



Greater Brisbane League Competition Rules



SEASON: 2024/2025

Sep 2024

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1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1.1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1.1. The GBL Competition is administered and managed by the GBL Committee.
- 1.1.2. The GBL Committee is a sub-committee of BQ. The GBL Committee operates through the auspices of the GBL Charter, a copy of which is available on the GBL Website.
- 1.1.3. The objectives of the GBL Committee are to:
- ensure that the GBL Competition is conducted with the highest degree of integrity, fairness, transparency and common sense;
 - provide a fair and balanced competition structure for all grades of baseball within the GBL Competition;
 - provide suitable competition pathways for all players to reach their playing goals;
 - provide an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all participants; and
 - maintain a safe playing environment for all participants.
- 1.1.4. All affiliated Clubs are bound by these Competition Rules, BQ Policies and Codes of Conduct and the Official Baseball Rules (OBR's) and Little League Rules (LLR's). Where these Competition Rules and the OBR or LLR are inconsistent, the Competition Rules will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.
- 1.1.5. 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, unless otherwise stated, to be forwarded to the GBL Committee at the address shown in the following table:

Communication method	
Address:	Office - 2.02 Sportsouse, 150 Caxton Street, MILTON QLD 4064
Mail:	GBL Committee Baseball Queensland Inc. Office - 2.02 Sportsouse, 150 Caxton Street, MILTON QLD 4064
Phone:	07 3217 5072
Email:	gbladmin@baseballqld.asn.au

- 1.2.2. Any notification forwarded by email shall be deemed to have been received by the addressee:
- (a) if sent by 5.00 pm AEST on a business day, on the date of transmission; or
- otherwise, the following business day.
- 1.2.3. All payments to the GBL Committee and/or BQ must be deposited electronically into BQ's account (as advised by BQ from time to time).
- 1.2.4. Where these Competition Rules require communication from a Club, the Club President, the Club Vice President, the Club Secretary or the Club Treasurer (as listed on the Form N) may send the communication on the Club's behalf. Clubs must advise the GBL Chair of any person temporarily filling any of these positions if they are not listed on the Form N.

1.3. INTERPRETATIONS

1.3.1. In these Competition Rules, unless contrary intention appears:

ABL means the Australian Baseball League.

Grand Final means the final round in the Finals Series.

Little League® rulebook (LLR) means the rules of Little League® rulebook, as updated from time to time.

Home Team means the team designated as such in the relevant Division schedule.

Host Club means the Club hosting a particular game.

Incident Report Form means the form prescribed by the GBL Committee for the purpose of reporting incidents relating to the GBL Competition to the GBL Judiciary.

Inclement Weather Contact means the individual nominated in accordance with Rule 3.6.2.

Intermediate League means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Intermediate League" age-group specified in the Age Matrix.

Junior Competition means all Divisions included in Part 7.

Junior League means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Junior League" age-group specified in the Age Matrix.

Junior Player means any player eligible to play in the Junior Competition in accordance with Rule 7.2.4.

Little League means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Little League" age-group specified in the Age Matrix.

Major Semi Final means a Semi Final involving the two highest ranked teams.

Masters Competition means all Divisions included in Part 6.

Masters Player means any player participating in the Masters Competition.

Official Baseball Rules (OBR) means the "Official Baseball Rules" published by the "Office of the Commissioner of Baseball" from time to time.

Parent Club has the meaning given to it in Rules 5.2.2 and 7.2.1.

PONAG means "Playing Outside Natural Age Group", the requirements of which are set out in Appendix A.

Preliminary Final means any second round in the Finals Series which is not otherwise a Grand Final.

QBS means Queensland Baseball Scorers.

QBUA means Queensland Baseball Umpires Association Incorporated.

QBUA Appointments Officer means the individual nominated as such by the QBUA.

Regular Season means games played in the Summer Season to determine if a team qualifies for the Finals Series.

Regulation Game means a game meeting the minimum inning and/or time requirements for the relevant Division pursuant to Sections 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5.

Semi Final means the first round in the Finals Series.

Senior Competition means all Divisions included in Part 5.

Senior League means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Senior League" age-group specified in the Age Matrix.

Senior Player means any player participating in the Senior Competition that is not otherwise a Junior Player.

Substitute Player has the meaning given to it in Rule 7.7.5.

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

Under 20's means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Under 20's" age-group specified in the Competition Matrix.

Women's Competition means all Divisions included in Part 8.

Women's Player means any player participating in the Women's Competition.

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.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1.4. AFFILIATION

- 1.4.1. Any Club wishing to enter a team into the GBL Competition must affiliate with BQ in accordance with the BQ Constitution.

1.5. TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 1.5.1. Clubs and/or BQ (Section 2.8) may nominate teams in any Division, subject to Rule 5.2.1 (Senior Competition – Divisions 1 and 2), by submitting a Form N to the GBL Chair by the date stipulated in the Calendar of Events.
- 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 GBL Competition based on Club nominations.
- 1.5.4. In any competition other than Division 1 and Division 2 Seniors, the GBL Committee may use its discretion to promote or relegate any team up to and including Round Six (6) of 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 Division, the Club will be penalised in accordance with Rule 1.11.2.
- 1.5.6. The GBL Committee may use its discretion to accept or reject team nominations made after the date stipulated in the Calendar of Events.

1.6. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.6.1. All Clubs are to pay invoices issued by the GBL Committee, BQ, QBS and/or the QBUA within the prescribed time period on 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 GBL Competition. Games scheduled during the unfinancial period shall be deemed to be a forfeit in favour of the opposing team.
- 1.6.3. Any Club that is unfinancial under this Section shall not receive trophies or awards until the Club becomes financial.

1.7. CALENDAR OF EVENTS – ADMINISTRATION

- 1.7.1. The following Calendar of Events nominates the dates for submission of information to the GBL Committee and may be updated by the GBL Committee from time to time. Timely completion of these requirements by Clubs allows the GBL Committee 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 Summer Season.

Requirement	Date Required
Costs of ground lights and Curfew Times (if applicable) (Rule 4.3.1)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Availability of grounds	mid-August or as determined by GBL Committee
Ground light audits (if applicable) (Rule 4.3.1)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Junior Competition, Senior Competition, Masters Competition and Women's Competition team nominations (Rule 1.5)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee
Form N: Affiliation & team entry form (Rule 1.5)	1 st September or as determined by GBL Committee

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Requirement	Date Required
List of Team volunteers with appropriate documentation	Div 1 Nomination Requirements 1 st September 5.2.7 (c) (d) (e) Full list for all clubs required one week prior to season start date (Rule 2.11)
Expressions of interest for hosting of Finals Series	31 st December 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:
- hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the Competition Rules;
 - making recommendations to the GBL Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests arising under the Competition Rules; and
 - providing advisory opinions on the 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. A decision of the GBL Disputes Panel can be appealed through the BQ Appeals Process. Please refer to the BQ website under Integrity and contact BQ for any further information.

1.9. DISPUTES (DISAGREEMENT WITH COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION)

- 1.9.1. A Club 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 GBL Chair.
- 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 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 GBL Chair.

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 OBR, LLR 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:
- the umpire-in-chief must inform the scorers that the game is being played under protest;
 - the umpire-in-chief must inform the head coach of the opposing team of the nature of the protest; and
 - the scorers must record the time of the protest and the details of the protest on the electronic system, note on the game card (if using) and in the appropriate section of their scorebooks.
- 1.10.3. After the game, the protesting Club must email a GBL Dispute Form to the GBL Committee no later than 5 pm on the next business day. Protests relating to game-ending plays or breaches which arise after completion of the game that are not recorded on the electronic system must also be reported in this way.
- 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 GBL Committee.
- 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. The GBL Chair 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.

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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 Disputes Panel] the violation adversely affected the protesting team's chances of winning the game.

1.11. BREACHES OF COMPETITION RULES

1.11.1. The GBL Chair, GBL Secretary or BQ Admin 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 (cumulative per team) are as follows:

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
(a) Failure to provide notice of curfew (Section 3.5)	GBLCC discretion
(b) Forfeiture of a game (Section 3.7)	1 st offence – loss of game and \$50 per defaulting team plus QBUA umpiring fees; 2 nd offence – loss of game and \$100 per defaulting team plus QBUA umpiring fees; 3 rd and further offences – loss of game, \$200 per defaulting team plus QBUA umpiring fees and possible removal from the Division (the Club must show cause as to why the team should not be removed). Any forfeiture for games forfeited during the last four (4) weeks of the season will incur a fine of an additional \$300
(c) Forfeiture of a game without 48 hours notice (Rule 3.7.1)	\$100 (in additional to the penalty for forfeiture of a game generally).
(d) Illegal player, including breach of player eligibility, registration and suspended players (Examples: Sections 2.1-2.9, 5.7, 5.12, 6.6, 6.11, 7.2.4, 7.7, 7.12, 8.6, 8.11, 9.7)	\$50 per illegal player and loss of game.
(e) Prohibited substances (Section 0)	\$100 per person and ejection.
(f) Participant out of uniform (Rule 4.4.1)	\$20 per person or GBLCC discretion
(g) Non-submission of electronic results and required information as required (Rule 3.14.1)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$50; 3 rd and further offences – loss of game and \$50.
(h) Unauthorised alteration of submitted electronic results after the required timeframe (Rule 3.14.2)	Loss of game for defaulting team.
(i) Incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate electronic results submission (Rule 3.14.1)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$50; 3 rd and further offences – \$100.
(j) Failure to supply an appropriately accredited coach (Rule 2.11.3)	1 st offence - \$75; 2 nd offence - \$100; 3 rd offence - \$200 and game forfeit, or loss of game.

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(k) Failure to supply any umpire (Sections 5.10, 6.9, 7.9.1.10, 8.8.19)	\$120 per umpire.
(l) Failure to supply an appropriately accredited umpire (Section 2.13)	\$50 per umpire.
(m) Breach of scoring requirements (Section 2.12)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$25; 3 rd and further offences – \$50.
(n) Failure to supply a scorer (Section 2.12)	\$50 per scorer.
(o) Breach of Blue Card requirements (Rule 2.11.2)	1 st offence – \$50 2 nd and further offences by the club - \$500 or at discretion of GBLCC
(p) Breach of safety, grounds, field and equipment requirements (Part 4)	1 st offence – \$50; 2 nd and further offences – \$100
(q) Withdrawal of a team within two weeks of commencement of season or thereafter (Section 1.5)	\$100 per junior team; \$200 per senior team.
(r) Team melees (Section 9.3)	1 st offence – \$500; 2 nd and further offences – \$500 and loss of game
(s) Knowingly failing to comply with a GBL Judiciary order	\$500. Reported person suspension 20 weeks
(t) (GBL Judiciary Procedures, Appendix C)	
(u) Breach of Pitching Restrictions (Section 3.16) (including import rules 5.13) or breach of junior pitching catching rules (Section 7.13) NOTE - The BQ Development Manager shall be notified of all breaches of pitching and/or catching rules for Junior Players	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game; Coach suspended for one week 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game; Coach suspended for two weeks 3 rd and further offences – \$200 and loss of game; Coach suspended for four weeks

1.11.3. Repeated or deliberate breaches of the Competition Rules may be penalised at the discretion of the GBL Committee.

1.11.4. Penalties for breaches of Competition Rules relating to the Junior Competition (and rules applicable to Junior Players participating in the Senior Competition or Women's Competition) are as follows:

JUNIORS COMPETITION	
Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
a) Participation breaches (including a failure to adopt a continuous batting order) (Rules 7.7.9, 7.8.2)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals; 2 nd and further offences - \$200 and loss of game.
b) Breach of PONAG rules (Appendix A)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game 2 nd and further offences - \$200 and loss of game.

1.11.5. 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 for U20's, 7-0 for JL, IL & SL, 6-0 for LL. or;
- (b) the actual final score if the infringing team scores no runs and the non-infringing team scores more than nine (9) runs.

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 Rules **2.3** to **2.9**.

2.2 ABL PLAYERS

- 2.2.1 Any player who has played in an ABL or other ABL level showcase or informal fixtured game/s or a senior international baseball tournament - Regular Season or Finals Series game may only, during the same season, participate in their Club's highest ranked Senior Competition team except;
- a) A pitcher may hit and take a defensive position other than pitcher in Division 2 Seniors.
 - b) A hitter may pitch in Division 2 Seniors.

Note: Definition of a pitcher is someone who has pitched in the ABL. The definition of a hitter is someone that has had an at bat in the ABL.

- 2.2.2 Rule **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 GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **2.2.1** outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained and approved by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the lower Division.

2.3 IMPORT (OVERSEAS) PLAYER

- 2.3.1 An import player is defined as any individual who does not have, or has applied for, Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency or is residing in Australia under a particular valid Visa (e.g. Visa Subclass 426 - Work and Holiday visa).

Rules

- 2.3.2 Each GBL Club will be permitted to have a maximum of three (3) import players registered and approved to play in the GBL Division 1 summer baseball competition.
- 2.3.3 GBL Clubs wishing to play import players must provide details of each import player using the 'GBL import register and exemption request form' to the GBL Competition Committee prior to the player participating in any GBL game.
- 2.3.4 The number of import players playing in any other GBL Division is not limited and GBL Clubs do not need to provide details of import players playing in any Division; other than Division 1; to the GBL Competition Committee prior to the player participating in any GBL game.
- 2.3.5 Pitching restrictions apply to import player pitchers – refer Section **5.13**
- 2.3.6 Where a GBL Club wishes to exchange an import player, due to injury or a return to home for example, the Club must apply in writing and must have this request approved prior to the new import player participating in any GBL game.
- 2.3.7 ABL import players that have not previously been registered with a GBL Club must receive approval by the GBL Competition Committee prior to playing with a Club. The following procedures must be adhered to:
- a). Club (s) seeking to acquire ABL import players must first communicate their intentions with the GBL Competition Committee.
 - b). The GBL Competition Committee will consider the Club (s) requests based on but not limited to current and previous year's standings and current number of imports within the relevant Club (s).
 - c). The GBL Competition Committee will adjudicate then advise the relevant Club (s) of their decision. The decision of GBL Competition Committee can be appealed by application to the GBL Disputes Panel following the prescribed procedure set out in *Appendix B*.

