



**BASEBALL**  
QUEENSLAND



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# TOURNAMENTS

## TECHNICAL NORMS



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## **1. PREAMBLE**

- 1.1. In general, these State Championships will be played under the Official Rules of Baseball and these Baseball Queensland (BQ) State Championships Technical Norms.
- 1.2. Special regulations (e.g. pitching allowances, time-saving rules, etc.) have been introduced to apply to the State Championships. In applying the rules and procedures they should be read as referring to the particular event being staged.
- 1.3. Wherever the word Team is used, it is taken to mean Club, Region or Participating Team.
- 1.4. Wherever the term Youth Women is used, the regulation will also apply to Girls' except when specified otherwise.
- 1.5. Wherever the term Open is used, the regulation will apply to Division 1, Division 2 and Masters.

## **2. TITLES**

- 2.1. BQ State Championship series which are governed by these Technical Norms include:
  - 2.1.1. The Under 16 (U16) State Championship (U16)
  - 2.1.2. The Under 18 (U18) State Championship (U18)
  - 2.1.3. The State Youth Women's Championship (SYWC)
  - 2.1.4. The State Women's Championship (SWC)
  - 2.1.5. Open Division 1 and Division 2
  - 2.1.6. Masters

## **3. OBJECTIVE**

- 3.1. The objective of BQ State Championships is to provide people of all ages the opportunity to compete in an annual competition to be crowned the State Champions.

## **4. CHAMPIONSHIP VENUES**

- 4.1. The Championships will be played at a venue determined by BQ.

## **5. CHAMPIONSHIP DATES**

- 5.1. BQ will determine Championship dates.

## **6. LODGEMENT OF ENTRIES**

- 6.1. Regions should advise BQ of entry into Championships no later than:
  - 6.1.1. Eight (8) weeks prior to the respective event each team is to submit a (completed) preliminary Team Roster and pay a \$500.00 deposit toward tournament entry fees. Preliminary Team Rosters will not be accepted if they do not feature all the following:
    - 6.1.1.1. the minimum number of age eligible, registered Players required for the respective competition;
    - 6.1.1.2. at least one (1) accredited Coach, one (1) accredited Umpire and one (1) accredited Scorer capable of scoring in GameChanger; and,
    - 6.1.1.3. proof of payment of tournament entry deposit.
  - 6.1.2. Two (2) weeks prior to the respective event each team is to submit a completed final Team Roster and make payment of the balance of the tournament entry fee. Final



Team Rosters (to be used in event programs) will not be accepted if they do not feature all of the following:

- 6.1.2.1. the minimum number of age eligible, registered Players required for the respective competition;
  - 6.1.2.2. at least one (1) accredited Coach, one (1) accredited Umpire and one (1) accredited Scorer capable of scoring in GameChanger; and,
  - 6.1.2.3. proof of payment of balance of tournament entry fee.
- 6.1.3. Teams that will impact the travel pool are to advise BQ of their numbers, method of travel and provide a quote for team travel in accordance with Rule 6.1.1 above.

## **7. CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIALS' MEETING AND FUNCTIONS**

- 7.1. At the appropriate time prior to the commencement of the event, the Championship Team Officials' Meeting, chaired by the BQ Tournament Director, will be conducted. Decisions altering the Technical Norms will not be made at this meeting.
- 7.2. Attendees are restricted to the Managers (Head Coaches), Executive Officers of the competing teams, Scorers and Umpires, Baseball Queensland personnel, and other relevant persons, subject to approval by BQ.
- 7.3. Clarification of Championship Rules including a re-emphasis of the penalties for any rule transgression will be provided within this meeting.
- 7.4. The Championship Officials' Meeting date/time, venue and agenda is to be issued to all concerned at least 1 week prior to the commencement of the Championships.
- 7.5. As a guideline, the Championship Meeting agenda should include:
  - 7.5.1. Reminder for Head Coaches that all game balls are to be returned back into the game.
  - 7.5.2. BQ Tournament Director at this meeting will formally comment on expected participant conduct, with particular reference to attitudes, image and damage to property:
  - 7.5.3. Participants' on-field behaviour will be monitored.
  - 7.5.4. Observable expressions of disagreement with any Umpire's decision(s) will not be tolerated.
  - 7.5.5. Penalties exist and will be invoked for behaviour and conduct not in accordance with the various Codes of Conduct.
  - 7.5.6. Any consumption of alcohol by players or by adult personnel while in team apparel or at the Championship venue is not permitted.
  - 7.5.7. There will be no consumption of alcohol for any Coach or Official who is in a supervisory role of minors for the duration of the tournament.
  - 7.5.8. Excessive consumption of alcohol by any team personnel is strongly discouraged and may result in sanctions.
  - 7.5.9. There will be no tolerance of the use of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) on field, while in uniform or within any Championship Venue.
- 7.6. At this meeting, each team will be reminded that all official paperwork must be available if required by the Tournament Director. Failure to produce such forms upon request during the Championship will be deemed a breach under Championship Tech Norms.
- 7.7. The Umpire Coordinator shall outline all ground rules.

- 7.8. Team and/or individual Players/staff will be required to attend any official function at a predetermined time and date prior to, during, or following the conclusion of the competition.

## **8. TEAM ROSTERS AND ROSTER SIZES**

- 8.1. Official team rosters are to be completed prior to the event and submitted to BQ no later than the notified date for each Championship.
- 8.2. Any changes made to the final roster at any time needs to be submitted to BQ in writing. NB: Late changes are unlikely to appear in the events program.
- 8.3. Any final roster changes that are required need to be submitted in writing to BQ, Championship Director, Scorer Coordinator and Umpire Coordinator at least one (1) day prior to tournament commencement.
- 8.4. Each U16 and U18 teams shall consist of up to twenty (20) Players per team but no fewer than fourteen (14) Players.
- 8.5. Each Open Women's Team shall consist of up to twelve (12) Players.
- 8.6. Each Youth Women's and Girls' Team shall consist of up to twelve (12) Players.
- 8.7. Teams that do not meet roster requirements will need to satisfy modified participation requirement as set out by BQ to remain eligible to win the Championship.
- 8.8. Each team must show proof that all avenues to find a replacement Player/s have been exhausted. In the event of extraordinary circumstances that prevent a team from fielding a full roster and after approval by BQ a reduced roster can be accepted.
- 8.9. Rosters are final after the commencement of the tournament.
- 8.10. At no time will a Region utilise a player from another Region without prior written permission from the player's parent Region.
- 8.11. Players must play with the Region in which they were last registered as a junior prior to the Championships, unless they have registered with a club within another Region for the pending summer season prior to 31 August.

## 9. ACCOMMODATION

- 9.1. Teams participating at the State Championships can make their own accommodation and flight arrangements except where BQ has a hosting arrangement in place with a local authority that obliges participating teams to make all accommodation arrangements through a designated channel if such an agreement is in place; restrictions will usually exist. Where these restrictions exist BQ will notify Regions at least 60 days prior to the event date.
- 9.2. A Risk Management Plan for the Management of Player Welfare must be put in place by all participating teams. At Youth Championships, it is a requirement that two (2) adult members of the team staff be always in attendance at the place of accommodation at all times when the team is in residence.
- 9.3. If a female is selected in a team then an adult female must be appointed chaperone.
- 9.4. A female participant shall not share a room with a male participant.
- 9.5. All Officials shall be accommodated together but separate from any competing Team, to the extent that this is possible. Where teams and Umpires are co-located, every effort should be made to ensure there is some degree of separation between the groups.

## 10. MEALS

- 10.1. All team delegation members will be provided with lunch during the Championships. Where a team plays a scheduled night game, they may receive a meal following that game in lieu of lunch. These meals will be charged to each team as part of the tournament entry fee and will be charged at \$13.20 (GST Inc) per person on the team delegation – Players, Coaches, EO/Executive Staff, Scorer and Umpire.
- 10.2. It is the responsibility of each team delegation to organise all other meals as well as suitable snack foods and drinks for between meals.

## 11. FIRST AID

- 11.1. BQ will ensure that a qualified and dedicated First Aid attendant is present during all games of the Championship.

