

To: Softball Ireland Council

From: Rachel Bourgault, Softball Ulster Chairperson on behalf of softball Ulster

Re: Formal Counter - SINCC Motion for directed vote at SI AGM

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The SU Committee would like to provide a formal counter to the SINCC motion presented by Softball Leinster.

We have outlined a variety of information with hopes the motion will be better understood by the entire SI membership prior to voting.

SL has presented the motion with a discussion sheet that had the following points:

1. SL has 25 teams compared to SU's 6 teams
2. SL has 431 members compared to SU's 119
3. Currently the winner of the Prem division plays against the winner of SU team in a single game.
4. This year, the Dodder Dynamoes won their 2nd SINCC in a row, forfeiting their place in the Eruo Club Championship and ceding their spot to the SU winner, the Belfast Brawlers.
5. Should the SINCC Final represent the two best teams/clubs in Ireland?
6. The initial response from SI was that there are 7 eligible SL teams in Prem and 6 teams in SU

Discussion Point 1, there are 25 teams compared to SU's 6, however there are only 7 teams eligible to play in the SINCC (as this is for top division only), therefore the mention of 25 teams compared to SU's 6 is not relevant. SU do in fact have 1 division versus SL's 3 division system.

Discussion point 2, Leinster has 431 members from a province of 2.5 Million (1.3 Million in the Dublin Metropolitan Area) %0.01742, Ulster has 119 members from a province of 2.1 Million (672,522 in the Belfast Metropolitan Area) %0.005667 of the Ulster population. There will likely be a much larger membership given the population difference.

Discussion point 3, this is correct and as per the SI Ireland Bylaws Softball Ireland National Club Championship Rules 1. SOFTBALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP 1.1 The Softball Ireland National Club Championships will be played ordinarily between the winners of the 2019 Softball Leinster Premier Division Winners and the Softball Ulster League Winners as nominated by their respective Committees. So effectively the motion is to change the entire rules of the Championship. The winners of SINCC should always be given the 1 or 2 spots available. We believe there is scope for changing the qualification criteria when 1 team wins SINCC for two consecutive years between European events in the future. One possibility would be for the regional runners up to the regional winners over both years playing a round robin against the SINCC runners up for both years in a European qualifier. This could be a 2 team match if the same teams were runners up in each competition, a 3 team event, or even a 4 team event if there were two different regional runners up and two different SINCC runners up. This event would have to be held after the SINCC game closest to the European Super Cup, but with the same player qualification criteria as SINCC.

Discussion point 4, this is correct, however if the same teams are winning year over year maybe this means there is an issue with the how the talent pool is being dispersed and we should be looking at this foremost.

Discussion 5, currently there are no inter provincial competitions, apart from the tournaments, that would allow for accurate representation of the two best teams/clubs in Ireland and should be played as best of each province. The Softball Ireland National Club Championships, is the Irish national championship game, much like the World Series in Baseball, and like the World Series it comprises of the regional champions playing against each other. In the World series this the AL v NL Championships. Currently SINCC represents SL V SU as the other provinces don't have leagues. Having the possibility of a National Champion that isn't a Regional Champion would devalue the overall competition.

Discussion point 6, this was covered in our response to Fact 1.

Other concerns from the SU membership are the fear of equal opportunity to allow for SU growth, high-level competition is an important aspect to help develop players.