



**BASEBALL**  
QUEENSLAND  
MASTERS  
**TOURNAMENTS**  
TECHNICAL NORMS

## Table of Contents

1. PREAMBLE.....	4
2. TOURNAMENTS .....	4
3. OBJECTIVE.....	4
4. HOST VENUES .....	4
5. TOURNAMENT DATES.....	4
6. LODGEMENT OF ENTRIES .....	4
7. OFFICIALS’ MEETING AND FUNCTIONS .....	5
8. TEAM ROSTERS AND ROSTER SIZES.....	5
9. ACCOMODATION.....	6
10. FIRST AID.....	6
11. AGE QUALIFICATIONS.....	6
12. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS.....	6
13. PLAYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS .....	7
14. PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT .....	7
15. COACHES.....	7
16. UMPIRES .....	8
17. SCORERS AND OFFICIAL RECORDER .....	9
18. STATITSTICS OF A TOURNAMENT .....	9
19. THE PLAYING FIELD .....	10
20. FIELD AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS .....	10
21. GAME DURATION .....	12
22. TIE BREAKER.....	12
23. RUN LIMITATIONS .....	12
24. REGULATION GAME .....	12
25. SUSPENDED / RESCHEDULED GAME .....	14
26. ABANDONDED GAME .....	15
27. STARTING TIMES OF GAMES .....	15
28. PLAYING CONDITIONS.....	15
29. POINTS SCORING .....	15
30. RANKING OF THE TEAMS.....	16
31. TIME SAVING RULES.....	17
32. PLAYER INFORMATION.....	19
33. PITCHING REGULATIONS .....	19
33.1. Normal common-sense rest periods should be observed for pitchers.....	19



34. COURTESY RUNNERS ..... 19

35. COLLISION RULE AT HOME PLATE ..... 19

36. TOURNAMENT BATTING ..... 21

37. BALLS..... 21

38. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS ..... 22

39. AWARDS..... 23

40. PROTESTS..... 23

41. REPORTED PLAYERS/OFFICIALS..... 23

42. PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES..... 25

43. RELATED DOCUMENTS ..... 26



## 1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. In general, the Masters State Titles will be played under the Official Rules of Baseball and these Baseball Queensland (BQ) Masters Tournament Technical Norms.
- 1.2. Special regulations (e.g. pitching allowances, time-saving rules, etc.) have been introduced to apply to the State Titles. In applying the rules and procedures they should be read as referring to the particular event being staged.
- 1.3. Wherever the word Team is used, it is taken to mean Club, Region or Participating Team.
- 1.4. Wherever the term Open is used, the regulation will apply to all Divisions.

## 2. TOURNAMENTS

- 2.1. BQ State Titles series which are governed by these Technical Norms include:
  - 2.1.1. Masters State Titles – Division One Division Two and Women’s 25+.

## 3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.1. The objective of Masters State Titles is to provide people of suitable ages the opportunity to compete in an annual competition to be crowned the State Champions.

## 4. HOST VENUES

- 4.1. The Masters State Titles will be played at a venue determined by BQ.

## 5. TOURNAMENT DATES

- 5.1. BQ will determine Masters State Titles dates.

## 6. LODGEMENT OF ENTRIES

- 6.1. Regions should advise BQ of entry into Masters State Titles no later than:
  - 6.1.1. Eight (8) weeks prior to the respective event, each team is to submit a (completed) preliminary Team Roster and pay a \$100.00 deposit toward tournament entry fees. Preliminary Team Rosters will not be accepted if they do not feature all the following:
    - the minimum number of age eligible, registered Players required for the respective competition;
    - at least one (1) accredited Coach, one (1) accredited Umpire and one (1) accredited Scorer capable of scoring in GameChanger; and
    - proof of payment of tournament deposit.
  - 6.1.2. Two (2) weeks prior to the respective event each team is to submit a completed final Team Roster and make payment of the balance of the tournament entry fee. Final Team Rosters (to be used in event programs) will not be accepted if they do not feature all of the following:
    - the minimum number of age eligible, registered Players required for the respective competition;



- at least one (1) accredited Coach, one (1) accredited Umpire and one (1) accredited Scorer capable of scoring in GameChanger; and,
- proof of payment of balance of tournament entry fee.

## 7. OFFICIALS' MEETING AND FUNCTIONS

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

## 8. TEAM ROSTERS AND ROSTER SIZES

- 8.1. Preliminary Team Rosters (PTR) are due eight (8) weeks prior to the start date of any Tournament event.



- 8.2. Final Team Rosters (FTR) are to be completed and submitted in writing to BQ no later than four (4) weeks prior to the start of each Tournament. Changes made after the submission of the Final Team Roster must be submitted in writing to BQ for approval. Late changes may not appear in the event program.
- 8.3. Any changes made to the final roster at any time needs to be submitted to BQ in writing. NB: Late changes are unlikely to appear in the events program.
- 8.4. Any final roster changes that are required need to be submitted in writing to BQ, Masters State Titles Director, Scorer Coordinator and Umpire Coordinator at least one (1) day prior to tournament commencement.
- 8.5. Each Team shall consist of minimum twelve (12) players up to maximum of fourteen (14) Players.

## 9. ACCOMODATION

- 9.1. Teams participating at the State Title can make their own accommodation and flight arrangements. A Risk Management Plan for the Management of Player Welfare must be put in place by all participating teams.

## 10. FIRST AID

- 10.1. BQ will ensure that a qualified and dedicated First Aid attendant is present during all games of the Masters State Titles.

