



Greater Brisbane Leagues Competition Rules



SEASON: 2020/2021

VERSION 2020.3

6 OCTOBER 2020

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Bylaw	Amendment	Explanation	Date
1.11	BREACHES OF COMPETITION RULES Review all breaches and include or delete as necessary	1.1.1. Add specifically Failure to supply a scorer \$50 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offence – warning; 2nd offence – \$50 3rd and further offences – \$100 1.1.2. <u>Breach of pitching rules</u> – implement staggered penalties <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offence – warning; 2nd offence – \$50 & loss of game 3rd and further offences – \$100 & loss of game Keep reference to - The BQ Development Manager shall be notified of all breaches of pitching and/or catching rules	1/5/2020
1.4.	AFFILIATION	Change Competition Administrator to Competition Administrator in consultation with the GBL Committee Current by law does not protect the individual from accusation.	1/5/2020
2.10	SCORERS AND SCORING POLICY	"signatories" Maybe this should be changed to be "Scorers". Nearly every game the umpire comes in and signs the card prior to the card being fully completed. Also - "showing" should be "scoring" And - Change to read: Please note the email address. Omit "there is a new"	1/5/2020
2.11.1 and 2.11.2	PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES	All tobacco and alcohol products are prohibited within the on-field confines of any baseball facility. This means on the playing field or within the boundaries of the spectator area. For Junior baseball - smoking is banned within 10 metres of the viewing and playing areas at junior baseball games A person in a baseball uniform shall be ejected from a game and fined if seen smoking or consuming an alcoholic beverage. A player, coach, or match official, including umpires and scorers, seen chewing/dipping tobacco shall be ejected from a game and fined. Table updated to include legal position for Vaping and Smokeless tobacco	1/5/2020
2.2	ABL PLAYERS	ABL players, delete reference to Junior and/or "development" players and change to any player named on an ABL player roster must play Div 1 or highest ranked team for Club if Club does not field a Div 1 team	1/5/2020
2.3.1	REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS	Delete the phrase "active" and replace with approved	1/5/2020
2.5	MASTERS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS	Masters Concession - Masters born before the year 1970 are exempt from paying additional fees to compete in the Senior competition.	1/5/2020
3.1	COMPETITION STRUCTURE	Suggest to remove "and/or D3 Maroons" as only a couple of clubs were interested in it.	1/5/2020
3.2	COMPETITION SCHEDULING	Include a clause allowing a Round of baseball to be cancelled due to inclement weather or any other disaster be included	1/5/2020

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Bylaw	Amendment	Explanation	Date
3.3.1 - 8	RESCHEDULING OF GAMES	Further clarification provided – GBL Administrator must be advised within 7 days that game will be rescheduled. Clubs then have 3 weeks to determine when, where and what time game is to be replayed.	1/5/2020
			1/5/2020
3.4	INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE	Inclement hot weather policy updated to reflected current Sports Medicine Australia advice Reference to BA Air Quality policy included	1/5/2020
4.4	UNIFORMS	Senior League and below, coaches are required to wear a Club Shirt/Uniform (Not required to wear Baseball pants). Shorts permitted Senior teams (Div 1-6, Women's and Masters) are to be wearing full uniform (Baseball Pants, Club Uniform and enclosed shoes) Shorts not permitted.	1/5/2020
5.21.3	FINALS ELIGIBILITY	Change to allow Coaches to also apply for GBL Finals qualification if selected for ABL or International games.	1/5/2020
5.3.1	Division 2 game length	Division 2 games reduced from 2.5 hours to 2 hours	1/5/2020
5.9.5 & 5.9.6	10th BATTER	Further clarification provided as to how the 10 th batter can be used.	1/5/2020
5.10	COURTESY RUNNER	Change for Div 1 & 2 - Change to any eligible player	1/5/2020
6.9 & 8.9.2	DESIGNATED HITTER	Rule deleted	1/5/2020
6.2.2	MASTERS PLAYER QUALIFICATION	Rule changes to match Masters age qualification with BA designation	5/9/2020
7.2	TEAM NOMINATIONS	Further clarification provided for entering "combined teams" from more than one Club	1/5/2020
7.3	JUNIOR GAME DURATION	Change nomenclature to reflect Bandits & Rams only Change table Under 20 – Both are listed as Double Header. First line should read Single game.	1/5/2020
7.4	RUN LIMITATION	Remove D3 Maroons	1/5/2020
7.5	REGULATION GAME	Remove D3 Maroons	1/5/2020
7.6	ONE SIDED GAMES	Remove D3 Maroons	1/5/2020
7.8.5; 6; 7; 8	PLAYERS	Further clarification provided for Clubs with multiple teams in the same age group and player movement between Divisions in the same age group.	1/5/2020
7.8.7	PLAYERS	Remove 7.8.7	1/5/2020
7.9.3	CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER	bold the words MUST USE - a few coaches miss this rule	1/5/2020
7.21	PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS	Further clarification provided for pitching & catching restrictions	1/5/2020

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Bylaw	Amendment	Explanation	Date
7.21.4 & 5	PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS	Minimum rest periods tables included	1/5/2020
7.21.4	UNDER 20 REMOVAL OF PITCHER	Remove this By-Law - covered in 7.21.3	1/5/2020
7.21.13	PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS	Recommendation that junior players pitch 75% fastballs	1/5/2020
7.23.2	BASERUNNING	Base running rules as per OBR except for Little League Option to agree at start of the game to not score a run from a passed ball	1/5/2020
Appendix A	PONAG	New PONAG procedure	1/5/2020

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 Competition Rules, BQ Policies and Codes of Conduct and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Competition Rules and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Competition Rules 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 Competition Rules 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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1.2.2. Any notification forwarded by email shall be deemed to have been received by the addressee:

- a) on the date of transmission (if sent by 5.00 pm AEST); or
- b) the following business day (if sent after 5.00 pm AEST).

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

1.2.4. Where these Competition Rules require communication from a Club Secretary, the Club President, Vice President or Treasurer (as listed on the Form TN) 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 TN.

1.3. INTERPRETATIONS

1.3.1. In these Competition Rules, 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 Competition Rules.

“**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 Competition Rules.

“**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 Competition Rules.

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

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

“**Incident Weather Contact**” means the individual nominated in accordance with Bylaw 3.5.2.

“**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 7.2.6.

“**Junior Player**” means any player eligible to play in Junior Competition in accordance with Bylaw 7.2.6.

“**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 7.2.6.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

“**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.

“**Preliminary Final**” means the second round final (where applicable), as per Bylaw **3.8.3(a)**.

“**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 **3.8.3(a)**.

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

“**Senior League**” means the competition run for the age-group specified in Bylaw **7.2.6**.

“**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 **7.10.4**.

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

“**Women’s Competition**” means all Leagues included in Part 6.

“**Women's Player**” means any player participating in the Women’s 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 submit a current **Form TN: Affiliation & Team entry form** requesting affiliation with the GBL signed by the Club President at the time of entering teams into the GBL competition;
- b) the Club must submit their current Strategic Plan that is a living document and is updated on a regular basis;
- c) the Club must submit their Club Constitution or show their Governance Policies and Procedures are in place;
- d) the Club must incorporate strategies for junior recruitment and development into their Strategic Plan and assist in BQ recruitment and schools programs;
- e) 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;

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- f) 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;
- g) 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);
- h) all teams in the GBL Competition must have a coach with a minimum current Level 3 NCAS coaching accreditation; and
- i) the Club must have a sufficient number of QBUA accredited umpires appropriate to each level of competition with the appropriate uniforms.

1.4.4. Competition Administrator in consultation with the GBL Committee shall review all affiliations, which shall be valid for the ensuing twelve (12) months.

1.4.5. Competition Administrator in consultation with the GBL Committee may accept or reject any application for affiliation based on the criteria listed in Competition Rules **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. Competition Administrator in consultation with the GBL Committee may use their 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 within two (2) weeks of the commencement of the relevant competition, 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.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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.

Requirement	Date Required
New Club Affiliation documents (Bylaw 1.4.1)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Costs of ground lights for night games (if applicable) By-Law 4.3.2	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Time of light curfew for night games (if applicable) (By-Law 4.3.2 (c))	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Availability of grounds	mid-August as determined by GBL Committee
Senior Division 1 & 2 team nominations (By-Law 1.5)	mid-August as determined by GBL Committee
Form TN: Affiliation & Team entry form (Bylaw 1.4.3)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Ground light audits (if applicable) (By-Law 4.3.1)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Final Senior (Divisions 3 & below) team nominations (By-Law 1.5)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Final Junior team nominations (By-Law 1.5)	One months prior to first game of the season or as determined by GBL Committee
Hosting GBL finals games – Junior & Senior	end February or as determined by GBL Committee
Hosting GBL Awards night	end February or as determined by GBL Committee

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:

- a) hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the GBL Competition Rules;
- b) making recommendations to the GBL Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests arising under the GBL Competition Rules; and
- c) providing advisory opinions on the GBL Competition Rules.

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 Disputes Panel.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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 Competition Rules 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 Competition Rules. 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:
 - a) the umpire-in-chief must inform the scorers that the game is being played under protest;
 - b) the umpire-in-chief must inform the head coach of the opposing team of the nature of the protest; and
 - 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 COMPETITION RULES

- 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 Competition Rules are as follows (repeated or deliberate breaches of the Competition Rules may be penalised at the discretion of the GBL Committee):

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Forfeiture of a game (Section 3.5.1)	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 two (2) business days' notice (Bylaw 3.6.1)	\$50.
Illegal player, including breach of player eligibility, registration and suspended player (Sections 2.1-2.7, 5.10, 5.23, 6.10, 6.22, 7.10, 7.22, 9.5)	\$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, 5.19, 6.19, 7.19)	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.
Game Card altered after completion and signature and without the knowledge of the signatories (Competition Rules 2.1)	Loss of game for Home team
Failure to supply an umpire (Competition Rules 5.17, 6.17, 7.17)	\$120 per umpire.
Supplying an umpire without the appropriate accreditation (Competition Rules 5.17, 6.17, 7.17)	\$75 per umpire.
Breach of scoring requirements (Sections 2.8, 5.18, 6.18, 7.18)	1 st offence – A warning issued to the club; 2 nd offence – \$25.00 fine issued to the club; 3 rd and further offences – \$50.00 fine issued to the club
Failure to supply a scorer (Sections 2.8, 5.18, 6.18, 7.18)	1 st offence – A warning issued to the club; 2 nd offence – \$25.00 fine issued to the club; 3 rd and further offences – \$50.00 fine issued to the club

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
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 5.13, 5.15-5.16, 6.13, 6.15-6.16, 7.13-7.15, 7.16)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$50 3 rd and further offences – \$100
Withdrawal of a team after date for Final Team Nominations – within two weeks of commencement of season or thereafter (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, Section 8B)	\$500.

