



BASEBALL
QUEENSLAND

Baseball

Rules

(Includes Rules for All Tournaments)

Incorporating:

AUSSIE T-Ball, Rookie Ball,

Little League, Junior League, Senior League and Senior Baseball

U16 and U18 State Titles Tournament Rules

For all affiliated Clubs, Leagues and Regions.

ISSUED 19 August 2019

BASEBALL QUEENSLAND

Baseball Rules

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QUESTIONS ON THESE OR OTHER RULES?

If you have a question or enquiry regarding any of the following rules for Baseball in Queensland, **please** contact Baseball Queensland.

At Baseball Queensland direct any enquiries to the Development Manager :

Gareth Jones

gareth@baseballqld.asn.au

Phone: 07 3876 2222

Facsimile: 07 3876 2122

Postal Address: Baseball Queensland

P.O. Box 124

SPRING HILL Q 4004

Please Note

**All rules that appear in a shaded box, are
new rules for 2019**

BASEBALL RULES

The **Official Rules of Baseball** apply for U18/20 Leagues and Adult play. The **2017 Little League Baseball Playing Rules** apply for Little League, Junior League and Senior League play. The Greater Brisbane Leagues have opted to utilize the 2017 Little League Playing Rules for the duration of the 2017/18 summer season. Exceptions will be the following documentation, which has been designed to foster the development and provide for the safety of participants.

These rules may not and cannot be adjusted or manipulated in any way by any club, region or league affiliated with **Baseball Queensland**, without the expressed written permission of the **BQ Board of Management**. Any region or association not abiding by these rules will forfeit their right to nominate teams for any Baseball Queensland sanctioned tournament, competition or games. This includes tournaments, competitions or games sanctioned by the Australian Baseball Federation. Baseball Queensland may make alteration to these rules at any time. Baseball Queensland may issue any party, special dispensation from one or more of these rules as the Baseball Queensland Board of Management deems necessary.

These rules are to be adhered to. Baseball Queensland may issue a \$100.00 fine per offence for any infringements of these rules.

Infringements of these rules are to be dealt with by the league or region conducting the competition. **All infringements must be reported to Baseball Queensland by the league/region president.** A panel will be put in place to hear appeals; and a separate non-affiliated arbitrator will Chair the panel. A written appeal must be lodged with Baseball Queensland within seven days of the infringement, accompanied by a letter of explanation and a cheque for **\$100 made payable to Baseball Queensland**. The cheque is refundable if the appeal is upheld.

SPONSOR SIGNAGE

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 Baseball Queensland through the region, league or competition administration.

AGE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

AGE REQUIREMENTS

A. League Age Table

Please refer to our league age eligibility chart (Age Matrix) available at this link:

<https://www.baseballqueensland.com.au/age-matrix/>

- B. All **registered** players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a club.

- C. There is to be no age restriction for Aussie T-Ball (recommended age: under 8 years of age) **or** Rookie Ball (recommended age: 8 – 9 years of age inclusive). Any person outside these age brackets that wishes to play Aussie T-Ball or Rookie Ball, must seek permission from the Regional Director of Coaching or the League administering the competition.

PLEASE NOTE: Please see the documents available [from this link](#) for further details for Tournament age cut offs.

PLAYING OUTSIDE NATURAL AGE GROUPS

1. The following provisions have been instated to provide improved participation flexibility in order to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse societal and sporting landscape. Various circumstances may provide cause for a league/region to provide any player with special dispensation from the above mentioned “Age Eligibility Requirements” allowing such player to play outside their natural age group in accordance with the rules as set out herein. All applications will be considered and should be addressed to the league managing the competition. Appeals will be heard by Baseball Queensland; any such appeal must be made in writing and addressed to the Development Manager at Baseball Queensland.

There are two (2) forms of playing outside natural age group. These are referred to as Type 1, which refers to “temporary” permission to play outside natural age group. Type 2 refers to “permanent” permission to play outside natural age group. In each case the appropriate paperwork must be completed and submitted in accordance with the following rules. Application must come from a parent/guardian and the player’s current coach or other club representative. Copies of all approval forms must also be forwarded to Baseball Queensland. The application form or “**Playing Outside Natural Age Group Application and Informed Consent Form**” is available from the Resources menu, Forms submenu on the BQ website or via the [following link>>>](#)

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

Players in Aussie T-ball (U8) & Rookie Ball (U10) may play up and down within these age levels **without the requirement to sign permission forms or seek permission**. Age or previous year(s) playing status will not be considered. Any player of league age 10 is eligible to play either Aussie T-Ball (U8) or Rookie Ball (U10) or both in the same season.

NB: Nine year old players may apply to play up in Little League on either temporary or permanent permission as outlined below but in order to be eligible to pitch in Little League a nine year old must apply for and be granted permanent permission and adhere to the Rookie Ball pitching restrictions. Little League players may also apply for special consideration under these rules to play Rookie Ball (U10).

Where there is no competition for a particular age level, then a League may determine the age levels that best fulfil their requirements. **For example:** U17, U15, U11 etc. Baseball Queensland approval **must** be sought before implementation.

2. Playing Outside Natural Age Group, Clearance Type 1 - Temporary Permission.

- A. Temporary permission is to be sought by players playing up outside their natural age group in order to fill in for; or take the place of a natural age player that is ill, injured, absent or otherwise unable to play, in order that a game may be played.
- B. Temporary Permission provisions to play up outside a player’s natural age group apply only to players from Rookie Ball (9 year olds to play Little League) to Junior League. NB: Players 15 years of age or older are eligible to play senior baseball.
- C. Players playing up an age group under temporary permission provisions can only take the field to replace injured players or to ensure at least nine players take the field. i.e. they cannot take the field at the expense of a player playing in their natural age group. Players playing up an age group under temporary permission provisions are not required to attain any minimum participation for the game played outside their natural age group.
Exception to Rule 2C above - Players playing up an age group under temporary permission provisions may play as the tenth batter for the entire game.
- D. Temporary permission requires the parent/guardian of the player playing outside their natural age group to sign the playing outside natural age permission and informed consent form. This form must also be signed by the coach of the adopting team.

- E. The completed, Playing Outside Natural Age Permission and Informed Consent form must be submitted to the scorers prior to every game the player is to play in the older age group. The Scorers must submit this completed permission form with the Game Card to the League Registrar by the game card due date.
- F. Temporary Permission will only be accepted/permitted for a maximum of five games for any player in any one season. Permanent Permission must be obtained in order to play more than five games outside their natural age group. This will mean they will be required to play up on a permanent basis and forfeit their game time in their natural age group.
NB: Application may be made to BQ for exception to this rule.
- G. Temporary permission is valid for one game only. A new form must be completed and submitted to the Scorers and League Registrar for every game a player plays outside their natural age group under the temporary permission/Clearance Type 1 arrangements.
- H. Players are only permitted to play **up** one age group under Temporary Permission (Players are not permitted to play down any age group(s) under Temporary Permission provisions).
- I. When playing up an age level under Temporary Permission, players are **prohibited from pitching and catching**.
- J. Temporary permission does not exclude a player from playing in their natural age group. Players playing up on a temporary basis may not do so if it will lead to their natural age team failing to field nine players.

