboratories, SERP, SLSA, the SLSA Executive Board, National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS), nor the Department of Energy shall assume responsibility for injuries incurred.

### Section 5.02

All SLSA members are required to sign and submit to SERP a liability waiver prior to participation in any SLSA events.

# By-Laws

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## *Of the Sandia Laboratories Softball Association*

Revised 1995  
Revised December 2011  
Revised March 4, 2014  
Revised April 26, 2016  
Revised April 29, 2018

### **Article I. Association and Governing Body**

#### **Section 1.01**

The Sandia Laboratories Softball Association (SLSA) shall promote and organize men's, women's, and Co-ed slow pitch softball leagues.

#### **Section 1.02**

The governing body of the Association shall be the Executive Board, consistent with the SLSA Constitution.

#### **Section 1.03**

The Executive Board may create committees as deemed necessary and appropriate (e.g. Field Maintenance, Rules, and Scheduling). Each committee will consist of, at a minimum, a chairperson selected by the Executive Board. The chairperson will be a member of the Executive Board. Additional committee members may be selected from a pool of team representatives or league volunteers.

#### **Section 1.04**

All decisions under the jurisdiction of the Executive Board shall be determined by the affirmative vote of a simple majority (1/2) of the Executive Board. In the event that a required position on the Executive Board is vacant, that position will not be counted towards the majority count for votes.

### **Article II. Elections**

#### **Section 2.01**

Volunteers for elected positions on the Executive Board (see Section 3.01 of the Constitution) will be solicited from the SLSA membership at the conclusion of the summer season.

#### **Section 2.02**

In the event that multiple persons are interested in an elected position, an election will be held thirty days after the conclusion of the summer season. The manager of each team in each

established league shall have the opportunity to appoint a representative to vote in this election. The vote will be held via a means determined by the Executive Board.

### **Section 2.03**

Elected officials will assume office on January 1 of the following year; their term of office will expire on December 31 of that year.

### **Section 2.04**

The term for elected officials shall be limited to three years at a given position and is not to exceed five consecutive years of membership on the Executive Board.

### **Section 2.05**

In the event that a position on the Executive Board is vacant due to lack of nominations, resignation, or dismissal, the remaining members of the Executive Board may appoint an individual to the position.

## **Article III. Notification of Significant Actions**

Written notification of any significant action by the Executive Board (e.g., game schedules, call for a general meeting, listing of Board members, controversial decisions) shall be accomplished by **prompt** correspondence to either (a) each member of the Association directly or (b) to the Manager of each team in the Association who will be responsible for disseminating the information to the members of his/her team.

## **Article IV. Duties of League Officials**

### **Section 4.01 Government**

The SLSA is governed as described in Article III of the Constitution.

### **Section 4.02 Responsibilities**

The Executive Board is responsible for all aspects of league play including:

- (a) Finances (Determining the annual budget, setting all applicable fees, paying for league costs)
- (b) Scheduling (Setting the season, post-season, and make-up schedule as well as the distribution of such schedules to the league managers)
- (c) Rules (Administration, Interpretation, and Revision)
- (d) Records (Maintain current versions of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules, retaining league standings and scores, retaining probationary/suspended teams/players)
- (e) Committees (Committees may be created as necessary to address specific needs of the Executive Board)

### **Section 4.03 Meetings**

- (a) Meetings of the Executive Board shall be scheduled as necessary.

- (b) Executive Board members are expected to attend all meetings as possible. Failure to attend required meetings may result in dismissal from the position. The remaining members of the Executive Board may then appoint another candidate to the position.

## **Article V. Membership and Fees**

### **Section 5.01 Membership**

Membership in the SLSA shall be administered on a seasonal basis.

### **Section 5.02 Fees**

Seasonal team fees shall be determined by the Executive Board and shall be fully due and payable prior to the start of the softball season.