## 11. AGE QUALIFICATIONS

- 11.1. Each Masters State Titles has specific age qualifications for its participants.
  - 11.1.1. Male participants: Competing Players must be thirty five (35) years of age prior to the commencement of the tournament.
  - 11.1.2. Female participants: Competing Players must be twenty five (25) years of age prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- 11.2. It is the responsibilities of all teams that contain under-age Players to ensure all adult team personnel comply with their State's Child Protection Legislation. In addition, please refer to the section relating to the taking of images of children.

## 12. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 12.1. All players must be properly registered with Baseball Queensland either through club registration or an additional tournament specific registration process.
- 12.2. Friendship Players
  - 12.2.1. Friendship players will be managed directly through the Host Venue.
- 12.3. Finals Eligibility
  - 12.3.1. To qualify to play in the finals, each player must participate in at least 30% of innings played in preliminary Games.
  - 12.3.2. Exceptions to this rule must be pre-approved by the Tournament Director.
  - 12.3.3. An inning is defined as three (3) defensive outs, and therefore one (1) defensive out equals one-third inning, etc.
- 12.4. Any team playing with an unaccredited player will lose the competition points and the game will be ruled a forfeit. Accreditation checks will be carried out before play and over the course of the event.



- 12.5. All teams must take the field with a minimum of nine (9) accredited and eligible players.
- 12.6. Once registered with a team, players will not be allowed to transfer temporarily or for a second team in another division unless the Tournament Director sanctions the transfer request.
- 12.7. The exception is where a team with only eight (8) players can “borrow” a player from the opposing team. Again, prior approval from the Tournament Director is required.

## 13. PLAYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS

- 13.1. Player Participation Agreements (BQ Ethics and Expectations Document which includes Media Release and Medical Authority Form) are to be completed by all Players. Team Executive Officers are required to retain a hard copy of the Medical Authority Form during the Masters State Titles. Medical Authority Forms should be destroyed, in a confidential manner, after the event has concluded. Soft copies on personal devices are not permitted.

## 14. PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- 14.1. BQ Code of Conduct is to be adhered to by all Players in order to participate in all BQ Masters State Titles.
- 14.2. Where there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct, irrespective of whether on- or off-field, such breaches must be reported to the Tournament Director. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the Tournament Director/BQ Staff and team personnel.
- 14.3. The use or possession of any form of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia of any description is banned. Team and Masters State Titles Officials shall have the right to conduct a search of a Player’s room, bags, clothing or personal belongings if there is a reasonable suspicion that a serious breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred. This must be conducted in the presence of the Player and an independent adult witness.
- 14.4. BQ is committed to ensuring that each Masters State Titles is run in an environment that is free of sexual harassment from Players, Coaches, Umpires, and anyone attending. Anyone who breaches this policy will be removed from the event and banned for at least one (1) year subject to a decision from the Tribunal Committee. Sexual Harassment is defined as any unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited behaviour of a sexual nature which makes a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, and the display of offensive material or other behaviour, which creates a sexually hostile playing environment. Sexual harassment is against the law and will be punished accordingly.
- 14.5. BA Anti-Doping Policy (to which BQ adheres) supports a drug free environment in the sport of baseball for its Players, Coaches and Officials. All participants are directed to [sportintegrity.gov.au](http://sportintegrity.gov.au) to check all medications and have a clear understanding on the implications of drugs in sport.

## 15. COACHES

- 15.1. Where there has been a breach in any aspect of the Participation Agreement, irrespective of whether on field or off field, such breaches must be reported to the



Tournament Director. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the Tournament Director/BQ Staff and team personnel.

- 15.2. If a team Official is found to have a case to answer, the matter will be referred to the Masters State Titles Tribunal for assessment and subsequent imposition of penalties where appropriate (see Section 41 – Reported Players/Coaches for further details).
- 15.3. All Coaches at the Masters State Titles will be attired in team approved apparel.
- 15.4. On-field Coaches will remain in the Coaches' boxes at all times and will not talk to members of the opposing team, nor make comments relating to Umpires or their decisions.
- 15.5. Base Coaches are required to wear "skull cap" style helmets (i.e., without ear covers); base Coaches under the age of eighteen (18) must wear a two-eared batting helmet.
- 15.6. All Masters State Titles Managers/Head Coaches must be accredited to at least Certificate C of the USA Coaching Program. Assistant Coaches must be accredited to at least Certificate B of the USA Coaching Program.
- 15.7. The use or possession of any form of tobacco (including e-cigarettes) or alcohol of any description by Coaches, Players or any team Official while participating in the game, moving onto and off the playing grounds including batting practice areas, on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, whilst in uniform or anywhere in the vicinity of the Masters State Titles Venue is banned.
  - 15.7.1. Penalty: Ejection from the game and appropriate follow-up as a breach of the Participation Agreement.
- 15.8. All Coaches in the Masters State Titles must have completed the Sport Integrity Australia online [Clean Sport 101 course](#) prior to the event or within the past 12 months.

## 16. UMPIRES

- 16.1. The Panel of Umpires will be convened from those Umpires nominated by the Regions/Teams and those appointed by the respective tournament's Umpire Coordinator as appointed by the Queensland Baseball Umpires Association (QBUA).
  - 16.1.1. Each Region/Team is to nominate an appropriately qualified (accredited – any level) Umpire when submitting their team Roster.
- 16.2. The use or possession of any form of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, or alcohol of any description by Umpires whilst in uniform on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, or in the vicinity of any Masters State Titles venue, is banned.
- 16.3. Uniform to be worn shall be as approved by QBUA.
- 16.4. BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all Umpires in order to participate in any Masters State Titles. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Umpire Manager prior to the Masters State Titles.
- 16.5. The Umpire Coordinator
  - 16.5.1. For each Masters State Titles, the QBUA shall appoint a Coordinator for the umpiring panel. The Coordinator may be a member of the panel.
  - 16.5.2. The duties of the Coordinator shall include:
    - Full control of the umpiring discipline of the panel both on and off the field.
    - Liaison with the Tournament Director for application of their requirements.
    - Duties associated with the appointment of Umpires.
    - The appointment of a Crew Chief to each team of Umpires in each game.