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

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Participation (including failure to adopt a continuous batting order) (Competition Rules 7.11.3)	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 7.23) NOTE - The BQ Development Manager shall be notified of all breaches of pitching and/or catching rules	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals*; 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game. 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 is not eligible to play in any Senior Competition division other than Division 1 during the same season. However if the player's Club does not field a team in Division 1, that player can only play in the Club's highest ranked team.
- 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 approved 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 an illegal player (Refer 1.11.2).
- 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 approved player list to ensure that it is accurate.

2.4 TRANSFERS AND CLEARANCES

- 2.4.1 Player transfers between Clubs shall be initiated through the Sports Club HQ player Transfer software system.
- 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.
- 2.4.4 Refer to the 2019 Baseball Queensland Player Transfer Policy which has implications and restrictions for transferring player eligibility for Regional teams.

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.
- 2.5.2 Masters Concession - Masters born before the year 1970 are exempt from paying additional fees to compete in the Senior competition.

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 for a different Club if their registered Club does not have an appropriate Junior Team or Senior Team. The application must be accompanied by letters of support from both Clubs involved.

2.8 BASEBALL QUEENSLAND - STATE DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

- 2.8.1 BQ Teams may comprise any players registered in accordance with Section 2.3.
- 2.8.2 Where these Competition Rules refer to Clubs, BQ has the same powers and obligations with respect to BQ Teams.
- 2.8.3 For finals eligibility calculation purposes, a game played for a BQ Team will be equivalent to, a game played for the Club with which that player is registered, in the same or next highest division in which the Club competes.

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.

2.10 SCORERS AND SCORING POLICY

The official scorer is an official representative who is entitled to the respect and dignity of his/her office and shall be accorded full protection by Baseball Queensland. The official scorer shall report to the appropriate league official any indignity expressed by any manager, player, club employee or club officer in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of their official scorer duties.

The official scorer shall observe the game from a position as set aside by the host Club. The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions concerning the application of Rule 9 that involves judgment, such as whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error. Club officials and players are prohibited from communicating with the official scorer regarding any such decisions.

The scorers should not be approached by any person other than a team official or a game umpire without invitation, from the start of game until the score card is completed.

Scorers must ensure the Game Card is signed to ensure both scorers agree with the information on the card
NOTE - altering a score card without the knowledge of the Scorers will be considered a breach of scoring requirements 1.11.2

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

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) scoring 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 email completed Game Cards to gblgamecards@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.
- 2.10.2 The scorers should not be approached by any person other than a team Coach or a game umpire without invitation, from the start of game until the score card is completed.

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

2.11 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

- 2.11.1 All tobacco and alcohol products are prohibited within the on-field confines of any baseball facility. This means on the playing field or within the boundaries of the spectator area. For Junior baseball - smoking is banned within 10 metres of the viewing and playing areas at junior baseball games
- 2.11.2 A person in a baseball uniform shall be ejected from a game and fined if seen smoking or consuming an alcoholic beverage.
- 2.11.3 A player, coach, or match official, including umpires and scorers, seen chewing/dipping tobacco shall be ejected from a game and fined.

SEE TABLE BELOW

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.

VAPING

1.1.1. *E-cigarettes are a smoking product. Using e-cigarettes to smoke is commonly known as vaping.*

1.1.2. *E-cigarettes are subject to the same laws as tobacco or cigarettes. This means they cannot be:*

- *used in no-smoking places*
- *sold to children under 18 years of age*
- *advertised, promoted, or displayed at retail outlets*
- *provided for sale via vending machines.*

They are not approved as an aid to quit smoking in Australia.

Electronic cigarettes that contain liquid nicotine are illegal in Queensland and cannot be commercially supplied.

SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS

It is illegal to commercially import or sell smokeless tobacco products in Australia — this includes oral snuff, tobacco paste and powder and chewing tobacco.

COMPETITIONS

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:
- a) Little League (Division 1 and/or Division 2);
 - b) Junior League (Division 1 and/or Division 2);
 - c) Senior League (Division 1 and/or Division 2); and
 - d) Under 20.
- 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 Competition Rules, 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 Competition Rules, 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 Competition Rules **3.3.4-3.3.6**, only be rescheduled if agreed between both teams involved.
- 3.3.2 The home Club must apply in writing to have the game replayed. This written submission must be received by the Competition Administrator within seven (7) days of the original scheduled game. the time and location of the game does not need to be provided at this point – just the intention to reschedule the game
- 3.3.3 Details for the rescheduled game including the date, time and location of the game shall be agreed by both teams and details confirmed and sent to the Competition Administrator as follows:
- a) if rescheduled to a time on the same weekend as the scheduled game, the game card shall be sufficient notice; or

¹ Or the GBL portal on the BQ website.

² As above.

COMPETITIONS

- b) if rescheduled to a time following the weekend of the scheduled game, written notice including the date, time and location of the game by the Home Club Secretary must be provided within twenty one (21) days of the game not being played. If written notice is not received within the stipulated timeframe, the game cannot be replayed for a competition result. Once the details are agreed by both teams, all other Competition Rules shall apply to the rescheduled game (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5.1**).
- 3.3.4 All Division 1 incomplete or not played games must be rescheduled and played; subject to Competition Rules **3.3.5; 3.3.6 & 3.3.7**.
- 3.3.5 Division 1 night games that are incomplete or not played must 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 Competition Rules shall apply to the rescheduled game.
- 3.3.6 All other Division 1 games that are incomplete or not played must 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 Competition Rules **3.3.1- 3.3.3**; 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 Competition Rules shall apply to the rescheduled game.
- 3.3.7 All Division 1 games must be played to ensure the Competition is fair and even. However towards the end of the season, where games that are incomplete or not played, and the result of the game will have no bearing on the composition or order of the top four teams, the home Club can apply in writing to have the “dead rubber” game not replayed. Both teams must agree to this decision prior to the written request being submitted and the game will be designated a “No Result” game. The written request must be submitted within three business days following the scheduled game. If one team does not agree, the game must be rescheduled in accordance with Competition Rules **3.3.1- 3.3.3**.
- 3.3.8 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 Competition Rules shall apply to the rescheduled game.

3.4 GROUND CURFEW RULE

- 3.4.1 At any game venues where a curfew exists, the following procedures shall be followed:
- 3.4.2 Prior to the start of the GBL season in which a curfew shall apply, each GBL Club shall notify the GBL Competition Committee of the mandated curfew times and venues that are applicable to GBL games. Such notification must be provided at least one month prior to the commencement of the GBL season. The GBL Competition Committee shall then approve all curfew times in accordance with the finalised GBL schedule.
- 3.4.3 Failure to provide notice of a curfew as per above, will be considered a breach of the By-Laws with a resultant fine – see Table of Fines. (\$500 proposed)
- 3.4.4 One week prior to the commencement of the season, the GBL Competition Committee shall publish the approved curfew times on the BQ website and shall notify all GBL Clubs and the umpires that approved curfews are in effect.
- 3.4.5 At the Plate meeting prior to the commencement of the game, the home Team shall notify the visiting Team and the umpires that a curfew is in effect and the relevant details concerning the curfew.
- 3.4.6 The umpire-in-chief shall notify both opposing Managers at the top-half of any inning that commences 60 minutes prior to the Curfew Time that the game shall proceed for a maximum two (2) more complete innings ONLY, unless concluded early under **Rule 3.4.7** below. This shall be known as the “Cut-off Time.” For example, if a Curfew Time is 11:00 p.m., then the Cut-off Time shall be 10:00 p.m. A maximum of two innings shall be completed after the Cut-off time regardless of how many innings have been completed prior to the Cut-off Time. For Example, if only 6 innings have been completed prior to the Cut-Off Time, the game shall terminate at the conclusion of the 8th inning. A game may still conclude

COMPETITIONS

prior to the completion of the maximum two allowable innings if the Game End Time is reached under **Rule 3.4.7** below.

- 3.4.7 The umpire-in-chief shall terminate the game upon the completion of the at-bat of a batter who is batting five (5) minutes before the curfew time. This shall be known as the “Game End Time.” For example, if the Curfew Time is 11:00 p.m., then the game would be terminated at the completion of the batter who is at bat at 10:55 p.m., which is the Game End Time. Notwithstanding this Rule **3.4.7**, if in the judgement of the umpire-in-chief there is a “probable conclusion” to the half inning, the game may be permitted to progress. Judgement of “probable conclusion” means only a situation whereby; (a) The home team is leading and needs to only complete the top half of the inning to win, OR (b) The visiting team is leading and needs only complete the bottom half of the inning to win, OR (c) The scores are tied after the top half of an inning and the home team needs to score to win. Should any of these scenarios be likely to occur during the Game End Time, the umpire-in-chief must notify both team Managers, prior to the start of any such half inning that he will allow the half inning to proceed beyond the Game End Time to achieve the probable result. Once any half inning concludes after the Game End Time the game must terminate immediately.
- 3.4.8 If scores are tied, and two equal innings have been completed after the Cut-Off Time, then the game will be declared a tied game.
- 3.4.9 If the home Team is leading or takes the lead in the second inning after Cut-Off Time (and that inning is not the 9th inning), then the game will be terminated with the home Team declared the winner. The second inning in progress shall be deemed to be the ninth inning for purposes of applying Official Baseball Rule 7.01(g) (3).
- 3.4.10 If the visiting Team is leading the game, and the home Team has not completed their time at bat, or if the scores are tied at Game End Time, then the game shall be declared a suspended game.
- 3.4.11 Such suspended games as provided for in Regulation 5.7.7 shall be restarted at the point of suspension before the next game played between the two Teams or at another time as may be deemed necessary by the ABL. If the two Teams are not scheduled to meet again in the Regular season, or the game for any reason cannot be rescheduled, then the game shall be declared a tied game.
- 3.4.12 If the score is tied one hour before Curfew Time, and any “extra inning” is about to commence, the Tie Breaker Rule shall apply. For purposes of this Rule any “extra inning” is defined as the eighth inning or later in a seven-inning game.
- 3.4.13 In all GBL games where a curfew is in place and the game has been either delayed or suspended for any reason; the game shall not recommence unless a minimum of 2 hours is available prior to the curfew time. If there is less than 2 hours available prior to the curfew time, the game will not go ahead and will be rescheduled.

Example 1: A game has been suspended due rain in the top half of the 4th inning. The curfew time is 11:00pm and the Game resumption time is set to be 9:30pm Calculation: $11:00\text{pm} - 9:30\text{pm} = 90\text{mins}$ Half innings required = 8 (top 4th – bot 7th) 7th) Result: $11.25 \geq 10.00$ (90 div by 8) Decision: Play will resume

Example 2: A game has been suspended due rain in the bottom half of the 2nd inning. The curfew time is 10:30pm and the Game resumption time is set to be 8:50pm Calculation: $10:30\text{pm} - 8:50\text{pm} = 100\text{mins}$ Half innings required = 11 (bot 2nd- both 7th) Result: $9.09 \leq 10.00$ (100mins div by 11) Decision: Play will be abandoned.