### **Section 5.03 Team Registration**

Team registration requires completion of the following:

- (a) Submission of the official team roster form as provided by the Executive Board
- (b) SLSA membership for all players on the roster (including SERP liability form)
- (c) Payment of SLSA team fees

### **Section 5.04 Registration Timeline**

- (a) The call for the start of the season (including start dates and deadlines) shall be sent by the Executive Board no later than two months prior to the start of the season.
- (b) Registration and fees shall be due one month prior to the start of the season. Late registrations received after this deadline will be subject to at most a 25% late fee.
- (c) No registrations will be accepted later than two weeks prior to the start of the season. Exceptions to this rule can be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Board.

### **Section 5.05 Post-season play**

To be eligible for post-season (tournament) play, an individual must be a rostered member of the team four weeks prior to the last regularly scheduled season game. Make-up games will not affect this date.

- (a) A member of SLSA choosing to withdraw from their team during the season (for reasons other than disciplinary action) may be replaced by a new member who meets all eligibility requirements defined in Article III of the Rules of Play.
- (b) Special circumstances can be reviewed by the Executive Board for possible additions prior to the tournament.

## **Article VI. Funds**

### **Section 6.01**

The funds collected in dues/fees shall be used as an operating fund for the SLSA to be disbursed at the direction of the Executive Board in the best interest of the SLSA.

## **Section 6.02**

All funds collected by SLSA shall be deposited into a checking account.

## **Section 6.03**

All disbursements of SLSA funds shall be made by check or electronic funds transfer.

## **Article VII. Equipment Inventory**

### **Section 7.01**

The Executive Board shall be responsible for the storage, maintenance, check-out, etc. of all property (bats, bases, etc.) owned by SLSA.

### **Section 7.02**

All equipment checked out by a team shall be returned to Executive Board.

## **Article VIII. Rules of Play**

SLSA games will be governed by the Rules of Play of the Sandia Laboratories Softball Association. It is the responsibility of each team Manager to be familiar with these rules and to provide copies for each of his/her roster players.

## **Article IX. Organization of Leagues and Teams**

### **Section 9.01**

The Executive Board will have the responsibility for organizing teams into leagues for regular season and tournament games. The fundamental philosophy employed in achieving league assignments will be the recreational nature of softball in the SLSA and the long-term welfare of SLSA. To that end, the Executive Board reserves the right to assign new and continuing teams to leagues in a manner that ensures a reasonable level of competition within each league.

### **Section 9.02**

Leagues will be created in the following categories, as player and team interest allows: Men's, Women's, and Co-Ed. Additional leagues may also be created to allow for varied competitive levels within each category, e.g. Men's A and Men's B, and will be considered separate leagues for the purposes of these documents. These leagues may contain teams from SLSA and from other affiliated organizations (e.g. SSSL).

### **Section 9.03**

Leagues are ordered by their competitive nature for the purposes of substitutes. Men's leagues, beginning with A, are considered the most competitive, then Co-Ed, ending with Women's. For female players, Co-Ed and Women's league will be considered equally competitive.

#### **Section 9.04**

In order to achieve the reasonable level of competition cited above, the measures the Executive Board considers may include, but are not limited to, total number of leagues, number of teams in any given league, inter-league competition, and adjustment of the Rules and Regulations.

#### **Section 9.05**

The Executive Board will ensure that all teams in their respective leagues are scheduled for an equal number of games. If this is not possible, an adjustment of dues/fees will be warranted. Reasonable attempts will be made to reschedule games that are postponed, but a team's choice to not accept a rescheduled date will not be grounds for a refund of fees.

#### **Section 9.06**

If a team's roster consists of seven (7) or more players from the previous season, that team will be regarded as the same team fielded in the previous season.

#### **Section 9.07**

All teams will be given the opportunity to indicate their preference in league assignment when roster materials and dues/fees are submitted. However, final decision as to league assignment will be made by the Executive Board in the interest of competitive play and league balance.

