



INFORMATION FOR CAPTAINS 2025



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OVERVIEW

The sections below offer captains an overview of key dates, events, amounts and registration details for the 2025 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 **7th May 2025** until **27th August 2025** with games played each Wednesday (weather permitting) at **18:30** for **18:45** promptly.

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**. 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 equipment and umpiring costs.



Any player wishing to return to the league that has outstanding arrears from the 2024 season are only welcome to do so once both the arrears and membership are paid.

TEAM REGISTRATION

To register a team for 2025, captains need to do three things by 1st May:

- 1) Register their team using the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSco0Df6JWXw7tCylF-IIWxmK7HakjPltH1ShXvkWua-vp-EFw/viewform?usp=dialog>

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 Community Softball Club**

Account number: **23029368** Sort code: **30-54-66** Account Type: **Business**

Please note that this is a new account.

- 2) Ensure all players are paid up LSA members and registered with BSF by **your team's first game**. (see section below about membership costs).

The team league fee covers:

- AWMA sports section fee (including ground hire and maintenance);
- British Softball Federation membership;
- Player insurance;
- Equipment;
- Umpiring fees;
- League development.



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**.
- Use a maximum of **3 ringers** (Not playing at 1st base or short-stop) - must be LSA members, or new players or casuals on one of their “first 3 for free” games.
- Be up to date with your team's fee 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.



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 community fund. The player registration form for Leeds Softball Association is available here: <https://forms.gle/n3DSiRw6NUtNo12w8>. 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 community 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 2025 is to allow **new players to attend 3 training sessions or matches** before committing to becoming a member of Leeds Softball Association and Adel War Memorial Association. This is primarily to satisfy insurance and Adel War Memorial Association membership requirements. In the same vein, casual players may play in three sessions (training or matches) without joining LSA/AWMA.

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. Captains will need to 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 community fund. They are also welcome to pay full price (£41), or any extra if they wish to contribute to the community fund. The player registration information is in the Leeds Softball Association Membership Section above.



OPEN DAY

We will be running an open day on **Monday 21st April 2025** at **AWMA Bedquilts** 13.30-16.00.

If your team is in need of recruitment, please come to the open day and to training sessions and encourage your players to come to training to meet these new potential players.

TUESDAY SESSIONS

Starting April 22nd at 18.30 and through May, Tuesday sessions will be for new player development and skills training. Each training session will be split into two areas if numbers allow; one for basic skills and one for more advanced skills.

Later in the season, we will run a 4-5 week cup, mixing up players into new teams, with fun alterations to the usual rules.

3RD MAY CHARITY TOURNAMENT

Prepare for the Return of the Umpires: Leeds First Ball Softball Tournament! A Sci-Fi themed sporting adventure for a day of fierce competition and intergalactic fun, all in the name of charity.

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. This is a great opportunity to get some experience in for new players, or dust off the cobwebs before league games begin.

AWMA FETE

An opportunity to try out the other sports AWMA offers. Help with the LSA stand would be appreciated and is still a potential opportunity to recruit new players. Contact Rich (via George) if interested.

LEEDS TOURNAMENT

We will be hosting the Leeds Main tournament on 28th-29th June at West Park RUFC, Leeds. Further details will be announced in due course. If anyone would like to help with tournament organisation, please let the committee know.



UMPIRES

Each team must **volunteer at least two umpires** in 2025. 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: **£18** - 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 community 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 they play in more than three games. If required, they may apply to the community 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 community fund. If a player joins part way through the season and new to softball, they are welcome to come to 3 training sessions / games as an unaffiliated member. After 3 "rookie" appearances, they would be expected to join Leeds Softball Association. As a new player this can be supported through the community fund at a reduced rate as described in the New Player Section Above.

What do players get with the AWMA membership fee?

The £41.00 [LSA membership](#) fee is to become a member of the Leeds Softball Association, which includes your membership of AWMA. The Adel War Memorial Association membership gives members:

- Ground hire and maintenance at AWMA.
- Equipment storage.
- Use of changing rooms and well-tended toilet facilities.
- Access to the AWMA clubhouse facilities including discounted bar and snacks, use of the kitchen for post-game food and meeting spaces.
- Free parking at AWMA.
- 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.
- Hall hire for the LSA, for socials including the end of season party.

As section members at AWMA, Leeds Softball players must be members of AWMA. The LSA Treasurer will submit your AWMA membership application on your behalf once you have registered as a member of LSA.



How will MVPs work this year?

League MVPs will be nominated from registered team members for each match, not from ringers. Scores and MVP votes will be reported in the Captain's group, by the winning captain unless the losing captain chooses to report them first.

At the end of the year, two Captain's MVPs will also be voted for by the Captains and Exec based on overall performance.