## 12. AGE QUALIFICATIONS

- 12.1. Each Championship has specific age qualifications for its participants.
  - 12.1.1. U16, U18: Competing Players must be under the specified age for the event being staged at 31st December in the year the event takes place.
  - 12.1.2. Women: Competing Players must be fifteen (15) years of age prior to the commencement of the Championship.
  - 12.1.3. Youth Women: Competing Players must be at least twelve (12) years of age prior to the commencement of the Championship but not have turned sixteen (16) years of age as of 31st December in the year the event takes place.
  - 12.1.4. Girls: Competing Players must be 10 years of age prior to commencement of the Championship but not have turned 13 years of age as of 31 December in the year the event takes place.
- 12.2. It is the responsibilities of all teams that contain under-age Players to ensure all adult team personnel comply with their State's Child Protection Legislation. In addition, please refer to the section relating to the taking of images of children.

### 13. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 13.1. Any Player properly registered with Baseball Queensland including a non-national, who has been a bona-fide resident of Australia for a continuous period of no fewer than three (3) months prior to the first game of the Championship, shall be eligible to represent Queensland provided he or she meets the provisions of Section 13.2.
- 13.2. Status Determination is as follows:
  - 13.2.1. If a team in a State Championships perceives that a determination of eligibility for one of its Players is required, such a request must be submitted to BQ no later than two (2) months before the Championships.
  - 13.2.2. These requests will be replied to within one (1) week of submission. This refers specifically to the following types of issues:
    - 13.2.2.1.1. Players who seek to cross regional boundaries, by mutual agreement between the parties, to represent a Region in which they are not domiciled.
    - 13.2.2.1.2. Any other anomaly or questionable Player eligibility issues.
  - 13.2.3. No Player eligibility determinations will be considered fewer than two (2) months prior to the scheduled Championship unless they arise out of the need to make emergency replacements.
  - 13.2.4. All Players must be properly registered and financial with a BA Affiliated State or Territory or their National Federation (in the case of invited teams).
  - 13.2.5. Should a Player be registered with, and/or played with two (2) or more affiliated teams during the season prior to the dates of the Championship, then the team in the Region/territory in which the Player has lived for the three (3) months prior to the Championship shall have the first call on that Player for selection.
- 13.3. A Medical Authority Form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each competing under-age Player or any other under-age person (e.g. batboys/girls) participating with the team, in which an authority is given in respect of any medical or hospital attention (including an operation) which may be required as a result of any injury or illness sustained. This Form is not to be amended under any circumstances. All adult Players must also complete the Medical Authority Form. These forms must be in the hands of the EO at the required time, for the EO to submit the "Statement by Team Executive Officer" when submitting the roster to BQ. A copy of the Medical Authority must always be available while the team is participating.
- 13.4. Friendship Players
  - 13.4.1. It is a fundamental assumption of this policy that a team exhausts all possible avenues to secure as many Players from within their own boundaries. If the team is unable to field a team from within its own boundaries, it is then entitled to make a request to the BQ Development Manager to secure Players from other Regions.
  - 13.4.2. Within two (2) months from the commencement of the respective Championships, only those Players appearing on a Regional team's roster are explicitly protected from acquisition by another Region.
  - 13.4.3. In order to be eligible to become a friendship Player for another Region, Players must have registered and trialled unsuccessfully for their respective home Region. Players who choose NOT to trial for their respective home Regions will be ineligible to be considered as friendship Players.

- 13.4.4. Players wishing to be eligible as Friendship Players are required to register their interest online within the specified time frames as set forth by BQ. At the completion of the registration process registered Players will form the friendship Player selection pool. This Player pool will be initially shared with all regions to ensure all Players are cleared of any financial liability to any affiliated organisation that would void a Player's eligibility. In making themselves available, those Players are committing themselves to represent the relevant Region and the costs associated with that representation.
- 13.4.5. Friendship Player Selection – the Tournament Director will circulate the list of approved (financial and eligible) Friendship Players to those Regions in need of Players. The respective Regional Team Head Coach and Region Committee will complete selection of Friendship Players. If considered for a Friendship position, Players will be contacted directly by the Region offering a playing opportunity/roster position. Once a Friendship Player is selected, they are able to come back to represent their home Region up until a reasonable date set by BQ prior to the tournament. This date will take into consideration being able to find a Player to replace the original appointed Player and make any necessary changes to flights and other relevant details.
- 13.4.6. The relevant Region(s) will be notified of the selections and provided two (2) working days to lodge a valid written objection for not providing a clearance. Should a valid objection not be forthcoming within the specified timeframe, Players shall be regarded as cleared. Should the Region refuse clearance, BQ will seek the reasons for such a refusal and seek to resolve any issues to the satisfaction of all parties. BQ retains the right to ultimately provide clearance or refuse clearance to any Players making themselves available as Friendship Players.

## **14. PLAYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS**

- 14.1. Player Participation Agreements (BQ Ethics and Expectations Document) are to be completed by all Players. Team Executive Officers are required to retain a hard copy at the Championship.

## **15. CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYERS**

- 15.1. BQ Code of Conduct is to be adhered to by all Players (and where an under-age Player is involved, by their parents) in order to participate in all BQ State Championships.
- 15.2. Where there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct, irrespective of whether on-field or off field, such breaches must be reported to the Tournament Director. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the Tournament Director/BQ Staff and team personnel.
- 15.3. The use or possession of any form of tobacco, tobacco products (including e-cigarettes), illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol of any description is banned. Team and Championship Officials shall have the right to conduct a search of a Player's room, bags, clothing or personal belongings if he or she has a reasonable suspicion that a serious breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred. This must be conducted in the presence of the Player and an independent adult witness.
- 15.4. BQ is committed to ensuring that each Championship is run in an environment that is free of sexual harassment from Players, Coaches, Umpires, and anyone attending. Anyone who breaches this policy of zero sexual harassment will be removed from the event and banned for at least one (1) year subject to a decision from the Tribunal Committee. Sexual Harassment is defined as any unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited





behaviour of a sexual nature which makes a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, and the display of offensive material or other behaviour, which creates a sexually hostile playing environment. Sexual harassment is against the law and will be punished accordingly.

- 15.5. BA Anti-Doping Policy (to which BQ adheres) supports a drug free environment in the sport of baseball for its Players, Coaches and Officials. All participants are directed to [www.asada.gov.au](http://www.asada.gov.au) to check all medications and have a clear understanding on the implications of drugs in sport.
- 15.6. All Players in the Championship must have completed the Australian Sport Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) online Level one (1) course prior to the event.  
<https://elearning.asada.gov.au/enrol/index.php?id=86>

## 16. COACHES

- 16.1. Where there has been a breach in any aspect of the Participation Agreement, irrespective of whether on field or off field, such breaches must be reported to the Tournament Director. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the Tournament Director/BQ Staff and team personnel.
- 16.2. If a team Official is found to have a case to answer, the matter will be referred to the Championship Tribunal for assessment and subsequent imposition of penalties where appropriate (see Section 41 – Reported Players/Coaches for further details).
- 16.3. All Coaches at the Championship will be attired in the same team uniform as the Players. On-field Coaches will remain in the Coaches' boxes at all times and will not talk to members of the opposing team, nor make comments relating to Umpires or their decisions.
- 16.4. Base Coaches are required to wear "skull cap" style helmets (i.e., without ear covers); base Coaches under the age of eighteen (18) must wear a two-eared batting helmet.
- 16.5. All Championship Managers/Head and Assistant Coaches must be accredited to at least Level Three (3) standard under the current National Coach Accreditation Scheme (NCAS), introduced 1st January 2011 or Certificate B of the USA Coaching Program.
- 16.6. The use or possession of any form of tobacco (including e-cigarettes) or alcohol of any description by Coaches, Players or any team Official while participating in the game, moving onto and off the playing grounds including batting practice areas, on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, whilst in uniform or anywhere in the vicinity of the Championship Venue is banned.
  - 16.6.1. Penalty: Ejection from the game and appropriate follow-up as a breach of the Participation Agreement.
- 16.7. All Coaches in the Championship must have completed the Australian Sport Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) online Level one (1) course prior to the event.  
<https://elearning.asada.gov.au/enrol/index.php?id=86>