#### **Section 9.08**

All league assignments can be appealed to the Executive Board; however, the decision of the Executive Board is final and binding.

#### **Section 9.09**

Teams from the SLSA and SSSL organizations may be scheduled to play each other within a given league, and therefore a player may not be rostered on teams in both organizations within the same league.

### **Article X. Game Schedules**

#### **Section 10.01**

The scheduling of all games shall be determined by the Executive Board.

#### **Section 10.02**

The Executive Board will be responsible for distributing the schedule for the entire season, including projected dates for the tournament, one week before the start of the season. If this is impossible, supplemental schedules will be distributed to team managers as soon as possible allowing at least one week's notice before any scheduled game.



## **Article XI. Awards and Team Standings**

### **Section 11.01**

Trophies or other forms of official recognition for play shall be determined by the Executive Board before the start of the season.

### **Section 11.02**

The method used to determine final standings for the season and tournament seeding shall be a ranking within each league based on the highest-to-lowest percentage of victories. In the event of a tie between two or more teams, the ties will be resolved by employing, in the order given, the following strategies:

- (a) The number of victories in head-to-head competition (between tied teams).
- (b) The total runs scored in head-to-head competition (between tied teams).
- (c) Total runs scored in the entire season.
- (d) Coin flip.

## **Article XII. Interactions with Kirtland Air Force Base and the Department of Energy**

All official matters requiring direct interface with personnel of Kirtland Air Force Base or the Department of Energy shall be channeled through the Executive Board and SERP.

# Rules of Play

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*Of the Sandia Laboratories Softball Association*

Revised 1995  
Revised December 2011  
Revised March 4, 2014  
Revised May 1, 2014  
Revised April 20, 2015  
Revised April 26, 2016  
Revised April 29, 2018

## Article I. Government

### Section 1.01 Purpose

The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to provide for a safe, orderly, and enjoyable atmosphere in which the teams compete.

### Section 1.02 Basis of rules

All games in all leagues of the Sandia Labs Softball Association (SLSA) are governed by the latest edition Official Slow Pitch Softball Rules (ASA) and are supplemented by the modifications in this document, which **supersede** ASA rules.

## Article II. Definitions

### Section 2.01 Roster players

A "Roster player" is defined as a player whose name appears on the official team roster maintained by the Association. A player may appear on only one roster per league within the SLSA.

### Section 2.02 Non-roster player

A "Non-roster player" is defined as a player who is a member of the SLSA and who meets the criteria as a "legal substitute" for play with a team.

### Section 2.03 Legal substitute

A "legal substitute" is defined as any player rostered on any SLSA team.

### Section 2.04 Illegal substitute

An "illegal substitute" is defined as any person who plays in a game (by participating on either offense or defense for one pitch) and does not meet the criteria as a "legal substitute".

## Article III. Eligibility

### Section 3.01 Players

- (a) Players are eligible as defined by Article II of the Constitution. The SLSA Executive Committee shall be the final authority in determining the eligibility of any player.
- (b) The SLSA will consider a player to be eligible when he/she has met the criteria specified in Article II of the Constitution.
- (c) If the SLSA Executive Committee subsequently determines that an individual does not satisfy the requirements for eligibility, a league officer will so notify the team manager and that individual will be considered ineligible for play at the point of notification.
- (d) Any team which fields an ineligible player may be penalized by the Executive Board (or created committee) with any or all of the following:
  - (i) Forfeiture of the protested game(s) in which the ineligible player participated.
  - (ii) Suspension of the manager, ineligible player, and/or sponsoring SERP member for not more than one calendar year.

### Section 3.02 Teams

- (a) Each team shall have a minimum of ten (10) players on its roster when the team registers with SERP and SLSA. However, fourteen (14) players are recommended for a successful season.
- (b) Teams shall have a primary point of contact and a secondary point of contact (i.e., manager and assistant manager) at time of team registration.
- (c) No team uniforms are required for participation in the SLSA.

