



CAPTAINS SUMMARY 2024



VERSION CONTROL

Ver	Changes	Date	Author
1	- First draft	13-02-24	Dale Stewart
2	- Added 4th May tournament - Added AWMA section - Amended team registration	16-02-24	Dale Stewart
3	- Contents page added - Contents updated phrasing of "AWMA" member to "LSA member" - Update team fees to £510 and 3x instalments, also LSA membership date updated. - Player registration link added. - Info on Leeds Main Tournament updated. - FAQs updated to reflect agreed actions.	24-04-24	Jo Galloway
4	- umpire fees updated	29-04-24	Jo Galloway

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OVERVIEW

The sections below offer captains an overview of key dates, events, amounts and registration details for the 2024 outdoor season. If there are questions or concerns, please contact a member of the committee directly.



SEASON DATES

The outdoor season is expected to run from **8th May 2024** until **28th August 2024** with games played each Wednesday (weather permitting) at **18:30** for **18:45** promptly.

This represents 17 playable days across two pitches, or **34** possible league games (final game count is subject to scheduling).

A LEGAL TEAM

To form/register a legal team, a captain should:

- Have at least **10 players**, who are fully paid LSA members including a minimum of 5 small ball hitters (SBH) and 5 big ball hitters (BBH).
- Volunteer at least **two umpires**.
- Pay team fees of **£510** either as one payment **by 31st May**, or as **three instalments of £170**, on **31st May**, **30th June** and **31st July**. This works out as about £5 per player per game, and can be financed by captains as you wish. You can collect weekly or as a lump sum from your players, or seek sponsorship to subsidise your team's participation in the LSA league.

For the removal of doubt, all players not considered "new" must become Leeds Softball Association Members in order to register for a team. This includes AWMA membership, insurance to play tournaments, and many other things.

Any player wishing to return to the league that has outstanding arrears from the 2023 season are only welcome to do so once both the arrears and membership are paid.

TEAM REGISTRATION

To register a team for 2024, captains need to do three things:

- 1) Register their team using the link below:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqI3i1Alq0mri_1V8nkQmPVioFdLLmr_gki0-uWvQv2SUoeEw/viewform?usp=sf_link
- 2) Pay team fees of **£510** before the **31st May** OR make arrangements to make **3x £170** payments, one each by **31st May**, **30th June** and **31st July** to:
Account Name: **Leeds Softball Association**
Account number: **14813855** Sort code: **402715** Account Type: **Business**
- 3) Ensure all players are paid up LSA members and registered with BSF by **1st May 2024**. (see section below about membership costs).



A LEGAL GAME

For a game to be considered “legal” and for scores to be valid, the following pre-game conditions must be met:

- An equal number of SBH to BBH (4&4, 5&5, 6&6). If you have an imbalance in SBH to BBH, a player hitting the same ball size can only follow directly if they are separated by an auto-out. If you wish to use a split roster score sheet to bat and uneven number (e.g. 6 BBH and 5 SBH in rotation), this can be agreed with captains and umpires prior to the start of the game.
- Field a minimum of **7 players registered to your team**.
- maximum of **3 ringers** (Not playing at 1st base or short-stop) must be LSA members, or new players on one of their “first 3 for free” games.
- Be up to date with you team fees payments.

Where it is unclear whether these conditions have been met, the final decision about the status of the game always lies with the umpire, who can check with any member of the executive committee for guidance and clarification if unsure.

Games begin at **18:30 – 18:45**. Games end when:

- 7 innings are played (or 6 ½ if the home team is ahead).
- One team is ahead by 20 runs or more at the bottom of the 4th innings, or 15 runs or more at the bottom of the 5th or 6th innings. Sometimes called the “mercy” rule.
- “No new innings” is called at 20:15 and the final inning is played out (weather and light permitting). The final result stands. This would only roll back to the previous inning if the game had to end before completion of this final timed inning *i.e.* due to bad light or bad weather. This is the umpire’s decision and is a safety call, which can be made in consultation with the team captains, members of the committee and the umpire in chief if required.

