# 2018 Significant Changes to the Sandia Softball Guidance Documents

1. Creation of Softball Solutions of Sandia Laboratory (SSSL) organization
Justification: SERP made major changes to eligibility rules in any SERP association such as SLSA. The new rules state that only Sandia employees and their dependents and spouses are eligible to be on a team that is a member of SLSA. Therefore, we created a completely separate organization, the SSSL. A few details to note
	1. SSSL has its own guidance documents and membership eligibility criteria. Membership requirements in SSSL is similar to the previous SLSA membership criteria.
	2. SSSL and SLSA will both follow the same rules of play.
	3. SSSL and SLSA teams may player each other within the same league.
	4. SSSL teams will not be allowed to be legal substitute players for SLSA teams and vice versa.
	5. In 2018, any non SERP-eligible players will be required to pay an additional $20 per-person fee. However, this will likely change in 2019, where SSSL teams will have a higher registration fee than SLSA teams. This will be decided by the executive committee in the offseason and announced in time for planning 2019 teams.
2. SLSA Constitution Article II: Membership criteria
Justification: Modified to follow new NTESS and SERP rules, see #1 above. Also added text clarifying relationship between SLSA and SSSL and that players may not be registered on both a SLSA and SSSL team in the same league.
3. SLSA Constitution Article V: Updated liability requirements
Justification: Updated to follow SERP policy
4. SLSA By-Laws Section 9.02: Clarifying that SLSA and SSSL teams may be a member of the same league
Justification: Updated for SLSA/SSSL reorganization
5. SLSA By-Laws Section 9.09: Noting that players cannot be members of both SLSA and SSSL in the same league
Justification: Updated for SLSA/SSSL reorganization
6. SLSA Rules of Play Section 3.01: Membership criteria defined by constitution rather than SERP
Justification: Consolidating membership eligibility criteria to one location in the documents.
7. SLSA Rules of Play Section 4.01.c: Added additional regulations on the timing of games, namely (1) that the timing clock will start at the later of [a] the scheduled game time or [b] 5 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game
Justification: Often our games run much later than scheduled, with 8:30 games often not starting until 9:00. Typically, this is because the 5:30 game starts late because people are not showing up on time and then only gets worse from there. These rules are meant to mitigate this issue.
8. SLSA Rules of Play Section 4.04.a.ix.2: Differential 3 run home run limit for Men’s A
Justification: In some matchups, it seems like the 5 run homerun limit is too many to keep the game competitive on our small field, while in others, teams may be happy to have a slug-fest. This rule is intended to help out both scenarios. Other leagues will keep the typical 3-run limit.
9. SLSA Rules of Play Section 4.04.a.x: Automatic force out at home plate and use of a secondary safety mat/plate in all leagues
Justification: Collisions at home plate remain a source of player safety issues and many teams take advantage of players with lower skill levels playing catcher. This rule should serve to increase the safety of players in the league and keep baserunners more honest.
10. SLSA Rules of Play Section 7.04: Requirement to drag the field
Justification: Dragging the infield dirt daily greatly improves the field quality and lessens bad hops. We are now requiring the visiting team of the first game to drag the field before the game.