## Article IV. Play of the Game

### Section 4.01 Game Times and Locations

- (a) Games will be played at Manzano Base field.
- (b) Regular-season games may be scheduled on Monday through Thursday at the following times:
  - (i) 1<sup>st</sup> game: 5:30 p.m.
  - (ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> game: 6:30 p.m.
  - (iii) 3<sup>rd</sup> game: 7:30 p.m.
  - (iv) 4<sup>th</sup> game: 8:30 p.m.
- (c) Regulation time for games shall be 55 minutes.

- (i) For the first game of the day, the timing clock shall start promptly at the schedule game time. If the teams or umpires are not ready to start play at that time, the time will be essentially lost.
- (ii) If time has expired, the inning in progress will be completed. If the home team is ahead, the bottom part of that inning will not be played.
- (iii) If teams are tied at the end of regulation time, one additional inning will be played to determine the winner.
  - 1) In the additional inning, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.
  - 2) Substitute runners must adhere to the substitute runner rule Section 4.04(a)(vi).
- (iv) If the score remains tied at the end of the additional inning, the result will be entered as a tie. Exception: Tournament games cannot end on a tie.
- (v) There shall be a 5-minute transition period between games to allow for teams to switch dugouts and warmup. With the exception of the first game of the day, the clock for the game will start either at the schedule game time or 5 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game, whichever is later.
- (vi) Exception: During the post-season tournament, the semi-final and championship games will not have a time limit.
  - 1) A tie after 7 innings will follow the tie breaker rule from (ii).
- (d) A fifteen (15) run rule will be in effect after four and one-half (4.5) innings with the home team leading or five (5) complete innings or any inning thereafter.
- (e) Cancellation of games due to safety concerns (e.g. lightning, rain, smoke, etc).
  - (i) Cancellation of games shall be at least one hour prior to the first pitch of the first game of the night:
    - 1) An Executive Board Member will make a decision to cancel the games as soon as the situation warrants.
    - 2) If the games are canceled, an Executive Board Member will inform:
      - a) Head of Umpires: An Executive Board Member will inform the person in charge of the umpires of the safety concerns.
      - b) Affected Teams: The team representatives will be notified of the game cancellation.
  - (ii) Cancellation of games on-site:

- 1) Once a game begins, the umpires, in consultation with the league President if present at the field, hold the final authority to suspend/cancel a game.
  - 2) The head umpire should inform the Executive Board and inform them of the rainout.
  - 3) The Executive Board will then notify the affected teams.
- (iii) When a game has been canceled, the Executive Board will determine the rescheduled date of the game within three (3) days and notify the affected teams and Head Umpire.

### **Section 4.02 Starting Players**

- (a) A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players, six (6) being roster players (see Section 2.01), to start a game.
  - (i) The game start may be delayed up to 10 minutes from scheduled game time to wait for the minimum required players to arrive.
  - (ii) If a team cannot field the minimum required players to start a game, the offending team shall forfeit the game, and the score shall be entered as seven-to-zero (7 - 0).
  - (iii) During the regular season only the rule of a minimum of six roster players may be waived by agreement of both coaches during the pre-game conference at home plate. If a coach knows he will not have enough players available well before game time, effort should be made to contact the opposing coach for concurrence at that time.
- (b) If a roster player arrives late, he/she may enter the game at any point in the game. This includes increasing the batting order to any number. The opposing team's scorekeeper and the umpire must be informed of his/her entry to insure an orderly transition.
  - (i) The new roster player will be inserted at the end of the batting order, regardless of the current player who is at bat.
  - (ii) In the co-ed league, an additional player may be doubled-up or inserted in such a way to keep a guy-girl rotation.
- (c) For all leagues, any team may begin a game with any number of players in the batting order, as long as the minimums in Section 4.02(a) are met.
  - (i) No non-roster player can be included in a line-up consisting of more than ten players.
    - 1) This rule can be waived at the agreement of the managers of both teams.
  - (ii) If a player gets injured, that player's spot in the line-up will be dropped and not considered an out.
- (d) In the men's and women's leagues, every player who is playing in the game must have their own place in the batting order.