Example 3: A game start time has been delayed due to lighting malfunction. The curfew time is 10:30pm and the Game resumption time is set to be 8:00pm Calculation: $10:30\text{pm} - 8:00\text{pm} = 150\text{mins}$ Half innings required = 14 (top 1st – Bot 7th) Result: $10.71 \geq 10.00$ (150mins div by 14) Decision: Play will commence.

COMPETITIONS

3.5 INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

3.5.1 Inclement weather refers to wet weather, extreme heat, lightning, poor air quality or any other similar event that renders the playing facilities unsafe for play.

3.5.2 All Clubs must nominate an Inclement Weather Contact and their contact numbers shall be distributed to the Clubs and/or placed on the BQ website.

3.5.3 If there is inclement weather on, or forecast for, the scheduled playing day:

- a) **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.
- b) **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 **3.5.4-3.5.5**.
- c) **during a game**, decisions regarding play shall be made by the umpires, subject to Bylaw **3.5.5**.

3.5.4 In the case of **WET WEATHER**, the host Club must inspect the grounds and if unplayable must abide by the following:

- a) 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
- b) 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.

3.5.5 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:

- a) Should the current temperature reach the following, **play must be suspended immediately**:
 - i. 38° Celsius for Senior and Masters Competitions; or
 - ii. 36° Celsius for Junior Competitions.
- b) During play suspension, the temperature shall be monitored every 10 minutes. Play shall not resume until the temperature falls below the following temperatures:
 - i. 37° Celsius for Senior and Masters Competitions; or
 - ii. 35° Celsius for Junior Competitions.

While the above procedure is mandatory once the cut-off temperature is reached, umpires play an extremely important role during days of extreme heat and or humidity and may suspend play at any time if the umpire feels the conditions are too extreme to keep playing. Once the game is suspended, it is the sole discretion of the umpire as to when play is resumed or the game is called off by ensuring the procedure in 3.1.5 b) is followed.

The umpire is only permitted to call off a game if either of the following are relevant

1. The temperature is above the mandatory suspension in play temperature within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled end of the game.
2. If in the opinion of the umpire the combination of high heat and humidity may be injurious to a participant's health including officials.

If the game is called for either of the above, the umpire must ensure the reasons for the game being called are written on the Game Card **including the temperature at the time the game is called**.

³ Or the GBL portal on the BQ website.

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NOTE: If the above procedure with regard to the mandatory cessation of play are not followed by the umpires, either team has the right to submit a Protest as per the Protest procedures outlined in By-Law 1.10.

3.5.6 Umpires discretionary time out during heat affected games (temporary suspension of play)

- (1) Any umpire in charge of a GBL game may call a temporary suspension of play / time out to allow the umpire/s – players and officials – but most importantly the umpire - sufficient time to rehydrate and recover in the dugout and / or reduce body temperature.
- (2) This temporary suspension of play is at the sole discretion of the umpire and cannot be challenged or appealed.
- (3) The umpire must inform both teams and the scorers that there will be an **umpires discretionary time out** with the scorers to note this **and the temperature at the time of the time out** on the Game Card under Comments.
- (4) This temporary suspension of play should typically be around 5 minutes in duration.

3.5.7 **Umpires judgement** – umpires are strongly encouraged to use a common sense approach to extreme heat and humidity as this varies from location to location. Where an umpire is feeling discomfort because of the extreme heat and/or humidity, they should take action to ensure all game participants are kept safe by calling a temporary suspension of play as required.

3.5.8 **Coaches assistance** – Coaches are encouraged to discuss with both the umpire and the other team coach how they and their team members are coping on days of extreme heat and humidity. Where a consensus view is reached, the umpire should react accordingly and call a temporary suspension of play as required.

3.5.9 Once a game has commenced, if the umpires consider that play is unsafe at any time due to the extreme heat including high humidity, play shall be temporarily suspended immediately as per the procedure in 3.1.6.

3.5.10 **Guidelines to Environmental Conditions and Risk** - Remember, sports heat illness can occur with high intensity exercise in cool conditions and with well-hydrated participants. Because sports heat stress is complex, and because individual responses to heat stress vary, it is not possible to provide overall recommendations about limiting conditions to cover all sports.

Since heat stress increases with increasing exercise intensity, potential for heat illness may be rated according to the exercise characteristics of the sport. The following sports are rated by decreasing levels of sustained exertion and therefore decreasing potential for risk of heat illness.

1. Endurance running in competition or training (higher intensity/higher risk)
2. Football codes and hockey
3. Tennis
4. Cricket/Baseball (lower intensity/lower risk)

Individual tolerance to heat stress varies widely. Discomfort is the best personal indication of heat stress. Even in team sports individuals should pace themselves according to their personal feelings of stress. In warm weather if you feel uncomfortably hot reduce exercise intensity. In humid conditions sweat may not evaporate sufficiently for effective cooling; if your skin is dripping wet all over with sweat, reduce exercise intensity.

Reference - Sports Medicine Australia - (For more details, download a copy of the Sports Medicine Australia Hot Weather Guidelines from www.sma.org.au).

3.5.11 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 playing conditions will not be playable within the remaining time allowed, the game may be called off immediately; or

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- 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.
- 3.5.12 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.
- 3.5.13 Any game halted due to inclement weather, before becoming a regulation game, shall be a suspended game if it is replayed.
- 3.5.14 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).
- 3.5.15 Clubs are encouraged to use social media to advise players from both teams of the relocation, cancellation or otherwise of any game.
- 3.5.16 If a Club fails to comply with this Section, the opposing team may submit a protest in accordance with **Section 1.8**.
- 3.5.17 Where there is an issue regarding **AIR QUALITY**, please refer to the Baseball Australia Air Quality Policy – January 2020 – by clicking on this link
- <https://assets.baseball.com.au/uploads/2020/01/air-quality-policy-jan2020.pdf>.

3.6 FORFEITS AND LATE STARTS

- 3.6.1 A Club that is unable to field a team in a scheduled game must notify the opposing Club – Club Secretary, the QBUA Appointments Officer (if applicable) and the Competition Administrator at least two (2) business days prior to the commencement of the scheduled game. This notification needs to be done by both email and via a telephone call to ensure the opposing Club is fully aware of the forfeit. The opposing Club needs to confirm receipt of this advice by return email. Games forfeited with less than two (2) days' notice will be subject to a fine (see 1.11.2)
- 3.6.2 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.
- 3.6.3 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.
- 3.6.4 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.
- 3.6.5 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.
- 3.6.6 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.
- 3.6.7 where a game starts late due to lack of player numbers or due to inclement weather or any other unforeseeable reason, if it is a Time limited game, the scheduled finish time does not change.

3.7 COMPETITION RECORDS

- 3.7.1 The Competition Administrator shall keep accurate records of the following:

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- 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 Competition Rules; and
- e) other information as required.

3.8 PERCENTAGE LADDERS

3.8.1 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.

3.8.2 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.).

3.8.3 All competition ladder and finals positions shall be ranked by WIN percentage, as follows:

$$\text{WIN Percentage} = \text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws (Half)} / \text{Total Games Played}$$

3.8.4 Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.

3.8.5 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.

3.8.6 Where it is not possible to maintain a percentage ladder, a ladder based on points will be maintained.

3.9 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

3.9.1 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.

3.9.2 Clubs shall be asked for expressions of interest to host the finals games and host venues shall be subsequently decided by the GBL Committee.

3.9.3 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 North side and South side 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.

⁴ Or the GBL portal on the BQ website.

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- c) For all GBL Finals baseball games - the home team occupies the 3rd base dugout. However if the home team is playing at their usual home field, then they occupy the dugout they use during the regular season.

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3.9.4 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	

3.10 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. **ROPHIES & AWARDS**

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

Senior Club of the Year Award Criteria

- based on the number of wins (points on ladder) for every senior team including Men's, Women's and Masters teams.
- Recognises those Clubs that work hard to field the most number of Senior teams
- Extra - 5 points for minor premiers and 5 points for winners of the grand final.
- 1 point deduction for every fine incurred during the season.
- 5 points deduction for every ejection that results in a judiciary sentence. 3 points for every ejection resulting in a penalty being served.
- 1 point for every 5 percent growth in registered GBL PLAYER numbers at the club from the previous season registered number of players.

Junior Club of the Year Award Criteria

- based on number of wins (points on ladder) for every junior team including Little League through to Under 20's
- Recognises those Clubs that work hard to field the most number of Junior teams
- Extra 5 points for minor premiers and 5 points for winners of the grand final.
- 1 point deduction for every fine incurred during the season.
- 5 points deduction for every ejection that results in a judiciary hearing and penalty, 3 points for every ejection resulting in a penalty being served.
- 1 point for every 5 percent growth in registered PLAYER numbers at the club from the previous season registered number of players.

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Trophy / Award	Eligible Teams / Grades / Individuals
<u>CLUB AWARDS</u>	
Senior Club of the Year	All GBL Clubs
Junior Club of the Year	All GBL Clubs
<u>TEAM AWARDS</u>	
Championship Trophy	All Grades in all Leagues
Runner Up Trophy	All Grades in all Leagues
<u>INDIVIDUAL AWARDS</u>	
MVP Award	All Grades
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	Centre field 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	Centre field distance	Bases
Senior/Masters	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent
Women	90 ft.	54 ft.	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, including Masters and Women's coaches, and Under 20 coaches must wear full Club playing uniform as per the Official Baseball Rules. Wearing of shorts is not permitted.
- 4.4.2 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.
- 4.4.3 Coaches of all other junior teams must wear at least a Club shirt, Club cap and enclosed shoes with shorts being permitted.
- 4.4.4 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.
- 4.4.5 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 Competition Rules 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 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 Competition Rules 5.3.2 – 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 5.6) 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 5.6) or remain tied when the game is called under this Bylaw shall be a suspended game and rescheduled in accordance with Bylaw 3.3.4.

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 END OF GAME RULES

- 5.4.1 For games where a time limit is stipulated, the scheduled game duration will not change. The game end time will be fixed by the game starting time. Once the game start time is set, the game end time will not change regardless of factors such as inclement weather delays, player injury or any other unforeseen delay in play or other similar circumstances.

Example 1; A 2 hour game started at 10:45am will have an end time of 12:45pm.

Example 2; A 2 hour game due to start at 10:45am, but delayed, due to inclement weather or a team does not have the required number of players, the game will have an end time of 12:45pm.

COMMENT – teams are obliged to be ready to play on time – if the game is delayed because team is not ready to play, the game end time will not be altered and the game time will be reduced

However the following rules will apply to end the game where applicable.