16.5.3. The Umpires Coordinator must sign BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement. Signed copies of the Code of Ethics are to be presented to the Tournament Director, prior to commencement of the respective tournament.

#### 16.6. Appointments

16.6.1. The Umpire Coordinator is the sole agent for appointment of Umpires for the duration of the event.

16.6.2. The Umpire Coordinator may appoint any Umpire to any games as they see fit. All Umpires are considered neutral.

16.6.3. The Umpire Coordinator will determine (in consultation with the Tournament Director) how many Umpires will be appointed to each game.

## 17. SCORERS AND OFFICIAL RECORDER

17.1. The Panel of Scorers will be convened from those Scorers nominated by the Regions/Teams.

17.2. Each Region/Team nominate an appropriately qualified (Level 2) Scorer when submitting their team Roster.

17.3. The use or possession of any form of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, or alcohol of any description by Scorers on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, whilst in uniform or in the vicinity of any Masters State Titles Venue is banned.

17.4. BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all Scorers in order to participate in any Masters State Titles. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Tournament Director prior to the Masters State Titles.

17.5. Where required, the Queensland Baseball Scorers Association (QBSA) shall appoint a Coordinator for the scoring panel. The Coordinator may be a member of the panel. The duties of the Coordinator include:

- Full control of the discipline of the scoring panel at all times.
- Liaison with the Tournament Director for application of their requirements.
- Duties associated with the appointment of scorers.

17.6. BQ will provide devices for the scoring of games. Scorers are welcome to utilise their own devices also.

## 18. STATISTICS OF A TOURNAMENT

18.1. GameChanger is to be used in conjunction with the official BA/BQ Scorebook. One (1) Scorer will record the game in GameChanger while the other will use the official Scorebook.

18.2. All Players eligible to play in a game must be listed on the line-up card handed to the Plate Umpire at the home plate meeting. However, in the event of an oversight in which an eligible Player is omitted from the original line-up card, this will not prevent that Player from entering the game.

18.3. In listing each team in the scorebook, scorers must place both the team's batting and pitching lists and stats on the same page.

18.4. Statistics other than those provided to subscribers within GameChanger will not be publicised.



- 18.5. BQ will not provide participating teams with a summary of available Players or team statistics (for their team or their opposition).

## 19. THE PLAYING FIELD

- 19.1. Ground dimensions are:

	Division Women's	Division 1 and 2
Pitching Distance	54'	60' 6"
Base paths	80'	90'

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

- 19.2. These dimensions may only be varied with the prior authority of the Tournament Director or BQ representative.
- 19.3. A home run perimeter is mandatory on all fields used for BQ Masters State Titles.

## 20. FIELD AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 20.1. The following minimum field requirements have been developed by BQ and are open to negotiation with the host organisation.
- 20.2. Facility Standards - The following minimum facility standards have been developed by BQ and are open to negotiation with the host organisation.
- 20.2.1. Boundary, back net, foul poles and home run fence are to be made of a material that does not present an unreasonable risk to Players.
- 20.2.2. All materials to be used for home run fences shall be inspected by the Tournament Director or a delegate for the particular series prior to the commencement of the respective event.
- 20.2.3. Back nets are to be at a minimum distance of 45 feet from home plate or as approved by BQ for the series, prior to the Masters State Titles.
- 20.2.4. Where a lit field is provided, the lighting shall be to Standards Australia document AS 2560.1—2018 (Minimum 500 Lux for the Infield and 300 Lux for the Outfield, preferable 750 Lux for the infield and 500 Lux for the outfield). Host organisation to provide recent (within ten (10) months from date of issue) lighting audit report to BQ no later than one (1) month prior to respective event.
- 20.2.5. Wherever metal cleats are allowed, dirt mounds are required on the field and in the bullpen areas.
- 20.2.6. Protective screens are required to be supplied for batting practice: An L Screen (7x7 feet) and square screen (8x8 feet) (mandatory) together with a 3rd screen (8x8 feet) if a 1st Baseman is receiving fielded balls from other infielders.
- 20.2.7. Adequate batting practice areas are to be available at the field or in close proximity.
- 20.2.8. Any batting tunnels to be used must be equipped with an L Screen and impact netting.