- (i) This rule may be waived for a player who is physically unable (injury) to bat, as agreed upon by the umpire.
- (e) In the co-ed league, players may “double-up” in a single lineup spot in order to preserve the rotation of men and women in the lineup. In this circumstance, the players who are doubled-up shall alternate batting in their order.
- (f) All players appearing in the batting order must play at least one half-inning in the field.
- (g) If a team has less than ten roster players at a game, it may use up to a maximum of two legal substitutes (see Section 2.03) to increase the roster to ten players.
  - (i) In the event that more than ten players show up to a game because a coach was expecting a shortage of roster players and therefore recruited non-roster players to substitute, then up to one non-roster player in excess of ten total players may play.
  - (ii) No more than two non-roster players may be in the batting order.
  - (iii) During the regular season this rule may be waived by agreement of both coaches during the pre-game conference at home plate.
- (h) Use of an illegal substitute will be grounds for forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- (i) The opposing manager must be informed of all non-roster players, including the player’s name and team affiliation, prior to the start of the game. Non-roster players who are not identified will be considered "illegal substitutes" and their participation will be grounds for forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- (j) A player that is ejected from the game may not be replaced, and his/her spot in the lineup will be an out each time it comes up.
- (k) Non-roster players in post-season tournament play:
  - (i) Only two non-roster players may be present in a lineup.
  - (ii) When a non-roster player is batting, the batter and any base runners may only advance one base during that at-bat.
  - (iii) Non-roster players must field in either right field or as catcher.
- (l) The Executive Board shall furnish current rosters for any team to any team manager upon request.
- (m) The Executive Board reserves the right to make written exceptions to the starting player rules.
- (n) Upon request, the opposing team shall provide a courtesy catcher if a team has less than ten players. The catcher is primarily there to maintain the pace of play by returning missed balls. The courtesy catcher is not required to participate defensively.

#### **Section 4.03 Pre-Game Preparations:**

- (a) Prior to the start of each game, the manager of each team, or her designate, and the head umpire shall meet near home plate for the purposes of:

- (i) Discussing the current condition of the field and any special procedures due to field conditions.
  - (ii) Exchanging the batting order listing all players who will participate. If non-roster players will play in the game, it is the responsibility of the manager to notify both the opposing manager and the umpire at this time.
  - (iii) The batting order must use names, or at least a widely-known nickname, for each player on the lineup. Players may not be designated simply as “male”, “female” or “player”, as this does not accurately document the order of play.
  - (iv) Verify who is keeping the official scorebook. Typically, the home team is responsible for keeping the official score. However, if the home team does not, for some reason, have a score book, the visiting team can be designated as the official score keeper. Play will not be allowed to begin without the designation of an official score book.
- (b) If a manager chooses to not participate in this pre-game meeting, he/she will forfeit any right to protest the game based on any issue that should have been covered during the meeting.

#### **Section 4.04 General Play**

- (a) All leagues
  - (i) The height of the apex of pitched balls must be a minimum of 6 feet high to a maximum of 12 feet. Pitches outside of this range will be called a ball.
  - (ii) Three called balls shall constitute a base-on-balls.
  - (iii) Two strikes shall constitute a strike out. Batters will be allowed one foul ball after the first strike and shall be considered out on the second foul ball.
  - (iv) A team need not complete a game with the same number of players as started the game.
  - (v) Games called after the start of the game due to unfavorable conditions (inclement weather, darkness, lightning, etc.):
    - 1) During the regular season, a game will be considered official if four innings have been completed (3 and 1/2 innings when the home team is ahead.) or 40 minutes have been played.
    - 2) If a game is not official, the game will be rescheduled for a later date. The game will be restarted from the beginning.
  - (vi) Any player on the batting team’s current roster can substitute (courtesy run) for another player after the batter-runner has safely reached base and time has been called by the umpire. There is no limit to the number of courtesy runners that may be used.