Import Player Exemption

- 2.3.8 Clubs may apply in writing for an exemption for an import player. This application must be approved prior to the player participating in any GBL game. Applications for an exemption are as follows:-
- 2.3.9 A player who does not have, or who has applied for, permanent residency or citizenship in Australia shall not be considered an import if the player meets the twelve (12) months qualification period for living in Australia prior to the start of a season.
- a). for student visas, where written proof of their visa and course enrolment is provided to the satisfaction of the GBL Competition Committee
 - b). for work visas, where an employer (who is demonstrably not connected to the engaging club) is a sponsor; and employment is ongoing with that employer
 - c). for refugee or humanitarian visas
 - d). resident visas, where a minimum residency completion period (i.e. 12 months) is satisfied
- 2.3.10 The onus is on the player's Club to provide written proof to the satisfaction of the GBL Competition Committee, substantiating that the player has lived in Australia for the qualification period. If the proof cannot be provided, or if the proof provided does not meet the satisfaction of the GBL Competition Committee, the player will be deemed an import for the remainder of the season. This decision of the GBL Competition Committee is not appealable.

New Zealand citizens living in Australia

2.3.11 NZ citizens are generally granted Special Category Visas automatically on entry to Australia. The Special Category Subclass 444 Visa allows New Zealand citizens to stay in Australia indefinitely and work full time in Australia.

2.3.12 Any NZ citizen that has resided in Australia for the three (3) month period (or more) preceding the first game of the GBL season are exempted from being designated as an import player provided the Club applies in writing along with confirmation of entry into Australia for an exemption as an import player. This application must be approved prior to the player participating in any GBL game. At the discretion of the GBLCC, further evidence that you meet these requirements may be requested.

2.3.13 Any NZ citizen that has not resided in Australia for the 3 month period preceding the first game of the GBL season (rule 2.3.12) will be considered an import until such time that they have resided in Australia for a continuous 3 month period. Once this 3 month period has lapsed, the Club may apply in writing to the GBLCC along with confirmation of entry into Australia (passport as an example) to have the player removed from the import register. The player will be considered an Import until such time that the application has been approved by the GBLCC. At the discretion of the GBLCC, further evidence that you meet these requirements may be requested.

PENALTY: As per GBL Rule 1.11.2, the Import will be deemed an ineligible player and the penalty mentioned in the penalty table will apply.

2.4 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 2.4.1 Each player must enter his or her details into the approved database.
- 2.4.2 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.
- 2.4.3 Clubs are to regularly review their approved player list to ensure that it is accurate.

2.5 PLAYER HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.5.1 Concussion in any sport can be a serious problem. The GBL Competition Committee strongly recommends Clubs follow the advice from the following references
- Sport Australia - <https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/athlete>
 - Sport Medicine Australia - <https://sma.org.au/resources-advice/sport-fact-sheets/baseball-fact-sheet/>

2.6 TRANSFERS AND CLEARANCES

- 2.6.1 Player transfers between Clubs shall be conducted through the approved database player transfer software system.
- 2.6.2 Clubs shall advise by email the Club that the player wishes to transfer from that they have received a transfer request.
- 2.6.3 Unfinancial players shall not be eligible to transfer between Clubs and shall not be granted a clearance by the original Club.
- 2.6.4 Clubs receiving a transfer request must process that request:
- (a) if received during the GBL Competition season, within two weeks of the date of receipt; and
 - (b) if received outside the GBL Competition season, within four weeks of date of receipt.
- 2.6.5 All transfer and clearance requirements must be fulfilled before a player can take the field.

NOTE: Regional transfers

The BQ Player Transfer Policy governs player eligibility and transfer requirements for regional teams.

2.7 MASTERS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS

- 2.7.1 Masters Players intending to participate in any Senior Competition must register on the approved database as a Senior Player.
- 2.7.2 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.

2.8 JUNIORS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITION AND WOMEN'S COMPETITION

- 2.8.1 A Junior Player shall be eligible to play in the Senior Sunday Mixed Competition 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 a Division commensurate with the player's physical and technical abilities.
- 2.8.2 A Junior Female Player shall be eligible to play in the Women's Competition once they have reached the age of fourteen (14) for divisions 2 and 3, and fifteen (15) for division 1. For 14YO female players playing in the ladies competition, either in a full time or part time situation, this will be treated as a ponag and appropriate ponag paperwork is to be completed (as per a junior playing into a higher age junior competition). If a 14YO female player chooses to start the season in the women's competition only, and then wishes to exit the women's competition to return to their natural junior age group competition, they can do so at any time throughout the season and any games played in the women's competition will be counted as games played for finals qualification purposes in their natural junior age group.
- 2.8.3 A Junior Player playing in the Senior Competition or Women's Competition shall participate under the rules of that competition with the exception that junior pitching and catching restrictions prescribed under Part 7 (Rule 7.13) continue to apply.

2.9 PLAYERS PLAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE CLUB

- 2.9.1 A Junior Player playing in a Senior Competition must do so with the Club with which that player is registered.
- 2.9.2 For a junior player, if both clubs agree, the secondary club must initiate a 'Local Interchange' clearance through the BQ Database to dual register a player in a second club in another division. Process as per BQ's guidelines.
- 2.9.3 For a Senior, Masters or Women's player, if both clubs agree, the secondary club must initiate a 'Local Interchange' clearance through the BQ Database to dual register a player in a second club in another division. Process as per BQ's guidelines.

Eg, A senior player playing masters for another club as their registered club either doesn't play masters or doesn't have a team in the appropriate division. Dual club registration is required in this instance.

2.10 AGE MATRIX

Competition Age Matrix 2024-25

GBL 24/25 Season	GBL 24/25 Season Divisions	Eligible League Ages
Tee Ball	Regions - not in GBL competition	4 - 7 year old
Little League Minors Machine Pitch	Regions - not in GBL competition	8 - 9 year old
Little League Minors Player Pitch	Little League Minors Player Pitch 40	9 - 11 year old
	Little League Minors Player Pitch 46	9 - 11 year old
Little League Majors	Little League Majors	10 - 12 year old
Intermediate League	Intermediate League	11 - 13 year old
Junior League	Junior League Division 2	13 - 14 year old
	Junior League Division 1	13 - 14 year old
Senior League	Senior League Division 2	15 - 16 year old
	Senior League Division 1	15 - 16 year old
Big League U20's	Big League U20's	16 - 20 year old
Seniors	Seniors Divisions 1-7	15* - 99 year old
Women's Division 1	Women's Divisions 1	15* - 99 year old
Women's Division 2-3	Women's Divisions 2-3	14** - 99 year old
Masters	Masters Divisions 1-3	35^ - 99 year old

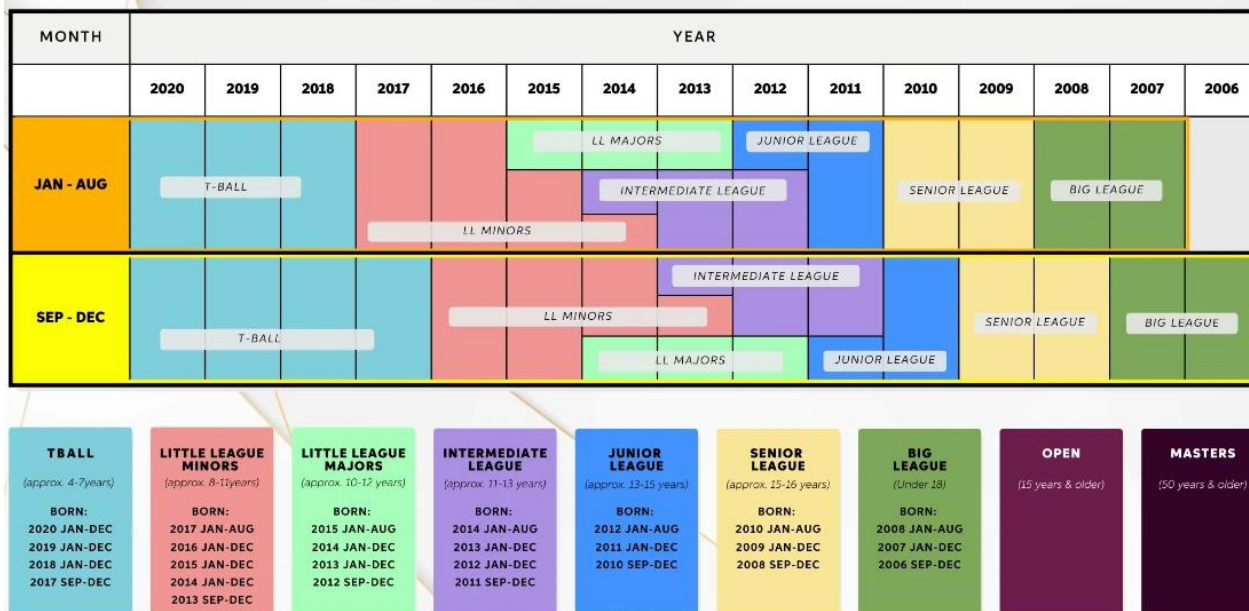
* Can play in the Adult divisions once they turn 15

** Can play in the Adult divisions once they turn 14

^ Can play in the Masters divisions from 34 as long as they turn 35 before the season ends in April 2025

BQ Age Matrix 2024-25

2024/2025 AGE SUMMARY (BY BIRTH YEAR & MONTH)



2.11 OFFICIALS

2.11.1 Clubs must provide the GBL Competition Committee with accreditation details of all coaches, umpires and scorers. These details must be provided via the processes outlined by the GBL Competition Committee and is to be submitted one week prior to the season commencing.

2.11.2 All coaches (see below), umpires (see below), scorers (2.12) and other Club officials are to have:

- appropriate, current accreditations (see relevant sections for minimum accreditation requirements) and;
- a current Blue Card

COACHES ACCREDITATION

Baseball Australia has adopted the USA Baseball Coaches Certification Program.

NEW USA BASEBALL CERTIFICATION	CERTIFICATION LEVEL	COACHING ENVIRONMENT
SPORT AUSTRALIA COACHING PRINCIPLES	Working with children check	All levels of coaching
CERTIFICATION A	Sport Australia General Principles	All levels of coaching
CERTIFICATION B	Certification A	All entry level coaching positions (T-Ball, Little League minors, modified versions of the game)
CERTIFICATION C	Certification B	Charter assistant coaches, club team coaches, club assistant coaches
PERFORMANCE STREAM	Certification C (coursework from Jan 2021)	Charter head coaches, club head coaches, Australian, championship assistant coaches
	Certification C (practical assessment from Jan 2022)	Charter head coaches, club head coaches, Australian, championship assistant coaches
	Advanced Modules (as set by Baseball Australia from Jan 2022)	Australian championship head coaches, all national team coaches

- 2.11.3 Every team must have at least one coach with an applicable Baseball Australia 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 an applicable Baseball Australia coaching accreditation and who is also named on the electronic system.

2.12 SCORERS AND SCORING POLICY

SCORERS ACCREDITATION

Division	Accreditation
Senior Competition - Division 1	Level 2 + E-Scoring
Senior Competition - Division 2	Level 1
Senior Competition - Division 3 & below, Masters Competition, Women's Competition & Junior Competition	Level 0

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.

- 2.12.1 For every game in GBL Competition, each team shall have its own competent scorer using the official baseball scorebook or electronic version through the approved application.
- NOTE: Scorers may score above their level if they are undergoing training/assessment for that level. (e.g., A Level 1 scorer is doing assessment for Level 2 can score a Div 1 game without penalty)
- 2.12.2 Scorers of both teams must observe the game together from a position as set aside by the Host Club.
- 2.12.3 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 notes (if using);
 - access to the electronic results system (or a process within the club for all results to be submitted electronically within the required timeframe. Refer to section 3.13.
 - a copy of these Competition Rules;
 - a scorebook; and
 - appropriate stationery.
- 2.12.4 In Senior Competition – Division 1, both teams must complete a scorebook.
- 2.12.5 In Senior Competition – the Division 1 Home Team must provide a scorer to score electronically online using the approved electronic scoring software (2024/25 is MyBallclub)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

2.12.6 In all other Divisions (excluding Senior Competition – Division 1), 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 an electronic scoring device, the Home Team scorer must ensure a scorebook is also completed.

2.13 UMPIRES

UMPIRES ACCREDITATION

UMPIRE LEVEL	ACCREDITATION
Community Umpire	All Junior Baseball
Community Umpire + Online Association Course	Div 2 & 3 Masters Div 2 & 3 Ladies Seniors Divisions 5,6,7 (Base only) for – U20's, Masters Div 1, Ladies Div 1
Association Umpire	All levels of baseball
<p>NOTE: (Junior aged Umpires, both Community, and Association level, can umpire grades up to one level below their natural age group.) Approval can be sought from the QBUA for Juniors to umpire teams at or above their natural age group.</p>	

- 2.13.1 The plate umpire must call the game from behind home plate.
- 2.13.2 The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 2.13.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 2.13.4 Umpires must be suitably dressed, including:
- (a) QBUA approved shirts reflective of the umpire's current accreditation;
 - (b) enclosed footwear; and
 - (c) in the case of the plate umpire, necessary protective equipment.
- 2.13.5 At the end of each game, the umpire-in-chief shall check with the scorers that nothing needs to be noted about the game – if something arises, the umpire-in-chief must make written records for their own use if called upon later.
- 2.13.6 All participating umpires must complete an Incident Report Form for any ejection or other incident they wish to report (refer to the GBL Judiciary Procedures).
- 2.13.7 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.
- 2.13.8 Ejected individuals must complete an Incident Report Form and submit it via the Club to the GBL Secretary by 5 pm the business day following notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the GBL Competition Administrator.
- 2.13.9 Where two junior umpires are officiating a game, the home club must appoint an adult as game co-ordinator and must be present at all times during the game. The adult game co-ordinator must not be the coach or manager of either team. The game co-ordinator has the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager or adult spectator for unsportsmanlike conduct from the game location.

2.14 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

- 2.14.1 All tobacco, e-cigarettes and alcohol products are prohibited within the on-field confines of any baseball facility (i.e. the playing field and within the boundaries of the spectator area). For Junior Competition, smoking is banned within 10 metres of the viewing and playing areas.
- 2.14.2 A player, coach or match official in a baseball uniform shall be ejected from a game and fined if seen smoking (including e-cigarettes) or consuming an alcoholic beverage during a game.
- 2.14.3 A player, coach, or match official, including umpires and scorers, seen chewing/dipping tobacco shall be ejected from a game and fined.

NOTE: TOBACCO LAWS IN QUEENSLAND

Smoking (including e-cigarettes): 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... 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.

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

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.