If your players want more softball, get them to arrive earlier and start the game at 18:30. You are also welcome to stay out and play after a game has ended as long as you make arrangements to put and equipment away safely and securely when you are done.



LEEDS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Player membership cost is **£41**, and includes your membership of AWMA. Players are also invited to contribute extra if they wish to support the hardship fund. The player registration form for Leeds Softball Association is available here: <https://forms.gle/NVENqd1wK7bcZhfK7>. The bank details are on this form, and also in the Team Registration Section above.

BSF also requires that all players register as a team member on BSF's registration system: <https://app.teamlinkt.com/register/find/bsf>. This is a new system that they are trialling for free this year, but there may be an associated cost in the future.

Your players must fill in **both forms** and **make their payment** to Leeds Softball Association by **1st May** in order for you to be able to register them as a player for your team. Returning players that may be struggling financially and so would benefit from the hardship fund are welcome to apply for a 25-50% discount on the LSA membership for whatever reason and in confidence, so please let all your players know this is an option open to them.

NEW PLAYERS

The intake process for 2024 is to allow **new players to attend 3 training sessions or games** before formally joining the Leeds Softball Association. This is primarily to satisfy insurance and Adel War Memorial Association membership requirements. For new players who join as part of an event or marketing campaign and are not already affiliated with a team, the committee will try to link them to a team. Preferably captains will be proactive in recruiting players throughout the season, and come to these recruitment and training sessions to meet the new players themselves.

Payment of team fees for players entering part way through the season is entirely at the captain's discretion. The only exception to this is players are expected to become full Leeds Softball Association Members (including AWMA membership) after their initial 3 games / training sessions. New players are eligible to apply for 25-50% discount on their LSA membership fee via the hardship fund. They are also welcome to pay full price (£41), or any extra if they wish to contribute to the hardship fund. The player registration information is in the Leeds Softball Association Membership Section above.



SHAKE AND BAKE

The first shake and bake was a great success on 17th April, and we have a lot of interest from a large number of new players. Our next open day is **Monday 6th May 2024** at **AWMA** 13.30-16.00.

If your team is in need of recruitment, please come to training and encourage your players to come to training to meet these new folks. Pippa Wilson has contact details for new interested parties, but we aren't going to assign folks to teams they haven't met. There is a range of abilities and experience, so please think about how you and your team will be able to welcome and support these new proto-softballers.

4TH MAY CHARITY TOURNAMENT

Prepare for the Umpires Strike Back: Leeds First Ball Softball Tournament! A Sci-Fi themed sporting adventure for a day of fierce competition and intergalactic fun.

This is a 1-day recreational tournament (C & D grade) at Adel War Memorial Association, Leeds, LS16 8DE. For enquiries, please contact Leeds Softball at leedssoftball@gmail.com. The tournament is now full, but there are teams looking for players, so please check out the LSA pages if you fancy some early season games.

There is also our Social Season Opener on the evening of 4 May at Adel Sports and Social Club, 8pm-12am. All are welcome, and tickets are on a Pay As You Feel Basis (minimum 30p for processing fees), available to book here so we know numbers: <https://buy.stripe.com/eVa6aresDc5v2nS8wA>

LEEDS TOURNAMENT

Despite an incredible amount of hard work from Gemma (and some of the committee) we were not able to work out hosting the Leeds Main Tournament at Grange Park in Wetherby this year. They are under new management, have ground works that need doing, and have built a paddle ball court over one of the pitches. When coupled with a national shortage of available umpires for this weekend, we just weren't able to get something organised.

At the moment, the weekend this was scheduled for in the softball calendar (6th & 7th July) does not have any other slow pitch tournaments scheduled. If anyone would like to try and find a venue and help organise this, maybe in collaboration with AWMA or Manchester, please step up ASAP.