- 1) The purpose for this rule is to allow for players who are unable to run safely due to injury or physical ability to be able to participate in the league.
  - 2) The courtesy runner shall be chosen from either (a) the last player in the batting order to have gotten out, either in the current or prior inning, or (b) the last player to have scored a run. In the event that no players have scored or gotten out, then any player may be chosen as the courtesy runner.
  - 3) The batter-runner that was replaced by the substitute does not have to be removed from the line-up, he will stay in the same spot in the batting order.
  - 4) If a courtesy runner's turn to bat comes up, and he/she is still running the bases, the runner will be called out, and that person will take his/her spot in the batting lineup.
  - 5) In the co-ed league, only a female can pinch run for a female and either a male or a female can pinch run for a male.
- (vii) Pitcher Protection Rule: The pitcher has the option to stand up to 6 feet behind the pitching rubber, as long as one of the pitcher's feet are within a virtual box that is the width of the pitching rubber and extends 6 feet behind it.
- (viii) As a common courtesy, after each inning the two teams should verify that their score books read the same score. If differences are noted, due diligence should be made to reconcile the difference. However, if a disagreement exists, or if verification does not take place, the home team's score book shall be considered official.



(ix) Homerun rules and limits

- 1) For this section, a homerun is defined as an untouched, fair, fly ball hit over the outfield fence.
- 2) The number of homeruns allowed to be hit per team in any single game will be limited
  - a) The most competitive league (Men's A) shall follow a three-run differential limit. At any point in a game, a team may not legally hit more than three homeruns more than the opposing team. For example, if team A has hit 2 homeruns and team B has hit 5 homeruns, and team B hits another (would be 6<sup>th</sup>) homerun, that hit will be considered in excess of the limit. However, if team A then hits another homerun (their 3<sup>rd</sup>), then team B would then be allowed to hit another homerun (their 6<sup>th</sup>) legally.
  - b) For all leagues other than Men's A, teams shall be limited to three homeruns per team in any game.
- 3) Any batter hitting a homerun in excess of the homerun limit shall be called out.
- 4) Non-roster players are not eligible to hit a homerun. A homerun by a non-roster player is a foul ball and may contribute to a foul-ball-strike-out.
- 5) Once the homerun limit has been reached, any homeruns hit by any player (roster or non-roster) will be an out.
- 6) Running the bases in the play where the batter has hit a homerun is optional for the batter and any runner(s) that are on base.
- 7) When the homerun limit has been reached, the official scorekeeper shall notify the umpire, who shall announce to both teams.

(x) Force out at home plate. All baserunners attempting to reach home shall be subject to a force out, whether or not the bases are loaded.

- 1) A line shall be marked across the third base line halfway between third base and home plate. Once a runner crosses this "line of no return" he/she is eligible to be forced out without a tag.
- 2) A secondary home plate "mat" will be placed to the side of home plate, at a right angle between third base and home and equidistant from 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Baserunners attempting to reach home plate are required to touch this alternative safety plate to avoid collisions with the catcher at home plate.

(b) Men's and Women's Leagues:

- (i) The Men's and Women's leagues follow the same rules as described in "all leagues" above.

(c) Co-Ed Leagues:

- (i) Teams may have more women than men in the batting order. Teams' batting order may not have two males batting back-to-back. If males bat back-to-back, the team will take an out between the two male batters.
- (ii) Teams may play no more than two men in the infield or two men in the outfield.
- (iii) Teams may not have both a male pitcher and a male catcher. If there is a male pitcher and catcher, the catcher may not be involved with any play (e.g. a throw-out attempt at the plate).
- (iv) If a male batter walks and there are two outs, the female batter following in the lineup has the option to take a walk.