3. COMPETITIONS

3.1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 3.1.1. The GBL Committee shall conduct the GBL Competition, consisting of Senior Competition, Masters Competition, Women's Competition and Junior Competition.
- 3.1.2. The GBL Committee shall determine the number of Divisions in the GBL Competition. Further Divisions may be added at the GBL Committee's discretion.
- 3.1.3. Clubs must nominate teams for each Division in which they wish to compete no later than the date advised in the Calendar of Events.
- 3.1.4. In any competition other than Division 1 and Division 2 Seniors, the GBL Committee may review the grading of teams. Any changes to teams will occur at the latest by the conclusion of Round 6 of that competition.
 - (a) Teams who are regraded will start in the new competition without any results. Their previous results will remain in the competition that they were in.

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 GBL Committee shall schedule fixtures for all GBL Competitions which shall be published on the GBL Website.
- 3.2.3. The GBL Committee may reschedule fixtures as needed at any time for any reason.
- 3.2.4. If the GBL Committee reschedules a fixture, the amended fixture shall be published on the GBL Website, GBL Facebook (Where possible) 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 GBL Chair 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 REGULAR SEASON GAMES

- 3.3.1. Any Club wishing to reschedule a game in advance must apply in writing to the GBL Committee at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled game time. The application should include the reasons for rescheduling and if the opposing team has agreed to the change. The GBL Committee may reschedule the game at their discretion and may refer the matter to the GBL Committee.
- 3.3.2. If a team has at least three (3) COVID Positive Cases/Players in isolation, a club can apply to the GBL Committee in writing via email for the game to be rescheduled to a later date.
 - (a) Clubs need to provide evidence of players in isolation/testing positive for the application to be approved. (Evidence to be provided is either a Medical Certificate/Statutory Declaration/Positive Test Results and provided within 7 days of the application)
 - (b) The 48 hours notice in **3.3.1** will not be enforced if due to COVID 19 /Isolations.
 - (c) The decision to reschedule the game will be made by the GBL Committee, not by the clubs involved.
 - (d) Rule 3.3.4 is not relevant to this ruling.
- 3.3.3. Regular Season games that are not played due to inclement weather or double forfeit shall, subject to Rules 3.3.4 to 3.3.7, only be rescheduled if:
 - (i) agreed by both Clubs involved;
 - (ii) the Club of the Home Team advises the GBL Committee in writing within seven (7) days of the original scheduled game that the teams wish to replay the game. This advice is to include a completed and signed reschedule form nominating the details for the rescheduled game, ie date, time and location of the game.

If the above requirements are not met, the outcome of the game shall not be included in the records of the Division.

- 3.3.4. Games may be rescheduled by the agreement of both Clubs without prior notice to the GBL Committee if completed on the same weekend as the original scheduled game.

3.3.5. Suspended games during the Regular Season shall be treated as follows:

- (a) for Senior Competition – Division 1:
 - (i) as per Rule 3.3.6; or
 - (ii) if, in the view of the GBL Chair, there is a reason that the suspended game cannot be rescheduled:
 - a) if the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning; or
 - b) if the game did not constitute a Regulation Game, the game shall be declared a tie; and
- (b) for all other Divisions in the GBL Competition:
 - (i) if the teams involved are scheduled to meet again in the Regular Season, the suspended game shall be rescheduled and played as a suspended game immediately before that scheduled game; or
 - (ii) if the teams involved are not scheduled to meet again in the Regular Season or if, in the view of the GBL Chair, there is another reason that the suspended game cannot be rescheduled:
 - a) if the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning; or
 - b) if the game did not constitute a Regulation Game, the game shall be declared a tie.

3.3.6. Subject to Rules **3.3.5** and **3.3.7**, all Senior Competition – Division 1 incomplete or unplayed games must be rescheduled and played as a suspended game or new game (respectively) as follows:

- (a) for Friday night games, as a double header on the following Sunday;
- (b) for Sunday games, the following Tuesday night; or
- (c) otherwise, as determined by the GBL Chair, or the GBL Committee.

Note: in the case of a double header, a period of 30 minutes is to be allocated between games to allow time for match officials to close off game 1 and prepare for game 2. If all official parties along with competing teams agree to reducing this time, game 2 may commence earlier.

3.3.7. Senior Competition – Division 1 Clubs involved in a Regular Season game rescheduled by Rule **3.3.6** may, by agreement:

- (a) further reschedule that game to be played within two weeks of the original scheduled game (provided it is still within the Regular Season) by advising the GBL Chair in writing at least one (1) day prior to the date the game was automatically rescheduled under Rule **3.3.6** (i.e. without requiring the GBL Chair's consent to do so);
- (b) apply in writing to the GBL Chair at least one (1) day prior to the date the game was automatically rescheduled under Rule **3.3.6** to further reschedule that game to be played on a date more than two (2) weeks after the original scheduled game (to be determined by the GBL Chair at their discretion); or
- (c) apply in writing to the GBL Chair at least three (3) days following the original scheduled game to have the game cancelled and designated no result if the result of the game will have no bearing on the Division ladder at the commencement of the Finals Series.

3.3.8. Once any game is rescheduled in accordance with this section, all Competition Rules shall apply (including forfeit procedures).

3.3.9. 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 the day the game has been rescheduled. Please refer to the pitching restrictions in section 3.15 for max limits and mandatory rest periods for pitch counts to be reset ahead of the completion of the suspended game being played.

3.4. FINALS SERIES GAMES

3.4.1. Finals Series games shall be scheduled as determined by the GBL Committee and published in the schedule of fixtures, or elsewhere.

3.4.2. All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games but played to a result.

3.4.3. Division 1 Finals Series games shall be played over a best of three (3) games series, with the highest ranked team choosing either;

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- (a) to host game (1) one and game (3) three (if required) at their Home field, with game (2) two to be played at the lower ranked Away teams field; or
- (b) play game (1) one at the lower ranked Away teams' field and host games (2) two and (3) three (if required) at their home field.
 - (i) These games will be played on a Friday (Game 1), Sunday (Game 2) and Tuesday (Game 3)
 - (ii) Preliminary and Major Semifinals games will be played as a home and away series as per rule 3.4.3.
 - (iii) The Grand Final 3 game series will be played at the club that is awarded the hosting rights.
- (c) the same duration as Regular Season games, except that double headers (if applicable) shall be nine (9) innings and played to a result.

Note: in the case of a Friday night wash out in a best of 3 Div 1 series, both option (a) and (b) would result in a double header being played at the higher ranked club on the Sunday with game (3) three being played at the lower ranked teams field on Tuesday (if required).

3.4.4. All Senior Competition – 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 a Division is split into northside and southside competitions, 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.

3.4.5. For all Finals Series games, the Home Team shall occupy:

- (a) if from the Host Club, the dugout ordinarily used by the Home Team during the Regular Season; or
- (b) otherwise, the 3rd base dugout.

3.4.6. 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 Prelim Final 1 (PF1)	Team 1 (N) v Team 4 (N)	Winner to N/S GF, Loser eliminated
Northside Prelim Final 2 (PF2)	Team 2 (N) v Team 3 (N)	Winner to N/S GF, Loser eliminated
Southside Prelim Final 1 (PF1)	Team 1 (S) v Team 4 (S)	Winner to N/S GF, Loser eliminated
Southside Prelim Final 2 (PF2)	Team 2 (S) v Team 3 (S)	Winner to N/S GF, Loser eliminated
Northside Grand Final (NGF)	Winner NPF1 v Winner NPF2	Winner to LGF, Loser eliminated
Southside Grand Final (SGF)	Winner SSF1 v Winner SSF2	Winner to LGF, Loser eliminated
Nth v Sth Champions Grand Final (NSCGF)	Winner NGF v Winner SGF	

Note: Rule 3.4.4 and 3.4.5 will apply to determine who is the Home and Away team. The above table is an example of what the Finals series may look like.

3.4.7. The GBL Committee 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.

Rescheduling Finals Series games

- 3.4.8. Finals Series games that are suspended or not played due to any reason other than forfeit shall, where possible, be rescheduled by the GBL Committee pursuant to Rule 3.4.8. Where limited field availability impacts the ability of the GBL Committee to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their Division and age group.
- 3.4.9. The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
- (a) for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final:
 - (i) in the Masters Competition, Friday night following the original scheduled game; or
 - (ii) all other Divisions, Wednesday night following the original scheduled game; and
 - (b) for any Grand Final, Thursday night preceding Easter, except for a Senior Competition – Division 1 Grand Final, which may be rescheduled to any date.
- 3.4.10. Once any game is rescheduled in accordance with this section, all Competition Rules shall apply (including forfeit procedures).
- 3.4.11. Subject to Rule **3.4.12**, in the event a suspended or unplayed Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Rule **3.4.9**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
- (a) for Divisions split into northside and southside competitions:
 - (i) highest competition standing when the competition ladders are combined; or,
 - (ii) if equal, the premiership shall be shared;
- otherwise:
- (iii) head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
 - (iv) highest competition standing; then
 - (v) head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).
- 3.4.12. Where a suspended Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Rule **3.4.8**, but the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning.

3.5. GROUND CURFEWS

- 3.5.1. Prior to the start of the Regular Season, each Club shall notify the GBL Committee of any mandated Curfew Time applicable to venues that will be hosting GBL Competition games by the time nominated in the Calendar of Events. The GBL Committee shall then approve all Curfew Times in accordance with the finalised GBL Competition schedule and circulate a list to the Clubs.
- 3.5.2. At the plate meeting prior to the commencement of the game, the coach from the Host Club shall notify the opposition and the umpires of any Curfew Time and the Cut-Off Time (1 hour before Curfew Time).
- 3.5.3. A game impacted by a Curfew Time shall end at the earliest of:
- (a) the completion of the game;
 - (b) the completion of two (2) **additional** innings after the Cut-Off Time; or
 - (c) the completion of an at-bat occurring at the time five (5) minutes before the Curfew Time.

The umpire-in-chief shall notify the coaches at the commencement of an inning after the Cut-Off Time of the above Rule.

Example: Curfew Time is 10pm (so the Cut-Off Time is 9.00pm). At 9.00pm, the game is in the bottom of the 6th inning. The game will therefore conclude, at the latest, at the end of the 8th inning.

- 3.5.4. Where a game ends pursuant to Rule **3.5.3(b)** and the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning.
- 3.5.5. Where a game ends pursuant to Rule **3.5.3(c)**:
- (a) the game shall be declared a suspended game if it ends:
 - (i) during the top of an inning;
 - (ii) during the bottom of an inning if the Home Team is trailing or the game is tied; or
 - (iii) prior to constituting a Regulation Game; and

Otherwise, the result of the game shall be as at the time the game ends.

3.5.6. GBL Competition games may not:

- (a) commence after 6.30pm for Division 1 games (9 innings games - no time limit e.g. Sunday games) if the ground is subject to a Curfew Time.
- (b) commence less than two (2) hours prior to any Curfew Time applicable at the Host Club; and recommence after a temporary suspension if the time remaining before the Curfew Time is less than the time needed to complete a Regulation Game, assuming each half inning will take 10 minutes.

Example 1: A Senior Competition – Division 1 game has been suspended due rain in the top of the 3rd inning. The curfew time is 11.00pm and play is to resume at 9.30pm.

Time remaining: 90 minutes

Regulation Game: 5 innings

Half innings required: 6 (top 3rd to bottom 5th)

Time required: 60 minutes (6 half innings x 10 minutes)

Decision: 90 minutes > 60 minutes. Play will resume.

Example 2: A Women's Competition game has been suspended due a lighting malfunction in the bottom half of the 2nd inning. The curfew time is 9.00pm and play is to resume at 8.35pm.

Time remaining: 25 minutes

Regulation Game: 3 innings

Half innings required: 3 (bottom 2nd to bottom 3rd)

Time required: 30 minutes (3 half innings x 10 minutes)

Decision: 25 minutes < 30 Minutes. Play will be abandoned and game will be suspended.

3.6. INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 3.6.1. 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.
- 3.6.2. All Clubs must nominate an Inclement Weather Contact and their contact number shall be distributed to the Clubs and/or placed on the GBL Website. For inclement weather updates, contact between Clubs should be through the Inclement Weather Contacts (i.e. coaches and players should liaise with their own Inclement Weather Contact and not contact other Clubs).
- 3.6.3. Decisions regarding play where there is inclement weather on, or forecast for, the scheduled playing day will be made by:
 - (a) in advance, the GBL Committee (who may choose to cancel or reschedule some or all games by publishing an update on the GBL Website and notifying the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of the affected Clubs as soon as possible);
 - (b) on game day, the Host Club Secretary (or their nominee) in accordance with this Section; and
 - (c) during a game, the umpire-in-chief.
- 3.6.4. Home Team scorers must record any cancellation or suspension of games due to inclement weather in the electronic system or by otherwise advising the GBL Committee. Electronic reports for suspended games must still be submitted (for player eligibility and/or rescheduling purposes).
- 3.6.5. For Finals games that are subject to Inclement Weather; both Clubs involved must make their best efforts to have the game played including playing the game at the other team's field.

Wet Weather & Thunderstorms

- 3.6.6. In the case of wet weather, the Host Club must inspect the grounds in advance of any game and, if unplayable, 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) kilometres from the affected field). Clubs are also encouraged to use social media to advise players from both teams of the relocation, cancellation or otherwise of any game; and
 - (b) call off games one game at a time, unless it is obvious that the ground will be unplayable for the entire day.
- 3.6.7. 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.

Extreme Heat

- 3.6.8. As per the Sports Medicine Australia Guidelines (as seen in the below table) in the case of extreme heat, if predicted temperatures are above 30 degrees and 30% humidity, the Club Secretary of the Home Team (or their nominee) must monitor, on a half-hourly basis, current temperature and humidity at the field's location via a temperature measuring device that reads both temperature and humidity, and the following will apply:
- (a) For ALL Competitions, play shall be suspended immediately if the temperature and humidity reaches or exceeds:
 - (i) 36° Celsius and 30% Humidity
 - (b) For ALL Competitions during play suspension, the temperature and humidity shall be monitored every ten (10) minutes; and
 - (c) game play shall not resume until the temperature falls below:
 - (i) 36° Celsius and 30% Humidity
- 3.6.9. As per the below recommendations from SMA, in the case of extreme heat, additional temporary breaks in play for any reasonable period is permitted where:
- (a) the umpire-in-chief is aware or is made aware of the temperature and humidity exceeding the below recommendations for additional drinks breaks. Or they consider that the conditions could be injurious to the participants' health (including the officials'); or
 - (b) by agreement of the coaches.