## 17. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- 17.1. Executive Officers will manage all off-field activities of the Team and are not to wear playing uniforms unless they are in a dual Coach role. Those not in full uniform will be allowed in the dugout but are not to venture onto the playing field at any time unless requested to do so by an Umpire.
- 17.2. They are not to direct comments to, or about, Umpires and their decisions.
- 17.3. Executive Officers are to be provided with and sign a copy of BQ Team Officials' Participation Agreement and acknowledge abiding by the conditions disclosed.
- 17.4. Where there has been a breach in any of the Participation Agreement, irrespective whether on field or off field such breaches must be reported to the Tournament Director.
- 17.5. Dual Role - Executive Officer/Coach
  - 17.5.1. To allow teams to bring a fourth Coach it is permissible to combine that role with the EO under the following conditions:
    - 17.5.1.1.1. The first priority at all times is fulfilment of the role of Executive Officer.
    - 17.5.1.1.2. Should there be occasion where duties coincide, then those of the Executive Officer must take precedence.
    - 17.5.1.1.3. If required by a BQ or a Championship Official, (Tournament Director, etc.) require an EO's presence, even during or after a game, an EO must forgo his or her Coaching duties if necessary, to comply.
    - 17.5.1.1.4. It is not permissible to postpone urgent Executive Officer duties until after the game.
- 17.6. All Officials in the Championship must have completed the Australian Sport Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) online Level one (1) course prior to the event.  
<https://elearning.asada.gov.au/enrol/index.php?id=86>

## 18. UMPIRES

- 18.1. The Panel of Umpires will be convened from those Umpires nominated by the Regions/Teams and those appointed by the respective tournament's Umpire Coordinator as appointed by the Queensland Baseball Umpires Association (QBUA).
  - 18.1.1. Each Region/Team is to nominate an appropriately qualified (accredited – any level) Umpire when submitting their team Roster.
- 18.2. The use or possession of any form of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, or alcohol of any description by Umpires whilst in uniform on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, or in the vicinity of any Championship venue, is banned.
- 18.3. Where required, all Umpires shall be accommodated together but separate from any competing team to the extent that this is possible. Where teams and Umpires are co-located, every effort should be made to ensure there is some degree of separation between the two groups.
- 18.4. No visiting Umpires shall seek or use alternative accommodation without the consent of the Umpire Coordinator, who will decide the issue after consultation with the Tournament Director.
- 18.5. Uniform to be worn shall be as approved by QBUA.

- 18.6. BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all Umpires in order to participate in any State Championship. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Umpire Manager prior to the Championships.
- 18.7. The Umpire Coordinator
  - 18.7.1. For each Championship the QBUA shall appoint a Coordinator for the umpiring panel. The Coordinator may be a member of the panel.
  - 18.7.2. The duties of the Coordinator shall include:
    - 18.7.2.1.1. Full control of the umpiring discipline of the panel both on and off the field.
    - 18.7.2.1.2. Liaison with the Tournament Director for application of their requirements.
    - 18.7.2.1.3. Duties associated with the appointment of Umpires.
    - 18.7.2.1.4. The appointment of a Crew Chief to each team of Umpires in each game.
  - 18.7.3. The Umpires Coordinator must sign BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement. Signed copies of the Code of Ethics are to be presented to the Tournament Director, prior to commencement of the respective tournament.
- 18.8. Appointments
  - 18.8.1. The Umpire Coordinator is the sole agent for appointment of Umpires for the duration of the event.
  - 18.8.2. The Umpire Coordinator may appoint any Umpire to any games as they see fit. All Umpires are considered neutral.
  - 18.8.3. The Umpire Coordinator will determine (in consultation with the Tournament Director) how many Umpires will be appointed to each game.
- 18.9. Protests
  - 18.9.1. The Umpire Coordinator shall resolve all protests against baseball rulings only, during a game at the time of the protest. Protests must be resolved before the game can continue.
  - 18.9.2. Protests must be lodged immediately and be accompanied by a written submission and a \$50 fee.
  - 18.9.3. Should the protest be upheld, then the \$50 Protest Fee will be refunded to the protesting team.
  - 18.9.4. The Tournament Director shall settle all disputes on Championship Rules. All disputes regarding the Championship Rules are to be directed to the Tournament Director in writing, as soon as is practical once the dispute arises. Protests must be resolved before the next play and before the game can continue. The Tournament Director is solely responsible for handling all such disputes. The Tournament Director shall provide to BQ a copy of all Championship Rule disputes and the process by which these were handled at the conclusion of each day's play.
  - 18.9.5. Decisions of the Umpire Coordinator and the Tournament Director are final and binding.

## **19. SCORERS AND OFFICIAL RECORDER**

- 19.1. The Panel of Scorers will be convened from those Scorers nominated by the Regions/Teams.
- 19.2. Each Region/Team nominate an appropriately qualified (Level 2) Scorer when submitting their team Roster.
- 19.3. The use or possession of any form of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, or alcohol of any description by Scorers on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, whilst in uniform or in the vicinity of any Championship Venue is banned.
- 19.4. BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all Scorers in order to participate in any State Championships. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Tournament Director prior to the Championship.
- 19.5. Where required, the Queensland Baseball Scorers Association (QBSA) shall appoint a Coordinator for the scoring panel. The Coordinator may be a member of the panel. The duties of the Coordinator include:
  - 19.5.1. Full control of the discipline of the scoring panel at all times.
  - 19.5.2. Liaison with the Tournament Director for application of their requirements.
  - 19.5.3. Duties associated with the appointment of scorers.
- 19.6. BQ will provide devices for the scoring of games. Scorers are welcome to utilise their own devices also.

## **20. STATISTICS OF A CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 20.1. GameChanger is to be used in conjunction with the official BA/BQ Scorebook. One (1) Scorer will record the game in GameChanger while the other will use the official Scorebook.
- 20.2. All Players eligible to play in a game must be listed on the line-up card handed to the Plate Umpire at the home plate meeting. However, in the event of an oversight in which an eligible Player is omitted from the original line-up card, this will not prevent that Player from entering the game.
- 20.3. In listing each team in the scorebook, scorers must place both the team's batting and pitching lists and stats on the same page.
- 20.4. Statistics other than those provided to subscribers within GameChanger will not be publicised.
- 20.5. BQ will not provide participating teams with a summary of available Players or team statistics (for their team or their opposition).

## 21. THE PLAYING FIELD

Ground dimensions for State Championships are:

	Girls	Youth Women	Under 16	Under 18	Women	Open/Masters
Pitching Distance	46'	54'	60' 6"	60' 6"	60' 6"	60' 6"
Base paths	60'	80'	90'	90'	90'	90'
Back Net	A minimum of 45' or as approved by BQ					
Foul Line	200'	270' (min) 290' (max)	300' (min)	300' (min)	270' (min)	300' (min)
Centre Field	220'	300' (min)	360' (min)	360' (min)	300' (min)	300' (min)
Recommended Fence Height	4' (min)	4' (min)	6' (min)	6' (min)	6' (min)	6' (min)

(Use pitching plate as pivot point to allow for a correct arc for the home run fence).

- 21.1. These dimensions may only be varied with the prior authority of the Tournament Director or BQ representative.
- 21.2. A home run perimeter is mandatory on all fields used for BQ Championships.
- 21.3. Pitching Mounds

	Girls	Youth Women	Under 16	Under 18	Women	Open/Masters
Diameter	10'	15'	18'	18'	18'	18'
Height	6"	8"	10"	10"	10"	10"

## 22. FIELD AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

22.1. The following minimum field requirements have been developed by BQ and are open to negotiation with the host organisation.

22.2. Minimum number of fields required for State Championships are:

	Girls	Youth Women	Under 16	Under 18	Women	Open
Fields	2	2	2	2	2	2
Fields with Lights	1	1	1	1	1	1

22.3. Facility Standards - The following minimum facility standards have been developed by BQ and are open to negotiation with the host organisation.