- 20.2.9. Fields to be used for games and warm-up must be of good quality, with a level, even surface and without intrusions or holes, which may increase the injury risk for participants. Fields are to be maintained in good order throughout the event.
- 20.2.10. Adequate sun protection must be provided for all Players and Coaches at the fields. This includes the bullpen area.
- 20.2.11. Ready access to ice water and ice is to be provided by the host organisation to each dugout and Umpire's changeroom.
- 20.2.12. Scorers and Officials are to be provided with a covered area.
- 20.2.13. The scorer's area must be suitably positioned, providing a clear view of the entire field and good access to communication with the Umpire. Access to electricity or portable battery packs is required.
- 20.2.14. Bases used shall be anchored into the ground by a solid thick rod firmly and securely attached to the base and inserted into a pipe that is firmly and securely anchored in the ground. The use of spikes driven into the earth to anchor bases is not permitted.
- 20.2.15. Scoreboards are to be provided on all grounds used; each scoreboard is to display a minimum of the score and the innings.
- 20.3. Each BQ Masters State Titles shall have a Grounds Coordinator (Appointed by the Host Organisation) with sufficient crew to be available at all games during the pre-game phase and during all games.
- 20.4. The following requirements are to be provided in regard to facilities for all Queensland Masters State Titles:
- 20.4.1. Screens for the protection of Players and Coaches are to be provided at batting practice areas and within batting tunnels.
- 20.4.2. A sufficient number of power points are to be made available at the ground.
- 20.4.3. Venues with access to phone, and internet facilities to meet the daily requirements of the Masters State Titles are preferred.
- 20.4.4. Adequate toilet facilities are to be provided for competing teams, Officials and spectators.
- 20.4.5. There shall be ready access to ice supplies for Players and for use in the first aid treatment of Players – host organisation to provide and replenish ice as needed, at least three small freezer bags of injury ice in the third base dugout of each field in use for the event.
- 20.4.6. A qualified and dedicated First Aid officer (as appointed by BQ) must be in attendance at all times and a designated treatment area must be provided.
- 20.4.7. Access to doctors, physiotherapists and hospitals is to be advised to competing teams.
- 20.4.8. Available medical services are to be advised to competing teams, which are available for use on a user pays basis.
- 20.4.9. It is strongly recommended that an isolated area be provided at all venues for use by Scorers in compiling game reports as well as use by the Tournament Director for meetings where privacy is required, e.g., Tribunal or disciplinary meetings.



## 21. GAME DURATION

- 21.1. **Division 1** will play seven (7) innings or 110 minutes, whichever comes first. A new inning is not to commence with fewer than 10 minutes to play.
- 21.1.1. However, when a game is tied at the completion of 100 minutes, or seven innings has been played, a new tie breaker innings can commence, but no game is to continue past 120 minutes.
- 21.1.2. If the inning has not been completed by 120 minutes, the game score shall revert to the last completed innings.
- 21.1.3. If both teams are equal on runs at the end of the game, then draw will be declared.
- 21.1.4. This also applies to the round robin and medal rounds.
- 21.1.4.1. If the issue of inclement weather including poor light prevails and there is no clear result at this time, then the result will be determined by the Tournament Director based on final preliminary round standings (i.e., the highest ranked team will be awarded the gold medal and so on).
- 21.2. **Division 2 and Women's** games will play seven (7) innings or 90 minutes, whichever comes first. A new inning is not to commence with fewer than 10 minutes to play, and a hard cut off finish will be enforced.
- 21.2.1. However, when a game is tied at the completion of 90 minutes, or seven innings has been played, a new tie breaker innings can commence, but no game is to continue past 100 minutes.
- 21.2.2. If the inning has not been completed by 100 minutes, the game score shall revert to the last completed innings.
- 21.2.3. If both teams are equal on runs at the end of the game, then draw will be declared.
- 21.2.4. This also applies to the round robin and medal rounds.
- 21.2.4.1. If the issue of inclement weather including poor light prevails and there is no clear result at this time, then the result will be determined by the Tournament Director based on final preliminary round standings (i.e., the highest ranked team will be awarded the gold medal and so on).

## 22. TIE BREAKER

- 22.1. When a tie breaker is needed, as per section 22, an extra innings may be played. In this inning the last batter or substitute player (not previously removed from the game), shall commence the inning at second base with no outs against the batting team.

## 23. RUN LIMITATIONS

- 23.1. **Division 1:** A ten (10) run mercy rule will come into effect after five (5) completed innings or 80 minutes, whichever comes first.
- 23.2. **Division 2 and Women's:** A ten (10) run mercy rule will come into effect after three (3) completed innings or 60 minutes, whichever comes first.

## 24. REGULATION GAME

- 24.1. **Division 1** medal games will play seven (7) innings for a regulation game.



24.2. **Division 2** medal games will comprise six (6) innings for a regulation game.

24.3. It is a regulation game when:

**24.3.1. Division 1**

- 24.3.1.1. When the Home Team has scored more runs in six (6) innings respectively than the Visiting Team has scored in seven (7) innings.
- 24.3.1.2. The Home team scores the winning run in the 7th innings before the inning is completed.
- 24.3.1.3. If a batter in the last half of the final inning of a game hits a home run over the home run fence or into the stand, all runners on base at the time of the hit as well as the batter, shall be entitled to score, but to legally score all bases must be touched in order by all runners. The final score of such a game shall be the total number of runs scored by each team.
- 24.3.1.4. The score is tied at the end of the 7th innings played, the game is continued until one (1) team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings, provided that if the Home team scores the winning run before the 3rd out is made in any inning, the game shall terminate and be a regulation game.
- 24.3.1.5. The game is terminated by the Umpire on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible, provided four (4) or more innings have been played or 65 minutes, or the Home team scores more runs in three (3) innings, or before the completion of its 4th inning, then the Visiting team has scored in four (4) completed innings.
- 24.3.1.6. If the Umpire terminates play after five (5) completed innings, the score of such games shall be the score, at the end of the last completed inning. If, however, the Home team has scored more total runs than the Visiting team and the game is terminated while the home team is at bat, the score of such game shall be the total runs scored by each team. Also, when a game is terminated after five (5) completed innings with the Visiting team at bat and the Home team ahead, the score shall be the total number of runs scored by each team at the time the game is terminated.
- 24.3.1.7. In a timed game, the game will be deemed complete when the game was scheduled to conclude. (i.e. a two (2) hour game will finish at exactly two (2) hours and a result will be determined). Scores will revert back to the score at the last completed inning. If team were tied at the last completed inning the result will be recorded as a tied game.