3. Playing Outside Natural Age Group, Clearance Type 2 - Permanent Permission

- A. Permanent Permission is to be sought by players seeking to play outside their natural age group for the term of an entire season or remainder of same.
- B. Permanent Permission provisions to play outside a player's natural age group apply to all players between nine (9) and fourteen (14) years of age to play no more than one age group, above or below their natural age group. i.e. a nine year old may make application to play Little League; a Little Leaguer may make application to play Rookie Ball or Junior League as their case may determine. (Players under the age of 10 may alternate between Aussie T-ball and Rookie Ball at their club's discretion see Rule 1 above).
- C. Permanent Permission requires a State Development Officer, Regional Director of Coaching or otherwise League appointed person to conduct a skills assessment on any player requesting Permanent Permission to play outside their natural age group prior to that player's first game in another age group. The Parent/Guardian of the player requesting permission must also sign a playing outside natural age permission and informed consent form. The completed player assessment form and signed parent/guardian consent form must be approved by; and in the hands of the League Registrar prior to Permanent Permission being deemed granted. NB: Permission is not deemed granted until the player has received a cover note from the League/League Registrar or BQ.
- D. The League Registrar is to provide the adopting team/relevant player with a cover note on League letter head outlining the grade(s) and age group(s) any player listed on such cover note, is eligible to play in. The cover note must also include any pitching/catching limitations that apply to the approved player. This document must be presented to the Umpire and opposing team's Manager prior to each game.
- E. Permanent Permission is only valid for the season in which it is granted.
- F. Players may apply for permanent permission to play up or down one age group only.
- G. Players when playing up or down an age level on a permanent permission basis may apply to be granted special consideration to allow them to pitch or catch. This permission must be sought from Baseball Queensland. If granted permission to pitch or catch, this will be noted on the cover note to be supplied to the adopting team by the League Registrar.

- i. No player may play the position of pitcher and catcher in the same day.
- ii. Any player playing up outside their natural age group, with permission to pitch or catch will be required to adhere to their natural age group pitching and catching restrictions.
- iii. Any player playing down outside their natural age group with permission to pitch or catch will be required to adhere to the pitching and catching restrictions of the age group they are playing in.

4. Playing Outside Natural Age Groups - Appeals and Reviews Process

- A. Appeals against any decision to play outside natural age group must be referred to Baseball Queensland. Any appeal must be made in writing to Baseball Queensland and be accompanied by a detailed account of the situation to date. Please address appeals to:
The Development Manager
Baseball Queensland
P.O. Box 124
Spring Hill QLD 4004
- B. Any approval for a player to play outside their natural age group can be reviewed and withdrawn by the issuing organisation or Baseball Queensland at any time.

THE PLAYING FIELD

AGE	GAME	BASEPATHS	PITCH DISTANCE	CENTREFIELD DISTANCE	BASES
U8 *	AUSSIE T-BALL	60 FT	46 FT	150 FT – 170 FT	REMOVABLE #
U10	ROOKIE BALL	60 FT	46 FT	200 FT – 220 FT	REMOVABLE #
Little League	BASEBALL	60 FT	46 FT	225 FT	REMOVABLE or Breakaway Hollywood
Junior League**	BASEBALL	80 FT	54 FT	300 FT	PERMANENT
Senior League	BASEBALL	90 FT	60 FT 6 IN	OPEN	PERMANENT
U20	BASEBALL	90 FT	60 FT 6 IN	OPEN	PERMANENT
Adult.	BASEBALL	90 FT	60 FT 6 IN	OPEN	PERMANENT

Note: It is recommended Little League Minor Leagues use Safety balls/Injury Reduction Balls for League games.

* In Aussie T-ball there will be a fair ball line 15 ft in front of the tee.

All bases are to be of the padded variety and placed on level ground.

** Junior League tournament play field sizes may vary.

All games for the Little League and Junior League age levels 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. Any such perimeter is to be established/installed by the home team. **For example:** Cones or markers that are clearly seen from home plate. 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.

NOTE: Should a base be pegged to the ground (removable as per Little League), 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.

PLAYING EQUIPMENT

AGE	GAME	BALLS	SHOES
U8	AUSSIE T-BALL	SAFETY	RUBBER SOLE
U10	ROOKIE BALL	SAFETY	RUBBER SOLE
U12/ Little League	Little League Baseball	Minors - Safety/RIB Majors- Standard	RUBBER SOLE
U14/Junior League	BASEBALL	STANDARD	METAL CLEATS PERMITTED
U16/Senior League	BASEBALL	STANDARD	METAL CLEATS PERMITTED
U20 and Seniors	BASEBALL	STANDARD	METAL CLEATS PERMITTED
Major A / Pac A	BASEBALL	STANDARD	METAL CLEATS PERMITTED

BASEBALL BATS

Little League (and below) Baseball Bats

It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2 ⁵/₈ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end. **NOTE 1:** Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo. **Non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USA Bat Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats are prohibited.**

Junior League Baseball Bats

It shall not be more than 34" inches in length; nor more than 2 ⁵/₈ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. **NOTE 1:** Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo. **Non-wood and laminated bats used in Intermediate and Junior League play, shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USA Bat Performance Standard. Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) may also be used in Intermediate and Junior League play. All BPF – 1.15 bats are prohibited.**

U16, U18, U20, Senior League Baseball Bats

It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2 ⁵/₈ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inchlong bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. Aluminium/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.

EXCEPTION: Bats that feature the USA Bats approval image are approved for play.

The USA Bats approval stamp will appear on the bat as per one of the following examples (Umpires are advised to look for one of these markings on the bat):



Rules for Adult League bats continued over page.

PLAYING EQUIPMENT – Baseball Bats Continued

Adult Division I Grade Baseball Bats

The bat shall be a smooth, round stick not more than 2.61 inches in diameter at the thickest part and not more than 42 inches in length. The bat shall be wood, wood composite or wood laminate only.

All other Non-Wood Adult/Open/Masters Grade Baseball Bats

Effectively from March 2016, any non - wood bat senior competition will need to use wood bats or metal bats that comply with the BBCOR standard. 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Players representing Queensland at the National Championships will be required to use the following bats at their National tournament as per the [Baseball Australia Bat Rules](#).

Under 18: Wood or wood composite.

For all other Bat Rules please refer to the [Baseball Australia Bat Rules](#)

Females playing Senior Baseball (Excluding Adult Division I Leagues) are permitted to use Baseball bats - 5 ounces or heavier

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Please note for Little League, Junior League and Senior League specific rules please refer to 2017 Little League Baseball Playing Rules.

- A.** Players **must** wear full protective equipment **at all times** when catching or warming up a pitcher. **For example:** Mask (with throat guard), helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup. Coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask and protective cup.

NOTE: At the Rookie Ball age level or below, soccer style leg guards are permitted.

- B.** Properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets must be worn by all batters, baserunners and juniors performing the duties of a base coach.
- C.** Any bat boy/girl (must be a minimum of 8 years old) in the dugout or on the field **must** wear a two-eared helmet at **ALL TIMES**.
- D.** Protective cups are **MANDATORY** for **ALL** players.
- E.** Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under 18 years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches 18 years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.

NOTE – It is not mandatory for Teeball and Rookie ball coaches to wear skull caps when on-field, but it is recommended.

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

NOTE: If in the opinion of the home plate umpire (**in consultation with both coaches**), the weather becomes potentially detrimental to any player's health, the game will be abandoned.

GENERAL PLAYING RULES

Please note for Little League, Junior League and Senior League specific rules please refer to 2017 Little League Baseball Playing Rules.

- A.** Under **normal circumstances**, games will be considered finished when either the maximum time duration or the maximum innings, as determined by Leagues in their bylaws, is reached.
- B.** Unless addressed in local league By-Laws; if a team is ahead by 10 runs after 1 hour 45 minutes and equal innings, then the "mercy rule" **will be** invoked.
- C.** Players at the Junior League and below levels **MUST** start and play a **full game** in **at least 25%** of the team's officially scheduled games. Strategic coaching replacements in junior baseball, especially at these levels are not encouraged, as they detract from player development.
- D.** Each junior player (U8 – U20) **MUST** play at least 50% of the time allowed for that junior fixture.
- Note:** **A five (5) minute leeway either side of the time will be granted.**
- E.** In the event of an injury or ejection, a team may continue with eight players. Also, a team may commence a game with eight players. However, teams are never permitted to have less than eight players on the field at any given time.
- F.** In junior games substituted players may re-enter a game in the event of an injury, ejection or a player forced to leave the ground prematurely, but are not permitted to pitch.