- 22.3.1. Boundary, back net, foul poles and home run fence are to be made of a material that does not present an unreasonable risk to Players.
- 22.3.2. All materials to be used for home run fences shall be inspected by the Tournament Director or his/her delegate for the particular series prior to the commencement of the respective event.
- 22.3.3. Back nets are to be at a minimum distance of 45 feet from home plate or as approved by BQ for the series, prior to the Championship.
- 22.3.4. Where a lit field is provided, the lighting shall be to Standards Australia document AS 2560.1—2018 (Minimum 500 Lux for the Infield and 300 Lux for the Outfield, preferable 750 Lux for the infield and 500 Lux for the outfield). Host organisation to provide recent (within ten (10) months from date of issue) lighting audit report to BQ no later than one (1) month prior to respective event.
- 22.3.5. Wherever metal cleats are allowed, dirt mounds are required on the field and in the bullpen areas.
- 22.3.6. Protective screens are required to be supplied for batting practice: An L Screen (7x7 feet) and square screen (8x8 feet) (mandatory) together with a 3rd screen (8x8 feet) if a 1st Baseman is receiving fielded balls from other infielders.
- 22.3.7. Adequate batting practice areas are to be available at the field or in close proximity.
- 22.3.8. Any batting tunnels to be used must be equipped with an L Screen and impact netting.
- 22.3.9. Fields to be used for games and warm-up must be of good quality, with a level, even surface and without intrusions or holes, which may increase the injury risk for participants. Fields are to be maintained in good order throughout the event.
- 22.3.10. Adequate sun protection must be provided for all Players and Coaches at the fields. This includes the bullpen area.
- 22.3.11. Ready access to ice water and ice is to be provided by the host organisation to each dugout and Umpire's changeroom.
- 22.3.12. Scorers and Officials are to be provided with a covered area.



- 22.3.13. The scorer's area must be suitably positioned, providing a clear view of the entire field and good access to communication with the Umpire. Access to electricity or portable battery packs is required.
- 22.3.14. Bases used shall be anchored into the ground by a solid thick rod firmly and securely attached to the base and inserted into a pipe that is firmly and securely anchored in the ground. The use of spikes driven into the earth to anchor bases is not permitted.
- 22.3.15. Scoreboards are to be provided on all grounds used, each scoreboard is to display a minimum of the score and the innings.
- 22.4. Each BQ Championship shall have a Grounds Coordinator (Appointed by the Host Organisation) with sufficient crew to be available at all games during the pre-game phase and during all games.
- 22.5. The following requirements are to be provided in regard to facilities for all Queensland Championships:
  - 22.5.1. Screens for the protection of Players and Coaches are to be provided at batting practice areas and within batting tunnels.
  - 22.5.2. A sufficient number of power points are to be made available at the ground.
  - 22.5.3. Venues with access to phone, and internet facilities to meet the daily requirements of the Championship are preferred.
  - 22.5.4. Adequate toilet facilities are to be provided for competing teams, Officials and spectators.
  - 22.5.5. There shall be ready access to ice supplies for Players and for use in the first aid treatment of Players – host organisation to provide and replenish as needed, at least three small freezer bags of injury ice in the third base dugout of each field in use for the event.
  - 22.5.6. A qualified and dedicated First Aid officer must be in attendance (as appointed by BQ) at all times and a designated treatment area must be provided.
  - 22.5.7. Access to doctors, physiotherapists and hospitals is to be advised to competing teams.
  - 22.5.8. Available medical services are to be advised to competing teams, which are available for use on a user pays basis.
  - 22.5.9. It is strongly recommended that an isolated area be provided at all venues for use by Scorers in compiling game reports as well as use by the Tournament Director for meetings where privacy is required, e.g., Tribunal or disciplinary meetings.

## **23. REGULATION GAME**

- 23.1. The U16, U18, Youth Women's, and Women's will play seven (7) innings as a regulation game. The Youth Women's and Women's games will be limited to ninety (90) minutes or seven (7) innings, whichever comes first. Open Championships will play nine (9) innings for a regulation game.
- 23.2. It is a regulation game when:
  - 23.2.1. The Home Team has scored more runs in six (6) innings or eight (8) innings respectively than the Visiting Team has scored in seven (7) innings (for a 7-innings game) or nine (9) innings (for a 9-innings game).



- 23.2.2. The Home team scores the winning run in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> innings before the inning is completed. If a batter in the last half of the final inning of a game hits a home run over the home run fence or into the stand, all runners on base at the time of the hit as well as the batter, shall be entitled to score, but to legally score all bases must be touched in order by all runners. The final score of such a game shall be the total number of runs scored by each team.
- 23.2.3. The score is tied at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> innings played, the game is continued until one (1) team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings, provided that if the Home team scores the winning run before the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is made in any inning after the 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> inning, the game shall terminate and be a regulation game.
- 23.2.4. The game is terminated by the Umpire on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible, provided five (5) or more innings have been played, or the Home team scores more runs in four (4) innings, or before the completion of its 5<sup>th</sup> inning, then the Visiting team has scored in five (5) completed innings.
- 23.2.5. If the Umpire terminates play after five (5) completed innings, the score of such games shall be the score, at the end of the last completed inning. If, however, the Home team has scored more total runs than the Visiting team and the game is terminated while the home team is at bat, the score of such game shall be the total runs scored by each team. Also, when a game is terminated after five (5) completed innings with the Visiting team at bat and the Home team ahead, the score shall be the total number of runs scored by each team at the time the game is terminated.
- 23.2.6. In a timed game, the game will be deemed complete when the game was scheduled to conclude. (i.e. a two (2) hour game will finish at exactly two (2) hours and a result will be determined).

## **24. REGULATION TIED GAME**

- 24.1. It is a regulation tied game when the Umpire terminates play on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible and:
- 24.1.1. If at the end of five (5) or more completed innings, for all Championships, the score is tied.
- 24.1.2. If the Home team shall score in its uncompleted 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> innings or any incomplete innings thereafter enough runs to equal the Visiting team's score.
- 24.2. Tie Breaker Rule – Where conditions permit and extra innings are required to achieve a result and any “extra inning” is about to commence, each Team at bat shall commence the top of their offense inning with runners on first and second base. The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning. The runner on first shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning. The runner on second base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the runner on first base. Any runner or batter removed from the game for a substitute shall be ineligible to return to the game, as would be the case with any substituted Player pursuant to the Official Baseball Rules. For purposes of this Regulation, any “extra inning” is defined as the 8<sup>th</sup> inning or later in a seven (7)-inning game, or the 10<sup>th</sup> inning or later in a nine (9)-inning game.



## **25. SUSPENDED / RESCHEDULED GAME**

- 25.1. It is a suspended game when the Umpire terminates play on account of darkness, weather or any other cause which makes it impossible for further play in the game, and where fewer than five (5) innings have been completed.
- 25.2. When a number of games are suspended or not commenced, then these games shall be rescheduled so that each team play as near as possible an equal number of games. Where the suspended or not commenced games that are to be re-scheduled include key games between teams vying for the Championship, then these key games will be given precedence over other games. Games involving teams that cannot be feasibly reconvened at a later date will also be considered a priority for completion. Games can be re-scheduled on rest days if the Tournament Director desires. If re-scheduled, suspended games will be re-commenced at the point where the games were halted.
- 25.3. If game(s) are rain delayed or rained out, they may be rescheduled on an alternate ground. This decision remains with the Tournament Director.
- 25.4. Any pitcher's eligibility to pitch in the continuation of any resumed game (the resumption of a game that had previously been suspended) shall be determined by the applicable rest period stipulated for any pitches delivered in the game or games after the game was suspended.

## **26. ABANDONED GAME**

- 26.1. If the Tournament Director cannot re-schedule a suspended game, then that game will be considered as abandoned, and competing teams will be awarded points as detailed in Rule 30.
- 26.2. Note: Any pitches thrown in an abandoned game shall be counted in pitch statistics and must be included in calculations concerning pitch limits and required rest periods.

## **27. STARTING TIMES OF GAME**

- 27.1. Where possible, all games will not begin before 7:30 am. The Tournament Director must approve all earlier starts.

## **28. PLAYING CONDITIONS**

- 28.1. The Tournament Director will be responsible for the arrangements for the program of games, in consultation with BQ, subject to the following conditions.
- 28.2. Weather interference:
  - 28.2.1. The number of games to be played may be reduced where weather or other conditions prevent the completion of the program within the time available.
  - 28.2.2. From the first game of any Championship the decision to delay or abandon a game shall be made by the Tournament Director.
- 28.3. Distribution of Game Schedule – BQ will distribute the program of games no later than one (1) month before the beginning of the Championship.
- 28.4. First Day of Games – In contemplating the program of games, and where a bye is necessary on the opening day of the Championship, such a bye will be given to the Region/Team, which has travelled the greatest distance to compete.
- 28.5. Wherever possible, the event schedule will include a finals series.
- 28.6. Night games may be played. Venue curfews are to be observed.