(d) Inter-league games

- (i) In the event of a game between teams that reside in two leagues (e.g. Men's A vs. Men's B), only league-provided bats will be used.
  - 1) During inter-league games, any non league-provided bats will be considered illegal equipment.
  - 2) For games that are played within the respective leagues, coaches may opt to use league-provided bats; however, this needs to be decided by 2:00 PM the day of the game. Otherwise, legal team owned equipment will be used.

#### Section 4.05 Equipment

- (a) For the purposes of defining legal/illegal equipment, ASA rules will be followed.
  - (i) Exception: If a player cannot determine the legality of a bat, a player may request that SLSA Executive Board approve the bat based on ASA specifications. If approved, the SLSA Committee shall provide written documentation on the acceptance or non-acceptance of a bat. Notification of bats determined to be illegal during this inspection process shall be distributed in writing to all coaches.
  - (ii) Bats must bear either the ASA or USSSA (2014 USSSA or newer) approval stamp and must NOT appear on the ASA or USSSA non-approved (banned) bat list.
  - (iii) All bats may be inspected prior to the start of the game by the opposing coach. If a bat is introduced after the game has started, the opposing coach has the right to inspect the bat prior to use. If the bat has not been used during the game, no penalty shall be enforced. All illegal bats must be removed from the field of play.
  - (iv) If the legality of a bat comes into question, the head umpire shall have access to a list of approved and non-approved bats to make the final decision.
- (b) No metal cleats can be worn.
- (c) Penalties for use of illegal equipment:

- (i) For a player's first offense in a season using illegal equipment, the player will be called out and ejected from the game.
- (ii) For a player's second offense in a season using illegal equipment, the player will be called out, ejected from the game, and disallowed from play in any SLSA league for a 1-year period.
- (iii) A team found using an illegal bat shall be on a probationary period for the remainder of the season. During the probationary period:
  - 1) the head umpire shall inspect all offending team bats for legality prior to use.
  - 2) if an illegal bat is used, the team forfeits all remaining games and is suspended for the remainder of the season and tournament.
- (d) Balls
  - (i) The league will use balls with the core/compression approved by ASA.
  - (ii) In the men's league, the 12 inch ball will be used.
  - (iii) In the women's league, the 11 inch ball will be used.
  - (iv) In the co-ed league, men will hit the 12 inch ball and women will hit the 11 inch ball.

## **Article V. Protests and Disciplinary Actions**

### **Section 5.01 Protests**

- (a) If a team questions a call made by an umpire involving a rule interpretation, the manager may question the ruling after the end of play but before the next pitch by calling time and discussing the call with the umpire.
- (b) If discussion with the umpire does not satisfy the questioning manager, he/she may choose to play the remainder of the game under protest. Protests require that the team Manager register a formal protest with the umpire at the point of the incident. The protest must be noted in the scorebook and include the inning in which the incident occurred and the umpire's signature.
- (c) After the declaration of a protest, the following protest procedure shall be followed:
  - (i) All protests shall be filed as a written report (e.g., email) by the protesting manager including the date, time, place, and details of the incident and the basis of the challenge to the SLSA President within one working day. If submission of a written report is not possible, verbal notification within one working day will suffice as initial notification but a written report must be submitted in a timely manner as indicated by the President.
  - (ii) All protests will be acknowledged within five (5) working days following receipt of the written protest. This will be accomplished via written acknowledgments to any team(s) involved.

- (iii) A Protest Committee will be established by the President to review all protests. Members will be appointed by the President and may consist of any SLSA member. The President will ensure that no appointee has a conflict of interest in any specific decision. Any actions by the Executive Board or the Protest Committee regarding complaints about or disciplinary action toward an umpire shall be channeled to the Head Umpire.
- (iv) The President will call a meeting of the Protest Committee to hear the protest within five working days whenever possible.
- (v) The team manager(s) of both teams involved in a protest, along with any individual players involved may present their case to the Protest Committee.
- (vi) Protests will be resolved via a final decision by the Protest Committee and the team(s) and player(s) involved will be notified of said decision within two working days after the meeting of the Protest Committee.

