



Greater Brisbane Leagues Bylaws



SEASON: 2018/2019

VERSION 1.2

1st OCTOBER 2018

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1.2.3	Insert Where these Bylaws require communication from a Club Secretary, the Club President, Vice President or Treasurer (as listed on the Form N) may send the communication on their behalf. Clubs must advise the Competition Administrator of any person temporarily filling any of these positions if they are not listed on the Form N.	15/11/17
1.9.2	Insert The Club must pay a deposit of \$250.00 which will be refunded if the dispute is upheld or otherwise at the discretion of the GBL Disputes Panel if it is not considered frivolous or vexatious. The protest will not be heard until after a confirmation of transfer has been forwarded to the Competition Administrator.	01/06/18
1.11.2	Insert Failure to supply an umpire (Bylaws 5.15, 6.15, 7.15) \$120 per umpire. Supplying an umpire without the appropriate accreditation \$75 per umpire. Failure to supply a coach with the appropriate accreditation \$75. Knowingly failing to comply with a GBL Judiciary order \$500. (GBL Judiciary Procedures, s 88B)	01/06/18
1.11.4	Insert *Where a penalty under this section is for loss of game, the score recorded shall be, in favour of the non-infringing team: a) 9-0; or b) the actual final score if the infringing team scores no runs and the non-infringing team scores more than nine runs.	01/06/18
2.8	Insert BQ STATE DEVELOPMENT TEAMS 2.8.1 BQ Teams may comprise any players registered in accordance with Section 2.3. 2.8.2 Where these Bylaws refer to Clubs, BQ has the same powers and obligations with respect to BQ Teams.	01/06/18
3.2.1	Insert For the purpose of these Bylaws, scheduling and/or rescheduling fixtures includes determining or changing the time, date and/or location a game is played.	01/06/18
3.2.5	Insert Where, under these Bylaws, a game must be rescheduled if it cannot be completed, the Competition Administrator may schedule a fixture at an alternative time, date and/or location pending the occurrence of some event (e.g. inclement weather).	01/06/18
3.4.8	Insert Any game halted due to inclement weather before becoming a regulation game shall be a suspended game if it is replayed.	01/06/18
3.7.5	Amend Where two or more teams are equally ranked with the same WIN percentage, the <u>Competition Administrator shall allocate places using the following criteria: "Head-to-Head" method shall be used to separate them.</u> a) <u>"Head-to-Head" for the teams for the season; then</u> b) <u>Runs against, head-to-head, for the season; then</u> c) <u>Runs against overall for the season; then</u> d) <u>At the GBL Committee's discretion, giving reasons.</u>	01/06/18
3.8.2	Insert Clubs shall be asked for expressions of interest to host the finals games and host venues shall be subsequently decided by the GBL Committee.	01/06/18

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Bylaw	Amendment	Date
3.8.3	<p>Insert</p> <p>The team designated as the home team for the Finals Series shall be:</p> <p>a) For the Semi Final and Preliminary Final, the team finishing higher on the table at the end of the Regular Season; and</p> <p>b) For the Grand Final:</p> <p>i. where a Major Semi Final is played, the winner of the Major Semi Final;</p> <p>ii. where Northside and Southside Finals are played, the team finishing higher on the table where the competition ladders are combined; or</p> <p>iii. otherwise the team finishing higher on the table at the end of the Regular Season.</p> <p>The team designated as the home team for the Finals Series may determine the home dugout.</p>	01/06/18
4.3.1	<p>Insert</p> <p>All Clubs intending to host night games must arrange a ground light audit and submit it to the Competition Administrator in accordance with Bylaw 1.7.1. Lights must be compliant with Standards Australia (1994) Guide to sports lighting Part 2.6: Specific recommendations — Baseball and softball (AS 2560.2.6:1994).</p>	01/06/18
5.2.3	<p>Insert</p> <p>Where an odd number of teams nominate for Divisions 1 and 2, the GBL Committee may allow a single Division 1 or Division 2 team nomination in order to avoid a bye in either division.</p>	01/06/18
0	<p>Amend</p> <p>For Division 1 night games, the umpire shall call the game when the two and a half (2.5) hour limit game length is reached, so long as a minimum of five (5) innings have <u>regulation game (Section 5.5) has</u> been played (4.5 if the home team is ahead) and a result has been reached (subject to Bylaw 5.3.3).</p>	01/06/18
5.3.3	<p>Amend</p> <p>Where the host venue has a light curfew, the umpire shall call the game once the light curfew has been reached. Division 1 night games that are not regulation games (Section 5.5) or remain tied at the time when the game is called under this Bylaw shall be a suspended game and rescheduled in accordance with Bylaw 3.3.3.</p>	01/06/18
5.5.1 1.16.1 7.5.1	<p>Amend</p> <p>In the event of inclement weather <u>or light curfew</u> affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a regulation game:</p>	01/06/18
5.8.5	<p>Amend</p> <p>Division 1 defensive starting teams shall consist of nine (9) players who have not taken part in any <u>Senior Competition</u> fixture for that day, except in the case of a scheduled Division 1 double header.</p>	15/11/17
5.8.6	<p>Insert</p> <p>In all grades except Division 1, defensive starting teams shall consist of seven (7) players who have not taken part in any Senior Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of the second game in a double header.</p>	01/06/18
5.8.7	<p>Amend</p> <p>EveryThe starting defensive players in Bylaws 5.8.5 and 5.8.6 players starting in a Division 1 game must play no fewer than three (3) complete innings of the game. Only the pitcher or an injured player can be replaced from the bench in the first three (3) innings.</p>	01/06/18
5.8.11 1.19.4	<p>Amend</p> <p>Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, <u>a player may only participate in one team during the season (including the Finals Series)</u> the Club may not exchange or alternate players among these teams in normal competition or during any final.</p>	01/06/18
5.10.1 1.21.1	<p>Amend</p> <p>All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are two (2) <u>one (1) or more</u> outs. The courtesy runner shall be:</p>	01/06/18

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Bylaw	Amendment	Date												
	<p>a) any eligible player not in the game; or</p> <p>b) a replaced player.</p> <p>If neither a) nor b) are available, the courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.</p>													
5.12.5 1.23.5	<p>Insert</p> <p>The Competition Administrator may accept medical certificates or Statutory Declarations forwarded after the time limits stipulated in this section where deemed fair and appropriate to do so.</p>	01/06/18												
5.15.1	<p>Amend</p> <p>The home team shall provide both plate and base umpires who must have a minimum QBUA qualification as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Accreditation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Division 1</td> <td>Association Level 4 (yellow shirt)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Division 2</td> <td>Association Level 4 (yellow shirt)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Division 3</td> <td>Community Level 0 (green shirt)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Division 4</td> <td>Community Level 0 (green shirt)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Division 5</td> <td>Community Level 0 (green shirt)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: The home team shall only provide umpires for games where QBUA umpires have not been appointed</p>	Grade	Accreditation	Division 1	Association Level 4 (yellow shirt)	Division 2	Association Level 4 (yellow shirt)	Division 3	Community Level 0 (green shirt)	Division 4	Community Level 0 (green shirt)	Division 5	Community Level 0 (green shirt)	01/06/18
Grade	Accreditation													
Division 1	Association Level 4 (yellow shirt)													
Division 2	Association Level 4 (yellow shirt)													
Division 3	Community Level 0 (green shirt)													
Division 4	Community Level 0 (green shirt)													
Division 5	Community Level 0 (green shirt)													
5.15.10 1.26.10	<p>Insert</p> <p>A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than once per inning. Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game.</p>	01/06/18												
0 1.27.1 7.16.1	<p>Amend</p> <p>Each team shall have its own competent scorer <u>using the Official Baseball scorebook.</u></p>	01/06/18												
5.16.2 1.27.3 7.16.3	<p>Insert</p> <p>The Electronic scoring device may be used as an alternative to a scorebook, provided at least one scorer completes a scorebook. If both scorers want to use Electronic scoring device, the home team scorer must ensure a scorebook is also completed.</p>	01/06/18												
5.18.2	<p>Amend</p> <p>MVP votes are allocated by agreement between each team coach <u>the umpire-in-chief</u> immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card. Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, and 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.</p>	01/06/18												
5.19.4 6.19.4 7.19.4	<p>Remove</p> <p>While the Competition Administrator will make an effort to reschedule games to a date favourable to the availability of both teams' players. Games once scheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures — see Section 3.5).</p>	01/06/18												
5.19.5 7.19.4	<p>Amend</p> <p>The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:</p>	01/06/18												

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

Bylaw	Amendment	Date
	<p>a) Wednesday night following the original scheduled day for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final; or</p> <p>b) Friday night following the original scheduled day for any Grand Final or Thursday night should the applicable Friday be Good Friday Thursday night preceding Easter for any Grand Final.</p>	
5.20.4	<p>Amend</p> <p>All Division 1 Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaws 5.3, 5.5), except double headers (if applicable) shall be nine (9) innings and played to a result.</p>	01/06/18
5.20.5	<p>Amend</p> <p>In the event of inclement weather affecting <u>Semi Final or Preliminary</u> Final Series games, the Competition Administrator shall Bylaws 5.19.4-5.19.7. <u>Games once scheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section 3.5).</u></p>	01/06/18
5.20.6	<p>Insert</p> <p>In the event of inclement weather affecting Grand Final Series games, the Competition Administrator shall reschedule the games subject to Bylaw 5.20.7. To avoid any doubt, there is no time limit by which Grand Finals Series games must be rescheduled.</p>	01/06/18
5.20.8	<p>Amend</p> <p>In the event a <u>Semi Final or Preliminary</u> Final Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw 5.20.7, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:</p> <p>a) Head to head throughout the entire Finals Series; then</p> <p>b) Highest competition standing; then</p> <p>c) Head to head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).</p>	01/06/18
5.21.3	<p>Replace</p> <p>ABL players that have been registered with their Club prior to 1 January, shall be credited with two (2) games for every ABL playing roster on which they are named after their Club registration is effective on the database.</p> <p>Where a player cannot participate in a Regular Season game due to participation as a player in the ABL, the Club may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator with relevant evidence (e.g., team roster) to have that game discounted from the number of Regular Season games played by that player's team for the purpose of calculating eligibility under Bylaw 5.21.1.</p>	01/06/18
1.14.3	<p>Insert</p>	01/06/18
7.3.2	<p>For any night games, where the host venue has a light curfew, the umpire shall call the game once the light curfew has been reached.</p>	
1.26.1	<p>Amend</p>	01/06/18
7.15.1	<p>The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the away team shall provide the base umpire. All umpires must be QBUA approved and hold at least <u>Community</u> Level 4-(green shirt) qualification.</p>	
1.30.5	<p>Amend</p> <p>The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:</p> <p>a) Friday night following the original scheduled day <u>for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final;</u> or</p> <p>b) Friday night following the original scheduled day for any Grand Final or Thursday night should the applicable Friday be Good Friday Thursday night preceding Easter for any Grand Final.</p>	01/06/18
1.30.7	<p>Amend</p> <p>In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw 6.19.6, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:</p> <p>a) highest competition standing; then</p> <p>b) head-to-head throughout the season.</p>	01/06/18

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Bylaw	Amendment	Date																								
	For a Grand Final consisting of the Northside premier and the Southside premier, the team finishing higher on the table when the competition ladders are combined will be awarded the premiership or, if equal, the premiership will be shared.																									
7.1.2	Amend Little League, Junior League and Senior League The Junior Competition will be governed by these Bylaws and the Little League Baseball® Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies ("Green Book") as currently endorsed by Little League International. Where these Bylaws are silent, the rules in the Green Book will apply. Where these Bylaws and the Green Book are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency. The relevant sections of the Green Book will be referred to where applicable.	01/06/18																								
7.1.3	Insert The Under 20 Competition will be governed by these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.	01/06/18																								
7.2.1	Amend Junior teams may consist of players from one Club or, with GBL Committee approval, multiple Clubs (for Bandits teams in the Junior Spring Competition, Clubs must be from within the same Charter).	01/06/18																								
0	Amend <u>Little League, Junior League and Senior League</u> In Regular Season games, where a team is leading as per the table ten (10) runs or more after the number of innings outlined below, the game shall be called as a complete game: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Length</th> <th>Runs and inning</th> <th>Runs and inning</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 20 – Bandits & Rams</td> <td>5 innings</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior League – Bandits & Rams</td> <td>5 innings 4 innings</td> <td>15 or more runs after</td> <td>10 or more runs after 5 innings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior League – Bandits & Rams</td> <td>5 innings 4 innings</td> <td>15 or more runs after</td> <td>10 or more runs after 5 innings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little League – Bandits & Rams</td> <td>4 innings 3 innings</td> <td>15 or more runs after</td> <td>10 or more runs after 4 innings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little League – Rams</td> <td>4 innings</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: Where the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed. *See Green Book Rule 4.10(e).</p>	Grade	Length	Runs and inning	Runs and inning	Under 20 – Bandits & Rams	5 innings			Senior League – Bandits & Rams	5 innings 4 innings	15 or more runs after	10 or more runs after 5 innings	Junior League – Bandits & Rams	5 innings 4 innings	15 or more runs after	10 or more runs after 5 innings	Little League – Bandits & Rams	4 innings 3 innings	15 or more runs after	10 or more runs after 4 innings	Little League – Rams	4 innings			01/06/18
Grade	Length	Runs and inning	Runs and inning																							
Under 20 – Bandits & Rams	5 innings																									
Senior League – Bandits & Rams	5 innings 4 innings	15 or more runs after	10 or more runs after 5 innings																							
Junior League – Bandits & Rams	5 innings 4 innings	15 or more runs after	10 or more runs after 5 innings																							
Little League – Bandits & Rams	4 innings 3 innings	15 or more runs after	10 or more runs after 4 innings																							
Little League – Rams	4 innings																									
7.6.1	Insert <u>Under 20</u> For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings then the game shall be called as a complete game. Where the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	01/06/18																								
7.8.4	Insert Players who have played the majority of their Regular Season games in a Bandits division team may not play in a Rams division team. Amend Teams may use the following players during the Regular Season (Substitute Players): a) players from the age-group immediately below (with <u>PONAG Playing Up</u> (Type 1) Consent, see Appendix A); and/or b) for <u>Bandits higher division</u> teams, players in the same age-group who have played the majority of their Regular Season games <u>(after Round 3) in a Rams lower division team;</u>	15/11/17 01/06/18																								

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	provided they are not played ahead of a player who usually plays in the team and who remains on the bench (except in the case of injury or ejection). Players who have played the majority of their Regular Season games (after Round 3) in a higher division team may not play in a lower division team. Players who have played an equal number of games (after Round 3) in two divisions may only play in the higher division.	
7.8.5	Amend Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, <u>a player may only participate in one team during the season (including the Finals Series) the Club may not exchange or alternate players among these teams in normal competition or during any final.</u> This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players.	01/06/18
7.8.10	Remove In Little League Rams, all players in the batting order may be given a defensive position. Only one player may occupy the catcher's position.	01/06/18
7.15.12	Amend After three (3) coaching visits to the pitcher in one inning, the umpire is to direct the pitcher to leave the game. However, if the coach approaches the umpire and moves the pitcher to another fielding position, the umpire is not required to direct the pitcher to leave the game. <u>A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than:</u> a) <u>three times in one game; and</u> b) <u>twice in one inning.</u> <u>Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game. Evaluating a player's condition after injury shall not be considered a visit for the purposes of this rule.</u> <u>*See Green Book Rule 8.06.</u>	01/06/18
7.20.1	Amend All Little League, Junior League and Senior League players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series games if they have played the majority of their Regular Season games with that team. <u>Players who have played an equal number of games in two divisions may only play in the higher division.</u>	01/06/18
7.21.8	Amend A catcher who plays the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day. <u>A single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning caught.</u>	01/06/18
7.23.1	Amend Base <u>Runners may not leave their bases until the pitch has been delivered and has reached the batter crosses the front of home plate. Should the umpire observe such an infringement, the runner is sent back to the base last legally occupied. If the pitch is hit into fair territory, the infringing runner is ruled out. All other plays resulting from that hit shall stand. Violation by one base runner shall affect all other base runners as follows:</u> a) <u>if the batter does not hit the ball and the runner is out, the out stands</u> b) <u>if the batter does not hit the ball and the runner advances, the runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made;</u> c) <u>if the batter hits the ball and the runner (or runners) are put out, the out(s) will stand;</u> d) <u>if the batter hits the ball and the runner advances, the runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made or the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left; or</u> e) <u>if the batter bunts, hits a ball within the infield or advances on an uncaught third strike, no run shall be allowed to score (i.e., the runners must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made or the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left. If loaded bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied except the runner who occupied third base who is removed without a run being scored or an out being charged).</u>	01/06/18

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

Bylaw	Amendment	Date
9.4	<i>Insert</i> JUDICIARY SUSPENSIONS Any player who plays in breach of a judiciary order is an illegal player for the purpose of these Bylaws.	01/06/18

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1.1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1.1 The GBL summer baseball competition is administered and managed by the GBL Competition Committee.
- 1.1.2 The GBL Competition Committee (GBL Committee) is a sub-committee of Baseball Queensland (BQ). The GBL committee operates through the auspices of the GBL Charter, a copy of which is available on the BQ website.
- 1.1.3 The objectives of the GBL Committee are:-
- To ensure that GBL competitions are conducted with the highest degree of integrity, fairness, transparency and common sense.
 - To provide a fair and balanced competition structure for all Grades of baseball within the GBL Competition
 - To provide suitable competition pathways for all players to reach their playing goals
 - To provide an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all participants
 - To maintain a safe playing environment for all participants.
- 1.1.4 All affiliated GBL clubs are bound by these Bylaws, BQ Policies and Codes of Conduct and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.
- 1.1.5 The Greater Brisbane Leagues (GBL) Summer Competition shall incorporate baseball played in both Junior and Senior Competitions in the Greater Brisbane Area during the Summer Season. The GBL is inclusive of clubs outside the Greater Brisbane Area wishing to affiliate.
- 1.1.6 The Greater Brisbane Area comprises an area bound by Noosa (North), Toowoomba (West) and Gold Coast (South).
- 1.1.7 Any matter of any kind whatsoever not dealt with or provided for in these Bylaws may be dealt with in such manner as the GBL Committee may deem fit.