- 28.7. Order of Benches and Batting – The second named team in the official schedule of games will be regarded as the Home Team, field first and occupy the third base dugout or bench. This will also be denoted by the use of the @ sign. Eg Bris West @ Bris South, making Bris South the home team.
- 28.8. Pre-game infield routine (if available):
- 28.8.1. Twenty-five (25) minutes before the scheduled starting time of a game, the Home Team will commence their entitled seven (7) minutes warm-up on the playing diamond.
  - 28.8.2. Eighteen (18) minutes before the schedule starting time of the game the Away Team will commence their entitled seven (7) minute warm-up.
  - 28.8.3. The remaining ten (10) minutes will allow the ground crew to finalise ground preparation.
  - 28.8.4. The supervision of the warm-up before the game will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director or a designated Official. Pre-game is not to delay game start times.
  - 28.8.5. If the ground crew do not release the field for use at least twenty-five (25) minutes prior to game time, neither team will be entitled to take infield / outfield.
  - 28.8.6. If facilities at or near the playing venue are to be made available for pre-game batting practice, then a standard schedule of batting practice and training will be drawn up by the Tournament Director and distributed at the Officials' Meeting prior to the commencement of the series.
  - 28.8.7. The opposing team is not to occupy the field at any time while the competing team is performing the warm-up.
- 28.9. One-Sided Games – Provided that the losing team has completed its turn at bat:
- 28.9.1. A nine (9)-inning game shall be completed when one team is leading by
    - 28.9.1.1. ten (10) or more runs after seven (7) completed innings or
    - 28.9.1.2. twenty (20) or more runs after five (5) completed innings or
    - 28.9.1.3. thirty (30) or more runs after three (3) completed innings.
  - 28.9.2. A seven (7) inning game shall be completed when one team is leading by
    - 28.9.2.1. ten (10) or more runs after five (5) completed innings or
    - 28.9.2.2. twenty (20) or more runs after three (3) completed innings.
  - 28.9.3. A scheduled two (2)-hour or ninety (90)-minute game shall be completed when one team is leading by ten (10) or more runs at the end of a completed innings where twenty (20) minutes or fewer remain in the game.
  - 28.9.4. For U16, U18, Youth Women and Women's State Titles a Maximum Run Score will be imposed as per below:
    - 28.9.4.1. Maximum number of runs to be scored per team, per inning in any game is six (6) runs. No maximum run score limit will be imposed on either team from the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning to the completion of the game.
    - 28.9.4.2. While the six (6) run rule is in effect, for the purposes of scoring; in the event a batter hits the ball out of play and is ruled by the Umpire(s) to have hit either a Ground Rule Double or a Homerun (excluding inside the park

homerun) that drives in excess of six (6) runs for the inning, all runs from that inning will be added to the team's score and the Umpire shall declare side away at the completion of that play.

- 28.9.5. Local Youth Competitions Suspended (Youth Championships) - All local youth competitions are to be suspended during a State Championship in any Region hosting such a Championship.
- 28.9.6. The ten-player batting line up is not permitted for play during State Titles.

## 29. POINTSCORE

- 29.1. The Points allocated to Teams will be as follows:
  - 29.1.1. TWO points for a win.
  - 29.1.2. ONE point for a tied game.
  - 29.1.3. NO points for an abandoned game or a loss.

## 30. RANKING THE TEAMS

- 30.1. U16, U18, Youth Women, and Women's Championship teams will be ranked by the points they have scored in the round robin games.
- 30.2. Where two (2) or more teams score the same number of points, the "head-to-head" method will be used to separate them.
- 30.3. If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:
  - 30.3.1. The highest ranking will be awarded to the team which allowed the fewest runs in the game(s) contested by those teams (which are tied) requiring separation.
  - 30.3.2. The remaining teams will then be ranked according to the results of "head-to-head" games between them. If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams (which are tied) method and then back to "head-to-head", and so forth.
  - 30.3.3. If teams are still tied, ranking will be according to the lowest number of runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the competition, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher-ranking team then the remaining teams will revert to the "head-to-head". If remaining teams are still tied, revert to using the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams, and then back to "head-to-head" and so forth.
  - 30.3.4. The "head to head" process will determine the ranking of the final two (2) teams in the above situation.
- 30.4. The Champion Region/Team
  - 30.4.1. The Champion Region/Team will be the team who wins the Championship Final.
  - 30.4.2. If the Championship Final fails to decide the Champion Region/Team (e.g. game abandoned due to weather, light, etc.) then the team which finished the most recently completed round in the highest position will be declared State Champion.
- 30.5. Championships Affected by Abandoned Games – Where fewer than the total number of games scheduled for a Championship is completed as the result of "Abandoned Games", the Winning Region/Team will be determined as follows:



- 30.5.1. For a Region/Team which completed all of its scheduled games, the number of competition points which it has actually scored will be divided by the number of points which it could have scored if it had won all games in which it competed, and a percentage determined.
- 30.5.2. For a Region/Team which completed fewer than the number of its scheduled games the number of competition points actually scored by the Region/Team will be divided by the number of points it could have scored had it won all games in which it competed, and a percentage determined.
- 30.5.3. In comparing the percentages calculated in accordance with (30.5.1) and (30.5.2) above, the higher percentage is better than the lower percentage.
- 30.5.4. When highest percentages are equal then the highest points actually scored will determine the higher place.
- 30.5.5. When the highest points scored are the same then a “head-to-head” method will apply.
- 30.5.6. When the “head-to-head” result is equal, the “head-to-head” method will be used against the same teams finishing above or below the teams involved with the “head-to-head” method.
- 30.5.7. In the event two (2), three (3) or more teams tie, and the “head-to-head” method does not resolve the order of ranking, then the following method is to apply:
  - 30.5.7.1. The fewest runs allowed in the games played between the tied teams.
  - 30.5.7.2. The fewest runs allowed in the games played against teams above the tied teams.
  - 30.5.7.3. The fewest runs allowed in the games played against teams immediately below the tied Teams.

### **31. TIME SAVING RULES**

- 31.1. Policy and Intent – The BQ Board has resolved to speed-up the play of games. The intent of these rules is to encourage Umpires, Coaches and Players to limit time wasting and to ensure that games proceed at a good tempo and thus present a more enjoyable spectacle.
- 31.2. Umpires Responsible for Enforcement – Umpires are responsible for enforcement of BQ time saving rules and should wear a wristwatch for this purpose. All violations of this Section should be reported to the Tournament Director.
- 31.3. Pre-game practice not to delay game – In no event should pre-game practice interfere with or delay the scheduled start of the game (with the exception of wet weather implications). The teams should comply with the Rules set forth herein regarding such matters.
- 31.4. Twelve (12)-Second Pitch Rule will be applied as follows:
  - 31.4.1. The 12-Second Pitch Rule for the pitcher shall apply whenever there are no runners on base. Official Baseball Rule 8.04.
  - 31.4.2. If the pitch is thrown before the violation is called, the pitch shall be deemed a ball, regardless of its location.
  - 31.4.3. If, in the Umpire’s opinion, the pitcher is intentionally violating the Rule, the Umpire may eject the offending pitcher and/or Manager from the game.

- 31.5. Hitter to Remain in Batter's Box is as follows:
- 31.5.1. The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless the hitter makes a request for "time" and the Umpire feels that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the Umpire grant time out.
  - 31.5.2. If no runners are on base, the batter should not be granted time and permitted to leave the batter's box unless, in the opinion of the Umpire, unusual circumstances exist which make the request a reasonable one.
- 31.6. Limits on Warm-up Pitches is as follows:
- 31.6.1. Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, he/she shall be permitted a maximum sixty (60) seconds to throw his or her warm-up pitches. This same time limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of an inning.
  - 31.6.2. Should either team take longer than sixty (60) seconds to make the changeover between innings, penalties will be invoked. On the first such occasion in a game, the Home Plate Umpire will give the team's Manager an official warning.
  - 31.6.3. Any further transgressions shall result in a called strike (if it is the batting team which offends) or a called ball (if it is the pitching team which offends).
  - 31.6.4. The sixty (60) second time limit commences immediately the third out of the previous innings is completed.
  - 31.6.5. The active pitcher will be permitted to warm up prior to taking the mound by throwing in foul territory adjacent to their dugout.
- 31.7. Limits on Offensive Meetings – Teams are allowed a maximum of three (3) "offensive meetings" per game. An offensive meeting shall be charged any time a Coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive Player, whether it be the hitter, a base runner or an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another Coach. If the game goes into extra innings, one (1) additional "offensive meeting" shall be permitted for each three (3) extra innings.
- 31.8. Visits to the Mound
- 31.8.1. Three (3) free visits will be allowed to the mound in a seven (7) or a nine (9) inning game. The fourth and any subsequent visit in a game will cause the removal of the pitcher. The second, and any subsequent visit in any one inning, will cause the removal of the pitcher.
  - 31.8.2. All visits to the mound (including those by a Manager or Coach between innings) be included as a visit in calculating the number of visits by a Manager or Coach has made.
  - 31.8.3. No visit may be longer than sixty (60) seconds to the mound (at the Umpire's discretion). Time starts when the Coach / Manager crosses the foul line.
  - 31.8.4. Should a game proceed into extra innings, then one (1) extra visit will be allowed for every three (3) innings or part thereof.
  - 31.8.5. Pitching changes must be made by a visit to the mound. Any attempt to move the pitcher to a defensive position on a second visit by going directly to the Plate Umpire is a circumvention of the rule and is not permitted.
  - 31.8.6. All substitutions must be made via the Plate Umpire and recorded by Scorers. It is recommended that Managers send a runner to the Scorer, where possible, with

written advice of substitutions to be made. NB: these substitutions do not come into effect until the Umpire Officially notifies the scorer.