PITCHING AND CATCHING

Please note for Little League, Junior League and Senior League specific rules please refer to 2017 Little League Baseball Playing Rules.

- A. No junior player (including U20 comp and U18 players in senior baseball) may catch in more than two games in any given day.
- B. In junior games (including U20) a courtesy runner for the catcher is **MANDATORY** after two outs.
- C. In junior games (including U20) a courtesy runner for the catcher is **MANDATORY** after two outs.

NOTE:

- All coaches should make changes between innings when possible - Speed up rule.
- It is **recommended** that pitchers **should not** start the next inning if 10 or less pitches remain before reaching this maximum. - Speed up rule. This also allows for the next incoming pitcher to be prepared adequately.

D. Pitching limitations for home and away League games during the season and finals are as follows:-

- (I) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)
- (II) A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.
 - **Exception:** U14, U16, and U18/U20 Divisions only: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- (III) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age	Pitches per day
U10	35 pitches per day
Little League	75 pitches per day
Junior League	85 pitches per day
Senior League	95 pitches per day
U18 and U20	105 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Pitching and Catching Rule D (III) or the Mandatory Rest Period thresholds in Pitching and Catching Rule E for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

1. That batter reaches base;
2. That batter is put out;
3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.

Note: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

Note: A catcher who plays the position of catcher for four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day.

E. Mandatory Rest Period Requirements

U10 Pitchers must observe three (3) calendar days rest for any outing pitched.

Under 12 and Under 14 pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
- If a player pitches two consecutive outings of 1-20 pitches on consecutive days, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

Under 16 and Under 18/20 pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 61 - 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 46 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 31 -45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
- If a player pitches two consecutive outings of 1-30 pitches in the same day or on consecutive days, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

PITCHING AND CATCHING CONTINUED

- F. Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.
- G. The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.
- H. The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Pitching and Catching rule E (IV) The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation E (IV). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- I. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. (Exception: In U18/20, a player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day.)

- NOTE:**
1. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
 2. 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 the required days of rest.

NOTE: Any player 16 to 19 years of age (by Dec 31 in the year the season begins) that pitches at any level, including senior baseball must adhere to the U20 pitch limits.

NOTE: It is **STRONGLY** recommended that pitchers at the **junior** levels throw at least **75% fastballs** throughout the season.

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that junior pitchers not pitch in excess of 1/3 of their game maximum in any single inning.

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that Adult pitchers not pitch in excess of 120 pitches in any outing.

BATTING

- A. In junior baseball once batters have faced a pitch during any time at bat, they cannot be replaced during that at bat, except in the case of an injury to the batter.
- B. There is no designated hitter for the pitcher in junior baseball. **However U12, U14 and U16 teams MUST use a 10 player batting lineup** if they have 10 or more players available. U20 teams may also use a 10 player batting line-up at the discretion of each team's manager. This tenth batter must stay in place for the complete game **The extra batter may appear in any batting position and** must enter the game in defence at the half way point. **The extra batter is for player development ONLY and will not count towards participation until they appear on the field.**

The batting position of players may NOT be changed at any point during a game, only the fielding positions are changed.

Note: In cases where teams have just 9 players, players of a younger age group may play up as the 10th batter provided they do not take the position of a player who should rightfully be playing in that age group. However, they may not take the field in place of another player, except in the case of injury or ejection.

- C. Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. This is an umpire's judgement call. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter will result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to their bases last legally occupied.

GENERAL COACHING

- A. **Any** person coaching in a Queensland affiliated baseball competition (Little League to Adult competition), **must have** a minimum Level 1 Baseball Coaching Accreditation and hold a current Suitability Card issued by the Commission for Children and Young People. All coaches are required to abide by the Baseball Australia Coaches' Code of Conduct.
- B. Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any type of umpiring judgement calls. (**Example:** Out/safe, ball/strike, or fair/foul).
Penalty: Automatic ejection
- C. Coaches must sign the scorebooks and game cards at the conclusion of every game.
- D. In the event of a coach/team being found to be in breach of any of the Baseball Queensland Rules, the offending club/region will be fined \$100.00 per offence. Coaches may also face revocation of their accreditation.

ALL TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL PRODUCTS ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE ONFIELD CONFINES OF ANY BASEBALL FACILITY. ALSO SEE THE BASEBALL QUEENSLAND COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT. After ascertaining that a coach, player or any team official is disregarding the above directive, the umpires are to automatically eject the offending person. Leagues are then to ensure that the offending person is required to report for a judiciary hearing.

UMPIRING

- A. Any person that umpires a baseball game (Little League to Adult Baseball) must hold a minimum Level O Umpires Accreditation.
- B. There **must** be an umpire situated behind home plate. Open-faced shoes of any type are prohibited.
- C. The home team **must** provide **both** the home plate umpire and the base umpire unless otherwise stated in league/region bylaws.
- D. No member of either coaching staff is permitted to umpire unless agreed upon by both teams.
- E. Junior players 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.
- F. When an umpire (or coach) notices blood on any part of a player's person or uniform, the player in question must be removed from the field.
- G. Where players are directed by an umpire to leave the field under paragraph F above, the umpire will wait a reasonable time period, allowing the blood rule (**see section "Infectious Diseases Policy"**) to be implemented. The time allowed is at the umpire's discretion, but should not exceed 10 minutes. If, when this time has elapsed, the players are unable to take their place in the team, they must be substituted in the usual manner. When a team has only nine players, the game will recommence with the team in question fielding the allowable eight players.
- H. Any player or coach, refusing to obey an umpire's direction in accordance with E and F above, **will be** ejected from the game.
- I. After two coaching visits to the mound in one inning (**see rule 8.06 in the Official Rules of Baseball**), the umpire is to direct the pitcher to leave the game. However, if the coach approaches the umpire and moves the pitcher to another fielding position, the umpire **is not** required to direct the pitcher to leave the game.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

The following rules pertaining to infectious diseases (**Blood Rule**) are taken from the Australian Baseball Federation's policy statement. As an affiliate of the ABF, Baseball Queensland willingly implements and will enforce this policy.

- A. All participants with prior evidence of infectious diseases must first obtain confidential advice and clearance from a doctor prior to their participation in baseball.
- B. No players will participate in any baseball game or continue to participate in any game for so long as such players:
 - i. are bleeding, or
 - ii. have blood on any part of their person or uniform
- C. Players shall immediately, upon direction by an umpire, leave the playing field where such umpire is of the opinion that the players are bleeding or have blood on any part of their person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing field, players shall not return or take any further part in any baseball game until and unless:
 - i. the cause of any such bleeding has been abated and the bleeding has stopped
 - ii. the injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from
 - iii. any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced
 - iv. any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed
- D. **CLUB RESPONSIBILITY: The following is an extract of the ABF rules pertaining to clubs.**
 - i. Those handling bleeding players must wear disposable rubber or plastic gloves. Resuscitation bags or disposable mouth-to-mouth devices **must** be available.
 - ii. Spitting or urinating in dugouts or on the field is strictly prohibited.
 - iii. All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood must be treated as potentially infectious. Household bleach in a 1:10 solution may be used to wash contaminated areas. Clothing should be soaked in a bleach solution or disinfectant, depending on manufacturers instructions.
 - iv. Sharing of towels, razors, face washers and drink containers is prohibited.
 - v. All personnel working within baseball areas should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
 - vi. All open cuts and abrasions must be reported to the coach, trainer or team EO and treated immediately.



AUSSIE T-BALL RULES



Aussie T-Ball is designed to introduce children to the game of baseball and help them develop basic baseball skills in a **FUN** way. For more information on the Aussie T-Ball Rules please refer to the Aussie T-Ball Manual available from <http://www.aussietball.com.au/>

A. Team Size

- Six (6) players a side (possibly 5 or 7).
- As skill level is increased team size can be increased to nine (9) players a side.
- If there are five (5) players the coach acts as the catcher.
- If there are five (5) players the coach acts as the catcher.