1.2 COMMUNICATION

- 1.2.1 All communications to the GBL regarding or required by this document are to be forwarded to the Competition Administrator at the address shown in the following table:

Communication method	Address etc.
Address:	Office 1.11, Sportshouse 150 Caxton Street MILTON QLD 4064
Mail:	GBL Competition Administrator Baseball Queensland Inc. Office 1.11, Sportshouse 150 Caxton Street MILTON QLD 4064
Phone:	07 3876 2222
Facsimile:	07 3876 2122
Email:	gbl@baseballqueensland.com.au

- 1.2.2 Any notification forwarded by email shall be deemed to have been received by the addressee:
- on the date of transmission (if sent by 5.00 pm AEST); or

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

b) the following business day (if sent after 5.00 pm AEST).

All payments to GBL and/or BQ must be deposited electronically into BQ's account.

- 1.2.3 Where these Bylaws require communication from a Club Secretary, the Club President, Vice President or Treasurer (as listed on the Form N) may send the communication on their behalf. Clubs must advise the Competition Administrator of any person temporarily filling any of these positions if they are not listed on the Form N.

1.3 INTERPRETATIONS

- 1.3.1 In these Bylaws, unless contrary intention appears:

“**ABL**” means the Australian Baseball League.

“**BQ**” means Baseball Queensland Incorporated.

“**BQ Player**” means any player in a BQ Team.

“**BQ Team**” means a team nominated by BQ under Bylaw 1.5.1.

“**Calendar of Events**” means the schedule set out in Section 1.7.

“**Charter**” means a Regional Body of BQ.

“**Club**” means an incorporated club affiliated in accordance with these Bylaws.

“**Club President**” means the individual nominated as President of a Club on the Form N submitted to the GBL under Bylaw 1.4.3.

“**Club Secretary**” means the individual nominated as Secretary of a Club on the Form N submitted to the GBL under Bylaw 1.4.3.

“**Competition Administrator**” means the person or committee, appointed by the GBL Committee, responsible for the management of the GBL Competition via the implementation and enforcement of these Bylaws.

“**Finals Series**” means post-Regular Season games played to determine the winner of the season.

“**GBL**” means Greater Brisbane Leagues.

“**GBL Competition**” is defined in Bylaw 1.1.5.

“**GBL Committee**” means the Committee appointed by the Clubs responsible for the development of these Bylaws.

“**GBL Disputes Panel**” means the Panel described in Section 1.8.

“**Grand Final**” means the final game in the Finals Series.

“**Inclement Weather Contact**” means the individual nominated in accordance with Bylaw 3.4.2.

“**Junior Competition**” means Little League, Junior League, Senior League and U20 competitions comprising both the Junior Spring Competition and Junior Summer Competition.

“**Junior League**” means the competition run for the age-group specified in Bylaw 7.2.3.

“**Junior Player**” means any player eligible to play in Junior Competition in accordance with Bylaw 7.2.3.

“**League**” means a competition in the GBL Senior Competition, Junior Competition or Masters Competition comprising Regular Season games and Finals Series games.

“**Little League**” means the competition run for the age-group specified in Bylaw 7.2.3.

“**Little League®**” means a competition structure run in accordance with the rules of Little League Baseball® (aka the “Green Book”).

“**Masters Competition**” means all Leagues included in Part 6.

“**Masters Player**” means any player participating in the Masters Competition.

“**NCAS**” means Baseball Australia's National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

“**Preliminary Final**” means the second round final (where applicable), as per Bylaw 0.

“**QBS**” means Queensland Baseball Scorers

“**QBUA**” means Queensland Baseball Umpires Association Incorporated.

“**QBUA Appointments Officer**” means the individual named as the Appointments Officer on the QBUA website.

“**Regular Season**” means games played to determine if a team qualifies for the Finals Series.

“**Semi Final**” means the first round final, as per Bylaw 0.

“**Senior Competition**” means all Leagues included in Part 5.

“**Senior League**” means the competition run for the age-group specified in Bylaw 7.2.3.

“**Senior Player**” means any player in the GBL Senior Competition NOT eligible to play in the GBL Junior Competition.

“**Substitute Player**” is defined in Bylaw 7.8.4.

“**Summer Season**” means the period of time approximately comprising Term 4 and Term 1 of the Queensland school term.

“**Womens Competition**” means all Leagues included in Part 6.

“**Womens Player**” means any player participating in the Womens Competition.

- 1.3.2 Terms and rules not defined within this document shall take the same meaning as in the Official Baseball Rules or otherwise in the Macquarie Dictionary.

1.4 AFFILIATION

- 1.4.1 Applications from Clubs affiliating with BQ for the first time must include:

- a) a covering letter signed by the Club President or nominated head of the proposed organisation;
- b) a budget projection for the Club;
- c) a certified copy of the Certificate of Incorporation;
- d) a submission for approval of the Club's uniform colours, design and sponsorship logos; and
- e) a three (3) year Operation Plan.

- 1.4.2 Before Clubs can present players in any approved competition, they must obtain approval of the Club's uniform colours and design. Applications from Clubs renewing their affiliation must include the Club uniforms if they propose to change their authorised uniform colours, design or sponsorship logos. Clubs must also submit this if they wish to change their uniform or introduce new logos during the season. All Club sponsor logos should be restricted to the left sleeve of undershirts and/or playing tops.

- 1.4.3 Clubs wishing to re-affiliate for the coming season must meet the criteria listed below:

- a) the Club must provide a current Form N: Club Information Form and a covering letter requesting affiliation with the GBL signed by the Club President;
- b) the Club must show that they are working in accordance with a current Strategic Plan that is a living document and is updated on a regular basis;
- c) the Club must demonstrate that they have Governance Policies and Procedures in place including a succession plan for committee positions;
- d) the Club must produce an annual report and submit it to the Competition Administrator. The annual report must include an income and expenditure statement and a balance sheet that has been audited and submitted for Fair Trading in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*;
- e) the Club must incorporate strategies for junior recruitment and development into their Strategic Plan and assist in BQ recruitment and schools programs;

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- f) the Club facilities must comply with the Field Construction documents available on the BQ website and adhere to any directions given by BQ/GBL officials following any on-site check;
 - g) the Club must ensure that all players and volunteers (including scorers, umpires and coaches) are correctly registered on the approved database, meaning they are active and financial;
 - h) the Club must ensure that all relevant volunteers hold a current Blue Card in accordance with the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld);
 - i) all teams in the GBL Competition must have a coach with a minimum current Level 3 NCAS coaching accreditation; and
 - j) the Club must have a sufficient number of QBUA trained umpires appropriate to each level of competition with the appropriate uniforms.
- 1.4.4 The Competition Administrator shall review all affiliations, which shall be valid for the ensuing twelve (12) months.
- 1.4.5 The Competition Administrator may accept or reject any application for affiliation based on the criteria listed in Bylaws **1.4.1-1.4.3** above. The Competition Administrator may use its discretion to impose certain conditions in respect of a Club's application. These conditions may include the rejection of any Club officer or member.
- 1.4.6 The Competition Administrator may use its discretion to cancel or suspend the affiliation of any Club at any time.

1.5 TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 1.5.1 Clubs and/or BQ may nominate teams in any competition, subject to Bylaw **5.2.1** (Divisions 1 and 2). Nominations must be sent to the Competition Administrator in writing on the prescribed form – **Form TN** (available on the BQ website) - by the date stipulated in the Calendar of Events in Section **1.7**.
- 1.5.2 The GBL Committee may use its discretion to reject team nominations where a Club has insufficient registered players on the approved database to field the relevant team.
- 1.5.3 The GBL Committee shall determine the number of divisions and teams in each competition based on Club nominations.
- 1.5.4 The GBL Committee may use its discretion to promote or relegate any team before or during the season where it is appropriate to do so having regard to the competitiveness or structure of the relevant competition.
- 1.5.5 If teams are withdrawn after the date for Final Team Nominations stipulated in Section **1.7**, the Club will be penalised in accordance with Bylaw **1.11.2**.
- 1.5.6 The GBL Committee may use its discretion to accept or reject team nominations made after the date for Final Team Nominations stipulated in Section **1.7**.

1.6 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.6.1 All Clubs are to pay invoices issued by the GBL, BQ and/or the QBUA within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice, or they shall be deemed unfinancial.
- 1.6.2 Any Club that is unfinancial under this Section shall not continue to play in the competitions. Games scheduled during the unfinancial period shall be deemed to be a forfeit in favour of the opposing team.
- 1.6.3 Any Club that is unfinancial under this Section shall not receive trophies or awards until the Club becomes financial.

1.7 CALENDAR OF EVENTS – ADMINISTRATION

- 1.7.1 The following Calendar of Events nominates the key requirements for the administration of the League competitions. Timely completion and/or submission of these requirements by Clubs shall allow the GBL administration to develop and communicate specific details regarding the upcoming season in sufficient time for Clubs to recruit, register and nominate players and teams for the season.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Requirement	Date Required
Affiliation documents (Bylaw 1.4.1)	30 th June
Club Information Form (Form N)	30 th June
Costs of ground lights for night games (if applicable)	30 th June
Time of light curfew for night games (if applicable)	30 th June
Re-affiliation documents (Bylaw 1.4.3)	31 st July
Availability of grounds	17 th August
Senior Division 1 & 2 team nominations	17 th August
Expressions of interest for remaining teams	17 th August
Ground light audits (if applicable)	31 st August
Final Senior (Divisions 3 & below) team nominations	31 st August
Final Junior team nominations	31 st August
Hosting GBL finals games – Junior & Senior	end February
Hosting GBL Awards night	end February

1.8 GBL DISPUTES PANEL

- 1.8.1 The GBL Disputes Panel is established and administered by the GBL Committee.
- 1.8.2 The roles of the GBL Disputes Panel include:
- hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the GBL Bylaws;
 - making recommendations to the GBL Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests arising under the GBL Bylaws; and
 - providing advisory opinions on the GBL Bylaws.
- 1.8.3 The GBL Disputes Panel and the GBL Committee will abide by the *GBL Disputes Procedures* set out in Appendix B.
- 1.8.4 There is no right of appeal from a decision of the GBL Committee under the GBL Disputes Procedures.

1.9 DISPUTES (DISAGREEMENT WITH COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION)

- 1.9.1 A Club Secretary or President may refer a dispute relating to the administration of the competition and these Bylaws to the GBL Disputes Panel by completing and forwarding a GBL Dispute Form to the Competition Administrator.
- 1.9.2 The Club must pay a deposit of \$250.00 which will be refunded if the dispute is upheld or otherwise at the discretion of the GBL Disputes Panel if it is not considered frivolous or vexatious. The protest will not be heard until after a confirmation of transfer has been forwarded to the Competition Administrator.

1.10 PROTESTS (DISAGREEMENT WITH TECHNICAL GAME RULES)

- 1.10.1 During a game, any team head coach may protest a ruling associated with a game on the grounds that the ruling is contrary to the Official Baseball Rules and/or these Bylaws. At no time can a judgment decision be protested.
- 1.10.2 At the time the protest arises, the protesting head coach must advise the umpire-in-chief of the nature of the protest and:
- the umpire-in-chief must inform the scorers that the game is being played under protest;
 - the umpire-in-chief must inform the head coach of the opposing team of the nature of the protest; and

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- c) the scorers must record the time of the protest and the details of the protest on the game card and in the appropriate section of the scorebooks.
- 1.10.3 After the game, the protesting Club Secretary or President must email a GBL Dispute Form to the Competition Administrator no later than 4 pm on the next business day.
- 1.10.4 The Club must pay a deposit of \$250.00 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld or otherwise at the discretion of the GBL Disputes Panel if the dispute is not considered frivolous or vexatious. The protest will not be heard until after a confirmation of transfer has been forwarded to the Competition Administrator.
- 1.10.5 No protest pertaining to an umpire's technical game ruling (excluding game-ending plays) can be made after the game has been completed. All protests must be made at the time the play occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play.
- 1.10.6 Protests relating to game-ending plays or breaches which arise after completion of the game that are not recorded on the game card must be reported in accordance with Bylaw **1.10.3**.
- 1.10.7 The Competition Administrator shall refer the protest to the GBL Disputes Panel to be resolved as soon as practicable. If the above protest format is not followed then the protest may be dismissed.

NOTE: Official Baseball Rule 7.04 Protesting Games

Even if it is held that the protested decision violated the rules, no replay of the game will be ordered unless in the opinion of the [GBL] the violation adversely affected the protesting team's chances of winning the game.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1.11 BREACHES OF BYLAWS

- 1.11.1 The Competition Administrator shall forward to the relevant Club Secretary an invoice, or notification of penalty, for each breach incurred. The notification shall detail all breaches applicable.
- 1.11.2 Minimum penalties for breaches of these Bylaws are as follows (repeated or deliberate breaches of the Bylaws may be penalised at the discretion of the GBL Committee):

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Forfeiture of a game (Section 3.5)	1 st offence – loss of game*; 2 nd offence – loss of game* and \$50 per defaulting team plus umpiring fees; 3 rd offence – loss of game* and \$100 per defaulting team plus umpiring fees and the club must show cause why the team should not be removed from the competition.
Forfeiture of a game without one (1) business days' notice (Bylaw 3.5.1)	\$50.
Illegal player, including breach of player eligibility, registration and suspended player (Sections 2.1-2.7, 5.8, 5.21, 1.19, 1.31, 7.8, 7.20, 9.4)	\$50 per player and loss of game*.
Prohibited substances (Section 2.11)	\$200 per person and ejection.
Player out of uniform (Bylaw 4.4.1)	\$50 per player.
Non-return of game card within timeframe as required (Sections 2.10, 5.17, 1.28, 7.17)	1 st offence – A warning issued to the club; 2 nd offence – \$50.00 fine issued to the club; 3 rd and further offences – Home team forfeiture of game and \$50.00 fine to the club.
Failure to supply an umpire (Bylaws 5.15, 1.26, 7.15)	\$120 per umpire.
Supplying an umpire without the appropriate accreditation (Bylaws 5.15, 1.26, 7.15)	\$75 per umpire.
Breach of scoring requirements (Sections 2.8, 5.16, 1.27, 7.16)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$25; 3 rd or offences – \$50.
Failure to supply a coach with the appropriate accreditation (Bylaw 2.9.2)	\$75.
Breach of Blue Card requirements (Section 2.8)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence - \$25; 3 rd offence - \$50.
Breach of safety, grounds, field and equipment requirements (Part 4 & Sections 5.11, 5.13-5.14, 1.22, 1.24-1.25, 7.11-7.13, 7.14)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$50 3 rd and further offences – \$100

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Withdrawal of a team after date for Final Team Nominations (Section 1.7)	\$100 per junior team; \$200 per senior team.
Incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate game card (Sections 5.17, 5.18, 5.19)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$50; 3 rd and further offences – \$100
Knowingly failing to comply with a GBL Judiciary order (GBL Judiciary Procedures, s 88B)	\$500.

1.11.3 Penalties for breaches of Junior Competition specific Bylaws are as follows:

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Participation (including failure to adopt a continuous batting order) (Bylaws 7.9.3, 0)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game* if finals; 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game*.
Breach of PONAG requirements	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game* if finals; 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game*.
Pitching and/or catching rules (Section 7.21)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals*; 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game*.
The BQ Development Manager shall be notified of all breaches of pitching and/or catching rules	3 rd and further offences – \$200 and loss of game

1.11.4 *Where a penalty under this section is for loss of game, the score recorded shall be, in favour of the non-infringing team:

- a) 9-0; or
- b) the actual final score if the infringing team scores no runs and the non-infringing team scores more than nine (9) runs.

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

2. PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

2.1 PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1.1 To be eligible to participate in any game, Clubs and players must meet the conditions listed in Sections 2.3-2.7.

2.2 ABL PLAYERS

- 2.2.1 Any player who has played (i.e., participated as a batter, fielder, runner or pitcher) in an Australian Baseball League (ABL) Regular Series or Finals Series game, including Junior and/or “development” players, is not eligible to play in any Senior Competition division other than Division 1 during the same season.
- 2.2.2 Bylaw 2.2.1 applies only to GBL Senior Competition games occurring after that player has participated in an ABL game.
- 2.2.3 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 2.2.1 outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the lower division.