- 5.4.2 The 10 Minute rule – Players cannot take the field for the top of a new inning within 10 minutes of the end of the game. Once the players have taken the field to warm up for an inning, the inning will proceed to completion (subject to the 15 Minute Rule). If after the last out of the last innings there is 10 minutes or less to go before the end of the game, the umpire shall end the game immediately.
- 5.4.3 The 15 Minute rule – With the exception of Senior Division 1 games, no game may extend further than 15 minutes over the scheduled end of the game. If a result has not been achieved within the 15 minute extended time period; the score will revert back to the last completed inning. A draw can still be the official result.
- 5.4.4 At the end of each game, players should exit the dugout and leave the field as soon as possible to facilitate the cleaning of the dugout for the next game. Players for the next scheduled game cannot enter the dugout until the dugout is empty and declared clean and ready for use by the Home Club official.
- 5.4.5 Games impacted by earlier games going overtime for any reason, will start 30 minutes from the finish of the preceding game. Where dugouts have been cleaned and both teams are ready to play, the games may commence earlier. These games are not subject to By-Law 5.4.1, that is - the scheduled end of the game will be the normal game length and will end at the calculated end of game time.

EXAMPLE - where a game was originally scheduled to start at 2.00pm and the preceding game which started at 11.30am and is a 2 hour game with a scheduled end of game time of 1.30pm - is subject to the 15 minute rule, the scheduled game start will be 2.15pm (instead of 2.00pm) or earlier subject to field and dug-outs being ready for play. Subsequent games will similarly be

SENIOR COMPETITION

5.5 RUN LIMITATION

5.5.1 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.

5.6 TIE BREAKER RULE

5.6.1 The Tie-breaker rule shall be in place for all Regular Season GBL games.

5.6.2 The Tie-breaker rule shall apply to all Divisions. Where a game is limited by time, the tie-breaker will be enforced if and only if time permits – refer to end of game rules – By-Law 5.3; 6.3; 7.3; 8.3.

5.6.3 This Tie-Breaker rule shall trigger immediately in any game played that is tied at the commencement of the 10th inning.

5.6.4 During the regular season in any game where the score is tied and the 10th inning is about to commence, every half-inning after the ninth will begin with a runner on second base. The Team at bat shall commence the TOP of the inning with a runner on second base. If that runner scores, the pitcher won't be charged with an earned run. The runner on second base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.

5.6.5 The batter who was scheduled to lead off the 10th inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning in the absence of this rule. 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.

5.6.6 For purposes of this Rule, the tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 10th inning of a regular scheduled 9 innings game. The tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 8th inning of a regular scheduled 7 innings game (such as a 7 innings double-header game).

5.6.7 The only exception to this rule shall be in games where a curfew is in place and timing calls for the Tiebreaker rule to commence prior to the 10th inning as per By-Law 4.3.3.

5.6.8 The Tie-Breaker rule shall NOT apply to GBL Finals games.

5.7 REGULATION GAME

5.7.1 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.	

5.7.2 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.

5.8 TEN (10) RUN RULE

Grade

Innings

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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.	

- 5.8.1 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:

5.9 SPEED UP POLICY

- 5.9.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.
- 5.9.2 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.

5.10 PLAYERS

- 5.10.1 All teams shall field nine (9) players, subject to Bylaw **5.10.2**.
- 5.10.2 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.
- 5.10.3 If any team has less than the minimum required number of players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 5.10.4 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.
- 5.10.5 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.
- 5.10.6 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.
- 5.10.7 The starting defensive players in Competition Rules **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.
- 5.10.8 A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate grades on the same day.
- 5.10.9 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).
- 5.10.10 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.

SENIOR COMPETITION

- 5.10.11 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only play for one team in a weekend. If the player plays in both teams during the course of the season, then for Finals eligibility, By-Law **5.21** applies. If the participation is the same for both teams, the player will play and be eligible for Finals games for the first team they played with at the start of the season.
- 5.10.12 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **5.10.11** outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be approved in writing by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

5.11 DESIGNATED HITTER/10 BATTER RULE

- 5.11.1 Any Senior Division may use the Designated Batter Rule (Refer OBR Rule 5.11)
- 5.11.2 A player may participate as a fielder in any division and participate as a designated hitter in a higher division on the same day.
- 5.11.3 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.
- 5.11.4 The designated hitter shall not be counted as a starting defensive player.
- 5.11.5 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. When a 10 batter batting order is reduced to 9 batters due to injury or ejection, the injured or ejected player batting slot is not used from the time of the injury or ejection.
- 5.11.6 The 10th batter will be designated as EH (Extra Hitter). The position of the EH is regarded as a fielding position and as such, the coach can elect to use the EH as a defensive player. When this occurs, one of the other fielders becomes the EH and does not field. Once moved into a fielding position, the original EH cannot then become the EH again.

5.12 COURTESY RUNNER

- 5.12.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time.
 - (1) For Divisions 1 & 2 - the courtesy runner shall be:
 - (a) any eligible player.
 - (2) For all Divisions other than Division 1 & 2 - the courtesy runner shall be:
 - (a) the last player out
- 5.12.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 5.12.3 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.

5.13 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 5.13.1 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.
- 5.13.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.
- 5.13.3 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.
- 5.13.4 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two-eared helmets.
- 5.13.5 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.

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5.13.6 All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

5.14 INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 5.14.1 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.
- 5.14.2 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.
- 5.14.3 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.
- 5.14.4 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).
- 5.14.5 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.

5.15 BATS

- 5.15.1 All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.02.
- 5.15.2 Divisions 1 and 2 shall use wood, wood composite or wood laminate bats only.
- 5.15.3 All other Divisions shall comply with the following:
- 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.
 - 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).
 - 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 ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - 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 ($1\frac{1}{2}$) on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - 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.
- 5.15.4 Female players in Divisions 3 and below shall use bats as described in Bylaw **5.15.3** 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).

5.16 GAME BALLS

- 5.16.1 The home team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.
- 5.16.2 Teams must supply only those balls approved by the Competition Administrator and meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.01.
- 5.16.3 In Division 1 and 2, the home team shall provide four (4) new balls and have balls in reserve (suitable for game play).

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- 5.16.4 In all other divisions, the home team shall provide two (2) new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.
- 5.16.5 In all grades, the umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

5.17 UMPIRES

- 5.17.1 The home team shall provide both plate and base umpires who must have a minimum QBUA qualification as follows:
 - (1) For all Senior GBL games the appointed umpire must have attained a minimum Association Level Umpire Accreditation (previously known as a yellow shirt umpire).
- 5.17.2 Junior Umpires can only umpire games up to the age group below their natural playing age: - e.g. a person aged 17 whose natural playing age group would be Under 20's can umpire up to Senior League only, even if that player plays senior baseball.
- 5.17.3 For all grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 5.17.4 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 5.17.5 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.
- 5.17.6 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.
- 5.17.7 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*).
- 5.17.8 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.
- 5.17.9 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.
- 5.17.10 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 notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the Administrator.
- 5.17.11 Limitation on the Number of Mound Visits per Game: - For Divisions 3 and below - 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.
- 5.17.12 Limitation on the Number of Mound Visits per Game: - For Divisions 1 & 2 only, OBR Rule 5.10(m) applies - except that where a coach attempts to make a further visit in the same innings, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game.

5.18 SCORERS (see Section 2.10)

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

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Each	Division 5	CABS Level 0
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team shall have its own competent scorer using the Official Baseball scorebook. It is recommended that every scorer holds a minimum accreditation as follows:

- 5.18.1 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in the scorebook.
- 5.18.2 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.
- 5.18.3 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.
- 5.18.4 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 Competition Rules;
 - d) a scorebook; and
 - e) appropriate stationery.

5.19 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 5.19.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.
- 5.19.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
 - a) game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - b) team coaches' 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.
- 5.19.3 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).

5.20 POINTS & MVP VOTES

- 5.20.1 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.

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- 5.20.2 MVP votes are allocated for all Divisions and will be awarded by agreement between the scorers 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.

5.21 SENIOR PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 5.21.1 This Section applies to all Senior Grades excluding Division 1 (see Section **5.22**).
- 5.21.2 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.
- 5.21.3 Where time permits, the preferred Finals system is the Page system – Semi Finals - 1 v 2; 3 v 4: Preliminary finals - loser 1 v 2 plays winner 3 v 4; Grand Final - winner Semifinal 1 v 2 plays winner Preliminary final.
- 5.21.4 The home team for all finals games will be the team that finished higher on the ladder.
- (1) For all GBL Finals baseball games - the home team occupies the 3rd base dugout.
 - (2) However if the home team is playing at their usual home field, then they occupy the dugout they use during the regular season.
- 5.21.5 All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Competition Rules **5.3**, **5.6**) but played to a result.
- 5.21.6 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Competition Rules **5.21.6 - 5.21.9**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Competition Rules (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5.1**).
- 5.21.7 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.
- 5.21.8 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 5.21.9 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **5.21.7**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
- a) head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
 - b) highest competition standing; then
 - 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.

5.22 DIVISION 1 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 5.22.1 This Section applies to Division 1 only.
- 5.22.2 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.
- 5.22.3 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).
- 5.22.4 All Division 1 Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Competition Rules **5.3**, **5.6**), except double headers (if applicable) shall be nine (9) innings and played to a result.
- 5.22.5 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 Competition Rules **5.22.7 -**

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5.22.8. Games once scheduled are subject to these Competition Rules (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5.1**).

- 5.22.6 In the event of inclement weather affecting Grand Final Series games, the Competition Administrator shall reschedule the games subject to Bylaw **5.22.7**. To avoid any doubt, there is no time limit by which Grand Finals Series games must be rescheduled.
- 5.22.7 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.
- 5.22.8 In the event a Semi Final or Preliminary Final Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **5.22.7**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
- head-to-head throughout the entire Finals Series; then
 - highest competition standing; then
 - head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).

5.23 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 5.23.1 Subject to Competition Rules **5.23.2 - 5.23.5**, Senior Players are eligible for participation in a particular division for Finals Series where they have either:
- participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games played by that team; or
 - participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games in a team at the same Club but in a lower division.
- 5.23.2 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **5.23.1** if an exemption under Bylaw **5.10.12** has already been granted. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- 5.23.3 Where a player and/or Coach cannot participate in a Regular Season game due to participation as a player in the ABL and/or representing Australia in an International Baseball Tournament, 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**. This application must be submitted at least 14 days before the Final's series commence.

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.

- 5.23.4 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.

- 5.23.5 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 **5.23.1**, 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.

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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.

- 5.23.6 Masters Players who participate in Finals Series games under Bylaw **5.23.5** are exempt from registering as a Senior Player as required by Bylaw **2.5.1**.
- 5.23.7 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.
- 5.23.8 In respect of forfeits, refer to Section **3.5.1**.

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6 MASTERS COMPETITION

6.1 PREAMBLE

6.1.1 This Part outlines the Competition Rules applicable to the Masters Competition.

6.2 PLAYER QUALIFICATION

6.2.1 Teams must consist of players aged thirty-five (35) years and older.

6.2.2 Masters players will qualify to play provided they turn thirty-five (35) years of age prior to 31st December each year and register prior to the start of the Masters season as a Masters player on the approved database.