B. Batting

- The ball is not pitched in Aussie T-Ball - instead it is batted from a tee.
- A hitter may have as many swings as they require in hitting the ball into fair territory.
- A player is out when:
 - A batted ball is caught on the full.
 - A player in possession of the ball stands on the base before the runner arrives.
 - A runner between bases is tagged by a fielder with the glove or hand which is holding the ball.
- An inning is completed when every player on the batting team has completed a turn at bat.
- Each inning the leadoff hitter becomes the sixth hitter in the next inning and subsequent hitters will move up one spot in the line up so that every hitter has the chance to lead off an inning.

C. Fielding

- All fielders rotate fielding positions each innings in the following manner:
- pitcher becomes catcher
- catcher becomes 1st base
- 1st base becomes 2nd base
- 2nd base becomes 3rd base
- 3rd base becomes shortstop
- Shortstop becomes pitcher

D. Base Running

- So that fielders are encouraged to throw, runners may advance no further than the base they were heading to when the first throw is made.
- Once a runner turns back toward a previous base they are entitled to that base only.

E. Umpiring

- Where an umpire is used (often the coach of the batting team) he or she is to be positioned behind the home plate.
- Where no umpire is used, any disputes on outs are settled by the players using 'Rock Paper Scissors'.
- It is preferable that no coaches are on the field with the players – let the children play.
- Before 'Play Ball' is called, allowing the ball to be hit:
- The pitcher must be on the pitching plate; and

- The catcher must be behind home plate, in the catcher's box; and
- No fielders may be inside the base paths; and
- The runner must be in contact with the base.

F. Inclusion

- It is recommended that teams adjust their play to encourage the inclusion of participants with a disability. Refer to the online club development kit for further advice.

G. Coaching

- In accordance with **Rule B** in General coaching, Coaches are not permitted to dispute ANY Umpire's call.
- Coaches must wear at least the club uniform shirt and cap and be neatly attired at all times. Open faced shoes of any type, are prohibited.

NO LEAGUE OR PERSONAL STATISTICAL DATA IS TO BE KEPT AT THE TEE BALL LEVEL.

TEE BALL RULES

1. GENERAL

MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED

6 per inning

NOTE: Teams may field as many fielders as the opposition up to 12; and bat as many as 12 in any given game. Players that exceed the normal nine, **MUST** occupy fielding positions in the outfield.

NOTE: It is important to note that at this age level, all emphasis should be on games and modified games that are used to help develop basic motor skills.

2. PLAYING RULES

BATTING

- A. The home plate umpire is to suspend play by calling "Time" before requesting "Batter Up". Batters then assume their position in the batter's box. Batters cannot hit the ball until the umpire calls "Play Ball"
- B. A batted ball is in play when it is hit off the tee and passes over the 15 feet fair ball line. Otherwise it is considered a foul ball.
- C. The batter will continue their time at bat until the ball is hit into fair territory.

NOTE: No strikes will be called on the batter.

BASERUNNING

- A. Base stealing is prohibited.
- B. Runners may not leave their base until the batter makes contact with the ball.
- C. Runners may not advance beyond the base they are approaching on the call of "time." "Time" may only be called by the umpire once the ball is in the possession of a player in the infield and it is deemed that no other plays will reasonably take place.
- D. No runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching in the event of an overthrow.
- E. Runners approaching a base occupied by a fielder in possession of the ball are to be given out. This eliminates the necessity, but **does not preclude** the tagging of a runner.

FIELDING

- A. The fielding pitcher is **not** considered an infielder. Infielders **must** assume their initial fielding position **behind** the basepaths. Outfielders must be well behind their infielders before play can resume. An appropriate distance is **approximately** 8 meters behind the infielders.
- B. The catcher is to be **approximately** 5 metres directly behind home plate and **in front** of the umpire.
- C. Pitchers **must** throw the ball to get an out. If this does not occur the batter/runner shall be awarded the base that they are running to.

Coaches are to encourage **ALL** fielders to throw the ball to a team mate rather than independently running to a base to execute the force out.
- D. The Infield Fly rule (**see rule 2.00 of the Official Rules of Baseball**) does not apply to Tee Ball. Therefore, if any fly ball is caught by an infielder, the batter is out, the ball becomes dead and **NO** runner(s) may advance or be put out.
- E. On overthrows at **any base**, the ball is automatically declared dead. **NO** runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching.

3. COACHING

- A. Coaches are **only** permitted on field if positioned **behind** their infielders. When on field, coaches may not physically touch a hit ball, or a player in the act of fielding.

Penalty: Batter/runner is awarded first base; all other runners advance one base **only**.

- B. In accordance with **Rule B** in General coaching, no debates on **ANY** calls are permitted.
- C. Coaches must wear at least the club uniform shirt and cap and be neatly attired at all times. Open faced shoes of any type, are prohibited.

NO LEAGUE OR PERSONAL STATISTICAL DATA IS TO BE KEPT AT THE TEE BALL LEVEL.

ROOKIE BALL RULES

1. GENERAL

MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED

6 per inning

NOTE: Teams may field as many as the opposition, up to 12; and bat as many as 12 in any given game. Players that exceed the normal nine **MUST** occupy fielding positions in the outfield.

NOTE: It is important to note that at this age level, all emphasis should be on games and modified games that are used to help develop basic motor skills and basic Baseball skills.

2. PLAYING RULES

A designated pitcher is defined as: a coach or other delegated person from the batting team that pitches the ball to that team's batters. The designated pitcher must be 15 years and above.

BATTING

- A. Should the batter hit the ball into the designated pitcher, the batter will be awarded a single base hit (all other runners advance one base **only**). Designated pitchers should wear a glove for self-protection, but **must make every effort to avoid touching any batted ball**.
- B. Only **ONE** baseball is allowed **on the playing field** at any given time
- C. There are no Base on Balls in Rookie Ball
- D. Each batter will have three (3) swings after which a tee will provided for the batter to hit off. The batter will continue his/her at bat until such time as he/she hits the ball into fair territory. (Only full rubber tees or fold up tees are to be used.)
- E. When the tee is in use the batter must hit the ball a minimum of 15 feet from the tee before the ball is considered to be in fair territory.

BASERUNNING

- A. Base stealing, or advancing on passed balls and wild pitches, is prohibited.
- B. Runners may not leave their base until the batter makes contact with the ball.
Penalty: Should the umpire observe such an infringement, the runner is sent back to the base last legally occupied. If the pitch is hit into fair territory, the infringing runner is ruled out. **All** other plays resulting from that hit stand.
- C. Runners may not advance beyond the base they are approaching on the call of "time." "Time" may only be called by the umpire once the ball is in the possession of a player in the infield and it is deemed that no other plays will reasonably take place.
- D. On overthrows at **any** base, the ball is automatically declared dead. **NO** runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching.

FIELDING

- A. The fielding pitcher is **not** considered an infielder. Infielders **must** assume their initial fielding position **behind** the basepaths. Outfielders **must** be well behind their infielders before play can resume. An appropriate distance is approximately 5 meters behind the infielders. **All** fielders shall remain relatively stationary when the umpire calls "play ball."
- B. The Infield Fly rule (**see rule 2.00 of the Official Rules of Baseball**) does not apply to Rookie Ball. Therefore, if any fly ball is caught by an infielder, the batter is out, the ball becomes dead and **NO** runner(s) may advance or be put out.

NOTE: Coaches should teach players how to "tag up" in the event of a fly ball.