2.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 2.3.1 Each player must enter his or her details into the approved database. Clubs must ensure all players are registered on the approved database, including ABL players, and they are to be made active and financial before taking the field to train or play.
- 2.3.2 Players not registered in accordance with this Section are deemed to be not registered or insured and shall not take part in any GBL Competition.
- 2.3.3 Clubs must ensure and check that players register as follows:
- a) all Clubs must ensure that all players are registered with payment on the approved registration portal. Once the player registration is submitted and paid for online, players are deemed to be affiliated. No player can take part in any sanctioned GBL game until they are properly registered with the Club they intend to play for.
 - b) Clubs are to regularly review their active player list to ensure that it is accurate.

2.4 TRANSFERS AND CLEARANCES

- 2.4.1 Transfers between Clubs shall be granted only if application in writing is made to the Competition Administrator before the start of the season. Applications for transfers during the season may be granted by the GBL Committee taking into account any extenuating circumstances.
- 2.4.2 Unfinancial players shall not be eligible to transfer between Clubs and should not be granted a clearance by the losing club.
- 2.4.3 All transfer and clearance requirements must be fulfilled before a player can take the field.

2.5 MASTERS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS

- 2.5.1 Masters Players intending to participate in any Senior Competition must register on the approved database as a Senior Player. If a Masters Player who is not registered as a Senior Player participates in a Senior Competition game, the player will not be deemed ineligible but the Club will be invoiced the applicable fee to register that player accordingly.

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

2.6 JUNIORS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS

- 2.6.1 A Junior Player shall be eligible to play in Senior Competitions once they have reached the age of fifteen (15) years. The Club shall be responsible for ensuring a fifteen (15) year old is selected in any grade commensurate with the player's physical and technical abilities.
- 2.6.2 A Junior Player playing in Senior Competitions shall participate under the rules of that competition with the exception that junior pitching and catching restrictions prescribed under Junior Competitions continue to apply.

2.7 JUNIORS PLAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE CLUB

- 2.7.1 A Junior Player playing in a Senior Competition must do so with the Club with which that player is registered.
- 2.7.2 A Junior Player may make an application in writing to the Competition Administrator to play Division 1 for a different Club if their registered Club does not have a Division 1 team. The application must be accompanied by letters of support from both Clubs involved.

2.8 BASEBALL QUEESNLAND - STATE DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

- 2.8.1 BQ Teams may comprise any players registered in accordance with Section 2.3.
- 2.8.2 Where these Bylaws refer to Clubs, BQ has the same powers and obligations with respect to BQ Teams.

2.9 COACHES, UMPIRES AND SCORERS

- 2.9.1 Clubs must, on request, provide the Competition Administrator with contact details of all coaches, umpires and scorers. All coaches, umpires, scorers and other Club officials are to have the appropriate current accreditation and be in possession of a current Blue Card if they have minors in their teams, in accordance with the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld).
- 2.9.2 Every team must have at least one coach with a current Level 3 NCAS coaching accreditation during game play. If the coach is ejected or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game, they must be substituted by another coach with a current Level 3 NCAS who is also named on the game card.

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

2.10 SCORING POLICY

SCORING POLICY

- Game cards signed by both scorers (home and away teams) are required for **ALL GBL games – senior and junior.**
- Game cards must be submitted to the GBL Competition Administrator by 6.00 pm the following business day after the conclusion of the game. Game Cards should be scanned or photographed (please ensure photographed Game cards are clear and legible) and emailed within the required time frame.
- It is the responsibility of the Home team to submit the signed Game Card.
- Failure to submit Games Cards within the required time frame will result:
 - 1st Instance – A warning issued to the club
 - 2nd Instance - \$50.00 fine issued to the club
 - 3rd instance – Home team forfeiture of game and \$50.00 fine to the club.
- **All Division 1 games** must be scored using a scorebook by each scorer and an electronic scorer going live. A scorer can do both book and electronic device or have a data entry person on the electronic device who enters the plays once determined by the scorers.
- The GBL Competition Committee would like to see all Division 1 games scored live.
- For Division 1 games, electronic (such as Stat Crew or Game Changer) showing of games is **NOT** to replace a score book.
- **All other GBL games**, scoring can be done using a combination of electronic device and a scorebook. However, if only one scorer is using a book the (second) electronic scorer must make written notations in some form of what has happened in the game so as not to distract the book scorer if there has been an electronic scoring problem during the game.
 - The home scorer will be responsible for having a scorebook and must use the scorebook if both scorers wish to use an electronic device.
 - Both scorers at the end of the game must:
 - agree on the score
 - complete the Game Card in full
 - Sign to ensure both scorers agree with the information on the card
- It is the responsibility of the home team scorer to have sufficient blank Game Cards in order to record the game.
- Please note there is a new email address for all Game Cards – please email completed Game Cards to blgamecards@baseballqueensland.com.au

2.10.1 Requirements for the appropriate accreditation or competence of umpires and scorers for each of the individual Leagues are contained within the relevant Sections.

2.11 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

2.11.1 All tobacco and alcohol products are prohibited within the on-field confines of any baseball facility.

2.11.2 A person shall be ejected from a game and fined for smoking, consuming an alcoholic beverage or chewing/dipping of tobacco.

TOBACCO LAWS IN QUEENSLAND

From 1 September 2016, smoking is banned within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at organised under-18 sporting events. The ban also applies during training and at any intervals or breaks in play.

The coverage of the ban includes the sporting ground or playing area, the viewing area for a water sport, public seating at the grounds and any other area reserved for use by the competitors and the officials. This also includes a 10 metre non-smoking buffer zone from all of these locations.

An organised under-18 sporting event is one that is arranged in advance and is conducted by a professional or amateur sporting body or education institution according to established rules.

The smoking ban includes the use of all smoking products, including electronic cigarettes.

3 COMPETITIONS

3.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 3.1.1 The Competition Administrator shall conduct competitions in the Greater Brisbane Leagues (GBL) Summer Competition. These shall consist of Senior, Masters (35 years old and over) and Junior Competitions.
- 3.1.2 The GBL Committee shall determine the number of divisions in the Senior Competition and the Masters Competition.
- 3.1.3 The Junior Competition may include the following leagues with any number of divisions:
- Little League (Bandits and/or Rams);
 - Junior League (Bandits and/or Rams);
 - Senior League (Bandits and/or Rams); and
 - Under 20 (Bandits and/or Rams).
- Further divisions may be added at the GBL Committee's discretion.
- 3.1.4 Clubs must nominate teams for each level in which they wish to compete no later than the date advised in the Calendar of Events.
- 3.1.5 The GBL Committee may review the grading of teams throughout the season.

3.2 COMPETITION SCHEDULING

- 3.2.1 For the purpose of these Bylaws, scheduling and/or rescheduling fixtures includes determining or changing the time, date and/or location a game is played.
- 3.2.2 The Competition Administrator shall schedule fixtures for all GBL Competitions which shall be published on the GBL website.¹
- 3.2.3 The Competition Administrator may reschedule fixtures as needed at any time for any reason.
- 3.2.4 If the Competition Administrator reschedules a fixture, the amended fixture shall be published on the GBL website² and the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of the affected Clubs will be notified as soon as possible.
- 3.2.5 Where, under these Bylaws, a game must be rescheduled if it cannot be completed, the Competition Administrator may schedule a fixture at an alternative time, date and/or location pending the occurrence of some event (e.g., inclement weather).

3.3 RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- 3.3.1 Games that are incomplete or not played due to inclement weather or double forfeit shall, subject to Bylaws **3.3.3-3.3.4**, only be rescheduled if agreed between both teams involved.
- 3.3.2 The time and location of the game shall be agreed by both teams and details confirmed and sent to the Competition Administrator as follows:
- if rescheduled to a time on the same weekend as the scheduled game, the game card shall be sufficient notice; or
 - if rescheduled to a time following the weekend of the scheduled game, written notice by the Club Secretary from both Clubs must be provided within five (5) days of the game not being played.
- Once the details are agreed by both teams, all other Bylaws shall apply to the rescheduled game (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5**).

¹ Or the GBL portal on the BQ website.

² As above.

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- 3.3.3 Division 1 night games that are incomplete or not played shall be rescheduled and played as a suspended game or new game (respectively) as a double header on the following Sunday or as determined by the Competition Administrator. Once rescheduled, all other Bylaws shall apply to the rescheduled game.
- 3.3.4 All other Division 1 games that are incomplete or not played shall be rescheduled and played as a suspended game or new game (respectively) on the following Tuesday night at 7.30pm or as otherwise determined by the Competition Administrator. Should the Clubs agree to reschedule the game in accordance with Bylaws **3.3.1-3.3.2**, the home Club Secretary must apply in writing to the Competition Administrator at least one (1) day prior to the automatically rescheduled game. Requests to play the game more than two weeks after it was originally scheduled will be forwarded to the GBL Committee for consideration. Once rescheduled, all other Bylaws shall apply to the rescheduled game.
- 3.3.5 Any Club wishing to reschedule a game in advance must apply in writing to the Competition Administrator via the Club Secretary at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled game. The application should include the reasons for rescheduling and if the opposing team has agreed to the change. The Competition Administrator may reschedule the game at their discretion and may refer the matter to the GBL Committee. Once rescheduled, all other Bylaws shall apply to the rescheduled game.

3.4 INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 3.4.1 Inclement weather refers to wet weather, extreme heat, lightning or any other similar event that renders the playing facilities unsafe for play.
- 3.4.2 All Clubs must nominate an Inclement Weather Contact and their contact numbers shall be distributed to the Clubs.
- 3.4.3 If there is inclement weather on, or forecast for, the scheduled playing day:
- in advance**, the Competition Administrator may choose to cancel or reschedule some or all games. Should this occur, the Competition Administrator shall publish an update on the GBL website³ and notify the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of the affected Clubs as soon as possible.
 - on game day**, if the Competition Administrator has not made a decision in advance, decisions regarding play shall be made by the host Club's Secretary (or their nominee) in accordance with Bylaws **3.4.4-3.4.5**.
 - during a game**, decisions regarding play shall be made by the umpires, subject to Bylaw **3.4.5**.
- 3.4.4 In the case of wet weather, the host Club must inspect the grounds and if unplayable must abide by the following:
- notify the visiting Club's Inclement Weather Contact and the QBUA Appointments Officer (if applicable), not less than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled game start time where possible (or three (3) hours if the visiting Club is located more than seventy (70) km from the affected field); and
 - call off games one grade at a time, unless it is obvious that the ground is unplayable for the entire day.
- Once a game has commenced, if the umpires consider that play is unsafe due to the field condition or lightning, play shall be temporarily suspended immediately.
- 3.4.5 In the case of heat-affected weather, the home Club Secretary (or their nominee) must monitor, on a half-hourly basis, current temperatures at the field's location via the Bureau of Meteorology website (or phone app). The following will apply:
- Should the current temperature reach the following, play shall be suspended immediately:
 - 40° Celsius for Senior and Masters Competitions; or
 - 38° Celsius for Junior Competitions.
 - During play suspension, the temperature shall be monitored every 10 minutes. Play shall not resume until the temperature reaches the following:

³ Or the GBL portal on the BQ website.

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- i. 38° Celsius for Senior and Masters Competitions; or
 - ii. 36° Celsius for Junior Competitions.
- 3.4.6 A game shall be called off if there is a temporary suspension in play due to inclement weather for a continuous thirty (30) minute period unless the following applies:
 - a) where, after consultation with the grounds crew and team coaches, the umpire determines the ground will not be playable within the remaining time allowed, the game may be called off immediately; or
 - b) where the umpire determines there is a possibility of completing a regulation game within the remaining time allowed, the temporary suspension may be continued beyond thirty (30) minutes.
- 3.4.7 Any time in which there is a temporary suspension in play due to inclement weather is included in the overall time allowed for that game.
- 3.4.8 Any game halted due to inclement weather before becoming a regulation game shall be a suspended game if it is replayed.
- 3.4.9 Home team scorers must notify the Competition Administrator of games called off due to inclement weather by recording it on the game card or sending an email notification. Where a game commences but is halted due to inclement weather before it becomes a regulation game, scorers must still complete game cards and forward them to the Competition Administrator (for player eligibility and/or rescheduling purposes).
- 3.4.10 Clubs are encouraged to use social media to advise players from both teams of the relocation, cancellation or otherwise of any game.
- 3.4.11 If a Club fails to comply with this Section, the opposing team may submit a protest in accordance with Section 1.8.

3.5 FORFEITS AND LATE STARTS

- 3.5.1 A Club that is unable to field a team in a scheduled game must notify the opposing Club, the QBUA Appointments Officer (if applicable) and the Competition Administrator at least two (2) business days prior to the commencement of the scheduled game.
- 3.5.2 Where a team has less than the minimum number of players present at the scheduled start time for a game, the commencement of the game shall be deferred for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes. The umpire shall record the late start and the offending team on the game card. Any time in which play is delayed under this rule is included in the overall time allowed for that game.
- 3.5.3 If, at fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time or any time during the game, a team is unable to field the minimum number of players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win by forfeit. The umpire shall record the win as a forfeit on the game card awarding a score of 9-0.
- 3.5.4 If, at fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time or any time during the game, neither team is able to field the minimum number of players, both teams shall be awarded a loss and the score of 0-9 (unless the game is rescheduled under Bylaw 3.3.1). The umpire shall record the losses on the game card.
- 3.5.5 When a game is forfeited on game day but before commencement, the names of the players in attendance from the non-forfeiting team must be recorded in the game card. These players shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes. Where a game card is not completed (i.e. the team is advised of the forfeit before game day), the non-forfeiting team may submit a team roster of twelve (12) players to the Competition Administrator who will have that game counted towards their eligibility.
- 3.5.6 When a game is forfeited after commencement, all players named on the game card shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes.

3.6 COMPETITION RECORDS

- 3.6.1 The Competition Administrator shall keep accurate records of the following:
 - a) results and participation of all games in the competitions;

- b) all protests and reports recorded on game cards;
- c) all cautions and ejections, as recorded on game cards by umpires;
- d) all points/percentages allocated to each team according to the provisions of these Bylaws; and
- e) other information as required.

3.7 PERCENTAGE LADDERS

- 3.7.1 The Competition Administrator shall maintain a percentage ladder for each grade, in competition management on the GBL website,⁴ stating:
- a) the name of every team in that grade;
 - b) the number of games played by each team; and
 - c) the number of wins, losses and draws for each team.
- 3.7.2 Clubs wishing to contest any content in the percentage tables must forward written objections to the Competition Administrator via the Club Secretary. The objection must contain grounds for dispute and include relevant evidence (e.g. copy of scorebooks, game cards etc.).
- 3.7.3 All competition ladder and finals positions shall be ranked by WIN percentage, as follows:
- WIN Percentage = Total Wins + Draws (Half) / Total Games Played**
- 3.7.4 Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.
- 3.7.5 Where two or more teams are equally ranked with the same WIN percentage, the Competition Administrator shall allocate places using the following criteria:
- a) "Head-to-Head" for the teams for the season; then
 - b) runs against, head-to-head, for the season; then
 - c) runs against overall for the season; then
 - d) at the GBL Committee's discretion, giving reasons.
- 3.7.6 Where it is not possible to maintain a percentage ladder, a ladder based on points will be maintained.

3.8 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 3.8.1 Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals shall be scheduled as determined by the Competition Administrator and published in the schedule of fixtures, or elsewhere.
- 3.8.2 Clubs shall be asked for expressions of interest to host the finals games and host venues shall be subsequently decided by the GBL Committee.
- 3.8.3 The team designated as the home team for the Finals Series shall be:
- a) for the Semi Final and Preliminary Final, the team finishing higher on the table at the end of the Regular Season; and
 - b) for the Grand Final:
 - i. where a Major Semi Final is played, the winner of the Major Semi Final;
 - ii. where Northside and Southside Finals are played, the team finishing higher on the table when the competition ladders are combined; or
 - iii. otherwise the team finishing higher on the table at the end of the Regular Season.

The team designated as the home team for the Finals Series may determine the home dugout.

⁴ Or the GBL portal on the BQ website.

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3.8.4 Where possible and as time permits, the preferable Finals Series is:

Standard Competitions	Home Team v Away Team	Result
Major Semi Final (SF1)	Team 1 v Team 2	Winner to GF, Loser to PF
Minor Semi Final (SF2)	Team 3 v Team 4	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
Preliminary Final (PF)	Loser SF1 v Winner SF2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
Grand Final (GF)	Winner SF1 v Winner PF	
North/South Competitions	Home Team v Away Team	Result
Northside Semi Final 1 (NSF1)	Team 1 (N) v Team 4 (N)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
Northside Semi Final 2 (NSF2)	Team 2 (N) v Team 3 (N)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
Southside Semi Final 2 (SSF2)	Team 1 (S) v Team 4 (S)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
Southside Semi Final 2 (SSF2)	Team 2 (S) v Team 3 (S)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
Northside Preliminary Final (NPF)	Winner NSF1 v Winner NSF2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
Southside Preliminary Final (SPF)	Winner SSF1 v Winner SSF2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
Grand Final (GF)	Winner NPF v Winner SPF	

3.8.5 GBL and/or BQ shall meet the costs for Grand Finals (i.e., baseballs, umpires and lights) and shall notify the Clubs involved of the arrangements for other finals.