UMPIRES

Each team must **volunteer at least two umpires** in 2024. With the expected number of teams to be 6, two teams will not play each week and so must umpire the other games. New umpire training is available and will be organised at the start of the season.

Umpires will be paid at the following rates:

- Trainee / being shadowed: **£0** - can agree with person shadowing to split fee in advance (i.e. £7.50 each) depending on level of support required
- Solo / experienced / shadowing: **£15** - if shadowing can agree to split with trainee.
- BASU qualified: **£15** - to be reviewed and possibly increased next year

FAQs

Do I need to pay the Adel War Memorial Association fee as well as the Leeds Softball Season fee?

These are one and the same. We are section members at AWMA, and we have refinanced how the league is funded to help you spread the cost of softball across the season. Individuals are required to pay £41 to cover their LSA membership (unless requesting support from the hardship fund) which also includes their AWMA membership. Team fees are on top of this (£510), and these cover pitch hire, umpiring, wear and tear on club equipment, use of facilities at the clubhouse, BSF affiliation, and insurance. The league is covering these costs up front for your players and your teams, so the team fees are really important for helping us to run softball for you, and enabling you to access softball at Leeds and at tournaments.

Do teams have to register for the league to play tournaments?

Teams can elect to register with the BSF independently as tournament only teams. You would have to contact BSF to find pricing and logistics for this. Any players of that team will be unable to use any facilities at Adel War Memorial Association, or engage in any league organised activities. This includes training of any kind, the indoor season, the Tuesday cup, ringing for league games, and any socials including the end of season ball.

Also, as a captain of an unaffiliated team, you would not be welcome to recruit players from Leeds Softball Association to your tournament team. The league and committee volunteers invest an incredible amount of time and money in recruiting and training players for our league, if your team chooses not to be a part of this or not to support this, then you cannot expect to take advantage of investment you are not contributing to.



Can I pay part of the season fees if I only play for part of the season?

Casual players that do not want to play the entire season will need to make suitable arrangements with their captains. It is entirely at the captain's discretion and outside the committee's purview how the team fees are funded. As the team fees can be spread across the season, this gives an option to captains to collect funds from casual players in a "pay as you play" scenario. To play in our league, they must also be members of Leeds Softball Association and registered with BSF (see Leeds Softball Association Membership Section above). If required, they may apply to the hardship fund if they feel this is appropriate. Again, this is confidential, and would be up to the player to apply to if they feel it is the right option for them.

What if a player can't pay their LSA fee before the 1st May?

If players are struggling financially, please ask them to consider applying to the hardship fund. If a player joins part way through the season and are new to softball, they are welcome to come to 3 training sessions / games as an unaffiliated member (contributing £3 to training, or maybe contributing £5 per game to your team fees if you require). After 3 "rookie" appearances, they would be expected to join Leeds Softball Association. As a new player this can be supported through the hardship fund at a reduced rate as described in the New Player Section Above.

What do players get with the AWMA membership fee?

The Adel War Memorial Association membership gives members:

- Last year, 75% of this fee covered ground hire for us at AWMA.
- Access to the bar at discounted rates.
- Free parking at AWMA.
- Use of facilities (toilets, changing rooms).
- Access to all sports played at the centre - individual sections will have different rules and associated costs, please enquire with them to find out more.
- Use of meeting rooms at AWMA (for committee, captain or team meetings) – we can put you in contact with folks at AWMA if you would like to book things.
- Room hire for the LSA, for socials including the end of season ball.

We have refinanced how we are covering the costs of paying to play at AWMA for this season. Players are not paying "an AWMA fee" this year. The £41 is to become a member of the Leeds Softball Association, which includes your membership of AWMA. As section members at AWMA, Leeds Softball players must be members of AWMA.

How will MVPs work this year?

We are consulting with captains and players about how this might work, and will update this to reflect how you want to celebrate success in our league.