PITCHING

- A. The designated pitcher (coach) is to pitch from a kneeling position. The pitcher is required to throw a flat trajectory pitch either over arm or under arm, at a speed that is conducive to the batter's ability **to make contact with the ball**. (See **Playing Rules; Batting C) Battery operated pitching machines are permitted on low settings only**.
- B. The fielding pitcher must be positioned approximately an arms length to either side and behind the designated pitcher.
- C. 2nd year Rookie ball players will be eligible to pitch in the second half of the season. These players will be limited to a maximum of 35 pitches per game and can only pitch in one game per day. These players will pitch to their own team and emphasis should be placed on pitching strikes to their team that can be hit.

3. COACHING

- A. Coaches are **only** permitted on field if positioned **behind** their infielders. When on field, coaches may not physically touch a hit ball, or a player in the act of fielding.

Penalty: Batter/runner is awarded first base; all other runners advance one base **only**.

- B. Appeals by a defensive coach for **(1)** runners leaving early, **(2)** bat throwing, or **(3)** for taking extra bases on "Time," may only occur at the conclusion of said play. Such appeals **must** be in the form of a question and **must** occur prior to the first pitch to the next official batter.
- C. Coaches must wear at least the club uniform shirt and cap and be neatly attired at all times. Open-faced shoes of any type are prohibited.

NO LEAGUE OR PERSONAL STATISTICAL DATA IS REQUIRED AT THE ROOKIE BALL LEVEL. HOWEVER, PITCHING DATA IS TO BE KEPT WHEN A SECOND YEAR PLAYER IS PITCHING.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL RULES

For Rules for Little League/Junior League/Senior League league play rules please refer to 2017 Little League Playing Rules.

1. GENERAL

A. MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED

6 per inning

NOTE: All innings started must be completed (weather permitting)

B. Game Length – please refer to Competition By-Laws.

2. PLAYING RULES

BATTING

A. There is no dropped third strike in Little League Minor (Div II). i.e if the catcher drops the third strike the hitter is automatically out.

B. In the event that the count upon a batter in the Little League Minor (Div II) competition reaches ball four, the batter **will utilise a batting tee** to hit the ball in play.

When the tee is used the following shall apply:

I. The batter cannot bunt. Any ball that fails to travel at least 15 feet from home plate will be called foul.

II. The catcher must take up position in the catcher's box.

III. The pitcher must stand behind the pitchers plate.

IV. The coach shall place the ball on a tee.

V. The batted ball will remain in play with all regular rules in effect.

VI. When the tee is in use, the runners are not permitted to advance until the ball has been batted.

VII. The batter continues their turn at bat until they hit the ball in play – The batter cannot be struck out.

3. COACHING

A. In club competition coaches are permitted to wear the **full** team or club uniform including cap, pants and playing top. Minimum dress standard – Team Cap, Team shirt, appropriate shorts and closed shoes.

B. Open faced shoes of any type, are prohibited.

Tournament Rules

These Tournament Rules and Procedures are **mandatory** for all Tournaments played by Baseball Queensland affiliated bodies. This would include, but not be limited to: **State Championships, International Touring Team Tournaments, Timberjack Invitational and GBL Junior Tournaments.**

For Little League Tournament Rules refer to the Little League specific rules.

ALL tournaments MUST BE sanctioned by BQ. As such, it is imperative that these rules are issued to and adhered to by all participating teams. The Official Rules of Baseball and Baseball Queensland Rules of Baseball will apply for ALL Tournaments involving junior players. Exceptions to these are covered by the enclosed.

1. TOURNAMENT CONTROL INCLUDING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Tournament Organizer(s) (BQ in the case of State Titles) will appoint a **Tournament Director or Directors** who will, in concert with the relevant organisations, appoint:

- ★ Tournament Director (**Baseball Queensland**)
- ★ Tournament Manager (**Host organization**)
- ★ Umpires Coordinator (**QBUA**)
- ★ Official Scorer (**Queensland Scorers**)
- ▽ Judiciary Panel (**Host organization/BQ**)

NOTE For State Championships, Baseball Queensland will appoint the Tournament Director. This person will work in conjunction with the host organizations Tournament Manager.

B. The **Tournament Director's** decision is final in regard to all disputes during any tournament.

C. The **Tournament Manager** should be a representative of the host organization and will, either directly or by delegation, be responsible for:

- ★ Organisation of billets (where applicable)
- ★ Ground Marshalls
- ★ Ground maintenance
- ★ Service Hosting Agreement
- ★ Delivery of baseballs to games and umpires
- ★ Canteen
- ★ **Other duties as required**

D. The **Tournament Host (CLUB)** is responsible for providing a safe environment for game play. **This would include:** Field(s) being dragged after each game, and home plates and all pitching mounds (including bullpens) being rebuilt prior to each days play. All batting cages in proper working condition with safe to use 'L' screens for the safety of batting practice pitchers.

E. In the event of two or more teams finishing on an equal points or win/loss percentage, placings shall be awarded on a head to head basis. Should this not resolve the issue, the following formula will be used to separate tied teams:

RUNS ALLOWED RATIO = Total Runs Against (in all pool play games) divided by 7 innings per game played.

If this fails to resolve the tie the calculation is repeated using only the results from pool play games between the teams involved in the tie.

F. Championships Affected by Abandoned Games

I. Where less than the total number of games scheduled for a Championship is completed as the result of “Abandoned Games”, the Winning State will be determined as follows:

II. For a team which completed all of its scheduled games, the number of points which it has actually scored will be divided by the number of points which it could have scored if it had won all games in which it competed, and a percentage determined.

III. For a team which completed less than the number of its scheduled games the number of points actually scored by the team will be divided by the number of points it could have scored had it won all games in which it competed, and a percentage determined.

IV. In comparing the percentages calculated in accordance with (F. II) and (F. III) above, the higher percentage is better than the lower percentage.

V. When highest percentages are equal then the highest points actually scored will determine the higher place.

VI. When the highest points scored are the same then a “head to head” method will apply.

VII. When the “head to head” result is equal, the “head to head” method will be used against the same teams finishing above or below the teams involved with the “head to head” method.

VIII. In the event two, three or more teams tie and the “head to head” method does not resolve the order of ranking, then the following method is to apply:

IX. The fewest runs allowed in the games played between the tied teams.

X. The fewest runs allowed in the games played against teams above the tied teams.

XI. The fewest runs allowed in the games played against teams immediately below the tied teams

2. ALL TOURNAMENTS.

- A. Baseball Queensland after consultation with regions will set the final schedule.
- B. Regional teams roster limits are as follows:

	Minimum Roster Size	Maximum Roster Size
U16	16 players	20 players
U18	14 players	20 players

NOTE: Additional participation requirements will be imposed upon teams that fail to meet minimum roster size.

- C. Regions are to inform Baseball Queensland of their intention to participate in State Championships, no later than the 60 days prior to the tournament. If the dates are not known within this timeframe, then regions are to notify Baseball Queensland within two weeks of receiving notification of the dates.
- D. Each Regional team is to present to Baseball Queensland, a legible and official Baseball Queensland Team Roster. (ATTACHED). Only this roster type is acceptable. This roster must be received by Baseball Queensland no later than 30 days prior to commencement of the respective championship. A \$400 administrative fee applies for non-compliance.

Approval for a team to play in a State Championship with team sizes differing to rule B above must be sought from Baseball Queensland one month (30 days) prior to the scheduled commencement date of the championship. NOTE If a Region has only the minimum number of players trying out (16) then all must be chosen unless extenuating circumstances apply. Baseball Queensland ONLY will rule on this issue.

At no time will a region use a player from another region without written permission. This permission is to be sought from Baseball Queensland prior to the roster being finalised and must include written approval from both regional directors of coaching and from the player's parent/guardian.

Players must play with the region in which they were last registered as a junior prior to the State Championships, unless they have signed on with a club in another region for the coming season before July 31st. (Eg. a player played for a club in Brisbane South for the 2003/04 season, but has signed on with a club in Brisbane Metro for the 2004/05 season. That player is eligible to play for Brisbane Metro at the 2004 State Championships). Any circumstances that may require clarification are to be forwarded to Baseball Queensland for written approval.