- 31.8.7. Teams are not permitted to utilise a “Runner for the Catcher”. Managers are to ensure a bench player is ready in appropriate catching gear, to warm up the pitcher between innings.

### **32. PLAYER PARTICIPATION (UNDER-AGE ONLY)**

- 32.1. For U16, U18, Youth Women’s Championship there are mandatory participation requirements for all teams which must be met by all Players by completion of the Championship, including any games played on the final day.
- 32.1.1. All Players are required to meet minimum participation requirements.
- 32.1.2. All games are to be included in meeting participation requirements.
- 32.1.3. Participation requirements must be fulfilled by the completion of the Championship, including any games played on the final day.
- 32.2. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the team concerned being deemed ineligible to record a win on the final day’s play.
- 32.3. Medical grounds for failure to meet participation requirements must be verified to the satisfaction of the Tournament Director. Please provide medical certificates detailing the parameters of any prescribed rest/deactivation period.
- 32.4. Defensive Outs – U16 and U18 State Titles Participation
- 32.4.1. At the completion of the State Championships; U18 tournament Players must have played forty-three (43) defensive outs, U16 tournament Players must have played forty-three (43) defensive outs. Any team with fewer Players than the prescribed minimum roster size will be subject to a revised participation requirement as set out by BQ.
- 32.4.2. For the purposes of participation, Players who are in the game at the time an inning ends due to the Maximum Run Score Rule (28.9.4), will be credited with three (3) defensive outs for that inning.
- 32.4.3. In the case where a game is called early due to the One-Sided Game Rule (Rule 28.9 above) being invoked, or the home team scoring the winning run in the bottom of the last inning of any game, Players will only be credited with participation for defensive outs actually played in that last inning.
- 32.4.4. For the purposes of participation, the Designated Hitter (Available to U16 and U18 Teams, Women and Open Age Championships ONLY) will be credited with three (3) defensive outs for every plate appearance.
- 32.5. Any Player injured or taken ill during a game shall be credited with having completed that game. This is subject to approval by the Tournament Director.
- 32.6. External circumstances during a Championship may provide participation problems for Field Managers. The Tournament Director will address each case on its merit.
- 32.7. The Field Managers are responsible for ensuring Players on their teams satisfy the participation requirements. Infringements shall be noted by the Tournament Director, for a ruling and subsequent disciplinary action (if any).
- 32.8. Professional Pitchers – State Associations must notify Baseball Queensland of any professional pitchers with restrictions imposed by their employer, which may prevent

them from meeting minimum requirements. Such notice is required two (2) weeks in advance of the event's commencement date.

- 32.9. Injury or illness - Should a Player be rendered unavailable for a period of time due to illness or injury the following shall apply:
- 32.9.1. The team is to provide the Tournament Director with written advice from a qualified medical officer detailing the period of time that the Player is unable to participate.
  - 32.9.2. It is the responsibility of team management to provide the Tournament Director with any medical documentation required to verify a Player is unable to play.
- 32.10. Monitoring participation is as follows:
- 32.10.1. All substitutions must be made via the Plate Umpire and recorded by Scorers. It is recommended that Managers send a runner to the scorer, where possible, with written advice of substitutions to be made. NB: these substitutions do not come into effect until the Umpire officially notifies the Scorer.
  - 32.10.2. The Scorers are required to provide participation information to the Tournament Director to enable the Tournament Director to monitor participation throughout the Championship.
  - 32.10.3. As part of the duty to monitor participation, the Tournament Director will have the right to direct a Manager to ensure that underused Players are included in subsequent games if such inclusion is required for that Player to meet the participation minimum for the Championship. Failure to adhere to this directive will be viewed as a very serious breach and will ordinarily result in the suspension of the Manager for the remainder of the Championship by order and at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- 32.11. Penalties for failing to adhere to participation regulations – Teams that do not meet participation requirements will be deemed ineligible to officially record a win on their final day of competition and may be fined up to \$500.

### 33. PITCHING REGULATIONS – UNDER-AGE PLAYERS ONLY (AT ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS)

33.1. A pitcher's game contribution will be classified according to the number of pitches officially thrown:

Tournament	Age	Daily Limit (Pitches)	Assignment (Pitches)				
			Short	Moderate	Substantial	Major	Maximum
Youth Women	12U	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
Youth Women/U16 State Titles	13-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
U18 State Titles	U18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
Women/Open/Masters	Open	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105**

33.2. Exemption: If a pitcher reaches a threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

33.2.1. That batter reaches base;

33.2.2. That batter is retired; or,

33.2.3. The third out is made to complete the half inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) rest of the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.

33.3. It will be the responsibility of the Official Scorer to notify the Chief Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within ten (10) pitches of the maximum allowable number of pitches (Maximum outings only).

33.4. A pitcher reaching his/her daily limit of pitches for a Maximum Assignment is to be removed from the game once he/she has completed the batter or has been moved to Designated Hitter. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of an inning, then that pitcher is entitled to take his place as a batter should he/she be due to hit in the next half inning.

33.5. The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rules.

33.6. Should any pitcher play out of their age group (for example, in the Women's Championships), the pitch limits and rest requirements relevant to that pitcher's age must be adhered to, not those of the Championship.

33.7. A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate, whether it is hit safely or not, shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".

33.8. A "no pitch", e.g., batter steps out of the batter's box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count.



### 33.9. Rest Requirements

Assignment	Applicable Rest Period
Maximum	One (1) day rest from any defensive role An additional three (3), bringing the total to four (4) days rest from pitching ** Women/Open/Masters – 106 + pitches in an outing requires five (5) days rest from pitching
Major	One (1) day rest from catching Three (3) days rest from pitching
Substantial	One (1) day rest from catching Two (2) days rest from pitching
Moderate	One (1) day rest from catching One (1) day rest from pitching
Short	Zero (0) days rest from pitching No rest days are required after a short pitching assignment. However, for two (2) short assignments on successive days or on the same day, one (1) day's rest is required from pitching and catching.

To learn more about why these pitching restrictions have been implemented please refer to this link: <https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>

- 33.10. Any Player pitching a Maximum Assignment will be required to complete one (1) day's rest before any playing participation except as a Designated Hitter or for pinch hitting and pinch running.
- 33.11. No rest days are required after a Short pitching assignment. However, for two (2) Short Assignments on successive days or on the same day, one (1) day's rest is required from pitching and catching.
- 33.12. If a Player is removed from pitching after completing a second Short Assignment on the same day, he or she shall leave the game and may not participate any further on that day.
- 33.13. An "assignment" is any pitching role of any length in any game: the delivery of even one (1) pitch shall be considered one assignment.
- 33.14. A Player once removed, as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
- 33.15. The scorers shall indicate in the scorebook the game contribution for each pitcher and when the pitcher may next play.
- 33.16. Penalties for failing to adhere to participation and/or pitching regulations
  - 33.16.1. Using a pitcher who has not had the required rest in either a pitching or defensive capacity is considered a serious breach, as it exposes the Player to an increased injury risk. In most cases, such use will be penalised by the suspension of the Manager for at least one (1) game, as well as the monetary penalty outlined below. In order to prevent Managers flaunting this rule in the knowledge that the following game is a lesser priority, the duration of the suspension is at the discretion of the Tournament Director and may be extended to include suspension for the remainder of the tournament.