3.9 TROPHIES & AWARDS

3.9.1 The GBL shall present the following trophies/awards at the conclusion of the GBL Summer Season:

Trophy / Award	Eligible Teams / Grades / Individuals
CLUB AWARDS	
Senior Club of the Year	All GBL Clubs
Junior Club of the Year	All GBL Clubs
TEAM AWARDS	
Championship Trophy	All Grades in all Leagues
Runner Up Trophy	All Grades in all Leagues
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS	
MVP Award	All Grades from Little League to Senior Division 2
Batting Award	Division 1
Pitching Award	Division 1
David Nilsson Medal (MVP)	Division 1
MVP (Final Series)	Division 1
GBL Volunteer of the Year	Nominated by Clubs

GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

4 GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

4.1 GROUNDS/FIELDS

- 4.1.1 All nominated fields must be available for the commencement of the competition, unless GBL grants an exemption.
- 4.1.2 Clubs must fully and accurately mark fields for every game to the satisfaction of the umpire. Marking must be to the correct dimensions as per the Official Baseball Rules. Markings must include at least base paths, foul lines, and batting boxes.
- 4.1.3 Clubs must keep all grounds/fields in a clean and tidy condition at all times. Grounds must be free from dangerous objects and all other obstacles likely to cause injury to players, officials and visitors. Ground Marshals shall carry out inspections prior to the commencement of games for the day.
- 4.1.4 Clubs must maintain all fields to GBL approved standards. A GBL official may inspect a Club's fields at any time. The official may direct the Club to rectify its fields and may prohibit games on those grounds until satisfied with the rectification.
- 4.1.5 The host Club must provide adequate toilet facilities at their ground. The Club must open these facilities during all games at that ground. Clubs must keep these facilities in a clean and hygienic condition in compliance with local government regulations.
- 4.1.6 All grounds must have a properly enclosed playing field and home run fence.
- 4.1.7 All benches/dugouts constructed within a permanent baseball field require protection or screening to protect players from the field of play and weather.
- 4.1.8 The host Club must provide an umpires' change room for the sole use of the umpires for the periods sixty (60) minutes before any game and thirty (30) minutes after any game.
- 4.1.9 The host Club should open a canteen during all games played at their ground. The canteen should provide hot and cold drinks and a variety of food items available for purchase during all games played at the ground. If a canteen cannot be open during games, the host Club should advise the visiting Clubs and allow them to bring their own food and drinks. Consistent failure to provide adequate canteen facilities may result in no future home games for that Club.
- 4.1.10 Clubs must not sell beverages of any type in glass containers.
- 4.1.11 Visiting teams and supporters must not bring alcohol to a host Club's ground.
- 4.1.12 The host Club shall provide a clearly defined dugout, seating and shade cover for both teams, and seating and shade cover for scorers.
- 4.1.13 Clubs hosting finals are required to have a groundsman on site to maintain the field throughout the day.
- 4.1.14 Host Clubs are required to provide wet weather ground covers for the pitcher's mound and the home plate area.
- 4.1.15 Host Clubs are to provide a telephone for emergency contacts, an adequate first aid kit and ice for injuries. These items must be located in close proximity to the playing field.

4.2 THE PLAYING FIELD

- 4.2.1 Playing fields for the various age groups shall comply with the following minimum requirements.

Age Group	Base paths	Pitch distance	Centrefield distance	Bases
Little League	60 ft.	46 ft.	225 ft.	Removable or Breakaway Hollywood
Junior League	80 ft.	54 ft.	300 ft.	Permanent
Senior League	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent
Under 20	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent

GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Age Group	Base paths	Pitch distance	Centrefield distance	Bases
Senior/Masters/ Women	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent

- 4.2.2 All Little League and Junior League games must have an age specific outfield perimeter of some description. Even where fields are fully enclosed but the existing fence line exceeds age specific requirements, temporary age specific perimeters must be deployed (e.g., cones or markers that are clearly seen from home plate).
- 4.2.3 Any batted ball, declared fair, that bounces prior to leaving the field of play, will be ruled a ground rule double. If markers are used to identify the perimeter, the base of the markers forms the limit of the field of play.
- 4.2.4 Should a base be pegged to the ground (i.e., removable), it is to be done with safety as the prime concern. Pegs must be driven entirely into the ground with the buckles under the centre of the base.

4.3 NIGHT GAMES - LIGHTS

- 4.3.1 All Clubs intending to host night games must arrange a ground light audit and submit it to the Competition Administrator in accordance with Bylaw **1.7.1**. Lights must be compliant with Standards Australia (1994) *Guide to sports lighting Part 2.6: Specific recommendations — Baseball and softball* (AS 2560.2.6:1994).
- 4.3.2 All Clubs hosting night games must advise the Competition Administrator of the following in writing via the Club Secretary:
- the costs of the lights to conduct night games (generally for Division 1) for a minimum period of three (3) hours;
 - the cost of the lights to conduct night games (generally for Masters Competition) for a minimum period of two (2) hours;
 - whether a ground curfew exists and if so, the time the curfew commences.

NOTE: The cost of lights is to be shared equally between Clubs participating in the respective game. Information regarding curfews is to be submitted at the same time teams are submitted.

4.4 UNIFORMS

- 4.4.1 All players, senior coaches and Junior League, Senior League and Under 20 coaches must wear full Club playing uniform as per the Official Baseball Rules. Newly registered players have a maximum of three (3) weeks to obtain the correct uniform. However, Division 1 and Division 2 players must present in full uniform at all times.
- 4.4.2 Coaches of other junior teams must wear at least a Club shirt, Club cap and enclosed shoes.
- 4.4.3 Each coach and at least the umpire-in-chief officiating in a game shall enforce the uniforms rules by making a note of any infringements on the game card.
- 4.4.4 Sponsorship signage on uniforms is permitted. Anything resembling a baseball is prohibited. All sponsors names, size and placement of the signage must be endorsed by the Competition Administrator.

SENIOR COMPETITION

5 SENIOR COMPETITION

5.1 PREAMBLE

5.1.1 This Part outlines the Bylaws applicable to the Senior Competition.

5.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS: DIVISIONS 1 & 2

5.2.1 To play in Divisions 1 and 2, Clubs and/or BQ must enter teams into both divisions, either as a single Club or by combining with one other Club (“Combined Club Entry”).

5.2.2 Teams from a Combined Club Entry may consist of players from both Clubs. Players and coaching staff in each team must wear the same uniform throughout the season (but each team’s uniform may be different).

5.2.3 Where an odd number of teams nominate for Divisions 1 and 2, the GBL Committee may allow a single Division 1 or Division 2 team nomination in order to avoid a bye in either division.

5.3 GAME DURATION

5.3.1 Game lengths for Senior Competition games shall be:

Grade	Length
Division 1 – single game	9 innings (no time limit, played to a result)
Division 1 – double header	7 innings (no time limit, played to a result)
Division 1 – night game*	9 innings or 2.5 hours, played to a result
Division 2	9 innings or 2.5 hours
Division 2 – prior to Division 1 double header	9 innings or 2 hours
Division 3	9 innings or 2 hours
Division 4	9 innings or 2 hours
Division 5 and lower	9 innings or 2 hours

Note 1: Where two time measures are stipulated, the game length shall be whichever comes first.
Note 2: Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first.
Note 3: The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.

*See Bylaws **0-5.3.3** below

5.3.2 For Division 1 night games, the umpire shall call the game when the game length is reached, so long as a regulation game (Section **5.5**) has been played and a result has been reached (subject to Bylaw **5.3.3**).

5.3.3 Where the host venue has a light curfew, the umpire shall call the game once the light curfew has been reached. Division 1 night games that are not regulation games (Section **5.5**) or remain tied when the game is called under this Bylaw shall be a suspended game and rescheduled in accordance with Bylaw **3.3.3**.

5.3.4 If an umpire deems play to be unsafe due to a lack of light, and suitable lights are available at the field, the game shall be completed under lights.

5.3.5 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning after the time limit has expired. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.

5.3.6 The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

SENIOR COMPETITION

5.4 RUN LIMITATION

- 5.4.1 In Divisions 4 and lower, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first three (3) innings.

5.5 REGULATION GAME

- 5.5.1 In the event of inclement weather or light curfew affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a regulation game:

Grade	Length
Division 1	5 innings – all games must be played to a result
Division 2	5 innings
Division 3	3 innings
Division 4	3 innings
Division 5 and lower	3 innings

Note: Where the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

- 5.5.2 A game of fewer than the respective minimum number of innings shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section 3.3.

5.6 TEN (10) RUN RULE

- 5.6.1 For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after the number of innings outlined below, then the game shall be called as a complete game:

Grade	Innings
Division 1 – single game	7 innings
Division 1 – double header	5 innings
Division 2	7 innings
Division 2 – prior to Division 1 double header	5 innings
Division 3	5 innings
Division 4	5 innings
Division 5 and lower	5 innings

Note: Where the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

5.7 SPEED UP POLICY

- 5.7.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.
- 5.7.2 Should either team take longer than ninety (90) seconds from the third out to the pitcher being told to "play" then penalties may apply. If the batting team is at fault, a strike shall be called and if the fielding team is at fault then a ball shall be called. This should happen only after a warning is given in the first instance.

SENIOR COMPETITION

5.8 PLAYERS

- 5.8.1 All teams shall field nine (9) players, subject to Bylaw **5.8.2**.
- 5.8.2 In all grades except Division 1, games may commence and continue with a minimum of eight (8) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with eight players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.
- 5.8.3 If any team has less than the minimum required number of players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 5.8.4 Players aged eighteen (18), nineteen (19) or twenty (20) years that pitch more than twenty (20) innings in Division 1 cannot pitch in the Under 20 competition.
- 5.8.5 Division 1 defensive starting teams shall consist of nine (9) players who have not taken part in any Senior Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of the second game in a double header.
- 5.8.6 In all grades except Division 1, defensive starting teams shall consist of seven (7) players who have not taken part in any Senior Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of the second game in a double header.
- 5.8.7 The starting defensive players in Bylaws **5.8.5** and **5.8.6** must play no fewer than three (3) complete innings of the game. Only the pitcher or an injured player can be replaced from the bench in the first three (3) innings.
- 5.8.8 A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate grades on the same day.
- 5.8.9 No player may play more than two (2) games in the same day. The player will be considered an illegal player in any game played after the first two (2).
- 5.8.10 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter). Players listed on the game card shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- 5.8.11 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only participate in one team during the season (including the Finals Series).
- 5.8.12 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **5.8.11** outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

5.9 DESIGNATED HITTER/10 BATTER RULE

- 5.9.1 A player may participate as a fielder in any division and participate as a designated hitter in a higher division on the same day.
- 5.9.2 A player may not participate as a designated hitter in a division and participate as a fielder in a higher division on the same day.
- 5.9.3 The designated hitter shall not be counted as a starting defensive player.
- 5.9.4 Divisions 3 and lower may use a ten (10) player batting order if they have ten (10) or more players available at the discretion of each team's coach. If a coach elects to use a ten (10) player batting order at the beginning of the game, it may only be reduced where a player is ejected, injured or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no other players available to replace them.

SENIOR COMPETITION

5.10 COURTESY RUNNER

- 5.10.1 Division 1 & 2 only may use a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are one (1) or more outs. The courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.
- 5.10.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 5.10.3 Only a courtesy runner who has played in the field or batted in the line-up shall be considered a player in relation to Bylaw **5.8.10** above. No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

5.11 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 5.11.1 Any bat boy or girl under the age of eighteen (18) must be a minimum of eight (8) years old and must wear a two-eared helmet at all times.
- 5.11.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.
- 5.11.3 Junior Players must wear full protective equipment at all times when catching or warming up a pitcher including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup. Senior Players and coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask and protective cup.
- 5.11.4 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two-eared helmets.
- 5.11.5 Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under eighteen (18) years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches eighteen (18) years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.
- 5.11.6 All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

5.12 INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 5.12.1 If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to less than nine (9) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.
- 5.12.2 Scorers must record on the official game card details of players injured in a game. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a Statutory Declaration to the Competition Administrator within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred via the Club Secretary. The player shall then be recorded on the disabled list.
- 5.12.3 Players who are injured outside the field of play (e.g. work injuries, training etc.) must forward a suitable medical certificate via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator to be eligible for the disabled list within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred.
- 5.12.4 Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals (within the grade in which they played the majority of games at the time of injury, or the lower grade if it is even).
- 5.12.5 The Competition Administrator may accept medical certificates or Statutory Declarations forwarded after the time limits stipulated in this section where deemed fair and appropriate to do so.

5.13 BATS

- 5.13.1 All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.02.
- 5.13.2 Divisions 1 and 2 shall use wood, wood composite or wood laminate bats only.
- 5.13.3 All other Divisions shall comply with the following:
 - a) it shall not be more than thirty-six (36) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths ($2\frac{5}{8}$) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch or bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part.
 - b) the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three (3) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a thirty-three (33) inch-long bat cannot weigh less than thirty (30) ounces).

SENIOR COMPETITION

- c) all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half (1/2) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
- d) aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one & a half inch (1 1/2) on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
- e) cracked, dented or otherwise damaged or deformed bats are not permitted. Any metal/alloy bat that does not clearly have the barrel composition marked on it by the manufacturer is not permitted.

5.13.4 Female players in Divisions 3 and below shall use bats as described in Bylaw 5.13.3 except the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than five (5) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than twenty-eight (28) ounces).

5.14 GAME BALLS

- 5.14.1 The home team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.
- 5.14.2 Teams must supply only those balls approved by the Competition Administrator and meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.01.
- 5.14.3 In Division 1 and 2, the home team shall provide four (4) new balls and have balls in reserve (suitable for game play).
- 5.14.4 In all other divisions, the home team shall provide two (2) new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.
- 5.14.5 In all grades, the umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

5.15 UMPIRES

5.15.1 The home team shall provide both plate and base umpires who must have a minimum QBUA qualification as follows:

Grade	Accreditation
Division 1	Association Level (yellow shirt)
Division 2	Association Level (yellow shirt)
Division 3	Community Level (green shirt)
Division 4	Community Level (green shirt)
Division 5	Community Level (green shirt)
Note: The home team shall only provide umpires for games where QBUA umpires have not been appointed	

- 5.15.2 For all grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 5.15.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 5.15.4 Umpires must be suitably dressed, in the QBUA approved shirt. Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and, in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective equipment.
- 5.15.5 At the end of each game, the umpire-in-chief shall complete and sign the official game cards and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.

SENIOR COMPETITION

- 5.15.6 All participating umpires must complete a GBL Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *GBL Judiciary Procedures*).
- 5.15.7 The umpire shall eject any player or official found using any tobacco or alcohol products, or any illicit drugs during a game. This includes any player or official in uniform anywhere within the boundaries of the playing facility.
- 5.15.8 If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach shall be ejected from the game with the player. The coach shall be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game.
- 5.15.9 Ejected players must complete an Incident Report and submit it via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the business day following the game.
- 5.15.10 A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than once per inning. Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game.

5.16 SCORERS (see Section 2.10)

Each team shall have its own competent scorer using the Official Baseball scorebook. It is recommended that every scorer holds a minimum accreditation as follows:

Grade	Accreditation
Division 1	CABS Level 2
Division 2	CABS Level 1
Division 3	CABS Level 0
Division 4	CABS Level 0
Division 5	CABS Level 0

- 5.16.1 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in the scorebook.
- 5.16.2 The Electronic scoring device may be used as an alternative to a scorebook, provided at least one scorer completes a scorebook. If both scorers want to use Electronic scoring device, the home team scorer must ensure a scorebook is also completed.
- 5.16.3 At the completion of the game, each home team scorer shall present the official game card to the umpire-in-chief for checking, signing and return to the scorer. All injuries must be annotated on the card with all sections and columns completed. This includes juniors playing up, MVP, fielding position, time in/out, pitches, innings caught.
- 5.16.4 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
 - a) an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - b) a blank game card for the relevant division;
 - c) a copy of these GBL Bylaws;
 - d) a scorebook; and
 - e) appropriate stationery.

SENIOR COMPETITION

5.17 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 5.17.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.
- 5.17.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
- game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - team coaches' names are printed in the appropriate place on the card;
 - all accreditation levels are recorded;
 - umpires-in-chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card; and
 - all names are spelt correctly.
- 5.17.3 The home Club shall ensure that they forward the game cards to the Competition Administrator no later than the business day following the game by email (ensure the scanned card is legible – use black pen and print in block letters).

5.18 POINTS

- 5.18.1 Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:
- if a game is played, percentages shall be awarded even where some or all of the other games in that grade in that round are washed out; and
 - all competitions are by winning percentage, with half the points of a win given for a tie.
- 5.18.2 MVP votes are allocated by the umpire-in-chief immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card. Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, and 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.