- E. Regional teams that will affect the travel pool are to notify Baseball Queensland of their numbers and method of travel for each player as per rule C above.
- F. All regions attend the championships with a clear understanding of the Baseball Queensland rules.
- G. The Field Manager and Executive Officer of each Regional team will be responsible for ensuring that their players fulfil the age eligibility requirements. Infringements shall be noted by the BQI Tournament Director. If it is found that the team in question has played an ineligible player, all games that the said player participated in will be considered forfeits.
 - 1. All players must be registered players with Baseball Queensland.
 - 2. All players must meet the age requirements for their respective age groups. Players must be under the relevant age for the entire year in which that State Championship is being played. Special conditions may lead Baseball Queensland to permit Regions to use under age players to fill minimum roster sizes.
- H. All players who ARE NOT available for State selection at the Championship must make this known through their team Executive Officer and/or Field Manager at the time the roster is forwarded to Baseball Queensland. The section on the player profile indicating availability must be completed.

3. All other tournaments *including* State Championships

- A. **Games will be seven (7) innings duration unless otherwise specified.** U14 Games will be six (6) Innings in duration unless otherwise specified. Any inning played beyond the seventh will be deemed extra innings and each team will commence their respective innings at bat by placing a runner at second base with no outs. This runner is to be the player that appears in the batting order prior to the hitter due up to commence the inning.
- B. All innings started shall be completed, **unless** the home team is in front and at bat. In this instance, the game will be considered finished as soon as the winning run is scored.
- C. All games will be played to a result unless the umpire abandons the game. ie In case of darkness or inclement weather. Any abandoned game that cannot be rescheduled will be declared a nil all draw. Abandoned games that can be rescheduled will recommence from the point they were abandoned. Rescheduling is at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- D. The home team is named first on the schedule and shall occupy the third base dugout.
- E. For U16 and U18 State Titles games, five innings of play will constitute a game. For U14 State Titles games, four innings of play will constitute a game. **EXAMPLE:** Inclement weather. If the game does not reach the 4th inning (U14) then the game will be declared a nil all draw.

Regulation Game

U14 Games – Four Innings

U16 Games – Five Innings

U18 Games – Five Innings

- F. The **Mercy Rule** will be invoked after 5 innings for U16 and U18 games and after 4 innings for U14 games.
- G. Uniforms are to be numbered and not exchanged until after the final out of **any** Championship.
- H. **Maximum Runs Score:**
 - 1. Maximum number of runs to be scored per team, per inning in any Little U14, U16 and U18 State Titles game is six (6) runs.

Exception: For U16 and U18 State Titles, no maximum run score applies to either team from the top of the fifth (5th) inning to the completion of the game. For U14 State Titles, no maximum run score applies to either team from the top of the fourth (4th) inning to the conclusion of the game.
 - 2. While the six run rule is in effect, for the purposes of scoring; in the event a batter hits the ball out of play and is ruled by the Umpire(s) to have hit either a Ground Rule Double or a Homerun (excluding inside the park homerun) that drives in excess of six runs for the inning, all runs from that inning will be added to the team's score and the umpire shall declare side away at the completion of that play.

I. Re-Entry Rule

Position players other than the catcher may be removed from the game in order to prepare to re-enter the game as the pitcher.

1. Relief pitchers are **not** to come from the field. Relief pitchers must be afforded an opportunity to prepare to pitch in the bullpen etc before being called on to pitch. EXCEPTION: Only in the case where the pitcher is injured may the relief pitcher come from the field.
 2. Any player removed from a game under this re-entry rule may only re-enter the game as the pitcher.
 3. Any player that re-enters a game must pitch to at least one complete batter, unless:
 - i. The Pitcher sustains an injury or
 - ii. The umpire in chief calls the game for any reason.
 - iii. After pitching to at least one hitter they are eligible to be moved to any other fielding position.
 4. Only one player at any time may be removed from the game under this rule.
 5. Any player removed from a game under this rule will remain in the batting order and take their turn at bat as it occurs and continue to accrue defensive outs.
 6. A substitute player (one who enters the game to allow a player to leave the game to prepare to pitch) will not be entered into the scorebook. (Similar to a runner for the catcher)
 7. A substitute player will not have a turn at bat and will not accrue defensive outs while playing as the substitute for a player removed to prepare to pitch. A substitute entered under this rule, plays defence only.
 8. Once the pitcher re-enters the game, his substitute remains eligible to enter the game.
 9. The manager is to inform both the scorers and the umpire when removing a player from the game in order to prepare them to re-enter as the pitcher. Failure to notify the Umpire and scorers of the use of the re-entry rule when making the change will result in the player concerned being ineligible to re-enter the game.
- J.** At the completion of the State Championships; U18 tournament players must have played 43 defensive outs, U16 tournament players must have played 43 defensive outs. Any team with fewer players than the prescribed minimum roster size will be subject to a revised participation requirement as set out by BQ.
- G.** For the purposes of participation, players who are in the game (in the field) at the time an inning ends due to the Maximum Run Score Rule (Tournament Rule 3.H), will be credited with three defensive outs for that inning.
- L.** In the case where a game is called early due to the Mercy Rule (Rule F above) being invoked or the home team scoring the winning run in the bottom of the last inning of any game, players will only be credited with participation for defensive outs actually played in that last inning.
- M.** Any player injured or taken ill during a game shall be credited with having completed that game. This is subject to approval by the BQI Tournament Director.
- N.** External circumstances during a championship may provide participation problems for Field Managers. The BQI Tournament Director will address each case on its merit.
- O.** The Field Managers are responsible for ensuring players on their teams satisfy the participation requirements. Infringements shall be noted by the Tournament Manager and/or BQI Tournament Director, for a ruling and subsequent disciplinary action (**if any**).
- P.** For the purposes of participation the Designated Hitter (Available to U16 and U18 Teams ONLY see Rule 6 page 27) will be credited with three (3) Defensive Outs for every one of their plate appearances.
- Q.** Pitchers will accrue defensive outs for defensive outs pitched and any defensive outs played after they are replaced on the mound.

4. Protective Equipment

SEE BASEBALL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR BASEBALL RULES.

5. Officials

Each team at **ANY** tournament shall supply:

1. An approved scorebook
2. Level 3 Accredited Manager and Level 3 Accredited Coaches
3. A level 2 accredited scorer
4. An accredited umpire

NOTE: International touring teams are exempt from the above.

6. Batting

- A. A designated hitter is permitted in the under 16 and U18 age groups **ONLY**.
- B. The ten player batting line up is not permitted for play during State Titles.

7. Baserunning

Imminent slide rule – (U16 and U18 State Titles only).

- A. **If a play is imminent**, runners **must** slide at **2nd and 3rd bases and home plate**. At home plate, the runner **should be encouraged to** slide feet first. No penalty will be applied for sliding head first at any base.

Penalty: Any runner that fails to attempt to slide on an imminent play shall be called out. Scorers are advised to record it as an out for interference.

NOTE: The intent of this rule is to avoid collisions between base runners and fielders. This being the case

An imminent play is defined as: Any situation where **the Umpire determines** a fielder, a base runner **and** the baseball will all arrive near a base, in a timeframe that may require the Umpire to make a safe/out call.

B. Runner for the Catcher

No runners will be permitted for catchers. Coaches must have a bench player ready, in appropriate catching gear, to warm up pitchers at the changeover of innings.

8. Bats – Please Note

Players competing in the U18 State Titles may use either approved wood, wood composite, or Aluminium bats (see page 12 of these rules). For more on approved or legal bat sizes, weights and lengths please refer to “Playing Equipment Rules” Page 12 of this document BQ rules and The Official Rules of Baseball.

Whilst the use of non-wood bats does not void any player’s eligibility to be selected for further representative duties, players who wish to nominate for selection to the U18 State team are encouraged to use wood or wood composite bats in all games.