### **Section 5.02 Ejections**

In the event an umpire ejects a player from a game, the umpire shall file a written report (e.g., email) including the player's name, player's team, and the reason for ejection to the SLSA President within one working day. If submission of a written report is not possible, verbal notification within one working day will suffice as initial notification but a written report must be submitted in a timely manner as indicated by the President.

### **Section 5.03 Suspensions**

- (a) In the case of a suspendable offense (such as for illegal equipment in Section 4.05(c) or for violations for the code of conduct in Section 6.05) where the suspension is not mandatory, an executive board member shall be empowered to issue a "preliminary suspension" of the player, which will hold until a meeting of the full Executive Board can be held.
- (b) The Executive Board should convene as soon as possible to make a final decision on determining the suspension.
- (c) If a player would like to protest a suspension, the procedure in Section 5.01(c) shall be followed to protest that decision.

### **Section 5.04 Serious or Repeated Offenses**

Flagrant, serious, or repeated violations of the Rules and Regulations shall result in penalties up to and including a permanent ban of the player on all future participation in SLSA activities as determined by the SLSA Executive Board. Protests shall follow the procedure in Section 5.01(c).

## Article VI. Code of Conduct

### Section 6.01 Safety

The safety of all participants and spectators is paramount in importance. All members of the SLSA shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with safety and courtesy at all times, both on and within visual and auditory distance to the field of play.

### Section 6.02 KAFB/DOE

Conduct which creates a negative perception of SLSA members by Kirtland AFB or the DOE may result in a loss of access to their facilities. No member shall engage in actions which may classify the SLSA as "undesirable users" of their facilities.

- (a) SLSA members are responsible for the conduct of their family and friends at games. Individuals must comply with umpire requests to leave the spectator area or playing field.
- (b) Maturity and discretion in the use of alcoholic beverages in areas adjacent to playing fields is required of all SLSA members, their friends, and family.

### Section 6.03 Smoking

The SLSA adheres to the Sandia National Laboratories smoking policy. Smoking is prohibited in the dugout and on the field during games.

### Section 6.04 Alcohol

- (a) The consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited on the field, in the dugouts, and in the stands during a game. Violations of this policy shall result in strong disciplinary action up to and including a permanent ban on all future participation in SLSA.
- (b) Any player who, in the opinion of the umpire, appears intoxicated shall be prohibited from playing or ejected from the game.

### Section 6.05 Violations

Violations of the following rules shall result in ejection from the game and subsequent games that evening, at the discretion of the umpire, and may result in a period of suspension from play.

- (a) No player shall at any time lay a hand upon, strike, verbally abuse, or threaten an umpire, spectator, or other player.
- (b) No player shall engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (c) No player shall use illegal equipment (defined in Section 4.04(d)(i)).

## Article VII. Field Responsibility

### Section 7.01 Lights

- (a) The umpires will be responsible for turning on the field lights at the Manzano Base field. These lights are controlled by a single switch behind the backstop.

- (b) The field lights may remain on following the completion of the final game of the night. The manager of the home team in the final game of the night, or his delegate, will be responsible for turning off the lights.

### **Section 7.02 Cleanliness**

All teams are responsible for keeping the playing field and adjacent areas tidy. The teams competing in the final game of the night shall police the area.

### **Section 7.03 Chalking the Field**

The home team for the first game of any night is responsible for chalking the first- and third-base lines prior to the start of the game. It is expected that the home team manager will arrange for players to arrive sufficiently early to complete this task before the scheduled game time.

### **Section 7.04 Dragging the Field**

The visiting team for the first game of any night is responsible for dragging the infield dirt with the league-provided dragger prior to the start of the game. It is expected that the visiting team manager will arrange for players to arrive sufficiently early to complete this task before the scheduled game time.