Ambient temperature	Relative humidity	Risk of Heat Illness	Possible management for sustained physical activity
15 - 20		Low	Heat illness can occur in distance running. Caution over-motivation.
21 - 25	Exceeds 70%	Low - moderate	Increase vigilance. Caution over-motivation.
26 - 30	Exceeds 60%	Moderate	Moderate early pre-season training. Reduce intensity and duration of play/training. Take more breaks.
31 - 35	Exceeds 50%	High - very high	Uncomfortable for most people. Limit intensity, take more breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session.
36 and above	Exceeds 30%	Extreme	Very stressful for most people. Postpone to a cooler conditions (or cooler part of the day) or cancellation.

NOTE: Through the hotter months, clubs are encouraged to monitor the weather ahead of time and discuss any necessary adjustments that may be required to game scheduling with the opposition. The above is subject to any further health and safety directive from a recognised government body.

Suspensions in play

- 3.6.10. 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.
- 3.6.11. The umpire-in-chief may end a game due to inclement weather in the following circumstances:
- (a) where there is a temporary suspension in play due to inclement weather for a continuous thirty (30) minute period and the umpire-in-chief does not otherwise consider that a Regulation Game could be completed within the remaining time; and
 - (b) where, after consultation with the grounds crew and team coaches, the umpire-in-chief determines that the playing conditions will not permit the completion of a Regulation Game within the remaining time.

3.7. FORFEITS AND LATE STARTS

- 3.7.1. A Club that is unable to field a team in a scheduled game must notify the opposing Club Secretary and President, the QBUA Appointments Officer (if applicable) and the GBL Committee at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the scheduled game by both email and telephone call. The opposing Club needs to confirm receipt of this advice by return email.
- 3.7.2. 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 home team scorer shall record the late start and the offending team on the Electronic system.

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- 3.7.3. Any time in which play is delayed under this section is included in the overall time allowed for that game.
- 3.7.4. If, at fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time or any time during the game:
- (a) For all Senior Competitions, as well as U20's; a team that is unable to field the minimum number of players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win by forfeit. The win will be recorded as a forfeit in the electronic system and the opposing team is to be awarded a score of 9-0 ; or
 - (b) 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 Rule **3.3.1**).
 - (c) For Junior Competitions; a team that is unable to field the minimum number of players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win by forfeit. The win will be recorded as a forfeit in the electronic system and the opposing team is to be awarded a score of of 6-0 for all Little League games, 7-0 for all Intermediate League / Junior League / Senior League games; or
 - (d) Neither team is able to field the minimum number of players, both teams shall be awarded a loss and the score of 0-6 for all Little League games, 0-7 for all Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League games (unless the game is rescheduled under Rule **3.3.1**).
- 3.7.5. When a game is forfeited before its commencement, the names of the players in attendance from the non-forfeiting team must be recorded in the Electronic system within the required timeframe. These players shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes. Where 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 GBL Chair to approve BEFORE the non-forfeiting teams scorer enters this roster into the Electronic system. This must be done by 5 pm the day after the date of the scheduled game.
- 3.7.6. When a game is forfeited after its commencement, all players named on the Electronic system within the required timeframe shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes.

3.8. COMPETITION RECORDS

- 3.8.1. The GBL Committee and BQ Admin shall keep accurate records of the following:
- (a) results and participation of all games in the competitions;
 - (b) all protests and reports recorded on the Electronic system;
 - (c) all cautions and ejections, as recorded on the Electronic system by umpires or Home team scorers on the umpires request;
 - (d) all points/percentages allocated to each team according to the provisions of these Competition Rules; and
 - (e) other information as required.

3.9. PERCENTAGE LADDERS

- 3.9.1. The GBL Competition Administrator shall maintain a percentage ladder for each Division on the GBL Website stating:
- (a) the number of games played by each team; and
 - (b) the number of wins, losses and draws for each team.
- 3.9.2. Clubs wishing to contest any content in the percentage ladders must forward written objections to the GBL Committee. The objection must contain grounds for dispute and include relevant evidence (e.g. copy of scorebooks, screenshots of the Electronic system, notes from games, game cards (if using) etc.).
- 3.9.3. All percentage ladders shall be ranked in descending order by win percentage, as follows:
- Win percentage = total wins + draws (half) / total games played**
- 3.9.4. Where two or more teams are equally ranked with the same win percentage, the GBL Committee 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 / games played for the season; then
 - (d) at the GBL Committee's discretion, giving reasons.
- 3.9.5. Where it is not possible to maintain a percentage ladder, a ladder based on points will be maintained.

3.10. OFFICIAL GAME START TIME

- 3.10.1. For all competitions, the official game time shall start when the umpire in chief calls play, for the first pitch to then be delivered. The Umpire in Chief is encouraged to conduct their plate meeting at a suitable time prior to the scheduled game start time to ensure that "Play" is called on, or as close to the scheduled game start time as possible. The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

E.g. If the Umpire in Chief calls "Play" in a regular season Div 3 Senior, 2hr or nine innings game at 8:33, there would be no new inning started on or after 10:33. Likewise, if the official game start time was 8:28, there would be no new inning on or after 10:28

3.11. TIE BREAKER (INTERNATIONAL) RULE

- 3.11.1. Extra innings shall be played in all GBL Competition games which either:
- (a) must be played to a result and remain tied at the completion of the stipulated game duration; or
 - (b) remain tied after the expiry of the maximum number of innings for that Division but before the expiry of any time limit.
- 3.11.2. For each extra inning, the offensive team for every half-inning shall commence with:
- (a) a runner on 2nd base, being the batter immediately preceding the batter leading off the half-inning in the batting order; and
- 3.11.3. No pitcher shall be charged with an earned run if scored by the runner on second base, as described at Rule 3.10.2. Please refer to OBR Rule 7.01(b)(2)(c) for the tie-break rule, and the OBR scoring rule 9.16 for guidance on earned runs.

3.12. SPEED UP POLICY

- 3.12.1. Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.
- 3.12.2. 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.

3.13. INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 3.13.1. 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.
- 3.13.2. Scorers must record details of players injured in a game on the Electronic system. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a statutory declaration to the GBL Committee within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred via the Club. The player shall then be recorded on the disabled list.
- 3.13.3. Players who are injured outside the field of play (e.g. work injuries, training etc.) or have extended time away from the game due to covid or other illness must forward a suitable medical certificate via the Club to the GBL Committee within fourteen (14) days of when the injury or illness occurred to be eligible for the disabled list.
- 3.13.4. Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals (within the Division in which they played the majority of games at the time of injury, or the lower Division if it is even).
- 3.13.5. The GBL Chair may accept medical certificates or statutory declarations forwarded after the time limits stipulated in this section where deemed fair and appropriate to do so.

3.14. ELECTRONIC SYSTEM, GAME REPORTS & RESULTS

- 3.14.1. The Home Team scorer shall ensure that:
- (a) game reports are fully completed, accurate and legible, with all names spelt correctly and relevant accreditation levels recorded. If using paper Game Cards at the game, these details must be recorded in the Electronic system within the required timeframe
 - (b) the required timeframe for Submitting the Electronic Game Record is 7pm on the Tuesday following the conclusion of the game.
- 3.14.2. It is impermissible for anyone to alter the Electronic system game results without the knowledge and consent of the umpires, coaches and scorers from both teams present at the game.

3.15. TROPHIES & AWARDS

- 3.15.1. The head coach of each team participating in a Grand Final will award, by agreement, a "Most Valuable Player", immediately after the Grand Final game.
- 3.15.2. The GBL Committee shall present the following trophies and awards at the conclusion of the Summer Season:

TROPHY / AWARD	ELIGIBLE TEAMS / GRADES / INDIVIDUALS
<u>CLUB AWARDS</u>	
Senior Club of the Year	All Clubs
Junior Club of the Year	All Clubs
<u>TEAM AWARDS</u>	
Championship Trophy	All Divisions
Runner Up Trophy	All Divisions
<u>INDIVIDUAL AWARDS</u>	
David Nilsson Medal (MVP)	Seniors Division 1
MVP (Grand Final)	All Divisions (Except Seniors Division 1)
GBL Volunteer of the Year	Nominated by Clubs

- 3.15.3. The GBL Committee will award the "Senior Club of the Year" and "Junior Club of the Year" with reference to the following considerations (applicable to the Senior Competition, Masters Competition and Women's Competition for the "Senior Club of the Year" and to the Junior Competition for the "Junior Club of the Year") Including T-ball and Little League Minors Machine Pitch):

Each Club will start with 1000 points, and the below will transpire through to the completion of the season.

SEASON GAINS

- (a) 1 point per % of all team wins verse games played for the season
- (b) 200 points for going the whole season with no club fines
- (c) 100 points (per team) for finishing premiers.
- (d) 50 points (per team) for finishing minor premiers.
- (e) 20 points for finishing in 2nd, 3rd or 4th.
- (f) 3 points (per%) growth in registered players compared to prior season.

SEASON LOSSES

- (g) - 20 points (per game) not supplying an accredited official
- (h) - 50 points for not opening canteen on game days.
- (i) - 50 points for a forfeit
- (j) - 100 points per ejection

COMPETITION

3.16. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

3.16.1. Pitch Smart USA guidelines will be applied for pitchers in all Competitions as per the following chart.

3.16.2. In all instances, so long as the plate appearance began before a pitcher reached any given rest day threshold or maximum daily pitch limit, they may continue pitching to that batter until the completion of the batter's plate appearance and still be considered to be under that threshold.

Once a pitcher is removed from the mound in a game, they may not return to the position of pitcher for the remainder of that game.

Age	Daily Max Pitches in Game	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

Age	Daily Max Pitches in Game)	Max Pitches Multiple Teams (Fri - Thu)	Max Pitches 2 Game D1 Series	Max Pitches 3 Game D1 Series			
23+	120	140	140	180			

Eg. "Max Pitches Multiple Teams" A player throws 30 pitches in ladies on Saturday, 40 pitches in Div 5 on a Sunday, and comes back to pitch in Master's on Monday night. This player can only throw 70 pitches in the Master's game before being removed due to reaching the 140 pitch threshold.

This is likewise for a player in Division 1 pitching across a two or three game (finals) series. A player over the age of 23 must adhere to the appropriate series limit across the multiple games pitched.

3.16.3. For a player 23+ years of age, in the case of a drawn out Div 1 series or any other suspended or rescheduled game due to weather etc, if three or more complete rest days are observed, the pitch limits will be reset.

4. GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

4.1 GROUNDS/FIELDS

- 4.1.1 All nominated fields must be available for the commencement of the competition, unless the GBL Committee grants an exemption.
- 4.1.2 When hosting any GBL Competition game, Host Clubs must ensure:
- (a) fields are fully and accurately marked including base paths and foul lines. Batting boxes are compulsory for all div 1 & 2 senior competition games, and are recommended for all other junior and senior competitions. These field markings are to be done in compliance with the Official Baseball Rules and to the satisfaction of the umpire;
 - (b) fields are properly enclosed with a home run fence;
 - (c) all div 1 club venues are to provide suitable home and away bullpens inclusive of an elevated mound, and maintain them to a quality standard throughout the season. Multi lane bullpens are acceptable.
 - (d) covered player benches or dugouts which are screened from the field of play are provided for both teams;
 - (e) seating and shade cover is provided for the scorers;
 - (f) wet weather ground covers are available for the pitcher's mound and home plate area;
 - (g) all facilities are in a clean and tidy condition and free from any dangerous objects or other obstacles likely to cause injury to players, officials or visitors;
 - (h) adequate toilet facilities (in a clean and hygienic condition) are open;
 - (i) a secure and private umpires' changeroom for the sole use of the umpires is available for the periods sixty (60) minutes before and thirty (30) minutes after any game (or, if not available, there is a safe and secure area for the umpires to store their property);
 - (j) a canteen which provides drinks and a variety of food items is open (or, if not possible, the Host Club advises visiting Clubs and allows them to bring their own food and drinks);
 - (k) glass containers are not used to serve any beverages; and
 - (l) a telephone, ice and a first aid-kit are stored in close proximity to the playing field for injuries and emergencies.
- 4.1.3 Clubs must maintain all fields to GBL Committee standards. A representative of the GBL Committee may inspect a Club's fields at any time. That representative may direct the Club to rectify its fields and may prohibit games on those grounds until satisfied with the rectification.
- (a) At the beginning of each season, a representative of the GBL Committee will inspect a clubs nominated fields to ensure that they meet the required standards for the competition.
- 4.1.4 Consistent failure to comply with this section may result in a financial penalty or the cessation of home game allocations for that Club.
- 4.1.5 Visiting teams and supporters must not bring alcohol to a Host Club's ground.
- 4.1.6 Clubs hosting Finals Series games are required to have a groundsman on site to maintain the field throughout the day.

GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

4.2 THE PLAYING FIELD

4.2.1 Playing fields shall comply with the following minimum requirements.

Age Group	Base paths	Pitch distance	Centre field distance	Bases
Little League Majors	60 ft	46 ft	200 ft	Removable or "Breakaway Hollywood"
Little League Minors Player Pitch 46	60 ft	46 ft	200 ft	Removable or "Breakaway Hollywood"
Little League Minors Player Pitch 40	60 ft	40 ft	200 ft	Removable or "Breakaway Hollywood"
Intermediate League	70 ft	50 ft	200ft	Removable or "Breakaway Hollywood"
Junior League	80 ft	54 ft	300 ft	Permanent
Senior League	90 ft	60 ft 6 in	Open	Permanent
Big League - Under 20's	90 ft	60 ft 6 in	Open	Permanent
Senior & Master's Competition	90 ft	60 ft 6 in	Open	Permanent
Women's Competition Div. 1	90 ft	60 ft 6 in	Open	Permanent
Women's Competition Div. 2	80 ft	54 ft	Open	Permanent
Women's Competition Div. 3	80 ft	50 ft	Open	Permanent or "Breakaway Hollywood"

4.2.2 All Little League, Intermediate 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 (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 primary 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:

- (a) arrange a ground light audit to ensure compliance with Standards Australia (1994) *Guide to sports lighting Part 2.6: Specific recommendations — Baseball and softball (AS 2560.2.6:1994)*; and
- (b) submit to the GBL Committee by the time nominated in the Calendar of Events:
 - (i) the light audit referred to in (a) above;
 - (ii) the costs of the lights to conduct Senior Competition – Division 1 night games for a minimum period of three (3) hours;
 - (iii) the cost of the lights to conduct Masters Competition night games for a minimum period of two (2) hours; and
 - (iv) the Curfew Time, if one exists (see Rule 3.5.1).