9. PITCHING/CATCHING RULES

Umpires have authority to police pitch restriction rules. Scorers are to notify the Umpire in the event that any pitcher exceeds the limitations set out herein (except to finish the hitter). Any Manager that allows a pitcher to exceed the pitching restrictions is to be ejected immediately.

THE PENALTY FOR ANY BREACH OF ANY RULE 9 WILL RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE EJECTION OF THE FIELD MANAGER (HEAD COACH) PLUS AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION OF THE FIELD MANAGER FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULED GAME. THE FIELD MANAGER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ANY PART IN, OR HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH PLAYERS, STAFF OR OFFICIALS DURING THE GAME(S) IN WHICH THEY SERVE THEIR SUSPENSION.

9.1 These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. Violation of these pitching rules is subject to action by the Tournament Director.

a. Any player on a tournament team roster may pitch.

(NOTE : There is no limit to the number of pitchers a tournament team may use in a game.)

b. A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.

c. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

d. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

9.2 Pitch Limitations are as follows:

U18 - 105 pitches per day

U16 - 95 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above or the limits imposed in the Mandatory Rest Period thresholds for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs:

1. That batter reaches base;
2. That batter is put out;
3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.

- 9.3** A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- 9.4** A catcher who catches in four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day.
- 9.5** **Mandatory Rest Periods** - U16 and U18 pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements (may finish the batter):
- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 61 - 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 46 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches 31 - 45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a player pitches two consecutive outings (in the same day or on consecutive days) of 1-30 pitches, one (1) calendar day of rest is required.
 - If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
- 9.6** A player may not pitch in more than two games in a day.
- 9.7** In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided he/she delivered 60 or less pitches, and subject to each of these conditions:
- (I) If the pitcher delivered 30 or less pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin at zero for the continuation portion of the game;
 - (II) If the pitcher delivered between 31 and 60 pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count will begin with the number of pitches delivered in that game;
- 9.8** In a game ("Game A") suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed more than one calendar day later, the provisions of (9.5) above shall apply, unless the pitcher of record pitched in another game or games after Game A was halted. In that event, eligibility to pitch in the continuation portion of Game A shall be determined by the number of pitches delivered in the game or games after Game A was halted.
- 9.9** Failure to remove a pitcher who has reached his/her maximum number of pitches or use of an ineligible pitcher is basis for ejection of the offending team's manager. Violations noted after the game shall be subject to action by the Tournament Director in the automatic suspension of the team's manager for the next two scheduled tournament games. Additional penalties (up to and including forfeiture of a game and/or disqualification of the team, managers or coaches from further tournament participation) may be imposed if, in the opinion of the Tournament Director:
1. a manager or coach takes any action that results in making a travesty of the game,
 2. a team fails to meet the requirements of this rule more than once during the Tournament.
 3. a manager wilfully and knowingly disregards the requirements of this rule.

10. TIME SAVING RULES

Policy and Intent

The Baseball Australia (BA) Board have resolved to speed-up the play of games. The intent of these rules is to encourage umpires, coaches and players to limit time-wasting and to ensure games progress quickly and smoothly.

10.1 Umpires Responsible for Enforcement

- a. Umpires are responsible for enforcement of the time saving rules and should wear a wrist-watch for this purpose.
- b. All violations of this Section should be reported to the Tournament Director.

10.2 Pre-game Practice

- a. In no event should pre-game practice interfere with or delay the scheduled start of the game (with the exception of wet weather implications). The teams should comply with the Rules set forth herein regarding such matters.

10.3 12 Second Pitch Rule

- a. The 12 second rule for the pitcher shall apply whenever there are no runners on base.
Official Baseball Rule 8.04
- b. If the pitch is thrown before the violation is called, the pitch shall be deemed a ball, regardless of its location.

10.4 Hitter to Remain in Batter's Box

- a. The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless he makes a request for "time" and the umpire feels that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the umpire grant time out.
- b. If no runners are on base, the batter should not be granted time and permitted to leave the batter's box unless, in the opinion of the umpire, unusual circumstances exist which make the request a reasonable one.

10.5 Limits on Warm-up Pitches

- a. Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, he shall be permitted a maximum 60 seconds including a minimum of three (3) warm-up pitches. This same time limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of an inning.
- b. Should either team take longer than 60 seconds to make the changeover between innings, penalties will be invoked. On the first such occasion in a game, the team's manager will be given an official warning by the Home Plate Umpire.
- c. Any further transgressions shall result in a called strike (if it is the batting team which offends) or a called ball (if it is the pitching team which offends).
- d. The sixty-second time limit commences immediately the third out of the previous innings is completed.
- e. In order to facilitate this changeover, the active pitcher will be permitted to warm up prior to taking the mound by throwing in foul territory adjacent to their dugout.

10.6 Limits on Offensive Meetings

- a. Teams are allowed a maximum of three (3) "offensive meetings" per game. An offensive meeting shall be charged any time a coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive player, whether it be the hitter, a base-runner or an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another coach. If the game goes into extra innings, one (1) additional "offensive meeting" shall be permitted for each three (3) extra innings.

10.7 Visits to the Mound

- a. Three (3) free visits will be allowed to the mound in a regulation game. The fourth, and any subsequent visit in a game will cause the removal of the pitcher. The second, and any subsequent visit in any one inning, will cause the removal of the pitcher. For the purposes of this rule a visit to the mound will only be charged if the visit does not result in a pitching change.
- b. All visits to the mound (including those by a manager or Coach between innings) will be included as a visit in calculating the number of visits by a Manager or Coach.
- c. Any visit may be no longer than **60** seconds to the mound (at the umpire's discretion). Time starts when the Coach / Manager crosses the foul line.
- d. Should a game proceed into extra innings, then one (1) extra visit will be allowed for every three (3) innings or part thereof.
- e. Pitching changes must be made by a visit to the mound. Any attempt to move the pitcher to a defensive position on a second visit by going directly to the Plate Umpire is a circumvention of the rule and is not permitted.

11. BREACH OF TOURNAMENT RULES

In the event of any team or coach being found to be in breach of these Baseball Queensland Tournament Rule(s), the offending region will be fined \$100.00 per offence. Coaches may also face revocation of their accreditation.

12. RULE VARIATION

The Tournament Manager of the host organisation must apply to Baseball Queensland for alteration to any of these rules.

Such an application must be in writing and will be considered on its individual merits. Decisions arising shall not constitute precedence or be considered to have changed the rule for future events.

13. PROTESTS

(a) Teams may protest the application of a rule only.

(b) Any such protest must be made prior to the next play commencing. Failure to do so nullifies any claim to a protest.

(c) In the event a team wishes to protest the last play of the game or the ending of a game, such a protest must be lodged with the Umpire-in-Chief before the Umpires leave the field of play.

(d) Protests can be initiated by advising the Umpire-in-Chief of a team's intention to lodge a protest. At such time the Umpire will suspend play until the protest can be resolved in consultation with the Tournament Director (BQ) and the Umpire's Coordinator.

(e) Protests are to be submitted in writing to the Umpire's Coordinator with a \$100 fee. The \$100 fee is only refundable should the protest be upheld.

(f) The Umpire's Coordinator and the Tournament Director will meet to determine the outcome of the protest.

14. A manager or coach suspended for any reason is not permitted to be at the game site and must not take any part in the game, nor have any communications whatsoever with any persons at the game site. Violation may result, by action of the Tournament Director, in further suspension, forfeiture of a game and/or disqualification of the team, managers or coaches from further tournament participation.

15. Ejections: Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game will serve a mandatory one (1) game suspension during their team's next scheduled game. The ejected person is not to participate in pregame and postgame activities for the game during which they serve this suspension. Tournament Management may also require ejected persons to attend a judiciary hearing to determine whether further sanctions are required.