5.19 SENIOR PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 5.19.1 This Section applies to all Senior Grades excluding Division 1 (see Section **5.20**).
- 5.19.2 The Competition Administrator shall determine where and when Finals Series games are played. Generally, games will be played at the same day and time as Regular Season games, with the weeknights following available for games that require rescheduling.
- 5.19.3 All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaws **5.3**, **5.5**) but played to a result.
- 5.19.4 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Bylaws **5.19.4-5.19.7**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5**).
- 5.19.5 The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
- Wednesday night following the original scheduled day for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final; or
 - Thursday night preceding Easter for any Grand Final.
- 5.19.6 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 5.19.7 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **5.19.5**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
- head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
 - highest competition standing; then
 - head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).

SENIOR COMPETITION

For a Grand Final consisting of the Northside premier and the Southside premier, the team finishing higher on the table when the competition ladders are combined will be awarded the premiership or, if equal, the premiership will be shared.

5.20 DIVISION 1 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 5.20.1 This Section applies to Division 1 only.
- 5.20.2 The Competition Administrator shall determine where and when Finals Series games are played. Generally, games will be played at the same day and time as Regular Season games, with the weeknights following available for Game 3 (if required) or games that require rescheduling.
- 5.20.3 All Division 1 Finals Series games shall be played over a best of three (3) games series. The highest placed team shall be the home team for the first game, the away team for the second game, and the home team for the third game (if required).
- 5.20.4 All Division 1 Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaws 5.3, 5.5), except double headers (if applicable) shall be nine (9) innings and played to a result.
- 5.20.5 In the event of inclement weather affecting Semi Final or Preliminary Final Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Bylaws 5.20.7-5.20.8. Games once scheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section 3.5).
- 5.20.6 In the event of inclement weather affecting Grand Final Series games, the Competition Administrator shall reschedule the games subject to Bylaw 5.20.7. To avoid any doubt, there is no time limit by which Grand Finals Series games must be rescheduled.
- 5.20.7 The latest possible time for rescheduling any Semi Final or Preliminary Final Series games shall be Wednesday night following the original scheduled days for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final Series.
- 5.20.8 In the event a Semi Final or Preliminary Final Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw 5.20.7, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
 - a) head-to-head throughout the entire Finals Series; then
 - b) highest competition standing; then
 - c) head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).

5.21 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 5.21.1 Subject to Bylaws 5.21.2-5.21.5, Senior Players are eligible for participation in a particular division for Finals Series where they have either:
 - a) participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games played by that team; or
 - b) participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games in a team at the same Club but in a lower division.
- 5.21.2 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 5.21.1 if an exemption under Bylaw 5.8.12 has already been granted. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- 5.21.3 Where a player cannot participate in a Regular Season game due to participation as a player in the ABL, the Club may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator with relevant evidence (e.g., team roster) to have that game discounted from the number of Regular Season games played by that player's team for the purpose of calculating eligibility under Bylaw 5.21.1.

EXAMPLE: A player participates in 9 GBL Division 1 games during the season. They are unable to participate in 12 other GBL games due to participation in the ABL. The Division 1 team plays 36 games. The player's eligibility is calculated as follows: $9 / (36 - 12) = 0.375$ (37.5%). The player is therefore eligible for Division 1 finals.

SENIOR COMPETITION

- 5.21.4 The lowest division that a player can participate in a Finals Series is the division in which the player has played the majority of their Regular Season games a percentage of games played by that team. Where a player has played an equal percentage, they qualify for the higher of the two divisions.

EXAMPLE: A player who plays 20 games in Division 1 when the team has played 40 games has a participation percentage of 50%. The same player who plays 15 games in Division 2 when the team has played 20 games has a participation percentage of 75%. Therefore this player would be eligible for Division 2 and Division 1 because, in this case, the majority of games as a percentage have been played in Division 2.

- 5.21.5 Masters Players who are not registered Senior Players (i.e., have not played any Regular Season Senior Competition games) and Junior Players eligible to play under Bylaw 2.6 are permitted to play in any division for Finals Series games (without meeting minimum participation) provided they have qualified as per Bylaw 0. However, where a player under this Bylaw has not met the minimum participation stipulated in Bylaw 5.21.1, they may not be played ahead of a player who has met the minimum participation requirements and remains on the bench except in the case of injury or ejection. They may not participate as a designated hitter or extra hitter.

EXAMPLE 1: A Junior Player plays four games in Division 3 (the team has played 20 – 20%) and two games in Division 4 (the team has played 20 – 10%) throughout the season. While they do not qualify under 5.21.1, they can play under this rule, but only Division 3 or higher and only where the team is unable to field nine players who have qualified under 5.21.1.
EXAMPLE 2: A Masters Player has not played in any Senior Competition games during the season. That player may play in any division at their club for Finals Series game but only where the team is unable to field nine players who have qualified under 5.21.1.

- 5.21.6 Masters Players who participate in Finals Series games under Bylaw 5.21.5 are exempt from registering as a Senior Player as required by Bylaw 2.5.1.
- 5.21.7 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.
- 5.21.8 In respect of forfeits, refer to Section 3.5.

MASTERS COMPETITION

6 MASTERS COMPETITION

1.12 PREAMBLE

1.12.1 This Part outlines the Bylaws applicable to the Masters Competition.

1.13 TEAM NOMINATIONS

1.13.1 Teams must consist of players aged thirty-five (35) years and older. All players are permitted to play in this League upon reaching their thirty-fifth birthday and registering as a Masters player on the approved database.

1.14 GAME DURATION

- 1.14.1 All Masters Competition games are nine (9) innings or one and a half (1.5) hours, whichever comes first.
- 1.14.2 For any night games, where the host venue has a light curfew, the umpire shall call the game once the light curfew has been reached.
- 1.14.3 Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first. The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.
- 1.14.4 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning after the time limit has expired. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- 1.14.5 The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

1.15 RUN LIMITATION

1.15.1 The maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first two (2) innings.

1.16 REGULATION GAME

- 1.16.1 In the event of inclement weather or light curfew affecting game duration, two (2) innings shall constitute a regulation game (1.5 if the home team is ahead). [See Bylaw **1.30.3** for Grand Finals]
- 1.16.2 A game of fewer than the respective minimum number of innings shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section **3.3**.

1.17 TEN (10) RUN RULE

1.17.1 For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings then the game shall be called as a complete game. Where the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

1.18 SPEED UP POLICY

- 1.18.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to move quickly to positions.
- 1.18.2 Should either team take longer than ninety (90) seconds from the third out to the pitcher being told to "play" then penalties may apply. If the batting team is at fault, a strike shall be called and if the fielding team is at fault then a ball shall be called. This should happen only after a warning is given in the first instance.

MASTERS COMPETITION

1.19 PLAYERS

- 1.19.1 Games may commence and continue with a minimum of eight (8) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with eight players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.
- 1.19.2 If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 1.19.3 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter). Players listed on the game card shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- 1.19.4 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only participate in one team during the season (including the Finals Series).
- 1.19.5 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **1.19.4** outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

1.20 DESIGNATED HITTER / 10 BATTER RULE

- 1.20.1 Teams in Masters Competition may use a designated hitter. However, the game pitcher may be substituted to bat or run for any player, but at that point the designated hitter rule terminates.
- 1.20.2 The designated hitter shall not be eligible for Most Valuable Player votes.
- 1.20.3 In Masters Competition games, teams may use a ten (10) player batting order if they have ten (10) or more players available at the discretion of each team's coach. If a coach elects to use a ten (10) batter order at the beginning of the game, it may only be reduced where a player is ejected, injured or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no other players available to replace them.

1.21 COURTESY RUNNER

- 1.21.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are one (1) or more outs. The courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.
- 1.21.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 1.21.3 Only a courtesy runner who has played in the field or batted in the line-up shall be considered a player in relation to Bylaw **1.19.3** above. No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.
- 1.21.4 A runner who replaces a player who is injured or unable to run shall not be permitted to steal bases. Any runner who does so shall be called out.

1.22 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 1.22.1 Any bat boy or girl under the age of eighteen (18) must be a minimum of eight (8) years old and must wear a two-eared helmet at all times.
- 1.22.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.
- 1.22.3 Junior Players must wear full protective equipment at all times when catching or warming up a pitcher including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup. Senior Players and Coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask.
- 1.22.4 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets.
- 1.22.5 Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under eighteen (18) years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches eighteen (18) years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.
- 1.22.6 All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

MASTERS COMPETITION

1.23 INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 1.23.1 If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to less than nine (9) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.
- 1.23.2 Scorers must record on the official game card details of players injured in a game. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a Statutory Declaration to the Competition Administrator within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred via the Club Secretary. The player shall then be recorded on the disabled list.
- 1.23.3 Players who are injured outside the field of play (e.g. work injuries, training etc.) must forward a suitable medical certificate via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator to be eligible for the disabled list within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred.
- 1.23.4 Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals.
- 1.23.5 The Competition Administrator may accept medical certificates or Statutory Declarations forwarded after the time limits stipulated in this section where deemed fair and appropriate to do so.

1.24 BATS

- 1.24.1 All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02.
- 1.24.2 All bats used in Masters Competitions shall comply with the following:
 - a) it shall not be more than thirty-six (36) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths ($2\frac{5}{8}$) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch for bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part.
 - b) it shall not weigh, numerically, more than three (3) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than thirty (30) ounces).
 - c) if not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - d) aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one and a half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - e) cracked, dented or otherwise damaged or deformed bats are not permitted. Any metal/alloy bat that does not clearly have the barrel composition marked on it by the manufacturer is not permitted.
- 1.24.3 Females shall use bats as described in Bylaw **1.24.2** except the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than five (5) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than twenty-eight (28) ounces).

1.25 GAME BALLS

- 1.25.1 The home team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.
- 1.25.2 Teams must supply only those balls approved by the Competition Administrator and meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.01.
- 1.25.3 In all Masters Competition grades, the home team shall provide two (2) new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.
- 1.25.4 In all grades, the umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

MASTERS COMPETITION

1.26 UMPIRES

- 1.26.1 The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the away team shall provide the base umpire. All umpires must be QBUA approved and hold at least Community Level (green shirt) qualification.
- 1.26.2 For all Grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 1.26.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 1.26.4 Umpires must be suitably dressed, in the QBUA approved shirt. Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and, in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective equipment. Umpires are not permitted to wear club playing uniforms.
- 1.26.5 At the end of each game, umpire-in-chief shall complete and sign the official game cards and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.
- 1.26.6 All umpires must complete an Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *GBL Judiciary Procedures*).
- 1.26.7 The umpire shall eject any player or official found using any tobacco or alcohol products, or any illicit drugs during a game. This includes any player or official in uniform anywhere within the boundaries of the playing facility.
- 1.26.8 If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach shall be ejected from the game with the player. He shall be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game.
- 1.26.9 Ejected players must complete an Incident Report and submit it via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the business day following the game.
- 1.26.10 A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than once per inning. Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game.

1.27 SCORERS – (see Section 2.10)

- 1.27.1 Each team shall have its own competent scorer using the Official Baseball scorebook. It is recommended every scorer holds a CABS Level 0 accreditation or higher.
- 1.27.2 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebook.
- 1.27.3 The Electronic scoring device may be used as an alternative to a scorebook, provided at least one scorer completes a scorebook. If both scorers want to use Electronic scoring device, the home team scorer must ensure a scorebook is also completed.
- 1.27.4 At the completion of the game, each home team scorer shall present the official game card to the umpire-in-chief for checking, signing and return to the scorer. All injuries must be annotated on the card with all sections and columns completed. This includes players subject to PONAG Clearances, MVP, fielding position, time in/out, pitches, innings caught.
- 1.27.5 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
 - a) an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - b) a blank game card for the relevant grade;
 - c) a copy of these Bylaws;
 - d) a scorebook; and
 - e) appropriate stationery.

1.28 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 1.28.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.

MASTERS COMPETITION

- 1.28.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
- game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - team coach's names are printed in the appropriate place on the card;
 - all accreditation levels are recorded;
 - umpires-in-chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card; and
 - all names are spelt correctly.
- 1.28.3 The home club shall ensure that they forward the game cards to the Competition Administrator no later than the business day following the game by email (ensure the scanned card is legible – use black pen and print in block letters).

1.29 POINTS

- 1.29.1 Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:
- if a game is played, percentages shall be awarded even where some or all of the other games in that grade in that round are washed out.
 - all competitions are by winning percentage, with half the points of a win given for a tie.
- 1.29.2 MVP votes are allocated by the umpire-in-chief umpire immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card. Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, and 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.

1.30 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 1.30.1 The Competition Administrator shall determine where and when Finals Series games are played. Generally, games will be played at the same day and time as Regular Season games, with the following weeknights available for games that require rescheduling.
- 1.30.2 All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaw **1.14**) but played to a result.
- 1.30.3 For all Masters Competition Grand Finals (i.e., North, South or cross-river), three (3) innings shall constitute a complete game in the event of inclement weather or time curfew (2.5 if the home team is ahead).
- 1.30.4 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Bylaws **1.30.4-1.30.7**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5**).
- 1.30.5 The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
- Friday night following the original scheduled day for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final; or
 - Thursday night preceding Easter for any Grand Final.
- 1.30.6 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 1.30.7 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **1.30.5**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
- highest competition standing; then
 - head-to-head throughout the season.

For a Grand Final consisting of the Northside premier and the Southside premier, the team finishing higher on the table when the competition ladders are combined will be awarded the premiership or, if equal, the premiership will be shared.

MASTERS COMPETITION

1.31 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 1.31.1 To be eligible for the finals, players must have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- 1.31.2 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **1.31.1** if an exemption under Bylaw **1.19.5** has already been granted. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- 1.31.3 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.
- 1.31.4 In respect of forfeits, refer to Section **3.5**.

JUNIOR COMPETITION

7 JUNIOR COMPETITION

7.1 PREAMBLE

- 7.1.1 This Part outlines the Bylaws applicable to the Junior Competition.
- 7.1.2 Little League, Junior League and Senior League will be governed by these Bylaws and the Little League Baseball® Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies (“Green Book”) as currently endorsed by Little League International. Where these Bylaws are silent, the rules in the Green Book will apply. Where these Bylaws and the Green Book are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency. The relevant sections of the Green Book will be referred to where applicable.
- 7.1.3 The Under 20 Competition will be governed by these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.

7.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 7.2.1 Junior teams may consist of players from one Club or, with GBL Committee approval, multiple Clubs.
- 7.2.2 Where teams consist of players from multiple Clubs, players and coaching staff may wear their own Club uniform throughout the season.
- 7.2.3 Teams must consist of players conforming to the Little League® Age Matrix, as updated on the BQ website. All registered players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a Club.

7.3 JUNIOR GAME DURATION

- 7.3.1 Game lengths for all Junior Competition games shall be:

Grade	Length
Under 20 – Bandits & Rams (double header)	9 innings or 2 hours
Under 20 – Bandits & Rams (double header)	7 innings or 2 hours
Senior League – Bandits & Rams (single game)	7 innings or 2 hours
Senior League – Bandits & Rams (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Junior League – Bandits & Rams (single game)	7 innings or 2 hours
Junior League – Bandits & Rams (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Little League – Bandits (single game)	6 innings or 2 hours
Little League – Bandits (double header)	6 innings or 1½ hours
Little League – Rams (single game)	6 innings or 1¾ hours
Little League – Rams (double header)	6 innings or 1½ hours

Note 1: Where two time measures are stipulated, the game length shall be whichever comes first.
Note 2: Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first.
Note 3: The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.

*See **Green Book** Reg. X(c), Rules 4.10-4.11.

- 7.3.2 For any night games, where the host venue has a light curfew, the umpire shall call the game once the light curfew has been reached.
- 7.3.3 If an umpire deems play to be unsafe due to a lack of light, and suitable lights are available at the field, the game shall be completed under lights.

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- 7.3.4 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning after the time limit has expired. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- 7.3.5 The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

7.4 RUN LIMITATION

- 7.4.1 In all Rams divisions, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning.

7.5 REGULATION GAME

- 7.5.1 In the event of inclement weather or light curfew affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a regulation game:

Grade	Length
Under 20 – Bandits & Rams	5 innings or 40 minutes
Senior League – Bandits & Rams	5 innings or 40 minutes
Junior League – Bandits & Rams	5 innings or 40 minutes
Little League – Bandits	4 innings or 40 minutes
Little League – Rams	3 innings or 30 minutes

Note 1: Where two time measures are stipulated, a regulation game shall be whichever comes first.
Note 2: The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.

- 7.5.2 A game of fewer than the respective minimum number of innings shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section 3.3.

7.6 ONE SIDED GAMES

Little League, Junior League and Senior League

Where a team is leading as per the table below, the game shall be called as a complete game:

Grade	Runs and inning	Runs and inning
Senior League – Bandits & Rams	15 or more runs after 4 innings	10 or more runs after 5 innings
Junior League – Bandits & Rams	15 or more runs after 4 innings	10 or more runs after 5 innings
Little League – Bandits & Rams	15 or more runs after 3 innings	10 or more runs after 4 innings

Note: Where the home team is ahead as above in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.
*See **Green Book** Rule 4.10(e).

- 7.6.1 **Under 20** - For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings then the game shall be called as a complete game. Where the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

7.7 SPEED UP POLICY

- 7.7.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.