4.3.2 If an umpire deems play in any GBL Competition game to be unsafe due to a lack of natural light, and suitable lights are available at the field, the game shall be completed under lights.

4.4 UNIFORMS

- 4.4.1 All players in the GBL Competition and all coaches in the Senior Competition, Masters Competition and Women's Competition must wear full Club playing uniform. Shorts are not permitted.
- 4.4.2 Coaches in the Junior Competition must wear at least a Club shirt, Club cap and enclosed shoes (shorts are permitted).
- 4.4.3 Newly registered players (excluding those in Senior Competition – Divisions 1 and 2) have a maximum of six (6) weeks to obtain the correct uniform.
- 4.4.4 Each coach and the umpire-in-chief shall enforce the uniform rules by requesting that the Home team scorer makes a note of any infringements on the Electronic system.
- 4.4.5 Penalty 1.11.2 (f) will apply if a player is out of uniform.
- 4.4.6 Sponsorship signage on uniforms is permitted, subject to the prohibition of anything resembling a baseball. The wording, size and placement of any sponsorship signage must be endorsed in advance by the GBL Chair.

4.5 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 4.5.1 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. Bat boys and girls are not permitted in Junior Competition games.
- 4.5.2 Protective cups are recommended for all players.
- 4.5.3 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged, two-eared helmets.
- 4.5.4 For warming up a pitcher (including before games and prior to pitching):
 - (a) coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher in Junior baseball during regular season games (**Little League Rule 3.09**). Adults squatting to warm up pitchers must wear a mask as a minimum. It is encouraged that adults warming up pitchers wear full protective equipment.
 - (b) participants under the age of eighteen (18) must wear full protective equipment at all times (including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup); and
- 4.5.5 For base coaching:
 - (a) participants under the age of eighteen (18) must wear a two-eared baseball helmet; and
 - (b) adult participants may opt to use either a two-eared baseball helmet or skull-cap style helmet.
- 4.5.6 All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

4.6 BATS

- 4.6.1 All baseball bats must conform to the OBR, Rule 3.02.
- 4.6.2 Senior Competition – Divisions 1 and 2 shall use wood, wood composite or wood laminate bats only.
- 4.6.3 Bats used in all other Divisions of the Senior Competition, as well as the Masters Competition, Women's Competition, Senior League and Under 20's shall comply with the following:
 - (a) neither longer than thirty-six (36) inches nor wider than two and five-eighths ($2\frac{5}{8}$) inches in diameter;
 - (b) if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) of an inch in diameter (or seven-eighths ($\frac{7}{8}$) of an inch for bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part;
 - (c) not heavier, numerically, 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);
 - (i) Players participating in the Women's competition may use a bat that is a -5 bat (i.e. a 33inch, 28ounce bat)
 - (d) if not made of a single piece of wood, compliant with the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard (with such bats so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark that is 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); Players participating in a Women's Competition may use bats marked with the USSSA logo with a BPF1.15 marking
 - (e) if aluminium/alloy or composite, marked as to their material makeup in 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; and
 - (f) not cracked, dented, damaged or deformed.

GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

4.6.4 Bats used in Little League, Intermediate League and Junior League must meet Little League® rulebook specifications:

- (1) Note: The use of Pine Tar or any similar adhesive substance is prohibited at all levels of Little League Baseball, this includes Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League (LLR Rule 1.10)

Age Group	Season 2024 - 2025
Little League	<p>USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.</p>
Junior League & Intermediate League	<p>USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum</p> <p>5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR stamp</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.</p> <p>Also permitted 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. 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>

4.7 GAME BALLS

4.7.1 The Home Team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls approved by BQ which meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.01, for each game as follows:

- (a) for Senior Competition – Divisions 1 and 2, four (4) new balls; and
- (b) for all other Divisions, two (2) new balls,
 - (i) With additional balls in good condition available if required.

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

4.7.3 In Little League Division Majors and Minor Player Pitch 46, regulation baseballs will be used all season.

4.7.4 In Little League Division Minor Player Pitch 40, safety balls (RIF – Reduced Injury Factor) are to be used all season.

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 Division 1, Clubs must enter teams into both Division 1 and 2 Competitions, either as a single Club or as a Combined Club Entry.

5.2.2 A Club (**Parent Club**) may apply to the GBL Committee to nominate a team as a Combined Club Entry, provided written consent is supplied by all Clubs with which the players in the team are registered. The Parent Club will be responsible for the administration of the team in accordance with these Competition Rules.

5.2.3 Players and coaching staff in each Division 1 and Division 2 team must wear the same uniform throughout the season (but each team's uniform may be different if the teams are part of a Combined Club Entry).

5.2.4 Division 2 players competing in a combined team or combined club entry will need to be dual registered with the Parent Club, and will be allowed to play up into the Division 1 team if and when required.

5.2.5 A Club may apply in writing to the GBLCC for consideration to be entered into the Division 2 Competition as a standalone team. The eligibility for inclusion will be at the GBL's discretion and will only be extended to one team per season. A maximum of two additional Division 2 teams (to the number of teams in the Div 1 competition) can be in the Division 2 Competition in any one season. Teams entered into this Division 2 pathway must meet the Div 1 Criteria to be eligible to apply and can spend a maximum of two seasons in the Div 2 Competition before having to either enter into the Div 1 Competition or return to Division 3.

5.2.6 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.

5.2.7 GBL Division 1 Pathway Criteria - To be eligible to nominate teams into the Div 1 & 2 competition either as a standalone club, a combined club nomination or an individual Div 2 entry, the following criteria must be in place for season being nominated for. In the case of a combined club entry (the div 1 parent club must meet the criteria):

- (a) Minimum of 40 Senior registered players (aged over 18)
- (b) Minimum of 60 Junior registered players (U18 to Little League)
- (c) Minimum of 4 Association accredited Umpires
- (d) Minimum of 1 Level 2, and 1 level 1 QBS Scorer
- (e) Must have 1 Electronic Scorer

5.3 GAME DURATION

5.3.1 Game lengths for Senior Competition games shall be:

Division	Game duration (whichever comes first)
Division 1 – single game	9 innings (no time limit, played to a result)
Division 1 – double header	7 innings (no time limit, played to a result)
Division 1 – night game	9 innings or 2.5 hours, played to a result
Division 2	9 innings or 2.5 hours
Division 2 – prior to Division 1 double header	9 innings or 2 hours
Division 3 and below	9 innings or 2 hours

5.3.2 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.

5.3.3 Subject to Section 3.5, Division 1 night games shall end when the game duration is reached, provided the game constitutes a Regulation Game and is played to a result.

5.3.4 For divisions 1 – 3, 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. Refer to rule 5.3.6 for divisions 4 – 7.

SENIOR COMPETITION

- 5.3.5 The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Rules **3.6.10** and **3.7.3**).
- 5.3.6 In Division 4 – 7, no new innings is to commence with less than 5 minutes to play, and a hard cut off will be enforced at 15 minutes passed the official end of game time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed innings.

5.4 RUN LIMITATION

- 5.4.1 In Divisions 4 and lower;
- (a) the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first three (3) innings.
 - (b) the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of six (6) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

Note: This does not include an in the park homerun.

NOTE: Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

5.5 REGULATION GAME

In the event of inclement weather or a curfew time affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a Regulation Game:

Division	Game duration
Division 1	5 innings – all games must be played to a result
Division 2	5 innings or 1 hour 30 mins
Division 3 and below	4 innings or 1 hour

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

- 5.5.1 A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section **3.3**.

5.6 TEN (10) RUN RULE

- 5.6.1 For all games including finals, 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:

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

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

SENIOR COMPETITION

5.7 PLAYERS

- 5.7.1 All teams shall field nine (9) players, subject to Rule **5.7.22**.
- 5.7.2 A player shall be listed on the Electronic system Game Results when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the electronic system **within** the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- 5.7.3 In all Divisions 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 (8) players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player.
- (a) Where a player leaves a game (for injury only) and is not able to be replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant and not constitute an automatic out.
- 5.7.4 If any team has less than the minimum required number of players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 5.7.5 Division 1 defensive starting teams shall consist of players who:
- (a) have not taken part in any Senior Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of the second game in a double header.
- (b) can't be replaced by a player who has taken part in any senior fixture on that day until after three complete innings have been played, except in the case of pitchers or injured players.
- (c) in the case of a suspended game being played prior to a Sunday fixture, players participating in the completion of the suspended game will still be considered fresh players for the regular fixture.
- 5.7.6 In all Divisions except Division 1, defensive starting teams (i.e. not including any designated hitter) must:
- (a) consist of seven (7) players who have not taken part in any Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of the second game in a double header or a player who has participated in an earlier, higher ranked Division game as a designated hitter only (see Rule **5.8.2(a)**); and
- (b) Can't be replaced by a player who has taken part in any competition fixture on that day until after three complete innings have been played except in the case of pitchers or injured players.
- 5.7.7 A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate Divisions on the same day.
- 5.7.8 **TWO GAMES IN THE ONE DAY RULE** - No player may start more than two (2) games in the same day; A player can play in more than 2 games as long as they only start in 2, and abide by rule 5.7.5 or 5.7.6

5.8 DESIGNATED HITTER / 10 BATTER RULE

- 5.8.1 Teams in the Senior Competition may use a designated hitter.
- 5.8.2 Players who participate only as a designated hitter in a game of a particular Division on any given day:
- (a) may participate as a fielder in a lower ranked Division on the same day; but
- (b) may not participate as a starting fielder in a higher ranked Division on the same day
- 5.8.3 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 ten (10) batter batting order is so reduced, the unused batting slot will be treated as if it no longer exists from the time of the batter's exit from the game.
- 5.8.4 The position of tenth batter in the scorebook will be designated as "EH" (**Extra Hitter**) and may appear in any batting position. An Extra Hitter may be interchanged with a defensive position and can return to the position of Extra Hitter during the same game.

5.9 COURTESY RUNNER

- 5.9.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time subject to the following:
- (a) the courtesy runner shall be any registered player;
- 5.9.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

SENIOR COMPETITION

5.10 UMPIRES

- 5.10.1 Unless QBUA umpires have been appointed to a game, the Home Team shall provide both plate and base umpires for all Senior Competition games. Refer to table in section 2.13 for required accreditation.
- 5.10.2 Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Senior Competition games with the prior written approval of the QBUA and notification to the GBL Committee and, where they are the home plate umpire, must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.

5.11 DEFENSIVE VISITS

- 5.11.1 A coach may make one visit to the same pitcher in any one (1) inning. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game, but the player may otherwise remain in the game.
- 5.11.2 Maximum number of four (4) non-pitching change defensive mound visits per 9 innings (or (7) in a double header), including by catcher or defensive player, manager, coach or the like. If games go further than 9 innings (or (7) in a double header), an additional non-pitching change visit is allowed for each extra innings.

5.12 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 5.12.1 Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games:

- (a) played by that team; or
- (b) played by a team at the same Club, but in a lower ranked Division.

NOTE: Juniors / Seniors / Masters / Women's are all separate competitions. To be eligible to play in finals, you must have played the required qualification games in that competition and adhere to **5.12.1**.

- 5.12.2 Where a player who is registered with a GBL Club prior to the ABL Season commencing, and is unable to participate in a Regular Season GBL game due to participation as a player in the ABL, other ABL level showcase or informal fixtured game/s or an international baseball tournament, the Club may apply in writing to the GBL Committee 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 Rule **5.12.1**. This application must be submitted at least 14 days before the Finals Series commence.

Example: A player participates in 9 Division 1 games during the season. They are unable to participate in 12 other Division 1 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.

- 5.12.3 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 as 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.

- 5.12.4 Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division of the Senior Competition from the same Club:

- (a) players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:
 - (i) the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or
 - (ii) the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and
- (b) Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Committee for an exemption from Rule **5.12.1**, noting the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.

SENIOR COMPETITION

- 5.12.5 Where a Club's lowest ranked Senior team does not have sufficient qualified players for a Final's game: that team may use a Masters player, or if the Club does not have Masters players; a junior player who qualifies to play Senior baseball, to ensure the team can continue to play the Finals game. The Masters or junior player so used, cannot pitch or catch in the game and cannot have played any games in a higher senior division team throughout the season.
- 5.12.6 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals

Note: For forfeits, see section 3.7.

5.13 IMPORT PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

- (a) Imports are permitted to pitch a maximum of 21 outs in any 2 game round. This restriction applies across each team's collective Division 1 import pitchers; not an individual pitcher. In the case of a final play being made where more than one out is recorded (therefore puts the pitcher over the 21 or 36 outs) this will not be considered as a breach.

Eg, pitcher is on 20 outs with runner on first base, a double play is recorded, meaning that they have now recorded 22 outs, putting them over the 21 out maximum. This will not be a breach of the rule.

- (b) For Finals games, this restriction will be increased to a maximum of 36 outs per finals series (3 games)
- (c) Once 21 or 36 outs have been made with imports pitching, imports can no longer pitch in that series.
- (d) Imports must also adhere to all other pitching restrictions in section **3.16**.

MASTERS COMPETITION

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 during the season and register prior to the start of the Summer Season as a Masters Player on the approved database.

6.3 GAME DURATION

6.3.1 Game lengths for Masters Competition games shall be:

Game	Game duration (whichever comes first)
Single game	9 innings or 2 hours
Double header	7 innings or 1.5 hours

6.3.2 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.

6.3.3 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed unless the hard cut off for double headers has been reached (refer to rule 6.3.5) or 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.

6.3.4 The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Rules **3.6.10** and **3.7.3**).

6.3.5 For both games in double header situations, no new innings is to commence with less than 5 minutes to play, and a hard cut off will be enforced at 15 minutes passed the originally scheduled finish time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed innings.

6.4 RUN LIMITATION

6.4.1 In Masters Division 2 & 3 competitions;

- a) the maximum number of runs that can be scored in single games is six (6) per inning for the first three (3) innings.
- b) the maximum number of runs that can be scored in double header games is six (6) per inning for the first two (2) innings.
- c) In the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of six (6) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

Note: This does not include an in the park homerun.

NOTE: Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

6.5 REGULATION GAME

6.5.1 In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, four (4) innings or one (1) hour shall constitute a Regulation Game.