### 34. PITCHER/CATCHER RULE (For under-age Players at all Championships)

- 34.1. Any Player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. For example, if a Player plays the position of catcher and catches a single pitch in their fourth innings as catcher in a day, they are not eligible to pitch for the remainder of that day.
- 34.2. A pitcher who exceeds a Short Assignment in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- 34.3. PENALTY: Immediate ejection from the game for first and subsequent offences. The offending team shall forfeit the game and the Manager/Head Coach shall be reported to the Tournament Director and dealt with by the Tribunal.

### 35. COLLISION RULE

- 35.1. Collisions at home plate
  - 35.1.1. A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other Player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the Umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other Player covering home plate) in such a manner, the Umpire shall declare the runner out (even if the Player covering home plate loses possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the Umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.
  - 35.1.2. *Rule of Baseball 7.13 Comment:* The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the plate, the runner's lowering of the shoulder, or the runner's pushing through with his or her hands, elbows or arms, would support a determination that the runner deviated from the pathway in order to initiate contact with the catcher in violation of Rule 7.13. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he/she shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 7.13. A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner's buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. In the case of a head-first slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if his or her body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher.
  - 35.1.3. Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as he or she is attempting to score. If, in the judgment of the Umpire, the catcher without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the Umpire shall call or signal the runner safe. Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation of this Rule 7.13 if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw, and the Umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.

### 36. DESIGNATED HITTER RULES

- 36.1. A Designated Hitter may be used at all BQ Championships. Exception: No DH to be in use for Girls State Titles.
- 36.2. The following is an option for under-age Queensland Championships only and should be read in conjunction with the Designated Hitter Rule.
  - 36.2.1. A team may move the pitcher to the Designated Hitter's role and introduce a new pitcher anytime in the game, subject to Rule 36.2.3

- 36.2.2. Where the Designated Hitter has started the game, a once-only switch in roles between the Pitcher and the Designated Hitter is allowed subject to Rule 36.2.3.
- 36.2.3. The Manager may only initiate these changes directly with the Plate Umpire on the first visit to the Pitcher during a defensive innings, or during an offensive innings.
- 36.2.4. A Designated Hitter who becomes the Pitcher, or a Pitcher who becomes the Designated Hitter may not participate in the game in any other way.
- 36.2.5. In any subsequent substitutions or positional changes following the once-only switch mentioned above, when a Player comes from a defensive position or Designated Hitter to the mound, the Designated Hitter may not be used for the remainder of the game.

### **37. RE-ENTRY RULE**

- 37.1. Position players other than the catcher may be removed from the game in order to prepare to re-enter the game as the pitcher.
- 37.2. Relief pitchers are not to come from the field. Relief pitchers must be afforded an opportunity to prepare to pitch in the bullpen etc before being called on to pitch.  
EXCEPTION: Only in the case where the pitcher is injured may the relief pitcher come from the field.
- 37.3. Any player removed from a game under this re-entry rule may only re-enter the game as the pitcher.
- 37.4. Any player that re-enters a game must pitch to at least one complete batter, unless:
  - 37.4.1. The Pitcher sustains an injury or
  - 37.4.2. The umpire in chief calls the game for any reason.
  - 37.4.3. After pitching to at least one hitter they are eligible to be moved to any other fielding position.
- 37.5. Only one player at any time may be removed from the game under this rule.
- 37.6. Any player removed from a game under this rule will remain in the batting order and take their turn at bat as it occurs and continue to accrue defensive outs.
- 37.7. A substitute player (one who enters the game to allow a player to leave the game to prepare to pitch) will not be entered into the scorebook. (Similar to a runner for the catcher)
- 37.8. A substitute player will not have a turn at bat and will not accrue defensive outs while playing as the substitute for a player removed to prepare to pitch. A substitute entered under this rule, plays defence only.
- 37.9. Once the pitcher re-enters the game, his substitute remains eligible to enter the game.
- 37.10. The manager is to inform both the scorers and the umpire when removing a player from the game in order to prepare them to re-enter as the pitcher. Failure to notify the Umpire and scorers of the use of the re-entry rule when making the change will result in the player concerned being ineligible to re-enter the game.

### **38. BALLS**

- 38.1. For all Championships, BQ will approve and supply one brand of baseball to be used in games.
- 38.2. BQ will notify the competing Regions of the type of baseballs to be used one (1) month before the event is to take place.

- 38.3. One game baseball shall be given to each team thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled starting time of each game to enable pitchers to warm up with the game baseball. These baseballs are to be handed to the Chief Umpire before the start of the game.
- 38.4. Warm-up balls will not be provided for relief pitchers.

### 39. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

- 39.1. Each Championship has certain specifications for equipment and uniforms.
- 39.2. All catchers must wear a mask, attached-type throat protector and a catcher's helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up and games (this includes catcher's helmets with built in face mask). Any Player or Coach warming up a pitcher shall wear a face mask and a helmet no matter whether in the bull pen or on the playing field.
- 39.3. Baseball caps are regarded as part of the playing uniform and must be worn by all Coaches and Players at all times during a game unless where substituted by a protective helmet.
- 39.4. When his or her team is on offence, a pitcher or a relieved pitcher may wear a team warm-up jacket once he reaches base.
- 39.5. Bats
- 39.5.1. Bats for use in all U18, Open Division 1 and Division 2, and Masters' State Championships must be wood, or wood composite/laminated, as approved by IBAF. <http://www.ibaf.org/en/>. Players competing in the U18 State Titles may use either approved wood, wood composite, or BBCOR Aluminium bats.
- 39.5.2. The use of "Blast Motion" sensors, or similar are permitted throughout the Championship.
- 39.5.3. Bats for use in Girls State Titles must feature USA Baseball marking and not exceed 2 5/8<sup>th</sup> inches in diameter.
- 39.5.4. Youth Women and Women State Titles – a bat may be no more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8<sup>th</sup> inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than 15/16<sup>ths</sup> inches in diameter at its smallest part. The minimum diameter for a bat, which is less than 30" long, is 7/8<sup>ths</sup> of an inch at its smallest part.
- 39.5.5. U16 and Division 3 to Division 6 State Titles – Composite or aluminium bats are permitted provided they meet the following standards:
- 39.5.5.1. It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33- inch long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). **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. Aluminium and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one- half inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.**
- 39.6. Uniforms

- 39.6.1. The Rules of Baseball in relation to uniforms shall apply to all Championships.
- 39.6.2. All Players on a team shall wear numbered uniforms identical in colour, trim and style.
- 39.6.3. White undershirts or sleeves will not be permitted as part of a team's uniform.
- 39.6.4. All members of competing teams, including Coaches, will wear the same colour uniforms.

#### 39.7. Footwear

- 39.7.1. In Youth Women's, only shoes with flexible, soft stops or dimple type soles can be worn. In all other Championships, the use of nylon and rubber soles is permitted, and metal cleats can be worn.
- 39.7.2. No colour is specified for footwear, but to project a professional image of the game it is recommended that a team's footwear be uniform in colour.
- 39.7.3. Host venues may make further restrictions on footwear to protect artificial surfaces or to meet local ordinance conditions.

#### 39.8. Protective Helmets

- 39.8.1. Each team must provide an adequate number of approved protective helmets (see 38.7.3). Double-eared helmets will be mandatory in all Championships for the hitter, the hitter on deck, the base runners, the batboy/girl and any base Coach under the age of 18 years. Adult base Coaches are required to wear 'skull cap' style helmets (i.e., without ear covers), although they can wear two-eared helmet if they choose.
- 39.8.2. All helmets are required to comply with the International Safety standard endorsed by NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) - Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmets. (ND022-10m10b).
- 39.8.3. All helmets worn must have the safety logo on the helmet. Each Tournament Director will randomly check one team's helmets for safety purposes.

#### 39.9. Line-Up Cards

- 39.9.1. All Players eligible to play in a game must be listed on the line-up card handed to the Plate Umpire at the home plate meeting. However, in the event of an oversight in which an eligible Player is omitted from the original line-up card will not prevent that Player from entering the game.
- 39.9.2. Copy of Line-up will be issued to Scorers sixty (60) minutes prior to the commencement of each game. On a day where a team is playing back-to-back double-header the line-up for the second game will be due with the scorers thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the game.