6.3 GAME DURATION

6.3.1 All Masters Competition games are nine (9) innings or one and a half (1.5) hours, whichever comes first.

6.3.2 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.

6.3.3 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.

6.3.4 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.

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

6.4 END OF GAME RULES

6.4.1 For games where a time limit is stipulated, the scheduled game duration will not change. The game end time will be fixed by the game starting time. Once the game start time is set, the game end time will not change regardless of factors such as inclement weather delays, player injury or any other unforeseen delay in play or other similar circumstances.

Example 1: A 2 hour game started at 10:45am will have an end time of 12:45pm.

Example 2: A 2 hour game due to start at 10:45am, but delayed, due to inclement weather or a team does not have the required number of players, the game will have an end time of 12:45pm.

COMMENT – teams are obliged to be ready to play on time – if the game is delayed because team is not ready to play, the game end time will not be altered and the game time will be reduced

However the following rules will apply to end the game where applicable.

6.4.2 The 10 Minute rule – Players cannot take the field for the top of a new inning within 10 minutes of the end of the game. Once the players have taken the field to warm up for an inning, the inning will

MASTERS COMPETITION

proceed to completion (subject to the 15 Minute Rule). If after the last out of the last innings there is 10 minutes or less to go before the end of the game, the umpire shall end the game immediately.

- 6.4.3 The 15 Minute rule – With the exception of Senior Division 1 games, no game may extend further than 15 minutes over the scheduled end of the game. If a result has not been achieved within the 15 minute extended time period; the score will revert back to the last completed inning. A draw can still be the official result.
- 6.4.4 At the end of each game, players should exit the dugout and leave the field as soon as possible to facilitate the cleaning of the dugout for the next game. Players for the next scheduled game cannot enter the dugout until the dugout is empty and declared clean and ready for use by the Home Club official.
- 6.4.5 Games impacted by earlier games going overtime for any reason, will start 30 minutes from the finish of the preceding game. Where dugouts have been cleaned and both teams are ready to play, the games may commence earlier. These games are not subject to By-Law 5.4.1, that is - the scheduled end of the game will be the normal game length and will end at the calculated end of game time.

EXAMPLE - where a game was originally scheduled to start at 2.00pm and the preceding game which started at 11.30am and is a 2 hour game with a scheduled end of game time of 1.30pm - is subject to the 15 minute rule, the scheduled game start will be 2.15pm (instead of 2.00pm) or earlier subject to field and dug-outs being ready for play. Subsequent games will similarly be

6.5 RUN LIMITATION

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

6.6 TIE BREAKER RULE

- 6.6.1 The Tie-breaker rule shall be in place for all Regular Season GBL games.
- 6.6.2 The Tie-breaker rule shall apply to all Divisions. Where a game is limited by time, the tie-breaker will be enforced if and only if time permits – refer to end of game rules – By-Law 5.3; 6.3; 7.3; 8.3.
- 6.6.3 This Tie-Breaker rule shall trigger immediately in any game played that is tied at the commencement of the 10th inning.
- 6.6.4 During the regular season in any game where the score is tied and the 10th inning is about to commence, every half-inning after the ninth will begin with a runner on second base. The Team at bat shall commence the TOP of the inning with a runner on second base. If that runner scores, the pitcher won't be charged with an earned run. The runner on second base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.
- 6.6.5 The batter who was scheduled to lead off the 10th inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning in the absence of this rule. 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.
- 6.6.6 For purposes of this Rule, the tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 10th inning of a regular scheduled 9 innings game. The tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 8th inning of a regular scheduled 7 innings game (such as a 7 innings double-header game).
- 6.6.7 The only exception to this rule shall be in games where a curfew is in place and timing calls for the Tiebreaker rule to commence prior to the 10th inning as per By-Law 4.3.3.
- 6.6.8 The Tie-Breaker rule shall NOT apply to GBL Finals games.

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6.7 REGULATION GAME

- 6.7.1 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 6.21.5 for Grand Finals]
- 6.7.2 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.

6.8 TEN (10) RUN RULE

- 6.8.1 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.

6.9 SPEED UP POLICY

- 6.9.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to move quickly to positions.
- 6.9.2 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.

6.10 PLAYERS

- 6.10.1 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.
- 6.10.2 If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 6.10.3 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.
- 6.10.4 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only play for one team in a weekend. If the player plays in both teams during the course of the season, then for Finals eligibility, By-Law 5.21 applies. If the participation is the same for both teams, the player will play and be eligible for Finals games for the first team they played with at the start of the season.
- 6.10.5 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 6.10.4 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.

6.11 DESIGNATED HITTER / 10 BATTER RULE

- 6.11.1 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.
- 6.11.2 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.

6.12 COURTESY RUNNER

- 6.12.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time. The courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.

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- 6.12.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 6.12.3 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 **6.10.3** above. No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.
- 6.12.4 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.

6.13 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 6.13.1 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.
- 6.13.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.
- 6.13.3 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.
- 6.13.4 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets.
- 6.13.5 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.
- 6.13.6 All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

6.14 INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 6.14.1 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.
- 6.14.2 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.
- 6.14.3 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.
- 6.14.4 Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals.
- 6.14.5 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.

6.15 BATS

- 6.15.1 All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02.
- 6.15.2 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.

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- 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^{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.
- 6.15.3 Females shall use bats as described in Bylaw **6.15.2** 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).

6.16 GAME BALLS

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

6.17 UMPIRES

- 6.17.1 The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the away team shall provide the base umpire. For all Senior GBL games the appointed umpire must have attained a minimum Community Level Umpire Accreditation (previously known as a green shirt umpire).
- 6.17.2 For all Grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 6.17.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 6.17.4 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.
- 6.17.5 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.
- 6.17.6 All umpires must complete an Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *GBL Judiciary Procedures*).
- 6.17.7 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.
- 6.17.8 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.
- 6.17.9 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 notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the Administrator.
- 6.17.10 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.

6.18 SCORERS – (see Section 2.10)

- 6.18.1 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.

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- 6.18.2 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebook.
- 6.18.3 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.
- 6.18.4 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.
- 6.18.5 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
- an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - a blank game card for the relevant grade;
 - a copy of these Competition Rules;
 - a scorebook; and
 - appropriate stationery.

6.19 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 6.19.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.
- 6.19.2 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.
- 6.19.3 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).

6.20 POINTS & MVP VOTES

- 6.20.1 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.
- 6.20.2 MVP votes are allocated for all Divisions and will be awarded by agreement between the scorers 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.

6.21 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 6.21.1 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.
- 6.21.2 All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaw 6.3) but played to a result.

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- 6.21.3 Where time permits, the preferred Finals system is the Page system – Semi Finals - 1 v 2; 3 v 4: Preliminary finals - loser 1 v 2 plays winner 3 v 4; Grand Final - winner Semifinal 1 v 2 plays winner Preliminary final.
- 6.21.4 The home team for all finals games will be the team that finished higher on the ladder.
- For all GBL Finals baseball games - the home team occupies the 3rd base dugout.
 - However if the home team is playing at their usual home field, then they occupy the dugout they use during the regular season.
- 6.21.5 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).
- 6.21.6 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Competition Rules **6.21.6 - 6.21.9**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Competition Rules (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5.1**).
- 6.21.7 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.
- 6.21.8 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 6.21.9 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **6.21.7**, 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.

6.22 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 6.22.1 To be eligible for the finals, players must have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- 6.22.2 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **6.22.1** if an exemption under Bylaw **6.10.5** has already been granted. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- 6.22.3 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.
- 6.22.4 In respect of forfeits, refer to Section **3.5.1**.

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7.1 PREAMBLE

- 7.1.1 This Part outlines the Competition Rules applicable to the Junior Competition.
- 7.1.2 Little League, Junior League and Senior League will be governed by these Competition Rules and the Little League Baseball® Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies (“Green Book”) as currently endorsed by Little League International. Where these Competition Rules are silent, the rules in the Green Book will apply. Where these Competition Rules and the Green Book are inconsistent, the Competition Rules 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 Competition Rules and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Competition Rules and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Competition Rules 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 written GBL Committee approval, multiple Clubs. The combined team will be affiliated with a single or “parent” GBL Club. The “parent Club” is responsible for seeking written permission to enter a combined team by way of written application to the GBL Committee including written agreement from the other Club(s) associated with the combined team.
- 7.2.2 Players not registered with the “parent” club are **only permitted** to play for the **combined team** or the **original Club teams** with which the player is registered.
- 7.2.3 If a team consists of players from other Clubs, the team will be named as per the “parent” Club and the “parent” club will be responsible for all responsibilities and liabilities for the team.
- 7.2.4 Where combined teams are entered, players for Clubs other than the “parent club” must ensure their players are dual member registered on the player registration database.
- 7.2.5 Where teams consist of players from multiple Clubs, players and coaching staff may wear their own Club uniform throughout the season.
- 7.2.6 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 – (single game)	9 innings or 2 hours
Under 20 – (double header)	7 innings or 2 hours
Senior League – Division 1 & Division 2 (single game)	7 innings or 2 hours
Senior League – Division 1 & Division 2 (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Junior League – Division 1 & Division 2 (single game)	7 innings or 2 hours
Junior League – Division 1 & Division 2 (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Little League – Division 1 (single game)	6 innings or 2 hours
Little League – Division 1 (double header)	6 innings or 1½ hours

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Little League – Division 2

6 innings or 1 ¾ hours

Little League – Division 2 (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.
- 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 END OF GAME RULES

- 7.4.1 For games where a time limit is stipulated, the scheduled game duration will not change. The game end time will be fixed by the game starting time. Once the game start time is set, the game end time will not change regardless of factors such as inclement weather delays, player injury or any other unforeseen delay in play or other similar circumstances.

Example 1; A 2 hour game started at 10:45am will have an end time of 12:45pm.

Example 2; A 2 hour game due to start at 10:45am, but delayed, due to inclement weather or a team does not have the required number of players, the game will have an end time of 12:45pm.

COMMENT – teams are obliged to be ready to play on time – if the game is delayed because team is not ready to play, the game end time will not be altered and the game time will be reduced

However the following rules will apply to end the game where applicable.

- 7.4.2 The 10 Minute rule – Players cannot take the field for the top of a new inning within 10 minutes of the end of the game. Once the players have taken the field to warm up for an inning, the inning will proceed to completion (subject to the 15 Minute Rule). If after the last out of the last innings there is 10 minutes or less to go before the end of the game, the umpire shall end the game immediately.
- 7.4.3 The 15 Minute rule – With the exception of Senior Division 1 games, no game may extend further than 15 minutes over the scheduled end of the game. If a result has not been achieved within the 15 minute extended time period; the score will revert back to the last completed inning. A draw can still be the official result.
- 7.4.4 At the end of each game, players should exit the dugout and leave the field as soon as possible to facilitate the cleaning of the dugout for the next game. Players for the next scheduled game cannot

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enter the dugout until the dugout is empty and declared clean and ready for use by the Home Club official.