6.5.2 A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section **3.3**.

MASTERS COMPETITION

6.6 PLAYERS

- 6.6.1 A player shall be counted when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the Electronic system Game Results within the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- 6.6.2 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 (8) players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player.
- a) Where a player leaves a game (for injury only) and is not able to be replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant and not constitute an automatic out.
- 6.6.3 If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 6.6.4 Master's defensive starting teams (i.e. not including any designated hitter) must:
- (c) consist of seven (7) players who have not taken part in any Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of a player who has participated in an earlier, higher ranked Division game as a designated hitter only (see Rule 5.8.2(a)); and
- (d) Can't be replaced by a player who has taken part in any fixture on that day until after three complete innings have been played except in the case of pitchers or injured players.
- 6.6.5 A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate Divisions on the same day.

6.7 DESIGNATED HITTER / 10 BATTER RULE

- 6.7.1 Teams in the Masters Competition may use a designated hitter.
- 6.7.2 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. When a ten (10) batter batting order is so reduced, the unused batting slot will be treated as if it no longer exists from the time of the batter's exit from the game.
- 6.7.3 The position of tenth batter in the scorebook will be designated as "EH" (**Extra Hitter**) and may appear in any batting position. An Extra Hitter may be interchanged with a defensive position and can return to the position of Extra Hitter during the same game.

6.8 COURTESY RUNNER

- 6.8.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time subject to the following:
- (a) the courtesy runner shall be any eligible player
- 6.8.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 6.8.3 No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

6.9 UMPIRES

- 6.9.1 Where a QBUA umpire is not appointed, the Home Team shall provide **BOTH** the plate and base umpire for all Masters Competition games. Refer to table in section 2.13 for required accreditation.
- 6.9.2 Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Masters Competition games with the prior written approval of the QBUA and notification to the GBL Committee and, where they are the home plate umpire, must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.

6.10 DEFENSIVE VISITS

- 6.10.1 A coach may make one visit to the same pitcher in any one (1) inning. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game, but that player may otherwise remain in the game.
- (a) Note: There is no maximum on the number of mound visits in Masters.

MASTERS COMPETITION

6.11 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

6.11.1 Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.

6.11.2 Where two (2) or more teams compete in the Masters Competition from the same Club:

(a) players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:

(i) the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or

(ii) the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and

(b) Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **6.11.1**, noting the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.

NOTE: Seniors / Masters / Women's are all separate competitions. To be eligible to play in finals, you must have played the required qualification games in that competition and adhere to rules 6.11.1 & 6.11.2

6.11.3 In the case that a clubs lowest ranked Masters side is unable to field a team in the finals, the team may draw from the equivalent grade Masters team if the club has two sides in the competition. If this is a standalone Masters side, the club may apply in writing to the GBL Committee to get approval for a nominated player to be used in the finals. If agreed, this player will be ineligible to pitch or catch.

6.11.4 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.

Note: For forfeits, see section 3.7.

6.12. TEN (10) RUN RULE

For all games, including finals 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

JUNIOR COMPETITION

7 JUNIOR COMPETITION

7.1 PREAMBLE

- 7.1.1 This Part outlines the Competition Rules applicable to the Junior Competition.
- 7.1.2 Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League will be governed by these Competition Rules and the LLR. Where these Competition Rules are silent, the rules in the LLR will apply. Where these Competition Rules and the LLR are inconsistent, the Competition Rules will apply to the extent of any inconsistency. The relevant sections of the LLR will be referred to where applicable.
- 7.1.3 Under 20's will be governed by the OBR's.

7.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 7.2.1 A Club (**Parent Club**) may apply to the GBL Committee to nominate a team as a Combined Club Entry in any Division of the Junior Competition, provided written consent is supplied by all Clubs with which the players in the team are registered. The Parent Club will be responsible for the administration of the team in accordance with these Competition Rules.
- 7.2.2 Players participating in a Combined Club Entry:
- (a) may only play for the team the subject of the Combined Club Entry or other teams nominated by the Club with which they have registered (provided they are otherwise eligible to play in those teams); and
 - (b) if not registered with the Parent Club, must be registered as a "dual member" of their Club and the Parent Club on the player registration database.
- 7.2.3 Players and coaching staff participating in a Combined Club Entry may wear the uniform of the Club with which they are registered throughout the season.
- 7.2.4 Teams nominated in the Junior Competition must consist of players conforming to the Competition Age Matrix. All registered players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a Club.

7.3 GAME DURATION

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

Division	Game duration (whichever comes first)
Big League (Under 20's) – (single game)	9 innings or 2 hours
Big League (Under 20's) – (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Senior League – (single game)	7 innings or 2 hours
Senior League – (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Junior League – (single game)	7 innings or 2 hours
Junior League – (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Intermediate League – (single game)	7 innings or 2 hours
Intermediate League – (double header)	7 innings or 1½ hours
Little League – Majors (single game)	6 innings or 2 hours
Little League – Majors (double header)	6 innings or 1½ hours
Little League –Minors Player Pitch 46 (single game)	6 innings or 1 ¾ hours
Little League –Minors Player Pitch 46 (double header)	6 innings or 1½ hours
Little League –Minors Player Pitch 40 (single game)	6 innings or 1½ hours

- 7.3.2 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.
- 7.3.3 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the hard cut off has been reached (refer to rule 7.3.5) or 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.
- 7.3.4 The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Rules **3.6.10** and **3.7.3**).

JUNIOR COMPETITION

- 7.3.5 In Senior League Div 2, Intermediate League, Junior League Div 2 and Little League Minors Player Pitch 46 & 40 games, no new innings is to commence with less than 5 minutes to play, and a hard cut off will be enforced at 15 minutes passed the official end of game time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed innings.

7.4 RUN LIMITATION

- 7.4.1 In Senior League Div 2, Intermediate League, Junior League Div 2 and Little League Minors Player Pitch 46 & 40 games, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is four (4) per inning, for the complete game.

NOTE: Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

RECOMMENDATION

It is permitted (and recommended), particularly in Division 1 games where no run limitations exist, for coaches to voluntarily declare an end to an offensive inning at any time if they consider that inning to be materially one-sided by advising the umpire (once the ball is dead).

- 7.4.2 In the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of four (4) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

Note: This does not include an in the park homerun.

7.5 REGULATION GAME

- 7.5.1 In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a Regulation Game:

Age group / Division(s)	Game duration (whichever comes first)
Under 20's	5 innings or 40 minutes
Senior League	5 innings or 40 minutes
Junior League	5 innings or 40 minutes
Intermediate League	5 innings or 40 minutes
Little League – Majors	4 innings or 40 minutes
Little League – Minors Player Pitch 46 & 40	3 innings or 30 minutes

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

- 7.5.2 A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section 3.3.

7.6 ONE-SIDED GAMES

- 7.6.1 For all Junior Competition games, where a team is leading by at least the following runs after the stipulated number of innings outlined below, then the game shall be called as a complete game:

Age group / Division(s)	Runs and inning	Runs and inning
Under 20's		10 runs after 5 innings
Senior League	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Junior League	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Intermediate League	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Little League	15 runs after 3 innings	10 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.

7.7 PLAYERS

- 7.7.1 A player shall be counted when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the Electronic system Game Results within the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- 7.7.2 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 (8) players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player.
- (a) Where a player leaves a game (for injury only) and is not able to be replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant and not constitute an automatic out.
- 7.7.3 If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 7.7.4 If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to less than nine (9) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.
- 7.7.5 Teams may use players from the age-group immediately below (with a "Casual Playing Up Consent", see Appendix A) during the Regular Season (**Substitute Players**).
- 7.7.6 Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division within a Club, a player may only play for one team in a weekend (in that age group).
- 7.7.7 Players may freely interchange between Divisions throughout the season in the same age group, except that:
- (a) once a player has played five (5) games at the Division 1 or Majors level, that player must continue to play at the Division 1 or Majors level for the balance of the season.
- 7.7.8 Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule 7.7.7 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.
- 7.7.9 Mandatory Play in divisions of Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League requires that each player in the line-up record six (6) consecutive defensive outs per game. If the halfway mark of the time allowed for that game is reached before 6 consecutive defensive outs can be played for any player in a starting defensive position, any player not in the defensive line up will be entered into the game at this point to affect mandatory play. Exemption to mandatory play being achieved will be given to players that are required to be removed from the line-up because of illness, injury, ejection or needing to leave the game site early.

NOTE: An innings declared due to reaching the run limitation or by the coach will be classified as 3 defensive outs

RECOMMENDATION

It is also encouraged that coaches rotate their players through the key fielding positions during a game and on a weekly basis to allow all players the opportunity to develop their skills.

NOTE: A substitute may not be removed from the game prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements, unless in the case of a player being injured and unable to continue playing.

7.8 BATTING RULES

DESIGNATED HITTER

- 7.8.1 Teams in the following Divisions may use a designated hitter:
- (a) U20's;

CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER

- 7.8.2 Teams in Divisions of Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League & Senior League which have more than nine (9) players present at any game must use a continuous batting order whereby all players must bat. Where players arrive to the game late, they must be added to the end of the batting order immediately.
- 7.8.3 Under 20's teams which have more than nine (9) players present at any game may use a continuous batting order, at the discretion of each team's coach, whereby up to twelve (12) players may bat.

JUNIOR COMPETITION

- 7.8.4 In regards to the continuous batting order in Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League, Senior League and if a coach elects to use a continuous batting order up to twelve (12) at the beginning of the game in U20's, 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 continuous batting order is so reduced, the unused batting slot will be treated as if it no longer exists from the time of the batter's exit from the game.
- 7.8.5 The position of any additional batter on the lineup card and in the scorebook will be designated as "EH" (*Extra Hitter*) and may appear in any batting position. An Extra Hitter may be interchanged with a defensive position but once interchanged, that player cannot return to the Extra Hitter position until the players mandatory play requirements have been completed. See rule **7.7.9** for mandatory play requirements.

REPLACING A BATTER

- 7.8.6 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

- 7.8.7 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.

NOTE: Throwing the bat is a malicious act, and not an accidental release of the bat on follow through. Where batters do not control the bat during follow through coaches or managers should be advised of the incident in order to coach the player on proper technique.

LITTLE LEAGUE MINOR PLAYER PITCH 46 & 40

- 7.8.8 For all Little League Minor Player Pitch 46 & 40 games:

- (a) there is no "dropped third strike rule"; and
- (b) where a pitcher throws four (4) "balls" on a single batter, the batter shall be pitched to by the team coach as per the following:

Coaches are to position themselves in front of the pitching plate and pitch from a kneeling position. Pitching from a knee allows the players to clearly see the ball as it is released from the coach's hand and improves their ability to track the ball as it reaches the hitting zone.

- (a) Coaches should position themselves at least 30' from the batter when performing the front toss.
- (b) Coaches must wear a helmet whilst conducting coach pitch to players;
 - (i) In Division LL Minor Player Pitch 40, coaches can side (soft) toss to the batter.
 - (ii) If the batter misses three strikes, then they are out.
 - (iii) If a coach pitch hits a batter, the ball is dead and runners return to their last legally occupied base. There is no HBP on coach pitch.
 - (iv) If a coach gets hit by a batted ball, the ball is dead, and the batter runner gets awarded first base and all other runners advance if forced.
 - (v) No walks will be awarded during coach pitch.

NOTE: In order to speed the game up and limit impact on catchers in hot conditions, the defensive teams coach may position themselves at the back net off to one side to retrieve pass balls. Particularly when there is no one on base, but also considering that base runners in LL Player Pitch 46&40 are only able to advance 1 base on a pass ball (and div LL Player Pitch 40 can't score from 3rd base on a pass ball), the coach can assist to return the ball once this base has been secured. The coach must be wearing a skull cap at all times in this situation.

7.9 COURTESY RUNNER

- 7.9.1 Courtesy runners are permitted for the catcher and pitcher after two (2) outs in Junior Competition. The courtesy runner will be the player who is the 2nd out in the inning. If the second out is either the pitcher or catcher, the courtesy runner will be the first available player preceding them in the line-up.

JUNIOR COMPETITION

7.10 UMPIRES

- 7.10.1 The Home Team shall provide the plate umpire and the Away Team shall provide the base umpire in Junior Competition games from Little League to Senior League. For U20's, the Home Team shall provide BOTH the plate and base umpires. Refer to table in section 2.13 for required accreditation.
- 7.10.2 Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Junior Competition games:
- (a) up to the age group directly below their natural age group in which they are eligible to participate as a player, or
 - (b) otherwise, with the prior written approval of the QBUA Committee,
- and, where they are the home plate umpire, provided they wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.
- 7.10.3 No member of either coaching staff is permitted to umpire unless agreed by both teams.
- 7.10.4 Where two junior umpires are officiating a game, the home club must appoint an adult as game co-ordinator and must be present at all times during the game. The adult game co-ordinator must not be the coach or manager of either team. The game co-ordinator has the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager or adult spectator for unsportsmanlike conduct from the game location.

7.11 DEFENSIVE VISITS

- 7.11.1 A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than:
- (a) two (2) times in one (1) game; and
 - (b) once (1) in one (1) inning.
 - (c) 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, but the player may otherwise remain in the game. Checking on a pitcher injury is to be approved by the plate umpire and will not constitute a visit.

7.12 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 7.12.1 Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have:
- (a) for Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League, a player must have participated in at least five (5) of the Regular Season games played by that team; and
 - (b) for Under 20's, participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- 7.12.2 Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division and age group of the Junior Competition from the same Club:
- (a) players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:
 - (i) the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or
 - (ii) the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and
 - (b) Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule 7.12.1 above if an exemption under Rule 7.7.8 has already been granted (any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game).
- 7.12.3 Teams may use the following players in Finals Series games if they are unable to field nine (9) eligible players:
- (a) players from the age group immediately below (with a "Casual Playing Up Consent", see Appendix A); and/or
 - (b) players in the same age group who played the majority of their Regular Season games in a lower ranked Division.
- 7.12.4 Players participating pursuant to Rule 7.12.3 may not be played ahead of a player that is eligible under Rule 7.12.1 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.

JUNIOR COMPETITION

7.13 PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS

- 7.13.1 For pitchers playing multiple games in one (1) day:
- (a) in Little League, a player cannot pitch more than one (1) game a day; and
 - (b) in Intermediate League, Junior League, Senior League and Under 20's, a player may pitch in up to two (2) games in a day (but must adhere to mandatory rest periods).
- 7.13.2 Penalties apply for breaching pitch limits including loss of game and suspension of Coach. See Breach Table for details.
- 7.13.3 For Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League - A pitcher who delivers forty-one (41) or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- 7.13.4 For Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League - A catcher who plays the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day. **Catching to a single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning caught.**

RECOMMENDATION

It is strongly recommended that pitchers in the Junior Competition 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.