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- 7.7.2 Should either team take longer than ninety (90) seconds from the third out to the pitcher being told to “play” then penalties may apply. If the batting team is at fault, a strike shall be called and if the fielding team is at fault then a ball shall be called. A warning shall be given with each time at fault.
- 7.7.3 Temporarily substituting a player from the field to warm up as a pitcher is encouraged, but is at the discretion of the umpire. Coaches are encouraged to warm up players for possible pitching changes during the offensive half of the inning.

7.8 PLAYERS

- 7.8.1 Games may commence and continue with a minimum of eight (8) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with eight players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant but may be filled at any time by a ninth player. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.
- 7.8.2 If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 7.8.3 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game in defence, as part of the continuous batting order, or as a designated hitter in Senior League or Under 20.
- 7.8.4 Teams may use the following players during the Regular Season (Substitute Players):
- players from the age-group immediately below (with Playing Up (Type 1) Consent, see Appendix A); and/or
 - for higher division teams, players in the same age-group who have played the majority of their Regular Season games (after Round 3) in a lower division team.
- Players who have played the majority of their Regular Season games (after Round 3) in a higher division team may not play in a lower division team. Players who have played an equal number of games (after Round 3) in two divisions may only play in the higher division.
- 7.8.5 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same age-group and division within a Club, a player may only participate in one team during the season (including the Finals Series) except to avert a possible forfeit when one of those teams has a bye. This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players.
- 7.8.6 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 7.8.5 outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.
- 7.8.7 Any player (excluding Substitute Players under Bylaw 7.8.4) not in the starting defensive line-up must be entered into the game at the half-way mark of the time allowed for that game unless players require substitution because of injury, ejection or needing to leave the game site early (**Note:** A five (5) minute leeway either side of the time is permitted). Players who arrive at the game after the half-way mark must be entered into the defensive line-up immediately.

7.8.7

Intent

The intent of this Rule is to ensure all players attending at each game are provided an opportunity to play at least half of the regular game. It is acknowledged that this may not be possible at all times. However all Coaches should make their best efforts to get all attending players into the game to allow each player to play around half the game and to participate in more than one defensive position.

- 7.8.8 A player in the starting line-up who has been substituted may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order, provided the player they substitute has:
- completed at least one at bat; and
 - played defensively for at least six (6) consecutive outs.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.03

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7.9 BATTING RULES

7.9.1 **Designated Hitter** - Teams in Under 20 may use a designated hitter.

7.9.2 **Designated Hitter** - Teams in Senior League may use a designated hitter to bat throughout the game for a designated player in the defensive lineup. There is no designated hitter in Little League or Junior League.

Note: For Senior League, this rule is subject to Bylaw 7.9.3 below (i.e., a designated hitter may only be used if a team has more than twelve (12) players available).

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.03

Continuous Batting Order

7.9.3 If teams in Little League, Junior League or Senior League have more than nine (9) players present for the game, teams must use a continuous batting order whereby all players (up to twelve (12) players) must bat. Where players arrive to the game late, they must be added to the batting order immediately (unless there are already twelve (12) players present). This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players, however a Substitute Player may be included in a team's continuous batting order at the discretion of that team's coach.

*See **Green Book** Rule 4.04

7.9.4 If teams in Under 20 have more than nine (9) players present for the game, teams may use a continuous batting order of up to twelve (12) players (at the discretion of each team's coach). If a coach elects to use a continuous batting order at the beginning of the game, it may only be reduced where a player is ejected, injured or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no other players available to replace them. The continuous batting order is for player development only and participation will only be counted once players appear defensively in a game.

7.9.5 Players in the batting order who are not designated a defensive position:

- a) may appear in any batting position;
- b) must stay in the same batting position for the complete game; and
- c) must enter the game in defence at the half way point (see Bylaw 0);

This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players.

7.9.6 When a player is injured, ejected or must leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no players available to replace them, the team will skip over their batting position without penalty providing nine or more players remain.

Replacing a Batter

7.9.7 In Junior Competition, a batter cannot be substituted during their at bat, except in the case of an injury to the batter.

Throwing the Bat

7.9.8 Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied.

7.10 COURTESY RUNNER

7.10.1 Courtesy runners are not permitted in Junior Competition.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.04

7.11 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

7.11.1 Bat boys/girls are not permitted.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.17

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7.11.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.17

7.11.3 Players must wear full protective equipment at all times when catching or warming up a pitcher including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup.

7.11.4 Managers and coaches shall not warm up pitchers.

*See **Green Book** Regulation XIV (f)

7.11.5 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets.

7.11.6 Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under eighteen (18) years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches eighteen (18) years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.

7.11.7 All clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

7.12 INJURIES

7.12.1 If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to less than nine (9) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.

7.13 BATS

7.13.1 All Junior Competition baseball bats must meet Little League® specifications.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.10

7.13.2 Under 20:

- a) bats shall not be more than thirty-six (36) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths ($2\frac{5}{8}$) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) of an inch in (seven eighths ($\frac{7}{8}$) of an inch for bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part.
- b) the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g. a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than thirty (30) ounces).
- c) all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half--inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
- d) aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) of an inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

7.14 GAME BALLS

7.14.1 The home team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.

7.14.2 Teams must supply balls meeting Little League® specifications.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.09.

7.14.3 The home team shall provide two (2) new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.

7.14.4 The umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

7.14.5 In Little League Rams Division, safety balls are to be used until Christmas.

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7.15 UMPIRES

- 7.15.1 The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the away team shall provide the base umpire. All umpires must be QBUA approved and hold at least Community Level (green shirt) qualification.
- 7.15.2 For all grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 7.15.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 7.15.4 Umpires must be suitably dressed, in the QBUA approved shirt. Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and, in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective equipment.
- 7.15.5 At the end of each game, the umpire-in-chief shall complete and sign the official game cards and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.
- 7.15.6 All umpires must complete an Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *GBL Judiciary Procedures*).
- 7.15.7 The umpire shall eject any player or official found using any tobacco or alcohol products, or any illicit drugs during a game. This includes any player or official in uniform anywhere within the boundaries of the playing facility.
- 7.15.8 If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach shall be ejected from the game with the player. He shall be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game.
- 7.15.9 Ejected players must complete an Incident Report and submit it via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the business day following the game.
- 7.15.10 No member of either coaching staff is permitted to umpire unless agreed upon by both teams.
- 7.15.11 Junior players aged 13 years and above may umpire games, but only below their own age level. If they are the home plate umpire they must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.
- 7.15.12 A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than:
 - a) three times in one game; and
 - b) twice in one inning.

Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game.

*See **Green Book** Rule 8.06.

7.16 SCORERS – (see Section 2.10)

- 7.16.1 Each team shall have its own competent scorer using the Official Baseball scorebook. It is recommended every scorer holds a CABS Level 0 accreditation or higher.
- 7.16.2 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebook.
- 7.16.3 The Electronic scoring device may be used as an alternative to a scorebook, provided at least one scorer completes a scorebook. If both scorers want to use Electronic scoring device, the home team scorer must ensure a scorebook is also completed.
- 7.16.4 At the completion of the game, each home team scorer shall present the official game card to the umpire-in-chief for checking, signing and return to the scorer. All injuries must be annotated on the card with all sections and columns completed. This includes players subject to PONAG Clearances, MVP, fielding position, time in/out, pitches, innings caught.
- 7.16.5 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
 - a) an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - b) a blank game card for the relevant division;

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- c) a copy of these GBL Bylaws;
- d) a scorebook; and
- e) appropriate stationery.

7.17 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 7.17.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.
- 7.17.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
- a) game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - b) team coach's names are printed in the appropriate place on the card;
 - c) all accreditation levels are recorded;
 - d) umpires-in-chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card; and
 - e) all names are spelt correctly.
- 7.17.3 The home Club shall ensure that they forward the game cards to the Competition Administrator no later than the next business day following the game by email (ensure the scanned card is legible – use black pen and print in block letters).

7.18 POINTS

- 7.18.1 Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:
- a) if a game is played, percentages shall be awarded even where some or all of the other games in that grade in that round are washed out; and
 - b) all competitions are by winning percentage, with half the points of a win given for a tie.
- 7.18.2 MVP votes are allocated by the umpire-in-chief immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card. Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, and 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.

7.19 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 7.19.1 The Competition Administrator shall determine where and when Finals Series games are played. Generally, games will be played at the same day and time as Regular Season games, with the following weeknights available for games that require rescheduling.
- 7.19.2 All Junior Competition finals games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaws **7.3**, **7.5**) but played to a result.
- 7.19.3 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Bylaws **7.19.3-7.19.6**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5**).
- 7.19.4 The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
- a) Wednesday night following the original scheduled day for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final; or
 - b) Thursday night preceding Easter for any Grand Final.
- 7.19.5 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 7.19.6 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **7.19.4**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
- a) head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
 - b) highest competition standing; then

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- c) head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).

For a Grand Final consisting of the Northside premier and the Southside premier, the team finishing higher on the table when the competition ladders are combined will be awarded the premiership or, if equal, the premiership will be shared.

7.20 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 7.20.1 All Little League, Junior League and Senior League players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series games if they have played the majority of their Regular Season games with that team. Players who have played an equal number of games in two divisions may only play in the higher division.
- 7.20.2 Players in Under 20 are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series games where they have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- 7.20.3 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaws **7.20.1** or **7.20.2** outlining the extenuating circumstances including whether a previous exemption has been granted under Bylaw **7.8.6**. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.
- 7.20.4 Teams may use the following players if they are unable to field nine players from their Regular Season team:
- a) players from the age-group immediately below (with PONAG Type 1 Consent, see Appendix A); and/or
 - b) for higher division teams, players in the same age-group who played the majority of their Regular Season games in a lower division team.

Players who are not eligible under Bylaw **7.20.1** may not be played ahead of a player that is and who remains on the bench except in the case of injury or ejection. They may not participate as a designated hitter or take part in the continuous batting order.

7.21 PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS

- 7.21.1 In Junior League, Senior League and Under 20, a pitcher who is substituted to another position but remains in the game may return to pitch any time in the remainder of the game, but may only return once per game. In Little League, pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers.
- *See **Green Book** Rule 3.03
- 7.21.2 In Little League, a player cannot pitch more than one game a day. In Junior League and Senior League, a player may pitch in up to two games in a day (but must adhere to mandatory rest period).
- *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (k)
- 7.21.3 For daily pitching restrictions and mandatory rest periods in Little League, Junior League and Senior League, refer to **Green Book** Reg. VI.
- 7.21.4 In Under 20, the coach must remove the pitcher once they have thrown 105 pitches in a day, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position.
- 7.21.5 Under 20 pitchers must adhere to the following rest period requirements:

Pitches in a day	Mandatory rest period requirements
76 or more	Four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed
61 – 75	Three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed
46 – 60	Two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed
31 – 45	One (1) calendar day of rest must be observed
1 – 30 on consecutive days	One (1) calendar day of rest must be observed
1 – 30	Zero (0) calendar days of rest must be observed

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- 7.21.6 If a pitcher reaches their daily pitching limit or the mandatory rest period threshold for their league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch (without penalty) until any one of the following occur:
- that batter reaches base;
 - that batter is put out; or
 - the third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (d)
- 7.21.7 A pitcher who delivers forty-one (41) or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- 7.21.8 A catcher who plays the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day. A single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning caught.
- 7.21.9 Pitches delivered in suspended games shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
- 7.21.10 In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed any mandatory rest periods applicable on the day of the rescheduled game.
- 7.21.11 It is strongly recommended that pitchers at the junior levels throw at least 75% fastballs throughout the season and that pitchers not pitch in excess of $\frac{1}{3}$ of their game maximum in any single inning.
- 7.21.12 There are no balks in Little League.

7.22 "MUST SLIDE" RULE

7.21	<p><i>There is <u>no</u> "Must Slide" rule (and there is <u>no</u> "Imminent Play" rule) in junior baseball</i></p> <p>*See Green Book Rule 7.08 – Approved Ruling</p>
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- 7.22.1 Runners who do not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag shall be called out.
- *See **Green Book** Rule 7.08
- 7.22.2 At home plate, the runner should be encouraged to slide feet first.
- *See **Green Book** Rule 7.08
- 7.22.3 In Little League, players who slide head first while advancing shall be called out.
- *See **Green Book** Rule 7.08

7.23 BASE RUNNING (LITTLE LEAGUE)

- 7.23.1 Runners may not leave their bases until the pitch has been delivered and has reached the batter. Violation by one base runner shall affect all other base runners as follows:
- if the batter does not hit the ball and the runner is out, the out stands;
 - if the batter does not hit the ball and the runner advances, the runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made;
 - if the batter hits the ball and the runner (or runners) are put out, the out(s) will stand;
 - if the batter hits the ball and the runner advances, the runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made or the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left; or
 - if the batter bunts, hits a ball within the infield or advances on an uncaught third strike, no run shall be allowed to score (i.e., the runners must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was

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made or the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left. If loaded bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied except the runner who occupied third base who is removed without a run being scored or an out being charged).

*See **Green Book** Rule 7.13

- 7.23.2 Coaches must not encourage their players to take extra bases in a 'suicide' manner with the intention of enticing an overthrow. This is a breach of the Coaches' Code of Conduct and could result in the runner(s) involved being called out, the coach being ejected, or both.

7.24 BATTING (LITTLE LEAGUE RAMS DIVISION)

- 7.24.1 There is no "dropped third strike rule" in Little League Rams Division (i.e., if the catcher drops the third strike the batter is automatically out).
- 7.24.2 In the event that the count upon a batter in the Little League Rams Division competition reaches ball four (4), the batter shall utilise a batting tee to hit the ball in play. When the tee is used the following shall apply:
- a) the batter cannot bunt. Any ball that fails to travel at least fifteen (15) feet from home plate shall be called foul.
 - b) the catcher must take up position in the catcher's box.
 - c) the pitcher must stand behind the pitchers plate.
 - d) the coach shall place the ball on a tee.
 - e) the batted ball shall remain in play with all regular rules in effect.
 - f) when the tee is in use, the runners are not permitted to advance until the ball has been batted.
 - g) the batter continues their turn at bat until they hit the ball in play – the batter cannot be struck out.

WOMENS COMPETITION

8 WOMENS COMPETITION

8.1 PREAMBLE

8.1.1 This Part outlines the Bylaws applicable to the Women's Competition.

8.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS

8.2.1 Teams must consist of women players aged fifteen (15) years and older. All players are permitted to play in this League upon reaching their fifteenth birthday and registering as a Women's player on the approved database.

8.3 GAME DURATION

- 8.3.1 All Women's Competition games are nine (9) innings or one and a half (1.5) hours, whichever comes first.
- 8.3.2 For any night games, where the host venue has a light curfew, the umpire shall call the game once the light curfew has been reached.
- 8.3.3 Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first. The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.
- 8.3.4 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning after the time limit has expired. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- 8.3.5 The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

8.4 RUN LIMITATION

8.4.1 The maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first three (3) innings.

8.5 REGULATION GAME

- 8.5.1 In the event of inclement weather or light curfew affecting game duration, three (3) innings shall constitute a regulation game (2½ if the home team is ahead). [See Bylaw 1.30.3 for Grand Finals]
- 8.5.2 A game of fewer than the respective minimum number of innings shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section 3.3.

8.6 TEN (10) RUN RULE

8.6.1 For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings then the game shall be called as a complete game. Where the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

8.7 SPEED UP POLICY

- 8.7.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to move quickly to positions.
- 8.7.2 Should either team take longer than ninety (90) seconds from the third out to the pitcher being told to "play" then penalties may apply. If the batting team is at fault, a strike shall be called and if the fielding team is at fault then a ball shall be called. This should happen only after a warning is given in the first instance.

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8.8 PLAYERS

- 8.8.1 Games may commence and continue with a minimum of seven (7) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with seven players, the eighth and ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a eighth and ninth player. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.
- 8.8.2 If any team has less than seven (7) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 8.8.3 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter). Players listed on the game card shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- 8.8.4 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only participate in one team during the season (including the Finals Series).
- 8.8.5 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **1.19.4** outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

8.9 DESIGNATED HITTER / 10 BATTER RULE

- 8.9.1 Teams in Women's Competition may use a designated hitter. However, the game pitcher may be substituted to bat or run for any player, but at that point the designated hitter rule terminates.
- 8.9.2 The designated hitter shall not be eligible for Most Valuable Player votes.
- 8.9.3 In Women's Competition games, teams may use a ten (10) player batting order if they have ten (10) or more players available at the discretion of each team's coach. If a coach elects to use a ten (10) batter order at the beginning of the game, it may only be reduced where a player is ejected, injured or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no other players available to replace them.

8.10 COURTESY RUNNER

- 8.10.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher if there are one (1) or more outs. The courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.
- 8.10.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 8.10.3 Only a courtesy runner who has played in the field or batted in the line-up shall be considered a player in relation to Bylaw **1.19.3** above. No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.
- 8.10.4 A runner who replaces a player who is injured or unable to run shall not be permitted to steal bases. Any runner who does so shall be called out.