### **40. SELECTION COMMITTEE**

- 40.1. The Selection Committee for State Programs will be appointed by BQ and operate under the guidance of the BQ High Performance Manager, or an appointed representative.

### **41. TROPHIES**

#### 41.1. Winning Team

- 41.1.1. A perpetual trophy is awarded to the winning team of each State Championship.

- 41.1.2. BQ will retain the perpetual trophy and arrange to have the trophy suitably engraved.
- 41.2. Medallions for First, Second and Third-placed teams Players, Manager, Assistant Coaches, Executive Officer and Scorer are to receive a suitable medallion, such medallions are to be supplied by BQ.
- 41.3. Individual Trophies and Awards
- 41.4. For State Championships, the following individual awards may be recognised at the discretion of BQ:
  - 41.4.1. Most Valuable Player
  - 41.4.2. Golden Bat
  - 41.4.3. Golden Glove
  - 41.4.4. Golden Arm

## **42. PROTESTS**

- 42.1. Teams may only protest the application of a rule.
- 42.2. Any such protest must be lodged with the Umpire prior to the next play commencing. Failure to do so nullifies any claim to a protest.
- 42.3. In the event a team wishes to protest the last play of the game or the ending of a game, such a protest must be lodged with the Umpire-In-Chief before the Umpires leave the field.
- 42.4. Protests can be initiated by advising the Umpire-In-Chief of a team's intention to lodge a protest. At such time the game will be suspended until the protest can be resolved in consultation with the Umpire's Coordinator or the Tournament Director as the case may require.
- 42.5. Protests are to be submitted in writing to the Umpire's Coordinator with a \$100 fee. In the event the protest is upheld the \$100 application fee is refundable.
- 42.6. The Umpire's Coordinator and the Tournament Director may meet to determine the outcome of a protest.

## **43. REPORTED PLAYERS/OFFICIALS**

- 43.1. Championships will govern Players, Coaches, and Officials in this manner.
- 43.2. Once the Player/Official has been ejected from the game, the Umpire writes an official report and delivers the report to the Umpires Coordinator, who will then discuss the offence/s with the Tournament Director to determine if a Tribunal is warranted.
- 43.3. Should any Player, Coach or Manager be ejected by an Umpire, the person ejected will receive a mandatory and automatic one (1) game suspension plus time served.
- 43.4. The Tribunal is authorised to impose whatever penalty is deemed necessary.
- 43.5. Full details of the Tribunal matter will be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BQ within one (1) month of the completion of the Championship.
- 43.6. Tribunal procedures at State Championships
  - 43.6.1. Wherever possible, any Tribunal hearing during a Championship, whether related to an on-field or off-field incident, must be finalised prior to the next game in which the parties are involved.

43.6.2. The Tribunal will be composed of three (3) adults; the Tournament Director, at least one BQ Official (or his/her appointed representative) along with one additional member appointed by BQ. It will not include any members of a competing team's staff or delegation. It is empowered to make determinations regarding rule infringements of BQ Playing Rules.

#### 43.7. Tribunal Process

43.7.1. Once the Tournament Director is made aware of any matter for which the Championship Tribunal is required, he/she sets the Tribunal hearing date/time and venue. The Tournament Director shall then personally make contact by telephone or in person with Tribunal members (and minutes secretary) and the relevant parties (Player /Coach/Official to be advised via their Executive Officer) to advise the particulars of the Tribunal hearing.

43.7.2. The Tournament Director shall clearly indicate to all parties the reason for the Tribunal hearing (e.g. Player ejection, purported breach of BQ playing rules, Code of Conduct etc).

43.7.3. The Tribunal shall be held in closed session whilst being cognisant of the principles of natural justice and will determine any matters in accord with the following procedural steps:

43.7.3.1. The Tournament Director shall assume the role of Tribunal Chairperson and will preside over the Tribunal proceedings, which shall be recorded by a minute secretary appointed by BQ.

43.7.3.2. The Umpire concerned shall present his or her version of the facts to the Tribunal in the presence of the ejected person and his or her Executive Officer. The Executive Officer shall be entitled to then ask questions in a reasonable manner to clarify matters in dispute.

43.7.3.3. The Umpire may at his or her discretion present other evidence (scorebook, other Umpire etc.) for corroborative purposes. The other evidence shall be made available during the Tribunal sitting to the Executive Officer for examination/questioning.

43.7.3.4. The Tribunal Chairperson and/or any Tribunal Member shall be entitled at any time during the hearing to ask questions of the parties to clarify any evidence where such clarification assists in deliberations.

43.7.3.5. Upon completing the presentation of their evidence, the Umpire and his or her witnesses shall be asked to leave the room but remain in the general area in case they are needed for any points of clarification.

43.7.3.6. The Executive Officer (EO), (or in the case of a breach regarding an adult, the alleged Perpetrator/respondent) is then invited to put forward the case for the alleged offender/or their team.

43.7.3.7. The Player/Coach/Official shall be given a reasonable time to explain his position when presenting their version of the incident. The EO may ask questions of his or her team member to assist in presenting his or her version of the facts and to clarify any points.

43.7.3.8. The Tribunal Members can seek and consider evidence from any source they deem appropriate but must make that evidence available to both parties.

- 43.7.3.9. The EO may present any written evidence (e.g. Scorebook) and/or call a reasonable number of other witnesses for corroboration. Such witnesses may be subject to questions in cross examination by Tribunal members.
- 43.7.3.10. The EO is then invited by the Tribunal to add any comment in summary relating to the facts presented. At the conclusion of their evidence, the EO, the ejected individual and any witnesses are to leave the confines of the room whilst the members of the Tribunal consider the facts. The Tribunal members are encouraged to pause/stop any recording devices, prior to deliberation.
- 43.7.3.11. Once a decision has been reached, the EO and ejected individual are recalled in order to be presented with the Tribunal's decision by the Chairperson.
- 43.7.3.12. Where a discretionary penalty is to be applied, the EO and ejected individual are given the opportunity to speak in mitigation of this penalty.
- 43.7.3.13. After making such a plea, they shall once again leave the room whilst the facts are summarised objectively by the Tournament Director and a determination of any discretionary penalty is finalised.
- 43.7.3.14. The EO and ejected individual are then recalled, and the Tribunal Chairperson shall announce penalty and close the hearing.
- 43.7.3.15. At the conclusion of the hearing, the minute secretary shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings, which shall be signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record. The EO shall be advised in writing (notice prepared by minute secretary) of the penalty as announced by the Tribunal Chairperson and the Chairperson shall sign such notice.
- 43.7.3.16. The penalty and any other relevant matters are then enacted.
- 43.7.3.17. The minutes of the Tribunal hearing are to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BQ within one (1) month following the Championships for validation of penalty; for example, where discretionary fines are applicable.
- 43.7.3.18. Note: Whilst, for the sake of thoroughness and due process, there are a number of steps depicted above, every effort should be made to carry out the Tribunal proceedings in an informal manner.

#### 43.7.4. TRIBUNAL APPEALS

- 43.7.4.1. Please refer to the Member Protection Policy for Appeals Process. Please follow this link to access the policy:  
<https://www.baseballqueensland.com.au/resources/>



#### **44. PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES**

- 44.1. A field rule violation is defined as the breaking of any rule in a game. The penalty for a breach of BQ playing rules, unless otherwise specified in BQ Operations Manual for Championships, may be a fine of up to a maximum of \$500 – levied against the Region/Club and a mandatory and automatically applied, one (1) game suspension of the offending team’s Manager.
- 44.2. The penalty for breaching BQ Procedural Regulations (pre/post program) is a fine of up to \$50 for any one offence. Multiple offences in the same event may lead to the automatic suspension of the offending team’s Manager.
- 44.3. The penalty for breaches of Code of Conduct agreements is also a fine of up to \$500 for any one offence, possible ejection from the game and, at the discretion of the Tribunal, suspension or dismissal from the Championship.
- 44.4. If there are breaches of the Rules where there are no penalties prescribed, then the Tournament Director is to rule on the matter in the best interests of the game. Such penalties may be levied as financial penalties or include suspension from a number of games or even the whole Championships.
- 44.5. If a team is presented with a situation where they run out of eligible Players to field a team or enter the game, it is grounds for forfeit. Forfeiting the game is sufficient punishment in this situation if it is unpreventable.
- 44.6. Anyone serving a suspension must not attend the Championship Facility for the duration of their suspension.