- 7.13.5 There are no balks in the Little League age group.

7.14 BASE RUNNING

- 7.14.1 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.
- 7.14.2 Coaches must not encourage their players to take extra bases in a 'suicide' manner with the intention of enticing an overthrow. This is a breach of the Coaches' Code of Conduct and at the umpire's discretion the runner(s) involved may be returned to the previously occupied base as well as the potential of the coach being ejected for repeat offences.

NOTE: *There is no "must slide" rule, nor any "imminent play" rule in Junior Competition – see Little League® rulebook Rule 7.08. At home plate, the runner should be encouraged to slide feet first.*

- 7.14.3 In Little League Minors Player Pitch 46 & 40, players are only able to advance one base on a passed ball or overthrow.
- 7.14.4 In Little League Minor Player Pitch 40 games, players are only able to advance home on a batted ball.
- 7.14.5 In the Little League Divisions Majors and Minors Player Pitch 46 & 40, the following rules apply:
- (a) players who slide head first while advancing shall be called out; and
 - (b) 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:
- (i) if any of the runners are put out, the out(s) will stand;
 - (ii) 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;
 - (iii) if the batter puts the ball into play or advances on a dropped third strike and all runners are safe, the runners must return to their nearest unoccupied base. On a forced play, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they previously occupied except if a runner occupied third base. That runner shall be removed without a run being scored or an out being charged.

WOMEN'S 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 fourteen (14) years and older for divisions 2 and 3, and fifteen (15) years and older for division 1. All female players are permitted to play in this League upon reaching their age eligible birthday. All female players must be registered as a Women's Player or age registered appropriately on the approved database. This rule is in conjunction with rule **2.8.2**.

For 14YO female players playing in the ladies competition, either in a full time or part time situation, this will be treated as a ponag and appropriate ponag paperwork is to be completed (as per a junior playing into a higher age junior competition).

8.2.2. Division 1 will be a full season competition

8.2.3. Division 2 will be a full season competition.

8.2.4. Division 3 will be a full season competition.

8.3. GAME DURATION

DIVISION	GAME DURATION (whichever comes first)
Division 1	7 innings or 2 hours
Division 2	7 innings or 2 hours
Division 3	7 innings or 1½ hours

8.3.1. For Women's games starting at 6pm, if there are two games scheduled after this time, Division 1 and 2 games will be reduced to a 1 ½ hour game.

8.3.2. 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. The inning need not be completed if the Home Team is ahead.

8.3.3. An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the hard cut off has been reached (refer to rule 8.3.5) or 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.

8.3.4. The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances. (see Rules **3.6.10** and **3.7.3**).

8.3.5. In Divisions 2 & 3, no new innings is to commence with less than (5) five minutes to play, and a hard cut off will be enforced at (15) fifteen minutes passed the official end of game time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed inning.

8.4. RUN LIMITATION

8.4.1. There is no run limitation in Women's Division 1

8.4.2. The maximum number of runs that can be scored in Women's Division 2 is six (6) per inning for the first three (3) innings.

8.4.3. The maximum number of runs that can be scored in Women's Division 3 is four (4) per inning for the complete game.

8.4.4. In the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of four (4) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

Note: This does not include an in the park homerun.

WOMEN'S COMPETITION

NOTE: Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

8.5. REGULATION GAME

- 8.5.1. In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, four (4) innings or one (1) hour shall constitute a Regulation Game.
- 8.5.2. A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section 3.3.

8.6. PLAYERS

- 8.6.1. A player shall be counted when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the Electronic system Game Results within the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes
 - a) 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 (8) players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player.
 - b) Where a player leaves a game (for injury only) and is not able to be replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant and not constitute an automatic out.
- 8.6.2. If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 8.6.3. Women's defensive starting teams (i.e. not including any designated hitter) must:
 - a) consist of seven (7) players who have not taken part in any Senior Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of a player who has participated in an earlier, higher ranked Division game as a designated hitter only (see Rule 5.8.2(a); and
 - b) Can't be replaced by a player who has taken part in any fixture on that day until after three complete innings have been played, except in the case of pitchers or injured players.
- 8.6.4. A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate Divisions on the same day.

8.7. DESIGNATED HITTER / 10 BATTER RULE

- 8.7.1. Teams in the Women's Competition may use a designated hitter.
- 8.7.2. 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. When a ten (10) batter batting order is so reduced, the unused batting slot will be treated as if it no longer exists from the time of the batter's exit from the game.
- 8.7.3. The position of tenth batter in the scorebook will be designated as "EH" (Extra Hitter) and may appear in any batting position. An Extra Hitter may be interchanged with a defensive position and can return to the position of Extra Hitter during the same game.

8.8. COURTESY RUNNER

- 8.8.1. All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time subject to the following:
 - a) the courtesy runner shall be any eligible player
 - b) courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
 - c) no running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

WOMEN'S COMPETITION

8.9. UMPIRES

- 8.9.1. The Home Team shall provide **BOTH** the plate and base umpire for all Women's Competition games. Refer to Umpires table in section **2.13** for the required accreditation.
- 8.9.2. Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Women's Competition games with the prior written approval of the QBUA and notification to the GBL Committee and, where they are the home plate umpire, must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.

8.10. DEFENSIVE VISITS

- 8.10.1. A coach may make one visit to the same pitcher in any one inning. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the position of pitcher, but the player may remain in the game.
- 8.10.2. There is no maximum on the number of visits in a women's game.

8.11. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 8.11.1. Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- 8.11.2. Where a player cannot participate in a Regular Season game due to participation as a player in the ABL, AWBL or an international baseball tournament, the Club may apply in writing to the GBL Chair 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 Rule **8.11.1**. This application must be submitted at least 14 days before the Finals Series commence.
- 8.11.3. Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division of the Women's Competition from the same Club:
 - (a) players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:
 - (i) the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or
 - (ii) the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and
 - (b) Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **8.11.1**, noting the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.

NOTE: Seniors / Masters / Women's are all separate competitions. To be eligible to play in finals, you must have played the required qualification games in that competition and adhere to section 8.11

- 8.11.4. In the case that a club's lowest ranked women's side is unable to field a team in the finals, the team may draw from the equivalent grade women's team if the club has two sides in the competition. If this is a standalone women's side, the club may apply in writing to the GBL Committee to get approval for a nominated female player to be used in the finals. If agreed, this player will be ineligible to pitch or catch.
- 8.11.5. Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.

Note: For forfeits, see Section 3.7.

8.12 TEN (10) RUN RULE

- 8.11.6. For all games, including finals, 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.

9. BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

9.1. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

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

9.2. BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS UMPIRES

- 9.2.1. The GBL Competition endorses the concept of 'zero tolerance' towards umpire abuse and team coaches are responsible for ensuring their players and spectators abide by this approach.
- 9.2.2. Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any type of umpiring judgement calls.

RECOMMENDATION

If, in the umpire's opinion, a player or team official:

- (a) *abuses an umpire;*
- (b) *displays dissent towards an umpire;*
- (c) *argues judgement decisions (e.g. balls/strikes, out/safe, fair/foul etc.); or*
- (d) *otherwise shows disrespect towards any of the umpires,*

that individual should be ejected from the game. This is a recommendation only and umpires need to use their best judgement when dealing with game management and player behaviour issues. In all Junior Competition games, umpires are encouraged to first attempt to use team coaches to resolve behaviour issues prior to ejecting any player.

9.3. BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS SCORERS

- 9.3.1. Scorers should not be approached by any person without invitation other than a team official or umpire, from the start of game until they have completed their official duties and left the scoreboard area. Scorers are official representatives entitled to the respect and dignity of their office and should report to the GBL Judiciary any incidents impacting the discharge of their official scorer duties.
- 9.3.2. Scorers have sole authority to make all judgment decisions concerning the scoring of GBL Competition games (e.g. 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.

9.4. MELEE RULE

- 9.4.1. Players and coaches must not engage in a melee under any circumstances.
- 9.4.2. If a melee occurs in (or within the proximity of) any GBL Competition game, the umpire-in-chief must report that occurrence to the GBL Chair by 5pm the next business day after the game for referral to the GBL Committee.
- 9.4.3. If the GBL Committee finds that a team has been involved in a melee, then that team's Club:
- (a) on the first occasion, will be fined \$500;
 - (b) on any further occasion within the same Summer Season, will be fined \$500 and will forfeit the game in which that melee occurred (if applicable).

- 9.4.4. Players and coaches involved in a melee may still be reported for their individual action pursuant to the GBL Judiciary Procedures.

9.5. GBL JUDICIARY

- 9.5.1. The GBL Judiciary is established and administered by the GBL Committee to hear and determine disciplinary proceedings against any person under this Part.
- 9.5.2. The GBL Judiciary will abide by the *GBL Judiciary Procedures* set out in Appendix C.

9.6. JUDICIARY REFERENCES

- 9.6.1. 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.

9.7. JUDICIARY SUSPENSIONS

- 9.7.1. Any person who participates in baseball activities in breach of a judiciary order is an illegal player for the purpose of these Competition Rules.
- 9.7.2. Any person who is suspended is unable to participate in all gameday baseball activities.

APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

(Excluding League Age 12 Players, See Appendix A (i) Below)

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:

1. 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.
2. 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: -

- (a) Playing Up – must only be the age group immediately above their natural age group.
- (b) Playing Up - permitted for single games (maximum 5 games including Finals games) or for the full season.
- (c) A player playing up for the full season is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- (d) 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.
- (e) Playing Down – permitted only for the season, not available for single games.
- (f) A player playing down is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- (g) Any team in a GBL baseball competition will not be permitted to play more than three PONAG players per game.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.

3) AGE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

- (1) Playing Up Consent Form; and
 - (2) Playing Down Consent Form.
- (a) The appropriate paperwork must be completed and a copy sent to the GBL Secretary for sign off, and the original copy retained by the Club in accordance with the following rules.
 - (b) 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 for the (full season / or full time from a particular time in the season) 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. This form is to be sent to the GBL Secretary and the player shall not be eligible to participate in a GBL fixture until this form has been signed and returned to the club from the GBL.
- (b) Permission to play up (casually / as a fill in) is automatically given once the PONAG Playing Up Consent Form is completed and signed by a parent / guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player). 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. The completed form is to be retained and held by the Club.
 - (i) A breach of 5 (a) or (b) rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- (c) The paperwork must be retained for the season and provided to the GBL Competition Committee, if requested, within 24 hours of the request.
- (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.

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.
- (b) A copy of the completed Playing Down Consent Form must be emailed to the GBL Secretary prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- (c) Permission to play down for the season will be given once the PONAG Playing Down Consent Form is completed and approved by the GBL.
- (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 be dealt and communicated back to the club as quickly as possible.

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 2.02 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 A – PONAG PERMISSION

APPENDIX A (i) – PONAG PERMISSION

(League Age 12 Players only) (1st Sept 2012 – 31st Aug 2013)

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:

1. 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.
2. 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. Parents must sign a Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form.

The GBL Competition Committee has decided that PONAG will only be granted to players as follows: -

- (a) Playing Up – must only be the age group immediately above their natural age group.
- (b) Playing Up - permitted for single games (maximum 5 games including Finals games) or for the full season.
- (c) A player playing up for the full season who has signed the Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form is excluded from playing in any other age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- (d) Playing Down – permitted only for the season, not available for single games.
- (e) A player playing down is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- (f) Any team in a GBL baseball competition will not be permitted to play more than three (3) PONAG players per game.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.

3) AGE REQUIREMENTS

- (a) 1st Sept 2012 – 31st August 2013.
- (b) All **registered** players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a club.

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

There are two (2) types of PONAG Permission for league age 12 players – forms available from the Baseball Queensland website:

- (1) Little League – League Age 12 playing in Intermediate League Waiver (Playing Up)
 - (2) Little League – League Age 12 playing in Minors Regulation V (a) Waiver (Playing Down)
- (a) The appropriate paperwork must be completed and a copy sent via email to gldlittleleague@baseballqld.asn.au and the original copy retained by the Club in accordance with the following rules.
 - (b) 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) League age 12 players seeking to play up into Intermediate League must have completed the “Little League Age 12 playing in Intermediate League Waiver Request Form; either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their natural age group.
- (b) A copy of the completed League Age 12 playing in Intermediate League Waiver Request Form must be emailed to qldlittleleague@baseballqld.asn.au and a copy retained by the club
- (c) Approval must be confirmed by return email from Baseball Qld prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- (d) The GBL Competition Committee may, at 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.**

6) PLAYING DOWN CONSENT

- (a) League age 12 players seeking to play down into Little League Minors must have a parent/guardian complete and return a Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form prior to the season commencing.
- (b) A copy of the completed Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form must be emailed to qldlittleleague@baseballqld.asn.au and a copy retained by the club.
- (c) Approval must be confirmed by return email from Baseball Qld prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- (d) The GBL Competition Committee may, at its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Down Consent it deems appropriate.

Playing Down Consent Restrictions/Allowances

- i) **A League age 12 player CANNOT play the position of pitcher in any Little League Minor regular season or finals games.**
- ii) **Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance are excluded from playing in their natural age group.**

7) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- (b) 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 with 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 be dealt and communicated back to the club as quickly as possible.

8) APPEALS AND REVIEWS PROCESS

- (b) 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 2.02 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

1 PREAMBLE

- (a) Terms defined in the Section 1.3 of the *GBL Competition Rules* apply to these Procedures.

2 GBL CHAIR

- (a) The GBL Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The GBL Competition Administrator shall:
 - (i) abide by these Procedures;
 - (ii) be the point of contact for all GBL 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 Competition Rules;
 - (ii) making recommendations to the GBL Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests; and
 - (iii) providing advisory opinions on the 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 (**Chairperson**).
- (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.
- (f) The Chairperson of the GBL Disputes Panel shall communicate the decision of the GBL 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

1 PREAMBLE

- (a) Terms defined in Section 1.3 of the *GBL Competition Rules* apply to these Procedures.

2 GBL COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

- (a) The GBL Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The GBL Competition Administrator shall:
- (i) abide by these Procedures;
 - (ii) be the point of contact for all Referrals or Incident Report Forms;
 - (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

To recognise and enforce disqualifications and suspensions imposed on Players, Coaches, Officials and Spectators in the GBL Competition, Related Competitions, and the Other Competitions, as per the BQ Suspension Policy.