16. Altercations: Any manager, coach or official who is involved in a physical or verbal altercation at the game site could be suspended or removed from tournament play by action of the Tournament Director.

BASEBALL QUEENSLAND INC.

TEAM ROSTER FOR ALL BQI AFFILIATED TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENT NAME _____

REGION _____ TEAM U10 / U12 / U14 / U16 / U18 / OPEN (Please circle one)

PLAYED AT _____ DATES _____

SURNAME	GIVEN	UNI #	YR*	AGE	DOB	HT	WT	B	T	POS(S)
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										
18										

* Denotes 1st or 2nd Year Eligibility status.

SURNAME	GIVEN	UNI #	CLUB	ACCRED. LEVEL
Field Manager				
Pitching Coach				
Assistant Coach				
Assistant Coach				
Executive Officer				
Scorer				
Umpire				

The details above have been verified by the Region and or club. I officially certify that all above details are true and correct

Club or Regional Secretary's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Coach's Code of Conduct

The coach/manager of a team can be a very influential person in a player's life. A key responsibility of a coach/manager at any level is to lead by example; coaches/managers, through their own behaviour can have an enormous impact (on and off the field), particularly on the development of young players.

The responsibilities and duties of a coach/manager are not simple and should be dealt with in a professional manner. For these reasons and many more Baseball Australia (BA) has developed a Code of Conduct for all coaches/managers participating in BA endorsed and/or organized tournaments, programs and special events.

These principles are considered practicable and are within the aims and objectives of Baseball Australia.

- I will adhere to Australian law and the requirements of BA on Child Protection, Sexual Relations, Anti-Discrimination and Harassment. (See BA Member Protection Policy available online at:
https://assets.sportstg.com/assets/console/document/documents/20160610035222MEMBER_PROTECTION_POLICY_OCTOBER_2015.pdf)
- I will provide supervision of the behaviour of the team at all times (junior players must **NEVER** be left unsupervised).
- I will avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity with people under the age of 18 years, and will adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions with my staff and players.
- I will ensure my decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment, and that any physical contact with a person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- I will not criticize players in front of spectators, parents and other teams. Constructive criticism will be provided in a manner which respects the dignity of the player and the team.
- I will accept decisions of the umpire as being fair and called to the best of their ability. I will not abuse or ridicule the umpire nor allow my players to do so.
- I will help to develop team respect for opponents, spectators and officials. I will not criticize other teams, supporters or officials by words or gestures.
- I will set a good example in personal appearance and behaviour.
- I will encourage sportsmanlike behaviour among the players.
- I will ensure whenever possible that all players have equal time on the diamond. Avoid overplaying the talented players - the average players need and deserve equal time.
- I will encourage players to work together as a unified group (teamwork).
- I will keep myself informed of sound coaching principles and seek more skilled advice when necessary.
- I will encourage my team to abide by the guidelines provided in the "Baseball the Australian Way" document.
- I will ensure that press statements and/or interviews, other than those restricted to comments on members of my own team and its involvement in a particular competition, will have BA/BQ approval.
- I will place the welfare and development of the individual above a winning or losing record.
- I will not embarrass my opponents.
- I will not use any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens or while in uniform.
- I will, whenever possible, provide assistance with coaching expertise and knowledge to developing teams.
- I will abide by the tournament rules and regulations established by BA/BQ
- I will be aware of any player with medical problems.
- I will maintain interaction between coach/es and players on an appropriate level at all times.
- I will strive to develop a positive image and self-sufficient attitude with each player.
- I will assist to enforce BA's Player Code of Conduct.
- I will help to present Australian Baseball in a positive image.

I

(print name)

Have read BA's COACHES / MANAGERS CODE OF CONDUCT
and fully understand the responsibilities and conditions
disclosed.

I will, to the best of my ability, abide by the COACHES /
MANAGERS CODE OF CONDUCT during all BA endorsed
events.

Signature: Date: ___/___/___

PLAYER CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

These principles are considered practicable and are within the aims and objectives of Baseball Australia.

- I will always play by the rules
- I will never argue with an official. If I disagree with a decision I will inform the captain, coach or manager during a break or after the competition.
- I will control my temper.
- I understand that verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players and deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport
- I will work equally hard for myself and/or my team
- I will be a good sport and applaud all good plays whether they are made by my team or the opposition
- I will treat all players in my sport as I like to be treated.
- I will not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- I will cooperate with my coach, team mates and opponents
- I will display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- I will participate for my own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or consume alcohol at junior games
- I will not use tobacco products while in uniform or on field.
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- I will thank the opposition and officials at the end of the game
- I will comply with all policies and procedures from Baseball Australia, Baseball Queensland, my Association and my Club.

I
(print name)

Have read BA's PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT and fully understand the responsibilities and conditions disclosed.

I will, to the best of my ability, abide by this CODE OF CONDUCT during all BA/BQ endorsed events.

Signature: Date: ___/___/___

OFFICIAL'S CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

These principles are considered practicable and are within the aims and objectives of Baseball Australia.

- I will place the safety and welfare of players above all else.
- I will show concern and caution towards sick and injured players
- I will give all players a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- I will be impartial, consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions
- I will accept responsibility for my actions and decisions
- I will condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for the individuality of players
- I will avoid any situations which may lead to or be construed as a conflict of interest
- I will be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance and ensure my comments are positive and supportive
- I will be a good sport as I understand that actions speak louder than words
- I will always respect, remain loyal to and support other officials
- I will keep up to date with the latest 'Rules of the Game', trends and principles of their application
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards players or other officials
- I will refrain from any form of sexual harassment towards players or other officials
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior games
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.
- I will adhere to all policies and procedures of Baseball Australia, Baseball Queensland, my Association and my Club.

I
(print name)

Have read BA's OFFICIAL'S CODE OF CONDUCT and fully understand the responsibilities and conditions disclosed.

I will, to the best of my ability, abide by this CODE OF CONDUCT during all BA/BQ endorsed events.

Signature: Date: ___/___/___

ADMINISTRATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

These principles are considered practicable and are within the aims and objectives of Baseball Australia.

- I will provide opportunities for key stake-holders to be involved in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision-making related to their activity
- I will create pathways for players to participate not just as a player but also as a coach, referee, administrator etc
- I will ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of players
- I will ensure quality supervision and instruction for players
- I will remember that players participate for their enjoyment and benefit. I will not over emphasise awards
- I will help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help to improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- I will ensure that everyone involved in sport emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs
- I will distribute a code of conduct to players, coaches, officials and parents and encourage them to follow it
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior games.
- I will not consume tobacco products in uniform or at games and events.
- I will not allow the unlawful supply of alcohol at training, games or club functions
- I will not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials or spectators
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background
- I will promote adherence to all policies and procedures of Baseball Australia, Baseball Queensland, my Association and my Club.

I
(print name)

Have read BA's ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT and
fully understand the responsibilities and conditions
disclosed.

I will, to the best of my ability, abide by this CODE OF
CONDUCT during all BA/BQ endorsed events.

Signature: Date: ___/___/___

PARENT CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

These principles are considered practicable and are within the aims and objectives of Baseball Australia.

- I won't pressure my child in any way – I know that this is their game not mine
- I will not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators
- I will encourage my child to play within the rules and respect officials' and coaches' decisions – no matter what.
- I will teach my child to respect the efforts of their opponents
- I will remember that children learn best by example so I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents
- I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort
- I will focus on my child's efforts and performance – not the score
- I will thank the coaches, officials and other volunteers who give their time to conduct the event for my child
- I will help when asked by a coach or official
- I won't criticise or ridicule my child's performance after the game
- I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior games
- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.

I

(print name)

Have read BA's PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT and fully understand the responsibilities and conditions disclosed.

I will, to the best of my ability, abide by this CODE OF CONDUCT during all BA/BQ endorsed events.

Signature: Date: ___/___/___