8.11 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 8.11.1 Any bat boy or girl under the age of eighteen (18) must be a minimum of eight (8) years old and must wear a two-eared helmet at all times.
- 8.11.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.
- 8.11.3 Junior Players must wear full protective equipment at all times when catching or warming up a pitcher including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup. Senior Players and Coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask.
- 8.11.4 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets.
- 8.11.5 Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under eighteen (18) years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches eighteen (18) years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.
- 8.11.6 All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

WOMENS COMPETITION

8.12 INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 8.12.1 If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to less than nine (9) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.
- 8.12.2 Scorers must record on the official game card details of players injured in a game. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a Statutory Declaration to the Competition Administrator within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred via the Club Secretary. The player shall then be recorded on the disabled list.
- 8.12.3 Players who are injured outside the field of play (e.g. work injuries, training etc.) must forward a suitable medical certificate via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator to be eligible for the disabled list within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred.
- 8.12.4 Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals.
- 8.12.5 The Competition Administrator may accept medical certificates or Statutory Declarations forwarded after the time limits stipulated in this section where deemed fair and appropriate to do so.

8.13 BATS

- 8.13.1 All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02.
- 8.13.2 All bats used in Women's Competitions shall comply with the following:
 - f) it shall not be more than thirty-six (36) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths ($2\frac{5}{8}$) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch for bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part.
 - g) it shall not weigh, numerically, more than three (3) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than thirty (30) ounces).
 - h) if not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - i) aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one and a half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - j) cracked, dented or otherwise damaged or deformed bats are not permitted. Any metal/alloy bat that does not clearly have the barrel composition marked on it by the manufacturer is not permitted.
- 8.13.3 Females shall use bats as described in Bylaw **1.24.2** except the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than five (5) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than twenty-eight (28) ounces).

8.14 GAME BALLS

- 8.14.1 The home team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.
- 8.14.2 Teams must supply only those balls approved by the Competition Administrator and meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.01.
- 8.14.3 In all Women's Competition grades, the home team shall provide two (2) new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.
- 8.14.4 In all grades, the umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

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8.15 UMPIRES

- 8.15.1 The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the away team shall provide the base umpire. All umpires must be QBUA approved and hold at least Community Level (green shirt) qualification.
- 8.15.2 For all Grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 8.15.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 8.15.4 Umpires must be suitably dressed, in the QBUA approved shirt. Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and, in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective equipment. Umpires are not permitted to wear club playing uniforms.
- 8.15.5 At the end of each game, umpire-in-chief shall complete and sign the official game cards and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.
- 8.15.6 All umpires must complete an Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *GBL Judiciary Procedures*).
- 8.15.7 The umpire shall eject any player or official found using any tobacco or alcohol products, or any illicit drugs during a game. This includes any player or official in uniform anywhere within the boundaries of the playing facility.
- 8.15.8 If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach shall be ejected from the game with the player. He shall be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game.
- 8.15.9 Ejected players must complete an Incident Report and submit it via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the business day following the game.
- 8.15.10 A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than once per inning. Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game.

8.16 SCORERS – (see Section 2.10)

- 8.16.1 Each team shall have its own competent scorer using the Official Baseball scorebook. It is recommended every scorer holds a CABS Level 0 accreditation or higher.
- 8.16.2 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebook.
- 8.16.3 The Electronic scoring device may be used as an alternative to a scorebook, provided at least one scorer completes a scorebook. If both scorers want to use Electronic scoring device, the home team scorer must ensure a scorebook is also completed.
- 8.16.4 At the completion of the game, each home team scorer shall present the official game card to the umpire-in-chief for checking, signing and return to the scorer. All injuries must be annotated on the card with all sections and columns completed. This includes players subject to PONAG Clearances, MVP, fielding position, time in/out, pitches, innings caught.
- 8.16.5 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
 - f) an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - g) a blank game card for the relevant grade;
 - h) a copy of these Bylaws;
 - i) a scorebook; and
 - j) appropriate stationery.

8.17 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 8.17.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.

WOMENS COMPETITION

- 8.17.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
- f) game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - g) team coach's names are printed in the appropriate place on the card;
 - h) all accreditation levels are recorded;
 - i) umpires-in-chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card; and
 - j) all names are spelt correctly.
- 8.17.3 The home club shall ensure that they forward the game cards to the Competition Administrator no later than the business day following the game by email (ensure the scanned card is legible – use black pen and print in block letters).

8.18 POINTS

- 8.18.1 Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:
- c) if a game is played, percentages shall be awarded even where some or all of the other games in that grade in that round are washed out.
 - d) all competitions are by winning percentage, with half the points of a win given for a tie.
- 8.18.2 MVP votes are allocated by the umpire-in-chief umpire immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card. Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, and 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.

8.19 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 8.19.1 The Competition Administrator shall determine where and when Finals Series games are played. Generally, games will be played at the same day and time as Regular Season games, with the following weeknights available for games that require rescheduling.
- 8.19.2 All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaw **1.14**) but played to a result.
- 8.19.3 For all Women's Competition Grand Finals (i.e., North, South or cross-river), three (3) innings shall constitute a complete game in the event of inclement weather or time curfew (2.5 if the home team is ahead).
- 8.19.4 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Bylaws **1.30.4-1.30.7**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5**).
- 8.19.5 The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
- c) Friday night following the original scheduled day for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final; or
 - d) Thursday night preceding Easter for any Grand Final.
- 8.19.6 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 8.19.7 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **1.30.5**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
- c) highest competition standing; then
 - d) head-to-head throughout the season.

For a Grand Final consisting of the Northside premier and the Southside premier, the team finishing higher on the table when the competition ladders are combined will be awarded the premiership or, if equal, the premiership will be shared.

WOMENS COMPETITION

8.20 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 8.20.1 To be eligible for the finals, players must have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- 8.20.2 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **1.31.1** if an exemption under Bylaw **1.19.5** has already been granted. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- 8.20.3 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.
- 8.20.4 In respect of forfeits, refer to Section **3.5**.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

9 BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

9.1 CONDUCT OF MEMBERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

- 9.1.1 Members, officials and spectators of the GBL must comply with:
- a) this Section;
 - b) all BQ and Baseball Australia Codes of Conduct;
 - c) the Baseball Australia Member Protection Policy; and
 - d) any other policy document that BA or BQ may publish from time to time.
- 9.1.2 Members, officials and spectators of the GBL must, at all times, refrain from:
- a) conduct which may harm a GBL Club member or official;
 - b) conduct that is unbecoming of a GBL Club member or official; and
 - c) conduct that may bring the sport of baseball into disrepute.
- 9.1.3 Conduct on social media may constitute a breach of this Section.

9.2 GBL JUDICIARY

- 9.2.1 The GBL Judiciary is established and administered by the GBL Committee to hear and determine disciplinary proceedings against any person under this Part.
- 9.2.2 The GBL Judiciary will abide by the *GBL Judiciary Procedures* set out in Appendix C.
- 9.2.3 The GBL Judiciary may refer matters at their discretion to the BQ Judiciary.
- 9.2.4 Decisions of the GBL Judiciary may be appealed to the BQ Appeals Tribunal in accordance with the *GBL Judiciary Procedures* and the *Baseball Queensland Dispute Resolution Rules*.

9.3 JUDICIARY REFERENCES

- 9.3.1 Any person may report the conduct of another person they believe has breached Section 9.1 to the GBL Judiciary. A report must be in the form stipulated in the *GBL Judiciary Procedures* set out in Appendix C.

9.4 JUDICIARY SUSPENSIONS

- 9.4.1 Any player who plays in breach of a judiciary order is an illegal player for the purpose of these Bylaws.

1 APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

1 AGE REQUIREMENTS

- A. See Little League® Age Matrix, as updated on the BQ website.
- B. All **registered** players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a club.

2 PLAYING OUTSIDE NATURAL AGE GROUPS (“PONAG”)

- A. There are two (2) types of PONAG Permission – available from the Baseball Queensland website:
 - a) Playing Up Consent (Type 1 and Type 2); and
 - b) Playing Down Application.

In each case the appropriate paperwork must be completed and submitted in accordance with the following rules. The relevant Forms are available on the BQ Website.

- B. Any approval to play outside of natural age groups may be reviewed and/or revoked at any time by the issuing authority or BQ.

3. PLAYING UP CONSENT

- A. Players seeking to play up an age level must have a parent/guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player) complete and submit a Playing Up Consent Form to the GBL Competition Administrator.
- B. The Playing Up Consent Form must be completed prior to the player participating in a game up an age level and submitted to the GBL Competition Administrator no later than 3 pm the next business day following the game.
- C. Players must indicate on the Playing Up Consent Form whether they have:
 - a) Type 1 (Casual) Playing Up Consent (whereby the player is still eligible to play in their natural age group); or
 - b) Type 2 (Permanent) Playing Up Consent (whereby the player cannot play in their natural age group).
- D. A Playing Up Consent is valid for an entire season. Where a player has a Type 1 Consent and subsequently provides a Type 2 Consent, the Type 2 Consent will supersede the Type 1 Consent for the remainder of the season.
- E. Although a declaration of parent/guardian and an accredited club coach will immediately validate a Playing Up Consent, the GBL Committee may, in its discretion, subsequently revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Up Consent it deems appropriate.

Type 1 (Casual) Playing Up Consent

- F. Type 1 Consent may be provided at any time during the season and applies for the remainder of the season.
- G. A player with Type 1 Consent:
 - a) may continue playing in their natural age group;
 - b) is regarded as a 'Substitute Player' for the purpose of GBL Bylaw 7.8.4 while playing up an age level; and
 - c) cannot pitch or catch in the higher age level.

Type 2 (Permanent) Playing Up Consent

- A. Type 2 Consent must be provided before the first scheduled fixture in January and applies for the remainder of the season.
- B. A player with Type 2 Consent:

- a) may not continue playing in their natural age group;
- b) is not regarded as a 'Substitute Player' for the purpose of GBL Bylaw 7.8.4; and
- c) may pitch or catch in the higher age level provided he or she adheres to the pitching/catching restrictions relevant to his or her actual age.

4 PLAYING DOWN APPLICATION

- A. Players seeking to play down an age level must have a parent/guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player) complete and submit a Playing Down Application to the GBL Competition Administrator for the GBL Committee's consideration.
- B. A Playing Down Application must be submitted at least seven (7) days prior to the game in which the player intends to play. The GBL Committee will use its best endeavours to accept or reject the application within that timeframe.
- C. The Playing Down Application must outline the reasons for which the PONAG Permission is sought, including whether the player intends to pitch or catch.
- D. The GBL Committee may use its discretion to accept or reject a Playing Down Application, informing itself in any way it considers appropriate including, but not limited to:
 - a) requiring further information from the Club;
 - b) seeking an opinion from a Club Director of Coaching, Regional Director of Coaching, BQ Development Officer, or any other person it deems appropriate; or
 - c) organising a Club Director of Coaching, Regional Director of Coaching, BQ Development Officer, or any other person it deems appropriate, to review or otherwise conduct a skills assessment on the applicant.
- E. A player may not play down an age level until the GBL Committee has provided written notice approving the Playing Down Application (***Playing Down Clearance***).
- F. The GBL Committee may place any restrictions it deems appropriate on a Playing Down Clearance.
- G. Playing Down Clearances are valid for an entire season. A Playing Down Clearance may be revoked by the GBL Committee.
- H. A player may not pitch or catch in the lower age level unless the Playing Down Clearance so provides. Where allowed, a player is required to adhere to the pitching and catching restrictions of the age group in which they are playing (i.e., not their actual age).
- I. Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance are excluded from playing in their natural age group.

5 APPEALS AND REVIEWS PROCESS

- A. Appeals against any decision to play outside natural age group must be referred to BQ. Any appeal must be made in writing to BQ and be accompanied by a detailed account of the situation to date. Please address appeals to:
 - The Development Manager
 - Baseball Queensland
 - Office 1.11 Sportshouse
 - 150 Caxton Street
 - MILTON QLD 4064
- B. Any approval for a player to play outside their natural age group can be reviewed and withdrawn by the issuing organisation or BQ at any time.

2 APPENDIX B – GBL DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

1 PREAMBLE

- A. Terms defined in the Section 1.3 of the *GBL Bylaws* apply to these Procedures.

2 COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

- A. The Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The Competition Administrator shall:
- i. abide by the these Procedures;
 - ii. be the point of contact for all Dispute Forms;
 - iii. allocate a dispute number for each matter;
 - iv. refer the dispute to the GBL Disputes Panel;
 - v. keep a register of decisions;
 - vi. issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
 - vii. enforce the penalties where appropriate.

3 GBL DISPUTES PANEL

- A. The GBL Disputes Panel shall be appointed by the GBL Committee and shall consist of a minimum of two (2) GBL Committee members.
- B. The roles of the GBL Disputes Panel include:
- i. hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the GBL Bylaws;
 - ii. making recommendations to the GBL Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests; and
 - iii. providing advisory opinions on the GBL Bylaws.
- C. The GBL Disputes Panel must:
- i. identify the parties to the dispute or protest;
 - ii. provide reasonable opportunity for all interested parties to present their written arguments and evidence;
 - iii. determine whether interviewing parties is necessary and, if so, communicate the date and time to the parties;
 - iv. review the arguments and evidence; and
 - v. make a recommendation to the GBL Committee for determination of the dispute or protest.
- D. The GBL Disputes Panel shall appoint a Chairperson from one of its own for conducting any interviews and communicating with parties in accordance with these Procedures.
- E. The GBL Disputes Panel may seek guidance from the GBL Committee and/or external sources where it deems appropriate.

4 POWERS & DECISION MAKING

- A. The GBL Disputes Panel may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- B. After receiving a recommendation from the GBL Disputes Panel, the GBL Committee shall make a determination.
- C. The GBL Committee may make any order or impose any penalty as may be required and as it sees fit.
- D. If agreement by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a GBL Committee meeting (or, in the absence of a meeting, a two-thirds majority of the membership with voting rights at the time) cannot agree to a determination, the matter may be referred to an independent adjudicator for determination.
- E. Where a decision under dispute was made by the GBL Committee as a whole, an independent adjudicator (acting as Chairperson) shall definitively determine the dispute.

APPENDIX B – GBL DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

F. The Chairperson of the GBL Disputes Panel shall communicate the decision of the Committee to all interested parties, together with notice of any order made or penalty imposed and reasons for the determination.

5 APPEALS

A. There is no right of appeal from a decision of the GBL Committee relating to administrative disputes or game protests.

3 APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

1 PREAMBLE

- A. Terms defined in the Section 1.3 of the *GBL Bylaws* apply to these Procedures.

2 COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

- A. The Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The Competition Administrator shall:
- i. abide by the these Procedures;
 - ii. be the point of contact for all References or Incident Reports;
 - iii. allocate a Referral number for each matter;
 - iv. refer any judiciary references to the GBL Judiciary;
 - v. keep a register of decisions;
 - vi. issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
 - vii. enforce the penalties where appropriate.

3 GBL JUDICIARY

- A. The GBL Committee shall appoint a pool of judiciary members available to hear breaches of Section 8.1 of the *GBL Bylaws* arising from the GBL Competition as the GBL Judiciary.
- B. The GBL Committee shall appoint a Chairperson who is responsible for conducting any hearings set down in accordance with these Procedures.
- C. The Judiciary shall be selected by the Chairperson to consist of any three (3) of the pool of members appointed by the GBL Committee (inclusive of the Chairperson). At least one member shall be independent of the GBL Committee.
- D. Where the Chairperson is unavailable, an acting Chairperson shall be appointed by the Chairperson or by the GBL Committee where the Chairperson is unable to do so. The acting Chairperson shall have all the same authority and obligations of the Chairperson under these Procedures.
- E. The jurisdiction of the GBL Judiciary shall be that where conduct described in a Referral occurs at or in the vicinity of a game within the GBL Competition, or otherwise relates to the GBL Competition and is not referred to the BQ Judiciary under subsection (G).
- F. The Judiciary may refer a Referral to the BQ Judiciary in the following instances:
- i. the reported conduct is not within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary;
 - ii. the reported conduct amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern BQ;
 - iii. the reported conduct may impact qualifications or accreditations of the Reported Person that are administered by BQ; or
 - iv. the Judiciary otherwise deems it appropriate.
- G. Failure to abide by any time limits stipulated in these Procedures will not necessarily invalidate a Referral. The fault of any delay (be that of the GBL, the Complainant or the Club) may be taken into account in determining:
- i. whether a Referral should be dismissed;
 - ii. whether a Temporary Sanction should be imposed; and/or
 - iii. whether the penalty should be increased or decreased, as the case may be.

4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any person may be reported (**Reported Person**) to the GBL Judiciary for breaching Section 8.1 of the *GBL Bylaws* in the following ways:
- i. By umpires, through the record of an ejection on a game card and subsequent Incident Reports ("**Umpire's Referral**");

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- ii. By any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring at or in the vicinity of a GBL game, through an Incident Report (“**Witness Referral**”);
- iii. By any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring outside a GBL game, through a written referral (“**Other Referral**”); or
- iv. By the GBL Committee, upon its own investigation through a written referral (“**GBL Referral**”).

B. A person who submits a Referral shall be referred to as a “**Complainant**”.

C. Incident Reports must be submitted to the Competition Administrator as follows:

- i. for an Umpire’s Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following the game;
- ii. for a Witness Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following the game;
- iii. for Other Referrals, as soon as practicable; and
- iv. for a GBL Referral, at any time.