**24.3.2. Division 2**

- 24.3.2.1. When the Home Team has scored more runs in five (5) innings respectively than the Visiting Team has scored in six (6) innings.
- 24.3.2.2. The Home team scores the winning run in the 6th innings before the inning is completed.
- 24.3.2.3. If a batter in the last half of the final inning of a game hits a home run over the home run fence or into the stand, all runners on base at the time of the hit as well as the batter, shall be entitled to score, but to legally score all bases must be touched in order by all runners. The final score of such a game shall be the total number of runs scored by each team.
- 24.3.2.4. The score is tied at the end of the 6th innings played, the game is continued until one (1) team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings, provided that if the Home team scores the winning run before the 3rd out is made in any inning, the game shall terminate and be a regulation game.
- 24.3.2.5. The game is terminated by the Umpire on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible, provided three (3) or more innings have been played or 50 minutes, or the Home team scores more

runs in two (2) innings, or before the completion of its 3rd inning, then the Visiting team has scored in three (3) completed innings.

24.3.2.6. If the Umpire terminates play after four (4) completed innings, the score of such games shall be the score, at the end of the last completed inning. If, however, the Home team has scored more total runs than the Visiting team and the game is terminated while the home team is at bat, the score of such game shall be the total runs scored by each team. Also, when a game is terminated after four (4) completed innings with the Visiting team at bat and the Home team ahead, the score shall be the total number of runs scored by each team at the time the game is terminated.

24.3.2.7. In a timed game, the game will be deemed complete when the game was scheduled to conclude. (i.e. a one and a half (1.5) hour game will finish at exactly one and a half (1.5) hours and a result will be determined). Scores will revert back to the score at the last completed inning. If team were tied at the last completed inning the result will be recorded as a tied game.

24.4. One-Sided Games – Provided that the losing team has completed its turn at bat:

24.4.1. A seven (7) inning game shall be completed when one team is leading by:

24.4.1.1. ten (10) or more runs after five (5) completed innings or

24.4.1.2. fifteen (15) or more runs after four (4) completed innings or

24.4.1.3. twenty (20) or more runs after three (3) completed innings.

24.4.2. A six (6) inning game shall be completed when one team is leading by:

24.4.2.1. ten (10) or more runs after four (4) completed innings or

24.4.2.2. fifteen (15) or more runs after three (3) completed innings.

24.5. Weather affected games - In all games including medal rounds, three innings (or two & a half if the home team is ahead) or 60 minutes, will constitute a regulation game and points will be allocated accordingly.

## 25. SUSPENDED / RESCHEDULED GAME

25.1. It is a suspended game when the Umpire terminates play on account of darkness, weather or any other cause which makes it impossible for further play in the game, and where fewer than five (5) innings have been completed or the time has been reached.

25.2. When a number of games are suspended or not commenced, then these games shall be rescheduled so that each team play as near as possible an equal number of games. Where the suspended or not commenced games that are to be re-scheduled include key games between teams vying for the Masters State Titles, then these key games will be given precedence over other games. Games involving teams that cannot be feasibly reconvened at a later date will also be considered a priority for completion. Games can be re-scheduled on rest days if the Tournament Director desires. If re-scheduled, suspended games will be re-commenced at the point where the games were halted.

25.3. If game(s) are rain delayed or rained out, they may be rescheduled on an alternate ground. This decision remains with the Tournament Director.

25.4. Any pitcher's eligibility to pitch in the continuation of any resumed game (the resumption of a game that had previously been suspended) shall be determined by the applicable rest period stipulated for any pitches delivered in the game or games after the game was suspended.



## 26. ABANDONED GAME

- 26.1. If the Tournament Director cannot re-schedule a suspended game, then that game will be considered as abandoned, and competing teams will be awarded points as detailed in Rule 29.1.4.
- 26.2. Note: Any pitches thrown in an abandoned game shall be counted in pitch statistics and must be included in calculations concerning pitch limits and required rest periods.
- 26.3. If the Medal Rounds are washed out, then the final standing will be declared by the Tournament Director based on the final preliminary rounds standing (i.e., the highest ranked team will be awarded the gold medal and so on).

## 27. STARTING TIMES OF GAMES

- 27.1. Where possible, all games will not begin before 7:30 am. The Tournament Director must approve all earlier starts.
- 27.2. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that they are at the correct diamond ready to commence play at the scheduled time. If a team fails to appear or are not ready to start the game within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled commencement time, a forfeit can be claimed.
- 27.3. On-field warm-ups are not allowed during this event - there are several areas throughout the park to facilitate team warm up.

## 28. PLAYING CONDITIONS

- 28.1. Baseball QLD, Tournament Director and officials anticipate all games will be played in the spirit of healthy competition – your cooperation is appreciated.
- 28.2. Game times will be under the control of the Tournament Director and game times are to be adhered to. Some games may be delayed if the prior game is not completed within the required time limit.
- 28.3. The Tournament Director will be responsible for the arrangements for the program of games, in consultation with BQ, subject to the following conditions.
- 28.4. Weather interference:
- The number of games to be played may be reduced where weather or other conditions prevent the completion of the program within the time available.
  - From the first game of any Masters State Titles the decision to delay or abandon a game shall be made by the Tournament Director.
- 28.5. Wherever possible, the event schedule will include a finals series.
- 28.6. Night games may be played. Venue curfews are to be observed.
- 28.7. Order of Benches and Batting – The second named team in the official schedule of games will be regarded as the Home Team, field first and occupy the third base dugout or bench. This will also be denoted by the use of the @ sign. E.g. Bris West @ Bris South, making Bris South the home team.