- 7.4.5 Games impacted by earlier games going overtime for any reason, will start 30 minutes from the finish of the preceding game. Where dugouts have been cleaned and both teams are ready to play, the games may commence earlier. These games are not subject to By-Law 5.4.1, that is - the scheduled end of the game will be the normal game length and will end at the calculated end of game time.

EXAMPLE - where a game was originally scheduled to start at 2.00pm and the preceding game which started at 11.30am and is a 2 hour game with a scheduled end of game time of 1.30pm - is subject to the 15 minute rule, the scheduled game start will be 2.15pm (instead of 2.00pm) or earlier subject to field and dug-outs being ready for play. Subsequent games will similarly be

7.5 RUN LIMITATION

- 7.5.1 In all Division 2 divisions, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning.

7.6 TIE BREAKER RULE

- 7.6.1 The Tie-breaker rule shall be in place for all Regular Season GBL games.
- 7.6.2 The Tie-breaker rule shall apply to all Divisions. Where a game is limited by time, the tie-breaker will be enforced if and only if time permits – refer to end of game rules – By-Law 5.3; 6.3; 7.3; 8.3.
- 7.6.3 This Tie-Breaker rule shall trigger immediately in any game played that is tied at the commencement of the 10th inning.
- 7.6.4 During the regular season in any game where the score is tied and the 10th inning is about to commence, every half-inning after the ninth will begin with a runner on second base. The Team at bat shall commence the TOP of the inning with a runner on second base. If that runner scores, the pitcher won't be charged with an earned run. The runner on second base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.
- 7.6.5 The batter who was scheduled to lead off the 10th inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning in the absence of this rule. 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.
- 7.6.6 For purposes of this Rule, the tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 10th inning of a regular scheduled 9 innings game. The tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 8th inning of a regular scheduled 7 innings game (such as a 7 innings double-header game).
- 7.6.7 The only exception to this rule shall be in games where a curfew is in place and timing calls for the Tiebreaker rule to commence prior to the 10th inning as per By-Law 4.3.3.
- 7.6.8 The Tie-Breaker rule shall NOT apply to GBL Finals games.

7.7 REGULATION GAME

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

Grade	Length
Under 20	5 innings or 40 minutes
Senior League – Division 1 & Division 2	5 innings or 40 minutes
Junior League – Division 1 & Division 2	5 innings or 40 minutes

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Little League – Division 1	4 innings or 40 minutes
Little League – Division 2	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.	

- 7.7.2 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**.

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7.8 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 – Division 1 & Division 2	15 or more runs after 4 innings	10 or more runs after 5 innings
Junior League – Division 1 & Division 2	15 or more runs after 4 innings	10 or more runs after 5 innings
Little League – Division 1 & Division 2	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).

- 7.8.1 **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.

7.9 SPEED UP POLICY

- 7.9.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.
- 7.9.2 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.
- 7.9.3 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.

7.10 PLAYERS

- 7.10.1 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.
- 7.10.2 If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 7.10.3 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.
- 7.10.4 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.
- 7.10.5 Players may freely interchange between Division 1 and Division 2 throughout the season in the same age group.
- 7.10.6 Once a player has played five (5) games at the Division 1 level, that player must continue to play at the Division 1 level for the balance of the season.

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- 7.10.7 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only play for one team in a weekend in that age group. If the player plays in both teams during the course of the season, then for Finals eligibility, By-Law 5.21 applies. If the participation is the same for both teams, the player will play and be eligible for Finals games for the first team they played with at the start of the season.
- 7.10.8 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club and the higher team (Division 1) has a bye, no more than two (2) players from the higher team with the Bye can play at the lower age level.

Intent

The intent of By-Law 7.10.5; 7.10.6; 7.10.7 & 7.10.8 is to ensure Clubs are not penalized for having multiple teams and at the same time ensuring that Clubs do not “stack” teams in the same age-group on a week to week basis

- 7.10.9 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.
- 7.10.10 **RECOMMENDATION** - 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.
- 7.10.11 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

7.11 BATTING RULES

- 7.11.1 **Designated Hitter** - Teams in Under 20 may use a designated hitter.
- 7.11.2 **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 **7.11.3** 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

- 7.11.3 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
- 7.11.4 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.

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- 7.11.5 Players in the batting order who are not designated a defensive position:
- may appear in any batting position;
 - must stay in the same batting position for the complete game; and
 - RECOMMENDATION** - must enter the game in defence at the half way point (see Bylaw 7.8.10);

This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players.

- 7.11.6 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

- 7.11.7 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

- 7.11.8 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.

7.12 COURTESY RUNNER

- 7.12.1 Courtesy runners are not permitted in Junior Competition.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.04

7.13 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 7.13.1 Bat boys/girls are not permitted.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.17

- 7.13.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.17

- 7.13.3 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.

- 7.13.4 Managers and coaches shall not warm up pitchers.

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

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

- 7.13.6 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.

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

7.14 INJURIES

- 7.14.1 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.

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7.15 BATS

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

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.10

Little League Division	Season 2020 - 2021
Little League Major and Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum <p>It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2⁵/₈ 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. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.</p>
Junior League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR stamp <p>It shall not be more than 34" inches in length; nor more than 2⁵/₈ 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. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Also, permitted for the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League Division are bats meeting the BBCOR performance standard, and 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.</p> <p>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-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.</p>
Senior League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL bats must be BBCOR <p>It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2⁵/₈ 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. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. 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</p>

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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/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-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

7.15.2 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.

7.16 GAME BALLS

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

7.16.2 Teams must supply balls meeting Little League® specifications.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.09.

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

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

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

7.17 UMPIRES

7.17.1 The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the away team shall provide the base umpire. All umpires must be QBUA accredited and hold at least Community Level (green shirt) qualification.

7.17.2 For all grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.

7.17.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.

7.17.4 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.

7.17.5 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.

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- 7.17.6 All umpires must complete an Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *GBL Judiciary Procedures*).
- 7.17.7 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.
- 7.17.8 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.
- 7.17.9 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 notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the Administrator.
- 7.17.10 No member of either coaching staff is permitted to umpire unless agreed upon by both teams.
- 7.17.11 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.
- 7.17.12 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.

7.18 SCORERS – (see Section 2.10)

- 7.18.1 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.
- 7.18.2 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebook.
- 7.18.3 An 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.
- 7.18.4 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.
- 7.18.5 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;
 - c) a copy of these GBL Competition Rules;
 - d) a scorebook; and
 - e) appropriate stationery.

7.19 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 7.19.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.
- 7.19.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
 - a) game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;

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- 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.

7.19.3 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).

7.20 POINTS & MVP VOTES

7.20.1 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.

7.20.2 MVP votes are allocated for all Divisions and will be awarded by agreement between the scorers 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.

7.21 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

7.21.1 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.

7.21.2 All Junior Competition finals games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Competition Rules **7.3**, **7.6**) but played to a result.

7.21.3 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Competition Rules **7.21.3 - 7.21.6**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Competition Rules (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5.1**).

7.21.4 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.

7.21.5 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.

7.21.6 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **7.21.4**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:

- a) head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
- b) highest competition standing; then
- 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.

7.22 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

7.22.1 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 minimum of five (5) games 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.

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- 7.22.2 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.
- 7.22.3 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Competition Rules **7.22.1** or **7.22.2** outlining the extenuating circumstances including whether a previous exemption has been granted under Bylaw **7.10.9**. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.
- 7.22.4 Teams may use the following players if they are unable to field nine players from their Regular Season team:
- players from the age-group immediately below (with PONAG Type 1 Consent, see Appendix A); and/or
 - 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 **7.22.1** 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.

7.23 PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS

- 7.23.1 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** Reg. VI (b) & Rule 3.03c

- 7.23.2 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).

NOTE: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

*See **Green Book** Reg. VI (k)

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7.23.3 For daily pitching restrictions, the following table will apply for all GBL junior games

*See **Green Book** Reg. VI (c)

League Age (as of 31 st August 2020)	Daily Pitch Limit (per day) Season 2020/2021
Little League Minor registered players playing up in Little League games	30 pitches per day
Little League Major	55 pitches per day
Junior League	65 pitches per day
Senior League	75 pitches per day
Under 18/20	85 pitches per day

7.23.4 Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements: *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (d)

Pitches in a day	Mandatory rest period requirements
66 or more	Four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed
51 – 65	Three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed
36 – 50	Two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed
21 – 35	One (1) calendar day of rest must be observed
1 – 20 on consecutive days	One (1) calendar day of rest must be observed
1 – 20	Zero (0) calendar days of rest must be observed

7.23.5 Pitchers league age 15-16 must adhere to the following rest requirements: *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (d)

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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- 7.23.6 Under 20 pitchers must adhere to the following rest period requirements: *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (d)

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

- 7.23.7 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:

- (1) that batter reaches base;
- (2) that batter is put out; or
- (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning.

*See **Green Book** Reg. VI (d)

- 7.23.8 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. *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (c)
- 7.23.9 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. *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (a)
- 7.23.10 Pitching in more than one game per day – Little League Major and Minor pitchers may not pitch in more than one game in a day. *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (k)
- 7.23.11 Pitches delivered in suspended games shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
- 7.23.12 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.
- 7.23.13 **RECOMMENDATION** - 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.
- 7.23.14 There are no balks in Little League.

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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><i>*See Green Book Rule 7.08 – Approved Ruling</i></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 – all Divisions)

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:

- a) if the batter does not hit the ball and the runner is out, the out stands;
- b) 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;
- c) if the batter hits the ball and the runner (or runners) are put out, the out(s) will stand;
- d) 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
- e) 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).

**See Green Book Rule 7.13*

7.23.2 For all other base running, the Official Rules of Baseball apply.

NOTE:- In Little League Division 2, Coaches may agree at the plate meeting with the umpire, prior to the start of the game, that runs will not be scored when a passed ball occurs. This agreement cannot be changed once the game commences. This option is not available for Finals games.

7.23.3 **RECOMMENDATION** - 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.

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7.24 BATTING (LITTLE LEAGUE DIVISION 2 DIVISION)

- 7.24.1 There is no “dropped third strike rule” in Little League Division 2 Divisions (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 Division 2 Divisions 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.
 - h) a batter and all runners can advance no more than two bases from a ball batted from a batting tee.

WOMENS COMPETITION

8. WOMENS COMPETITION

8.1. PREAMBLE

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

8.2. TEAM NOMINATIONS

8.2.1. Teams must consist of female players aged fifteen (15) years and older. All female players are permitted to play in this League upon reaching their fifteenth birthday. All female players must be registered as a Women's player or age registered appropriately 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. END OF GAME RULES

8.4.1. For games where a time limit is stipulated, the scheduled game duration will not change. The game end time will be fixed by the game starting time. Once the game start time is set, the game end time will not change regardless of factors such as inclement weather delays, player injury or any other unforeseen delay in play or other similar circumstances.

Example 1; A 2 hour game started at 10:45am will have an end time of 12:45pm.