Umpire’s Referral

D. Following a game involving an ejection, the umpire responsible for the ejection (Reporting Umpire) must ensure:

- i. the scorers have recorded the ejection on the Official Game Card;
- ii. an Incident Report is submitted to the QBUA no later than 10 am the next business day following the game for review;
- iii. they, or a representative from the QBUA, inform the GBL Competition Administrator the name and Club of the ejected player as soon as practicable;
- iv. they, or a representative from the QBUA, indicate to the GBL Competition Administrator whether a further penalty will be pursued;

E. If a further penalty is pursued, the QBUA shall forward the GBL Competition Administrator the Incident Report by 3 pm the next business day following the game.

Urgent Referrals

F. Any of the Referrals made under subsection (A) may, if sufficiently serious, be made urgently to the Competition Administrator to be dealt with as soon as practicable.

Note: The intent of this rule is to allow serious conduct to be dealt with temporarily where the procedure set out in section 5 cannot be followed prior to the Reported Person’s next scheduled game (e.g. conduct at a Division 1 Friday night game which may warrant suspension from the Sunday game).

G. Where an Urgent Referral is made, the Competition Administrator shall contact the Chairperson for the purpose of determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6. If the Chairperson is unable to be contacted within a reasonable time, the Competition Administrator may, at their discretion, contact an alternative judiciary member or, failing that, the GBL Committee Chairperson, for determination.

H. In determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction for an Urgent Referral, the Chairperson (or other judiciary member) may treat the Referral as prima facie evidence of the Reported Person’s conduct and otherwise inform themselves in any way they consider appropriate.

5 PRE-HEARING PROCEDURE

A. As soon as practicable after receiving a Referral, the Competition Administrator shall forward all relevant material to the Chairperson and then notify the Reported Person’s Club Secretary by email:

- i. that a Referral has been made against the Reported Person;
- ii. the nature of the complaint/allegations; and
- iii. that the Chairperson may dismiss the Referral, refer it directly to a judiciary hearing or lay a charge against the Reported Person and propose a penalty.

The email shall attach any Incident Reports provided to the Competition Administrator.

Reported Person Incident Report

B. The Reported Person must complete and submit an Incident Report through their Club Secretary as follows:

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- i. for an Umpire's Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following the game; or
- ii. for a Witness Referral, Other Referral or GBL Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary.

If the Reported Person fails to submit an Incident Report and contests the charge and/or penalty, that person will be suspended from participating in any form in the GBL Competition until the judiciary hearing unless otherwise directed by the Chairperson.

Chairperson Determination

- C. Where the Chairperson is satisfied with the information provided, within one business day following the receipt of both the Referral and the Reported Person's Incident Report (if provided), the Chairperson shall consider the Referral, Incident Reports and any other material submitted as prima facie evidence and shall:
- i. identify the relevant charge(s) to which the conduct relates;
 - ii. dismiss the Referral where there is insufficient evidence to sustain a charge;
 - iii. determine the severity of any charge;
 - iv. propose a penalty based on, but not limited to, the Recommended Table of Penalties listed in section 11C or require the Reported Person to attend a judiciary hearing;
 - v. determine whether a Temporary Sanction is necessary (see section 6); and
 - vi. communicate the above information with the Competition Administrator.

The Chairperson may delay making a Determination under this section where he or she determines further investigation is necessary.

- D. The Chairperson may, at any time, form the Judiciary pursuant to section 3C and consult other members of the Judiciary in their decision making under this section.

Penalty Offer

- E. The Competition Administrator shall notify the relevant Club Secretary as soon as practicable by email of the any charge(s) laid against the Reported Person, the proposed penalty ("**penalty offer**") and/or any requirement for the Reported Person to attend a judiciary hearing.

Plea

- F. If charges are laid and a penalty offer is made, the Club must notify the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day after receiving the penalty offer whether the Reported Person:
- i. pleads guilty to the charges and accepts the penalty offer;
 - ii. pleads guilty to the charges but contests the penalty offer; or
 - iii. pleads not guilty to the charges.

If the Club fails to notify the Competition Administrator under this subsection, the Reported Person is deemed to have pleaded guilty to the charges and accepted the penalty offer.

- G. If the Reported Person accepts the penalty offer or fails to notify the Competition Administrator before the stated deadline, the penalty shall stand and the suspension shall be served from the date provided in the "Notice Form for Reported Person".
- H. If the Reported Person rejects the penalty offer or pleads not guilty, a hearing shall be set down in accordance with section 7.

Other Matters

- I. In all cases, the Club shall be responsible for notifying the Reported Person of any correspondence it receives related to the conduct and the duties the Reported Person has under these Procedures.

6 TEMPORARY SANCTION

- A. Where the Chairperson has laid charges against a Reported Person under section 5, or otherwise received an Urgent Referral, a Temporary Sanction may be imposed pending notification of a plea and accepting a penalty offer, attending a judiciary hearing or as otherwise ordered by the Chairperson.
- B. A Temporary Sanction can include, but is not limited to, the following orders:

- i. Suspension – to stop a person from participating in the GBL Competition in all or specified capacities;
 - ii. Exclusion – to stop a person from entering any GBL Club facility;
 - iii. Non-Contact – to stop a person from contacting specified persons; or
 - iv. A combination of the above.
- C. On direction from the Chairperson, the Competition Administrator shall notify the Reported Person's Club Secretary of the imposition of a Temporary Sanction and reasons for its imposition.
- D. A Temporary Sanction shall be effective from the date of notification until such time as there is another order made by the Chairperson or the GBL Judiciary.
- E. A person the subject of a Temporary Sanction may appeal to the BQ Appeal Tribunal for a stay of the Temporary Sanction.

7 JUDICIARY HEARINGS

- A. This section applies if a hearing is required under section 5.

Date & Time

- B. The Chairperson shall form the Judiciary pursuant to section 3C and determine a date and time for the judiciary hearing, ordinarily within four (4) business days of receiving the Referral.
- C. The judiciary hearing is fixed and cannot be changed, except at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Attendance

- D. The Competition Administrator shall confirm the details of the judiciary hearing to the Report Person's Club Secretary, the Complainant and the Judiciary members.
- E. The Complainant is not required to, but may, attend the judiciary hearing.
- F. If the Reported Person is unable to attend the judiciary hearing, their Club Secretary must notify the Competition Administrator and state the reason. The Judiciary shall:
- i. reschedule the hearing and determine the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6; or
 - ii. in the absence of a reasonable excuse, proceed with the hearing notwithstanding the absence of the Reported Person (if there are witnesses) or determine the matter based on the written evidence.
- G. If the Reported Person does not appear at the scheduled time nor after a reasonable period of grace, the hearing shall go ahead in their absence with their written evidence taken into account.

Advocates

- H. The Reported Person, or the Complainant if they are under 18 years of age (e.g. a junior umpire), may have an advocate speak on their behalf at the judiciary hearing. The advocate shall assume control of the Reported Person's defence and the Reported Person will not be permitted to speak unless to give evidence on their own behalf. The Competition Administrator must be notified by 3 pm the day before the judiciary hearing of any advocates.

Evidence

- I. The Judiciary may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- J. The Chairperson may, in their discretion, anonymise names of witnesses or the Complainant if they are satisfied it is necessary to prevent undue prejudice to:
- i. the Reported Person;
 - ii. any victim;
 - iii. any witness;
 - iv. a child; or
 - v. the proper administration of the Referral.
- K. It is the sole responsibility of the parties to provide any evidence they wish to rely on to the Competition Administrator within the time allowed under this section.

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- L. All evidence the Reported Person wishes to adduce at the judiciary hearing must be sent to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day before to the judiciary hearing.
- M. All evidence provided to the Competition Administrator shall be provided to the Reported Person and the Complainant at least 24 hours prior to the judiciary hearing.
- N. Evidence adduced later than the times stipulated in this section may be taken into account by the Judiciary at its discretion. The Judiciary shall provide sufficient time for all parties who attend the judiciary hearing to read or see any evidence not provided beforehand.
- O. The Reported Person or the Judiciary may call any witness they desire, however no person has any obligation to provide a statement or give evidence to the Judiciary. Notification of all witnesses attending the judiciary hearing must be sent to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day before the judiciary hearing.
- P. The Reported Person, the Complainant and any witnesses detailed in subsection (O) shall be given reasonable opportunity to provide evidence at the judiciary hearing.
- Q. All evidence given at a judiciary hearing is on a confidential and “without prejudice” basis.
- R. Judiciary members may ask questions of any party or witness at the judiciary hearing. In the event that a party wishes to ask a question of another party or witness in the hearing, they must submit that question to the Judiciary who may then ask that question on their behalf.
- S. The Chairperson has the sole discretion to request any person to remove themselves from the judiciary hearing at any time.
- T. The hearing may be recorded using a recording device at the discretion of the Chairperson or at the request of the Reported Person. If a recording device is used, all attending parties will be notified. That recording must be made available to the BQ Appeals Tribunal on request if an appeal is lodged.

Order of Proceedings

- U. Unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson, the order of proceedings shall be:
 - i. Introduction
The Chairperson shall introduce the Judiciary and inform all parties of the order of proceedings.
 - ii. Complainant
The Complainant or their advocate, if they choose to attend, shall provide their evidence. That person may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
 - iii. Reported Person
The Reported Person and/or their advocate shall provide their evidence.
 - iv. Witnesses
Witnesses shall provide their evidence. Witnesses may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
 - v. Consideration
The Judiciary shall consider the evidence in private and determine the Reported Person’s guilt or innocence and/or penalty if applicable.
 - vi. Judgment
The Chairperson shall either inform the Reported Person of the outcome of the Judiciary’s deliberations or reserve its decision. Once advised, the Chairperson shall provide a completed “Notice Form for Reported Person” to the Reported Person to confirm their penalty and its effective date. A copy of the completed form shall also be forwarded to the Club, the Competition Administrator and the QBUA (in the case of Umpire’s Referrals). Should a decision be reserved, the Reported Person will not be subject to any immediate penalty unless a Temporary Sanction has been imposed.

8 POWERS

- A. The GBL Judiciary may make any order or impose any penalty against the Reported Person as may be required and as it sees fit, including but not limited to:
 - i. Reprimand – with the offence being recorded;
 - ii. Suspension – may be applied as a complete or partial suspension from participation in the GBL Competition in all or specified capacities for a definite period of time or until a definite pre-set goal is reached;

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- iii. Expulsion – from participation in any capacity in the GBL Competition as a response to a very serious offence;
- iv. Fines – imposed in such amounts as the Judiciary deems fit; or
- v. A combination of the above penalties.

B. The GBL Judiciary may order a GBL Club to refuse entry to a Reported Person to give effect to a penalty under these Procedures. The GBL Judiciary may refer any failure to comply with an order under this rule to the GBL Committee.

C. The GBL Judiciary may, at its discretion, suspend all or a component of an order for a specified operational period (i.e. if a Reported Person is charged with a further offence during the operational period, the suspended order will come into effect in addition to any other orders made for the further offending).

D. In determining the penalty, the following may be taken into account:

- i. The Recommended Table of Penalties listed in section 11C;
- ii. Whether the person pleaded guilty or not guilty (and whether a hearing took place);
- iii. The nature and circumstances of the conduct;
- iv. Any harm done to another person;
- v. The extent to which the person is to blame for the conduct;
- vi. Any damage caused;
- vii. The person's age and previous character, including previous offending history;
- viii. Previous penalties imposed on the person;
- ix. Any disciplinary action taken by the person's Club relating to the same conduct;
- x. Any time served under a Temporary Sanction;
- xi. Any remorse or lack of remorse;
- xii. Any cultural or other specific circumstance relevant to the person;
- xiii. Any comparative penalties imposed for similar offending; and
- xiv. Any other matter the Judiciary considers relevant.

Voluntary intoxication by alcohol or other drugs is not a mitigating factor.

E. The Judiciary must give reasons for the penalty it imposes. If these are given orally, they must also be given in writing on request of the Reported Person, the GBL Committee or the BQ Appeals Tribunal within a reasonable time after the hearing.

9 RE-OPENING A HEARING

A. A party may make an application to the Judiciary to re-open a Referral after a determination only on the basis that there has been an error of fact.

B. If the Judiciary decides in its discretion that there was an error of fact that led to a substantial error having been made, it may re-open the Referral, correct the error, and amend its decision if necessary.

10 APPEALS

A. A Reported Person or the Complainant may appeal to the BQ Appeals Tribunal against a decision of the Judiciary.

B. An appeal must be made to the Competition Administrator no later than 28 days after the original decision was communicated to the parties.

C. If the appeal is not lodged with the Competition Administrator within 28 days, an explanation for the delay must accompany the appeal.

D. An appeal lodged after 28 days may only be heard with the leave of the BQ Appeals Tribunal Chairperson and only if the BQ Appeals Tribunal Chairperson is of the view that the appeal has reasonable prospects of success.

E. An appeal must be based on at least one of the following grounds:

- i. A denial of natural justice;
- ii. A denial of procedural fairness;

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- iii. An error in the exercise of a discretion (including acting on a wrong principle, relying on extraneous or irrelevant matters, mistake of fact, failing to take a material consideration into account or the decision was otherwise unreasonable or plainly unjust); or
 - iv. The penalty imposed was manifestly excessive or manifestly inadequate.
- F. The BQ Appeals Tribunal will abide by the *Baseball Queensland Dispute Resolution Rules*.
- G. If the BQ Appeals Tribunal determines that one of the grounds in subsection (E) has been established, it must proceed to reconsider the matter afresh and may:
- i. Confirm the decision of the Judiciary;
 - ii. Set aside the decision of the Judiciary and make its own decision; or
 - iii. Make any other order that it deems appropriate.
- H. The BQ Appeals Tribunal must give reasons for its decision.

11 CHARGES AND RECOMMENDED TABLE OF PENALTIES

- A. The following charges may be laid against a Reported Person:

Class E – General Misconduct	
Unsportsmanlike conduct	Any conduct not otherwise covered in this section that is not in the spirit of the game or is otherwise unbecoming of a GBL Club member or official, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately breaching rules or taking unfair advantage of a situation • Deliberately distracting or provoking another person • Insulting or otherwise deliberately offending another person • Unreasonably refusing to cooperate with a coach, player or official • Failing to display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat • Disrespecting the rights, dignity and worth of any participants • Encouraging others to act in an unsportsmanlike manner • Otherwise bringing the game into disrepute
Consuming alcohol or tobacco	Where a person either consumes alcohol, tobacco or any illicit substance (including, but not limited to, smoking, chewing or dipping) within the on-field confines of any baseball facility, or smokes tobacco within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at any Junior Competition game.
Audible obscenity	Any obscene language or swearing in a game that is loud enough to carry to the spectators but not directed at any person. Language that cannot be heard by the spectators, or otherwise constitutes verbal abuse, is not conduct covered by this charge. A coach may be charged under this section if an audible obscenity comes from an unidentifiable person in that coach's dugout.
Equipment Abuse	An act of aggression directed at, or utilising, playing equipment or facilities (e.g. throwing a helmet or bat, damaging the dugout, or kicking dirt in anger).
Class D - Dissent	
Dissent	Any conduct that undermines the umpire's ability to officiate and control a game, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguing an umpire's judgment calls (e.g. balls and strikes) • A player (who is not also the team's coach) disputing an umpire's technical game ruling • Disobeying an umpire's direction (unless constituting a "failing to leave" charge) <p>Discourteous or disrespectful behaviour directed at the umpire</p>

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Class C – Offensive Behaviour	
Verbal abuse	Any comments directed to another person that could reasonably be construed as abusive or harassing. Comments need only be audible to the Complainant.
Class B – Intimidation	
Touching an umpire	Any intentional, unwanted physical contact with an umpire or physical contact incidental to a confrontation.
Failing to leave	Where, after being ejected, a person does not leave the playing field (including the dugout) within a reasonable time, returns to the playing field (including the dugout), attempts to manage or influence the game from outside the field, or can be heard by an umpire from the playing field.
Intimidation	Physical or verbal conduct that could reasonably be construed as intimidating including, but not limited to, circumstances where a person leaves their designated position (e.g. as a fielder, batter, coach or from the dugout) to confront another person in an aggressive manner.
Class A – Dangerous Act	
Intentional or reckless dangerous play	Where, outside the rules of the game, a person engages in intentional or reckless conduct that could cause injury to an opposing player or official (e.g. intentionally throwing at a batter).
Attempting to strike	An intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike another person. This includes engaging in a melee.
Striking	Intentionally striking another person in any way.
Breach of Judiciary Order	
Breach of Judiciary order	Where a person breaches an order previously given by the Judiciary.

- B.** Conduct which, in the opinion of the Judiciary, amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern BQ, may be referred directly to the BQ Judiciary.
- C.** Where the same conduct constitutes more than one offence, the more serious offence (based on the Class) shall be laid.
- D. Recommended Table of Penalties**

The following table sets out recommended penalties for the charges defined in this section. These penalties represent a recommendation only and the Judiciary shall take into account all factors included in section 8D and retain the power to penalise the Reported Person in any of the ways outlined in section 8A.

Class of Charge	Recommended suspension (weeks)
Class E – Misconduct	1
Class D – Dissent	2
Class C – Offensive Behaviour	3
Class B – Intimidation	4
Class A – Dangerous Act	6
Breach of Judiciary order	20

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