## 29. POINTS SCORING

- 29.1. The Points allocated to Teams will be as follows:



- 29.1.1. THREE points for a win.
- 29.1.2. TWO points for a tied game or a WASHOUT (shall be scored as a draw 0-0).
- 29.1.3. ONE point for a loss.
- 29.1.4. NO points for a FORFEIT loss (with the winning team awarded the game 7-0) or an ABANDONED game.
- 29.2. All points earned throughout the tournament will be counted towards the team's final standings within their Pool/Division.
- 29.3. Gold Silver and Bronze Medals will be awarded to the first three place holders after the medal rounds of games.
- 29.4. A separate Draw for all divisions has been created and is available for all participants.

## 30. RANKING OF THE TEAMS

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



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

## 31. TIME SAVING RULES

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

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



## 32. PLAYER INFORMATION

- 32.1. Injury or illness - Should a Player be rendered unavailable for a period of time due to illness or injury the following shall apply:
- 32.1.1. The team is to provide the Tournament Director with written advice from a qualified medical officer detailing the period of time that the Player is unable to participate.
- 32.1.2. It is the responsibility of team management to provide the Tournament Director with any medical documentation required to verify a Player is unable to play.

## 33. PITCHING REGULATIONS

- 33.1. Normal common-sense rest periods should be observed for pitchers.

## 34. COURTESY RUNNERS

- 34.1. All divisions may substitute a designated runner for the catcher and pitcher at any time.
- 34.2. It is mandatory to substitute the catchers and the pitchers at two (2) out.
- 34.3. Additionally, one other courtesy runner may be a substitute for an injured or disabled player participating in the game. The substituted players must be identified and made known to both the Umpires and the opposition Team Manager at the commencement of the game.
- 34.4. Any player on the team's roster can be a designated or courtesy runner but no one player can do both in the same game.
- 34.5. This substitution can occur for one player in the team in all divisions in this event.

## 35. COLLISION RULE AT HOME PLATE

- 35.1. A runner attempting to score may not deviate from their direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other Player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the Umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other Player covering home plate) in such a manner, the Umpire shall declare the runner out (even if the Player covering home plate loses possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the Umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.
- 35.2. *Rule of Baseball 7.13 Comment:* The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the plate, the runner's lowering of the shoulder, or the runner's pushing through with their hands, elbows or arms, would support a determination that the runner deviated from the pathway in order to initiate contact with the catcher in violation of Rule 7.13. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he/she shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 7.13. A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner's buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. In the case of a head-first slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if their body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher.



- 35.3. Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as they are attempting to score. If, in the judgment of the Umpire, the catcher without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the Umpire shall call or signal the runner safe. Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation of this Rule 7.13 if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw, and the Umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.



## 36. TOURNAMENT BATTING

### 36.1. Division 1

- 36.1.1. A Designated Hitter may be used for a pitcher and will be credited with three (3) defensive outs for each plate appearance.
- 36.1.2. The following options are available for the Queensland Masters State Titles and should be read in conjunction with the Designated Hitter Rule.
  - 36.1.2.1. A team may move the pitcher to the Designated Hitter's role and introduce a new pitcher anytime in the game, subject to Rule 36.1.2.3.
  - 36.1.2.2. Where the Designated Hitter has started the game, a once-only switch in roles between the Pitcher and the Designated Hitter is allowed subject to Rule 36.1.2.3.
  - 36.1.2.3. The Manager may only initiate these changes directly with the Plate Umpire on the first visit to the Pitcher during a defensive innings, or during an offensive innings.
  - 36.1.2.4. A Designated Hitter who becomes the Pitcher, or a Pitcher who becomes the Designated Hitter may not participate in the game in any other way.
  - 36.1.2.5. In any subsequent substitutions or positional changes following the once-only switch mentioned above, when a Player comes from a defensive position or Designated Hitter to the mound, the Designated Hitter may not be used for the remainder of the game.
- 36.1.3. Ohtani Rule
  - 36.1.3.1. Teams may commence the game without a Designated Hitter and subsequently move the Starting Pitcher to the DH role at the completion of their pitching assignment.
  - 36.1.3.2. This must be noted on the lineup card prior to the start of the game and the umpires advised of its use at the plate meeting. The player shall be noted on the lineup card as playing position 1/DH.

### 36.2. Division 2 and Women's

- 36.2.1. The 10-player batting line up is permitted.

### 36.3. All Divisions

- 36.3.1. Teams may bat up to 12 players with the three non-fielding players listed as an EH (Extra Hitter) and may be placed in any batting position. Players may be freely interchanged between fielding positions and the Extra Hitter (EH) position, with no limit on the number of swaps, provided all changes are made in accordance with normal substitution procedures.

## 37. BALLS

- 37.1. For all Masters State Titles, BQ will approve and supply one brand of baseball to be used in games.
- 37.2. BQ will notify the competing Regions of the type of baseballs to be used one (1) month before the event is to take place.
- 37.3. One game baseball shall be given to each team thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled starting time of each game to enable pitchers to warm up with the game baseball. These baseballs are to be handed to the Chief Umpire before the start of the game.
- 37.4. Warm-up balls will not be provided for relief pitchers.