- (a) The GBL Committee shall appoint:
- (i) An “Incident Review Panel” to review reports and issue penalty offers, or direct referrals to the GBL Judiciary panel where appropriate;
 - (ii) a pool of judiciary members available to hear breaches of Section 8.1 of the *GBL Competition Rules* arising from the GBL Competition (**Referrals**); and
 - (iii) a chairperson who is responsible for conducting any hearings set down in accordance with these Procedures (**Chairperson or Acting Chairperson**)
- (a) The GBL Judiciary for any given Referral 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) The jurisdiction of the GBL Judiciary shall be that where conduct described in a Referral by a player, coach, official or spectator 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 (E).
- (d) The GBL Judiciary may refer a Referral to the BQ Judiciary in the following instances:
- (i) the reported conduct is not within the jurisdiction of the GBL 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 GBL Judiciary otherwise deems it appropriate.
- (a) 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 Judiciary, the Complainant or the Club) may be taken into account in determining:
- (i) whether a Referral should be dismissed;
 - (ii) whether a Temporary Sanction should be imposed; and/or
 - (iii) whether the penalty should be increased or decreased, as the case may be.

4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

- (a) Any person may be reported (**Reported Person**) to the Incident Review Panel for breaching the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 or Section 9 of the *GBL Competition Rules* by each of the following persons (**Complainant**):
- (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 Competition game, through an Incident Report Form (***Witness Referral***);
 - (iii) by any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring outside a GBL Competition game, through a written referral (***Other Referral***); or
 - (iv) by the GBL Committee, upon its own investigation through a written referral (***GBL Referral***).
- (b) Incident Report Forms should be submitted to the GBL Competition Administrator as follows:
- (i) for an Umpire's Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following the game;
 - (ii) for a Witness Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following the game;
 - (iii) for Other Referrals, by 5 pm the next business day following the game and
 - (iv) for a GBL Referral, at any time.

Umpire's Referral

- (c) Following a game involving an ejection, the umpire responsible for the ejection (***Reporting Umpire***) must ensure:
- (i) ensure the scorers have recorded details of the ejection on the Electronic System Game Results and their scorebooks;
 - (ii) record the "Class of Charge" refer section 11.A on the game card
 - (iii) The QBUA or the Reporting Umpire shall forward the GBL Competition Administrator the Incident Report Form by 5 pm the next business day following the game.

Ejected Player:

If a person is ejected as a result of behaviour deemed Class A, B or C, they are deemed an ineligible player until their matter has been considered by the Incident Review Panel and/or the GBL Judiciary.

5 PRE-HEARING PROCEDURE

As soon as practicable after receiving a Referral, the GBL Competition Administrator shall forward all relevant material to the Incident Review Panel and then notify the Reported Person's Club Secretary by email:

- (i) that a Referral has been made against the Reported Person;
- (ii) the nature of the complaint/allegations; and
- (iii) that the Incident Review Panel may dismiss the Referral, refer it directly to the GBL Judiciary or lay a charge against the Reported Person and propose a penalty.

The email shall attach any Incident Report Forms provided to the GBL Competition Administrator.

Reported Person Incident Report Form

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

- (i) for an Umpire's Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary; or
- (ii) for a Witness Referral, Other Referral or GBL Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary.

If the Reported Person fails to submit an Incident Report Form and contests the charge and/or penalty, that person will be suspended from participating in any form in the GBL or other competition (See BQ Suspension Policy), until the judiciary hearing unless otherwise directed by the GBL Judiciary Chairperson.

Incident Review Panel determination

Where the Incident Review Panel is satisfied with the information provided, within two (2) business days following the receipt of both the Referral and the Reported Person's Incident Report Form (if provided), the Incident Review Panel shall consider the Referral, Incident Report Forms 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 11A 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 GBL Competition Administrator.

The Incident Review Panel may delay making a determination under this section where they determine further investigation is necessary.

Penalty offer

The GBL Competition Administrator shall notify the relevant Club Secretary and/or Club President and the reported person as soon as practicable by email of 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 as advised by the Incident Review Panel.

Plea

- (a) If charges are laid and a penalty offer is made, the Club and/or the reported person must notify the GBL Competition Administrator by 5 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.
- (b) If the Club and/or Reported person fails to notify the GBL Competition Administrator under this subsection, the Reported Person is deemed to have pleaded guilty to the charges and accepted the penalty offer.
- (c) If the Reported Person accepts the penalty offer or fails to notify the GBL 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”.
- (d) If the Reported Person rejects the penalty offer or pleads not guilty, the matter will be referred to the GBL Judiciary Panel and a hearing shall be set down in accordance with section 7.

6 TEMPORARY SANCTION

- (a) Where the Incident Review Panel has laid charges against a Reported Person under section 5, a temporary penalty may be imposed pending notification of a plea and accepting a penalty offer, attending a judiciary hearing or as otherwise ordered by the Incident Review Panel, GBL Judiciary Chair and/or the GBL Chair (**Temporary Sanction**).
- (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 or other Competitions (Refer to BQ Suspension Policy) in all or specified capacities;
 - (ii) exclusion – to stop a person from entering any 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 Incident Review Panel, GBL Judiciary Chair and/or the GBL Chair, the GBL 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 Incident Review Panel and/or the GBL Chair, or the GBL Judiciary
- (e) A person the subject of a Temporary Sanction may appeal to the GBL Judiciary Chair for a stay of the Temporary Sanction.

7 JUDICIARY HEARINGS

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

Date & Time

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

Attendance

- (c) The GBL Competition Administrator shall confirm the details of the judiciary hearing to the Reported Person’s Club Secretary, the Complainant and the GBL Judiciary members.
- (d) The Complainant is not required to, but may, attend the judiciary hearing.
- (e) If the Reported Person is unable to attend the judiciary hearing, their Club must notify the GBL Competition Administrator and state the reason. The GBL 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)
 - (iii) or determine the matter based on the written evidence.
- (f) 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

- (a) 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 GBL Competition Administrator must be notified by 5 pm the day before the judiciary hearing of any advocates.
- (b) Legal practitioners are not permitted to appear before, or represent a party at, the GBL Judiciary, unless in their personal capacity as a Complainant or Reported Person or otherwise with the agreement of all parties to the dispute.

Evidence

- (a) The GBL Judiciary may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- (b) 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.
- (c) It is the sole responsibility of the parties to provide any evidence they wish to rely on to the GBL Competition Administrator within the time allowed under this section.
- (d) All evidence the Reported Person wishes to adduce at the judiciary hearing must be sent to the GBL Competition Administrator by 5 pm the day before to the judiciary hearing.
- (e) All evidence provided to the GBL Competition Administrator shall be provided to the Reported Person and the Complainant at least 24 hours prior to the judiciary hearing.
- (f) Evidence adduced later than the times stipulated in this section may be taken into account by the GBL Judiciary at its discretion. The GBL Judiciary shall provide sufficient time for all parties who attend the judiciary hearing to read or see any evidence not provided beforehand.
- (g) The Reported Person or the GBL Judiciary may call any witness they desire, however no person has any obligation to provide a statement or give evidence to the GBL Judiciary. Notification of all witnesses attending the judiciary hearing must be sent to the GBL Competition Administrator by 5 pm the day before the judiciary hearing and the Chairperson may limit the number of witnesses who may be called at their discretion.
- (h) The Reported Person, the Complainant and any witnesses detailed in subsection (P) shall be given reasonable opportunity to provide evidence at the judiciary hearing.
- (i) All evidence given at a judiciary hearing is on a confidential and "without prejudice" basis.
- (j) 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 GBL Judiciary who may then ask that question on their behalf.
- (k) The Chairperson has the sole discretion to request any person to remove themselves from the judiciary hearing at any time.
- (l) 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

Unless otherwise determined by the GBL Judiciary Chairperson, the order of proceedings shall be:

- (i) **Introduction**
The Chairperson shall introduce the GBL Judiciary panel members and inform all parties of the order of proceedings.
- (ii) **Procedure**
The Chairperson shall then ask all parties to leave the hearing room. The hearing shall continue with each party providing their evidence with none of the other parties being in the same room while the evidence is provided.
- (iii) **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.
- (iv) **Reported Person**
The Reported Person and/or their advocate shall provide their evidence.
- (v) **Witnesses**
Witnesses shall provide their evidence. Witnesses may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
- (vi) **Consideration**
The GBL Judiciary shall consider the evidence in private and determine the Reported Person's guilt or innocence and/or penalty if applicable.

(vii) Judgment

The Chairperson shall either inform the Reported Person of the outcome of the GBL 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 GBL Competition Administrator and the QBUA (in the case of Umpire's Referrals). Should a decision be reserved, the Reported Person will not be subject to any immediate penalty unless a Temporary Sanction has been imposed.

8 POWERS

- (a) The GBL Judiciary may make any order or impose any penalty against the Reported Person as may be required and as it sees fit, including but not limited to:
 - (i) reprimand – with the offence being recorded;
 - (ii) suspension – may be applied as a complete or partial suspension from participation in the GBL Competition and or other Competitions (See BQ Suspension Policy) 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 and or other Competitions (See BQ Suspension Policy) as a response to a very serious offence;
 - (iv) fines – imposed in such amounts as the GBL Judiciary deems fit; or
 - (v) a combination of the above penalties.
- (b) The GBL Judiciary may order a 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 GBL Judiciary considers relevant.

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

- (e) The GBL 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 will be listed on the GBL Website for the duration of the suspension. Suspended players are illegal players for the purpose of the GBL Competition Rules.

9 RE-OPENING A HEARING

- (a) A party may make an application to the GBL Judiciary to re-open a Referral after a determination only on the basis that there has been an error of fact that led to a substantial error having been made.
- (b) The GBL Judiciary may, in its discretion, re-open the Referral, correct the error, and amend its decision if necessary.

10 APPEALS

- (a) An appeal of a GBL Judiciary decision is to be made to the GBL Competition Administrator. The GBL Competition Administrator will then inform the GBL Committee to elect an Appeals Panel
- (b) The Appeals Panel will be elected by the GBL Committee from those Judiciary members who did not partake in the initial determination, or other person as decided by the GBL Committee.
- (c) An appeal must be made to the GBL Competition Administrator no later than 28 days after the original determination was communicated to the parties

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- (d) If the appeal is not lodged with the GBL Competition Administrator within 28 days, an explanation for the delay must accompany the appeal
- (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.

11 CHARGES AND RECOMMENDED TABLE OF PENALTIES

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 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 – Grade 1 • deliberately distracting or provoking another person – Grade 1 • insulting or otherwise deliberately offending another person – Grade 1 • unreasonably refusing to cooperate with a coach, player or official; - Grade 1 • failing to display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat; - Grade 2 • disrespecting the rights, dignity and worth of any participants; Grade 2 • encouraging others to act in an unsportsmanlike manner; or – Grade 3 • otherwise bringing the game into disrepute. – Grade 3 • breach code of conduct – Grade 3 • bullying – Grade 3 • sexism – Grade 3
Consuming alcohol or tobacco (Grade 2)	Where a person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumes alcohol while participating in a game; • consumes tobacco or any illicit substance (including, but not limited to, smoking, chewing or dipping) within the on-field confines of any baseball facility; or • smokes tobacco within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at any Junior Competition game.
Audible obscenity	Any obscene language or swearing in a game that is loud enough to carry to the spectators but not directed at any person. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity) 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. (Grade 1)
Equipment abuse (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)	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) unless otherwise constituting an "aggravated equipment abuse" charge.
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); (Grade 1) • a player (who is not also the team's coach) disputing an umpire's technical game ruling; (Grade 2) • disobeying an umpire's direction (unless constituting a "failing to leave" charge). (Grade 3) • discourteous or disrespectful behaviour directed at the umpire. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)
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. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity) Taunting or baiting another individual. (Grade 1) Verbally abusing or ridiculing another individual (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)
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. (Grade 3)
Class B – Intimidation	

APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

Touching an umpire	Any intentional, unwanted physical contact with an umpire or physical contact incidental to a confrontation. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)
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. (Grade 1-2)
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. (Grade 3) Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent, (Grade 1)
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 is likely to cause injury to an opposing player or official (e.g. intentionally throwing at a batter, intentionally sliding into a player). (Grade 3)
Attempting to strike	An intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike another person. This may include engaging in a melee. (Grade 1-2 depending on severity)
Striking	Intentionally striking another person in any way. (Grade 3)
Aggravated equipment abuse	Conduct amounting to equipment abuse whereby a player is hit or injured as a result of the equipment abuse. (Grade 3)
Spitting	Spitting on or at any individual. (Grade 3)
Breach of Judiciary Order	
Breach of GBL Judiciary order	Where a person or a Club breaches an order previously given by the GBL Judiciary.

- Conduct which, in the opinion of the Incident Review Panel and/or GBL 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. (See Baseball Australia Member Protection Policy)
- Where the same conduct constitutes more than one offence, the more serious offence (based on the Class) shall be laid. This in no way inhibits or prevents the GBL Judiciary from accepting a plea of guilty or making a determination of guilt in respect of the less serious offence should it be appropriate in the circumstances.

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 GBL 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 E – Misconduct	1st Offence (early plea in brackets)	2nd Offence (early plea in brackets)	3rd Offence (early plea in brackets)
Grade 1	1 week (NFA)	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)
Grade 2	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)
Grade 3	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)
Class D – Dissent			
Grade 1	1 week (NFA)	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)
Grade 2	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)
Grade 3	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)
Class C – Offensive Behaviour			
Grade 1	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)
Grade 2	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)
Grade 3	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)	6 weeks (5 weeks)
Class B – Intimidation			
Grade 1	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)	6 weeks (5 weeks)
Grade 2	5 weeks (4 weeks)	6 weeks (5 weeks)	7 Weeks (6 weeks)
Grade 3	6 weeks (5 weeks)	7 weeks (6 weeks)	8 weeks (7 weeks)
Class A – Dangerous Act			
Grade 1	7 weeks (6 weeks)	9 weeks (8 weeks)	12 weeks (11 weeks)
Grade 2	10 weeks (11 weeks)	13 weeks (12 weeks)	14 weeks (13 weeks)
Grade 3	15 weeks (14 weeks)	16 weeks (15 weeks)	17 weeks (16 weeks)
Breach of GBL Judiciary order		Reported Person – minimum 20 weeks	
Breach of GBL Judiciary order		Club – minimum \$500	
*NFA – No Further Action			