Example 2; A 2 hour game due to start at 10:45am, but delayed, due to inclement weather or a team does not have the required number of players, the game will have an end time of 12:45pm.

COMMENT – teams are obliged to be ready to play on time – if the game is delayed because team is not ready to play, the game end time will not be altered and the game time will be reduced

However the following rules will apply to end the game where applicable.

8.4.2. The 10 Minute rule – Players cannot take the field for the top of a new inning within 10 minutes of the end of the game. Once the players have taken the field to warm up for an inning, the inning will proceed to completion (subject to the 15 Minute Rule). If after the last out of the last

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innings there is 10 minutes or less to go before the end of the game, the umpire shall end the game immediately.

- 8.4.3. The 15 Minute rule – With the exception of Senior Division 1 games, no game may extend further than 15 minutes over the scheduled end of the game. If a result has not been achieved within the 15 minute extended time period; the score will revert back to the last completed inning. A draw can still be the official result.
- 8.4.4. At the end of each game, players should exit the dugout and leave the field as soon as possible to facilitate the cleaning of the dugout for the next game. Players for the next scheduled game cannot enter the dugout until the dugout is empty and declared clean and ready for use by the Home Club official.
- 8.4.5. Games impacted by earlier games going overtime for any reason, will start 30 minutes from the finish of the preceding game. Where dugouts have been cleaned and both teams are ready to play, the games may commence earlier. These games are not subject to By-Law 5.4.1, that is - the scheduled end of the game will be the normal game length and will end at the calculated end of game time.

EXAMPLE - where a game was originally scheduled to start at 2.00pm and the preceding game which started at 11.30am and is a 2 hour game with a scheduled end of game time of 1.30pm - is subject to the 15 minute rule, the scheduled game start will be 2.15pm (instead of 2.00pm) or earlier subject to field and dug-outs being ready for play. Subsequent games will similarly be

8.5. RUN LIMITATION

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

8.6. TIE BREAKER RULE

- 8.6.1. The Tie-breaker rule shall be in place for all Regular Season GBL games.
- 8.6.2. The Tie-breaker rule shall apply to all Divisions. Where a game is limited by time, the tie-breaker will be enforced if and only if time permits – refer to end of game rules – By-Law 5.3; 6.3; 7.3; 8.3.
- 8.6.3. This Tie-Breaker rule shall trigger immediately in any game played that is tied at the commencement of the 10th inning.
- 8.6.4. During the regular season in any game where the score is tied and the 10th inning is about to commence, every half-inning after the ninth will begin with a runner on second base. The Team at bat shall commence the TOP of the inning with a runner on second base. If that runner scores, the pitcher won't be charged with an earned run. The runner on second base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.
- 8.6.5. The batter who was scheduled to lead off the 10th inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning in the absence of this rule. 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.
- 8.6.6. For purposes of this Rule, the tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 10th inning of a regular scheduled 9 innings game. The tiebreaker rule shall apply in the 8th inning of a regular scheduled 7 innings game (such as a 7 innings double-header game).
- 8.6.7. The only exception to this rule shall be in games where a curfew is in place and timing calls for the Tiebreaker rule to commence prior to the 10th inning as per By-Law 4.3.3.
- 8.6.8. The Tie-Breaker rule shall NOT apply to GBL Finals games.

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8.7. REGULATION GAME

- 8.7.1. 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 6.21.5 for Grand Finals]
- 8.7.2. 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.

8.8. TEN (10) RUN RULE

- 8.8.1. 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.

8.9. SPEED UP POLICY

- 8.9.1. Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to move quickly to positions.
- 8.9.2. 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.

8.10. PLAYERS

- 8.10.1. 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.
- 8.10.2. If any team has less than seven (7) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 8.10.3. 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.
- 8.10.4. Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only play for one team in a weekend. If the player plays in both teams during the course of the season, then for Finals eligibility, By-Law 5.21 applies. If the participation is the same for both teams, the player will play and be eligible for Finals games for the first team they played with at the start of the season.
- 8.10.5. Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 8.8.4 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.

8.11. DESIGNATED HITTER / 10 BATTER RULE

- 8.11.1. 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.
- 8.11.2. 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.

8.12. COURTESY RUNNER

- 8.12.1. All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time. The courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.

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- 8.12.2. A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 8.12.3. 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 **8.8.3** above. No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.
- 8.12.4. 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.

8.13. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 8.13.1. 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.
- 8.13.2. Protective cups are mandatory for all players.
- 8.13.3. 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.
- 8.13.4. All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets.
- 8.13.5. 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.
- 8.13.6. All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

8.14. INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 8.14.1. 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.
- 8.14.2. 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.
- 8.14.3. 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.
- 8.14.4. Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals.
- 8.14.5. 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.

8.15. BATS

- 8.15.1. All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02.
- 8.15.2. All bats used in Women's Competitions shall comply with the following:
 - 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 ($1\frac{5}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch for bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part.
 - 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).
 - 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.

WOMENS COMPETITION

- 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 (1½) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
- 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.

8.15.3. Females shall use bats as described in Bylaw **8.13.2** 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).

8.16. GAME BALLS

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

8.16.2. Teams must supply only those balls approved by the Competition Administrator and meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.01.

8.16.3. In all Women's Competition grades, the home team shall provide two (2) new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.

8.16.4. In all grades, the umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

8.17. UMPIRES

8.17.1. 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.

8.17.2. For all Grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.

8.17.3. Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.

8.17.4. 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.

8.17.5. 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.

8.17.6. All umpires must complete an Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *GBL Judiciary Procedures*).

8.17.7. 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.

8.17.8. 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.

8.17.9. 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 notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the Administrator.

8.17.10. 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.

8.18. SCORERS – (see Section 2.10)

8.18.1. 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.

WOMENS COMPETITION

- 8.18.2. Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebook.
- 8.18.3. 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.
- 8.18.4. 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.
- 8.18.5. At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
- an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - a blank game card for the relevant grade;
 - a copy of these Competition Rules;
 - a scorebook; and
 - appropriate stationery.

8.19. GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 8.19.1. The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.
- 8.19.2. Home team scorer shall ensure that:
- 8.19.2.1. game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - 8.19.2.2. team coach's names are printed in the appropriate place on the card;
 - 8.19.2.3. all accreditation levels are recorded;
 - 8.19.2.4. umpires-in-chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card; and
 - 8.19.2.5. all names are spelt correctly.
- 8.19.3. 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).

8.20. POINTS & MVP VOTES

- 8.20.1. Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:
- 8.20.1.1. 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.
 - 8.20.1.2. all competitions are by winning percentage, with half the points of a win given for a tie.
- 8.20.2. MVP votes are allocated for all Divisions and will be awarded by agreement between the scorers 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.

8.21. PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 8.21.1. 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.
- 8.21.2. All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Bylaw **8.3**) but played to a result.

WOMENS COMPETITION

- 8.21.3. Where time permits, the preferred Finals system is the Page system – Semi Finals - 1 v 2; 3 v 4: Preliminary finals - loser 1 v 2 plays winner 3 v 4; Grand Final - winner Semifinal 1 v 2 plays winner Preliminary final.
- 8.21.4. The home team for all finals games will be the team that finished higher on the ladder.
 - 8.21.4.1. For all GBL Finals baseball games - the home team occupies the 3rd base dugout.
 - 8.21.4.2. However if the home team is playing at their usual home field, then they occupy the dugout they use during the regular season.
- 8.21.5. 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).
- 8.21.6. In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Competition Rules **8.19.6 – 8.19.9**. Games once scheduled are subject to these Competition Rules (including forfeit procedures - see Section **3.5.1**).
- 8.21.7. The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
 - 8.21.7.1. Friday night following the original scheduled day for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final; or
 - 8.21.7.2. Thursday night preceding Easter for any Grand Final.
- 8.21.8. Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 8.21.9. In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw **8.19.7**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
 - 8.21.9.1. highest competition standing; then
 - 8.21.9.2. head-to-head throughout the season.
 - 8.21.9.3. 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.

8.22. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 8.22.1. To be eligible for the finals, players must have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- 8.22.2. Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw **8.20.1** if an exemption under Bylaw **8.8.5** has already been granted. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- 8.22.3. Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.
- 8.22.4. In respect of forfeits, refer to Section **3.5.1**.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

9 BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

9.1 BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS OFFICIALS

9.2 UMPIRES – TAKE THE PLEDGE - NO RESPECT – NO UMPIRES – NO GAME

- 9.2.1 The role of umpires must be recognised and respected by the coaches, the players, the scorers, spectators and the parents. In the context of adjudicating a Baseball Queensland game, the umpire has complete authority over players and coaches from the moment that he or she walks onto the field until the game is over. It is an umpire's job to officiate the game within the rules and keep our players safe. We need to remind everyone involved of the consequences if you abuse an umpire. These actions can have a much greater impact than what you think. We need to reiterate the need to treat umpires with respect both as a coach, player and a spectator.
- 9.2.2 Umpires need to be accountable, just as players and coaches are on game day. They need to present themselves in a professional manner, know and understand the rules, position themselves on field in the best place to make good decisions and show respect to the players and coaches involved in the game they are officiating. There is an expectation that paid umpires perform, just as paid players do. However, one thing to remember is that umpires, just like players, will make mistakes during a game. We should not hold the umpires to account for the result because of one perceived bad decision. It's important to remember players and coaches also make mistakes.
- 9.2.3 Many sports have instituted a zero-tolerance policy for players, spectators and parents, which results in ejection from the game if umpires are taunted or verbally jeered. Junior umpires and especially volunteer club umpires must be given the same respect as paid umpires.
- 9.2.4 Parents can help ensure the health and safety of umpires by starting to educate their kids on how to treat umpires with respect. Coaches, players, parents, and spectators should never argue or dispute the decision of an umpire, make negative or derogatory remarks or gestures towards an umpire, or otherwise behave inappropriately to disturb the normal course of play in the game. Not only is this behavior setting a bad example for players, it distracts and takes away from their enjoyment of the game. Remember, it's only a game, and it's important to set a good example of respecting the umpire for our young players.
- 9.2.5 Baseball Queensland and the GBL Competition Committee support the "Take the Pledge – Respecting Umpires initiative and will continue to monitor the competition Competition Rules to ensure clubs, players and officials show respect to all baseball officials. And where this respect is not provided, ensure appropriate penalties

9.3 ZERO TOLERANCE

- 9.3.1 The GBL Competition and the QBUA will enforce the concept of 'zero tolerance' in order to ensure that Coaches and Managers take a proactive role in eliminating Umpire abuse.
- a) If, in the Umpire's opinion, a player:
 - (a) Abuses an Umpire; or
 - (b) Displays dissent towards an Umpire; or
 - (c) Argues judgement decisions (e.g. balls and strikes, Out/safe or fair/foul etc.) or
 - (d) Shows disrespect to the umpire in any way
- 9.4 The Umpire must immediately **eject the player** from the game. Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any type of umpiring judgement calls.
- 9.5 In all Junior games; Umpires are encouraged to use each Team Coach as appropriate to resolve behaviour issues as the first option prior to any player ejection.