## 38. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

- 38.1. Each Tournament has certain specifications for equipment and uniforms.
- 38.2. All catchers must wear a mask, attached-type throat protector and a catcher's helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up and games (this includes catcher's helmets with built in face mask). Any Player or Coach warming up a pitcher shall wear a face mask and a helmet no matter whether in the bull pen or on the playing field.
- 38.3. Baseball caps are regarded as part of the playing uniform and must be worn by all Coaches and Players at all times during a game unless were substituted by a protective helmet.
- 38.4. Bats
- 38.4.1. **Division 1 and 2** are wood bat competitions. Bats for use must be made of composite, wood.
- 38.4.2. **Division Women's** -Bats for use must be made of aluminium, composite, wood, or wood composite/laminated.
- 38.4.2.1. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than five (5) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g. a 33-inch bat cannot weigh less than 28 ounces).
- 38.4.2.2. The use of "Blast Motion" sensors, or similar are permitted throughout the Masters State Titles.
- 38.4.2.3. The use of softball bats is not permitted throughout Qld Baseball Masters State Titles.
- 38.4.2.4. A bat may be no more than 36 inches in length, not more than 2 3/4" inches in diameter, and if wood, no less than 15/16" inches in diameters at its smallest part. The minimum diameter for a bat which is less than 30" long is 7/8" of an inch at its smallest part. All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet either:
- The BBCOR Performance Standard and bear compliant markings, or;
  - The USA Baseball Standard and bear compliant markings, or;
  - The USSSA Standard and bear compliant markings (BPF 1.15).
- 38.5. Uniforms
- 38.5.1. The Rules of Baseball in relation to uniforms shall apply to all Masters State Titles.
- 38.5.2. All Players on a team shall wear numbered uniforms identical in colour, trim and style.
- 38.5.3. All members of competing teams, including Coaches, will wear the same colour uniforms.
- 38.6. Footwear
- 38.6.1. The use of nylon and rubber soles is permitted, and metal cleats can be worn.
- 38.6.2. Host venues may make further restrictions on footwear to protect artificial surfaces or to meet local ordinance conditions.
- 38.7. Protective Helmets
- 38.7.1. Double-eared helmets will be mandatory in all Masters State Titles for the hitter, the hitter on deck, the base runners, the batboy/girl and any base Coach under the age of 18 years. Adult base Coaches are required to wear 'skull cap' style helmets (i.e., without ear covers), although they can wear two-eared helmet if they choose.
- 38.7.2. All helmets are required to comply with the International Safety standard endorsed by NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic



Equipment) - Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmets. (ND022-10m10b).

38.7.3. All helmets worn must have the safety logo on the helmet. Each Tournament Director will randomly check one team's helmets for safety purposes.

#### 38.8. Line-Up Cards

38.8.1. All Players eligible to play in a game must be listed on the line-up card handed to the Plate Umpire at the home plate meeting. However, in the event of an oversight in which an eligible Player is omitted from the original line-up card will not prevent that Player from entering the game.

38.8.2. Copy of Line-up will be issued to Scorers sixty (60) minutes prior to the commencement of each game. On a day where a team is playing back-to-back double-header the line-up for the second game will be due with the scorers thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the game.

## 39. AWARDS

39.1. In recognition of the winning team and finalists, BQ will supply:

39.1.1. The winning team for each division will be awarded a perpetual trophy;

39.1.2. First, Second and Third-placed teams will be awarded with medallions. Players, Manager, Assistant Coaches, and Scorer will receive a medallion.

## 40. PROTESTS

40.1. Teams may only protest the application of a rule.

40.2. Any such protest must be lodged with the Umpire prior to the next play commencing. Failure to do so nullifies any claim to a protest.

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

40.4. Protests can be initiated by advising the Umpire-In-Chief of a team's intention to lodge a protest. At such time the game will be suspended until the protest can be resolved in consultation with the Umpire's Coordinator or the Tournament Director as the case may require.

40.5. Protests are to be submitted in writing to the Umpire's Coordinator with a \$100 fee. In the event the protest is upheld the \$100 application fee is refundable.

40.6. The Umpire's Coordinator and the Tournament Director may meet to determine the outcome of a protest. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final.

## 41. REPORTED PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

41.1. Once the Player/Official has been ejected from the game, the Umpire writes an official report and delivers the report to the Umpires Coordinator, who will then discuss the offence/s with the Tournament Director to determine if a Tribunal is warranted.

