**GREATER LOWELL SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**1. TIME LIMITS**

Game time limits are determined by the leagues, but not to exceed 1 hour and 45 minutes from the scheduled game time. If an umpire arrives late for the game, the time limit starts when the game starts.

**2. CANCELLATIONS**

When inclement weather is anticipated for a league or youth recreation game, the umpire will follow one or more of the following procedures to determine if the game(s) has been canceled:

a. call the appropriate team representative listed on the Rain-Out Listing provided by the GLSUA,

b. call and/or email the appropriate team representative listed on Arbiter, or

c. check the league website for an up-to-date status report

**Checking for game status should be performed no earlier than 90 minutes prior to game time.**

Games may be canceled up until 8:00 P.M. the night before it is scheduled. Cancellations after this time, other than an “if” game will result in a full fee paid to the umpire(s) scheduled to do those games.

3. **TURNING BACK A GAME ASSIGNMENT**

An umpire who wishes to decline a game assignment must contact the Assigner and decline it in Arbiter. Under no circumstances should an umpire transfer a game assignment to another umpire.

**4. FINES**

a. Late for a game: umpires are to be at the field no later than 15 minutes prior to game time and inform the coaches they have arrived. If you are going to be late and cannot arrive within 15 minutes of game time, you must contact your Assigner and follow the procedures under 2a. or 2b. above, if necessary.

b. Missing a game assignment: an umpire missing a game assignment will be fined a full game fee. A second offense will result in a fine of 1.5 times the game fee, and the offender will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee. In the event one umpire umpires a game when two umpires were assigned, the umpire will receive an additional single game fee.

All fines for missing games are payable to the Treasurer within seven (7) days of the offense.

c. Uniform infractions: any member of the Executive Committee may report a uniform infraction. A warning will be issued for the first offense. Subsequent offenses shall result in disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.

**5. UNIFORMS**

a. the basic uniform will be the official USA Softball uniform described in the USA Softball Umpire Manual.

b. The GLSUA retains the right to recommend “local options” to the basic uniform. These recommendations will require a majority vote of the Executive Committee and are subject to the approval of the Umpire-in-Chief.

c. The GLSUA retains the right to appeal any uniform decision made by the Umpire-in-Chief. The appeal will require a majority vote of the Executive Committee and will be directed to the USA Softball of Massachusetts Commissioner.

d. The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of any approved local options.

e. Approved local options are for local use only.

f. Uniforms worn in a 2-umpire game must be identical. Both may be the official USA Softball uniform, or the “local option” uniform, but cannot be mixed. If the umpires cannot agree on which uniform to wear, the official USA Softball uniform will supersede all local options.

**6. GAME FEES**

a. Game fees for all games shall be standard when assigned by the GLSUA Assignment Secretary(s) unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee.

b. Any member of the GLSUA who umpires a game assigned by the Assignment Secretary(s) and not conforming to the standard fee shall be suspended for one (1) year from the date of the offense.

c. Umpires will be paid prior to the start of the game, or no later than the end of the game, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee. If an umpire is not paid a game fee, the league shall be responsible for payment. If payment is not made within two (2) weeks, no umpires will be assigned to that league’s future games until the matter is resolved.

d. Umpires shall receive a full game fee for any game started but not concluded as an official game.

e. The GLSUA Secretary will make every effort to notify each league representative of any changes to the umpire fee structure prior to February 1 of each year.

**7. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**

a. Personal information, e.g., telephone numbers, addresses, email addresses, published on the GLSUA website or in the Blue Book are considered private and to be used only for GLSUA-related business and not for personal business or commercial enterprise.

b. If a member’s email address is corrupted, threatened and/or changed, the member should notify the Secretary who will take appropriate action, if indicated.