NOTE: This is a recommendation only and Umpires need to use their best judgement when dealing with game management and player behaviour issues.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

WARNING: If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach will be ejected from the game with the player. He will be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game. The GBL Judiciary takes a dim view of players and coaches that continue to make comments from outside the field of play.

9.6 The ejected player and the Head Coach/Manager shall adhere to the BQ Reported Persons Procedures. The ejected Head Coach/Manager shall be imposed with no further penalty.

9.7 Any player, coach, official or individual that makes disparaging remarks on social networks that are brought to the attention of the judiciary, may be charged with Bringing the Game into Disrepute, as defined as follows: -

9.7.1 DEFINITION OF BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE

- a) Disrepute means literally bad reputation. When the word disrepute is used in the sporting context, it is normally in relation to bringing the game or the sport or members of the sport into disrepute.
- b) Definitions:
 - (a) To bring something into disrepute is to damage the reputation which is equivalent to reducing their standing
 - (b) The lack or decline of good reputation; a state of being held in low esteem
 - (c) To diminish public confidence in something or to cause the public to lose confidence in the integrity of something

9.8 MELEE RULE

9.8.1 The GBL Competition Committee will not tolerate the clearing of players and coaches from a bench to engage in a melee under any circumstances. As such, the Competition Manager will apply an automatic one (1) game suspension on any **reported player**, coach or other person that leaves their bench or designated area to engage in a melee.

9.9 SCORERS

9.1.1 The official scorer is an official representative who is entitled to the respect and dignity of his/her office and shall be accorded full protection by Baseball Queensland and the GBL Competition Committee for all games scored within the GBL summer baseball competition. The official scorer shall report to the appropriate league official any indignity expressed by any manager, player, club employee or club officer in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of official scorer duties.

9.1.2 Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any decision by a scorer in relation to the interpretation of the Official Baseball Rules regarding scoring and statistics.

9.1.3 The official scorer shall observe the game from a position in the scorer's box. The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions concerning application of Rule 9 (Rule 10) that involve judgment, such as whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error.

9.1.4 In all cases, the official scorer shall not make a scoring decision that is in conflict with Rule 9 (Rule 10) or any other Official Baseball Rule. The official scorer shall conform strictly to the rules of scoring set forth in this Rule 9. The official scorer shall not make any decision that conflicts with an umpire's decision.

9.1.5 The official scorer shall report any indignity expressed by any manager, player, club employee or club officer in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of official scorer duties.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

- 9.1.6 Players are expressly directed to not enter the scorer's box or area. The only person authorised to ask a question of the scorers is the team Coach/Manager. Players entering the scorer's box/area may be subject to a report and if deemed guilty, subject to appropriate penalty.
- 9.1.7 Any report from an official scorer will be submitted to the GBL Judiciary by the Competition Administrator. The report must be submitted on the official GBL incident Report form available from the BQ website. The GBL Judiciary will deal with any complaints from the official scorer in the same way as any other report of misbehaviour.

9.2 CONDUCT OF MEMBERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

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

9.3 GBL JUDICIARY

- 9.3.1 The GBL Judiciary is established and administered by the GBL Committee to hear and determine disciplinary proceedings against any person under this Part.
- 9.3.2 The GBL Judiciary will abide by the *GBL Judiciary Procedures* set out in Appendix C.
- 9.3.3 The GBL Judiciary may refer matters at their discretion to the BQ Judiciary.
- 9.3.4 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*.

9.4 JUDICIARY REFERENCES

- 9.4.1 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.

9.5 JUDICIARY SUSPENSIONS

Any player who plays in breach of a judiciary order is an illegal player for the purpose of these Competition Rules.

APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

1) INTRODUCTION

The GBL Competition Committee strongly recommends that wherever possible, junior players play in their natural age group. There is a great deal of evidence documenting the benefits of junior players playing and excelling in games for their natural age group.

2) BACKGROUND

PONAG – Playing Outside Natural Age Group - has been devised for two reasons

- Where a player does not have the physical skills to cope with games in their natural age group and thus requests to play at a lower age group for the course of the season.
- Where a player has skills which allow them to play and cope playing games at a higher age group and that player wishes to play at the higher age group for a game when a higher age team requires additional player/s.

Where players wish to play outside of their natural age group, it is important to ensure that the player is not overwhelmed by the higher or lower age group playing standard or the player's skills represent an unfair advantage when they play in the higher or lower age group.

- The GBL Competition Committee has decided that PONAG will only be granted to players as follows:-
 - Playing up – must be in the natural age group of the age group immediately below that which they wish to PONAG up to.
 - Playing Up - permitted for single games (maximum 5 games including Finals games) or for the full season.
 - A player playing up for the full season is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
 - Playing Down – must be in the first year of their natural age group. Players playing in the second year of their natural age group are not permitted to play down under any circumstances.
 - Playing Down – permitted only for the season, not available for single games.
 - A player playing down is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
 - Any team in a GBL baseball competition will not be permitted to play more than three PONAG players per game.
 - A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.

3) AGE REQUIREMENTS

- See 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.

APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

4) PLAYING OUTSIDE NATURAL AGE GROUPS (“PONAG”)

There are two (2) types of PONAG Permission – forms available from the Baseball Queensland website:

- a) Playing Up Consent Form; and
- b) Playing Down Consent Form.
 - i) The appropriate paperwork must be completed and a copy sent to the GBL Competition Administrator and the original copy retained by the Club in accordance with the following rules.
 - ii) The paperwork must be retained for the season and provided to the GBL Competition Committee, if requested, within 24 hours of the request.
- c) Any approval to play outside of natural age groups may be reviewed and/or revoked at any time by the GBL Competition Committee or BQ.

5) 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 a Playing Up Consent Form; either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their natural age group. The completed form is to be retained and held by the Club - refer 3. c).
- b) Permission to play up is automatically given once the completed PONAG Playing Up Consent Form is completed. A player can only apply for a maximum of up to 5 Playing Up opportunities per season including Finals games or can apply for the full season.
 - i) A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- c) Permission to play up for the season is automatically given once the completed PONAG Playing Up Consent Form is completed.
- d) The GBL Competition Committee may, in its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Up Consent it deems appropriate.

Playing Up Consent Restrictions/Allowances

- i) **A player playing up is permitted to pitch or catch in the higher age level – pitch limits for the player’s natural age group apply.**
- ii) **Players subject to a Playing Up Clearance for the full season are excluded from playing in their natural age group.**

APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

6) PLAYING DOWN CONSENT

- 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 a Playing Down Consent Form either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their natural age group. The completed form is to be retained and held by the Club - refer 3. c).
- b) A copy of the completed Playing Down Consent Form must be emailed to the GBL Competition Administrator immediately the Playing Down Consent Form has been completed and prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- c) Permission to play down for the season is automatically given once the completed PONAG Playing Down Consent Form is completed.
- d) The GBL Competition Committee may, in its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Down Consent it deems appropriate.

Playing Down Consent Restrictions/Allowances

- i) **A player may pitch a maximum of 20 pitches per game (can finish the batter) in the lower age level.**
- ii) **Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance cannot pitch in any GBL Finals games.**
- iii) **Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance are excluded from playing in their natural age group.**

7) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- a) Where special circumstances exist, Clubs and players may write to the GBL Competition Committee requesting special consideration for PONAG approval, explaining in full the relevant special circumstances. Requests will be considered by the GBL Competition Committee a decision made based on the evidence presented. No player may participate under PONAG conditions subject to special consideration until the decision of the GBL Competition Committee is provided. The decision will be provided to the Club and/or player in writing. Requests for Special Consideration will take a minimum of two weeks to be processed and decided upon.

8) 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 Sports house
 - 150 Caxton Street
 - MILTON QLD 4064

Any approval for a player to play outside their natural age group can be reviewed and withdrawn by the GBL Competition Committee or BQ at any time.

APPENDIX B – GBL DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

2 APPENDIX B – GBL DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

1 PREAMBLE

- A. Terms defined in the Section 1.3 of the *GBL Competition Rules* 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 Competition Rules;
 - ii. making recommendations to the GBL Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests; and
 - iii. providing advisory opinions on the GBL Competition Rules.
- 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.

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

3 APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

1 PREAMBLE

- A. Terms defined in the Section 1.3 of the *GBL Competition Rules* 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 Competition Rules* 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.

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any person may be reported (**Reported Person**) to the GBL Judiciary for breaching the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 or Section 9 of the *GBL Competition Rules* in the following ways:
- i. By an umpire in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 (***Umpires Referral***).
 - 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;
- E. The QBUA or the Reporting Umpire 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;

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- 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:
- i. for an Umpire's Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary; 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 0 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.

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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.

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- 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.
- 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

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

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;
 - 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 0;
 - 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.
- F.** Suspended players, the Club they play for and the date for the last day of the suspension penalty will be listed on the Baseball Queensland website for the duration of the suspension penalty to allow. This allows all members of the baseball community to check to ensure that a suspended and therefore an illegal player is not listed to play for a Club. The penalty for playing an illegal player is loss of game.

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.

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

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;
 - 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.

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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) Discourteous or disrespectful behaviour directed at the umpire
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. Taunting, baiting, abusing or ridiculing an opponent or official verbally
Racial Abuse	Any comments based on racial issues directed to another person that could reasonably be construed as abusive, insulting and/or harassing. Comments need only be audible to the Complainant. Racial discrimination involves any act where a person is treated unfavourably because of their race, nationality, colour, descent or ethnic origin.
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. Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent,
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, intentionally sliding into a player).
Attempting to strike	An intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike another person. This includes engaging in a melee.

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Striking	Intentionally striking another person in any way.
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) whereby a player is hit or injured as a result of the equipment abuse
Spitting	Spitting on or at an Umpire or on another Person
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 range (weeks)
Class E – Misconduct	1 - 2
Class D – Dissent	2 - 4
Class C – Offensive Behaviour	3 - 6
Class B – Intimidation	4 - 8
Class A – Dangerous Act	10 - 20
Breach of Judiciary order	20

4 APPENDIX D – HEALTH RULES AND COVID 19

1. COVID 19 SAFE PLAN

For information regarding operating under COVID 19 Safe Plan – refer to Baseball Qld website and click on the following link

<https://www.baseballqueensland.com.au/category/covid19/>

2. HEALTH POLICY - WET RAG RULE

- 2.1. Pitchers will be permitted to carry a small wet rag in their back pocket to be used for moisture in lieu of licking their fingers.
- 2.2. Pitchers will not be able to access the rag while on the rubber, and they must clearly wipe the fingers of their pitching hand dry before touching the ball or the rubber.
- 2.3. Water is the only substance that will be allowed on the rag.
- 2.4. Where the pitcher fails to comply with any of the above, OBR Rule 6.02.c. applies including relevant penalties.

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