41.2. Anyone ejected, will receive a mandatory and automatic one (1) game suspension plus time served.

41.3. The Tribunal is authorised to impose whatever penalty is deemed necessary.

- 41.4. Full details of the Tribunal matter will be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BQ within one (1) month of the completion of the Masters State Titles.
- 41.5. Tribunal procedures at Masters State Titles:
- 41.5.1. Wherever possible, any Tribunal hearing during a Masters State Titles, whether related to an on-field or off-field incident, must be finalised prior to the next game in which the parties are involved.
- 41.5.2. The Tribunal will be composed of three (3) adults; the Tournament Director, at least one BQ Official (or an appointed representative) along with one additional member appointed by BQ. It will not include any members of a competing team's staff or delegation. It is empowered to make determinations regarding rule infringements of BQ Playing Rules.
- 41.6. Tribunal Process
- 41.6.1. Once the Tournament Director is made aware of any matter for which the Masters State Titles Tribunal is required, he/she sets the Tribunal hearing date/time and venue. The Tournament Director shall then personally make contact by telephone or in person with Tribunal members (and minutes secretary) and the relevant parties (Player /Coach/Official to be advised via their Executive Officer) to advise the particulars of the Tribunal hearing.
- 41.6.2. The Tournament Director shall clearly indicate to all parties the reason for the Tribunal hearing (e.g. Player ejection, purported breach of BQ playing rules, Code of Conduct etc).
- 41.6.3. The Tribunal shall be held in closed session whilst being cognisant of the principles of natural justice and will determine any matters in accord with the following procedural steps:
- 41.6.3.1. The Tournament Director shall assume the role of Tribunal Chairperson and will preside over the Tribunal proceedings, which shall be recorded by a minute secretary appointed by BQ.
- 41.6.3.2. The Umpire concerned shall present their version of the facts to the Tribunal in the presence of the ejected person and their Executive Officer. The Executive Officer shall be entitled to then ask questions in a reasonable manner to clarify matters in dispute.
- 41.6.3.3. The Umpire may at their discretion present other evidence (scorebook, other Umpire etc.) for corroborative purposes. The other evidence shall be made available during the Tribunal sitting to the Executive Officer for examination/questioning.
- 41.6.3.4. The Tribunal Chairperson and/or any Tribunal Member shall be entitled at any time during the hearing to ask questions of the parties to clarify any evidence where such clarification assists in deliberations.
- 41.6.3.5. Upon completing the presentation of their evidence, the Umpire and witnesses shall be asked to leave the room but remain in the general area in case they are needed for any points of clarification.
- 41.6.3.6. The Executive Officer (EO), (or in the case of a breach regarding an adult, the alleged Perpetrator/respondent) is then invited to put forward the case for the alleged offender/or their team.
- 41.6.3.7. The Player/Coach/Official shall be given a reasonable time to explain their position when presenting their version of the incident. The EO may ask questions of a team member to assist in presenting their version of the facts and to clarify any points.

- 41.6.3.8. The Tribunal Members can seek and consider evidence from any source they deem appropriate but must make that evidence available to both parties.
- 41.6.3.9. The EO may present any written evidence (e.g. Scorebook) and/or call a reasonable number of other witnesses for corroboration. Such witnesses may be subject to questions in cross examination by Tribunal members.
- 41.6.3.10. The EO is then invited by the Tribunal to add any comment in summary relating to the facts presented. At the conclusion of their evidence, the EO, the ejected individual and any witnesses are to leave the confines of the room whilst the members of the Tribunal consider the facts. The Tribunal members are encouraged to pause/stop any recording devices, prior to deliberation.
- 41.6.3.11. Once a decision has been reached, the EO and ejected individual are recalled in order to be presented with the Tribunal's decision by the Chairperson.
- 41.6.3.12. Where a discretionary penalty is to be applied, the EO and ejected individual are given the opportunity to speak in mitigation of this penalty.
- 41.6.3.13. After making such a plea, they shall once again leave the room whilst the facts are summarised objectively by the Tournament Director, and a determination of any discretionary penalty is finalised.
- 41.6.3.14. The EO and ejected individual are then recalled, and the Tribunal Chairperson shall announce penalty and close the hearing.
- 41.6.3.15. At the conclusion of the hearing, the minute secretary shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings, which shall be signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record. The EO shall be advised in writing (notice prepared by minute secretary) of the penalty as announced by the Tribunal Chairperson and the Chairperson shall sign such notice.
- 41.6.3.16. The penalty and any other relevant matters are then enacted.
- 41.6.3.17. The minutes of the Tribunal hearing are to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BQ within one (1) month following the Masters State Titles for validation of penalty; for example, where discretionary fines are applicable.
- 41.6.3.18. Note: Whilst, for the sake of thoroughness and due process, there are a number of steps depicted above, every effort should be made to carry out the Tribunal proceedings in an informal manner.
- 41.6.4. TRIBUNAL APPEALS
- 41.6.4.1. Please refer to the Member Protection Policy for Appeals Process. Please follow this link to access the policy: <https://baseball.com.au/integrity/>.

## 42. PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES

- 42.1. A field rule violation is defined as the breaking of any rule in a game. The penalty for a breach of BQ playing rules, may be a fine of up to a maximum of \$500 – levied against the Region/Club and a mandatory and automatically applied, one (1) game suspension of the offending team's Manager.
- 42.2. The penalty for breaching BQ Procedural Regulations (pre/post program) is a fine of up to \$50 for any one offence. Multiple offences in the same event may lead to the automatic suspension of the offending team's Manager.

- 42.3. The penalty for breaches of Code of Conduct agreements is also a fine of up to \$500 for any one offence, possible ejection from the game and, at the discretion of the Tribunal, suspension or dismissal from the Masters State Titles.
- 42.4. If there are breaches of the Rules where there are no penalties prescribed, then the Tournament Director is to rule on the matter in the best interests of the game. Such penalties may be levied as financial penalties or include suspension from a number of games or even the whole Masters State Titles.
- 42.5. If a team is presented with a situation where they run out of eligible Players to field a team or enter the game, it is grounds for forfeit. Forfeiting the game is sufficient punishment in this situation if it is unpreventable.
- 42.6. Anyone serving a suspension must not attend the Masters State Titles facility for the duration of their suspension.

## 43. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 43.1. Regulations and Standards
- Baseball Australia Tech Norms - National Tournament Resource - LiveBinder
  - Baseball Australia Photography & Videography Policy - <https://assets.baseball.com.au/uploads/2023/05/BA-Photography-Policy-2023-v1-2.pdf>
- 43.2. Baseball Queensland Documents
- Participation Agreement (Player, Coach, Executive Officer, Official)
  - [Air Quality Policy](#)
  - [Accreditation Policy](#)
  - [Blue Card Policy](#)
  - [Betting and Match Fixing Policy](#)
  - [First Aid and Injury Management Guidelines](#)
  - [Alcohol Prohibition Policy](#)