



Greater Brisbane League  
**Competition Rules**



**SEASON: 2021/2022**

**VERSION 2021.5**

**7 October 2021**

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# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

## 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:
- (a) ensure that the GBL Competition is conducted with the highest degree of integrity, fairness, transparency and common sense;
  - (b) provide a fair and balanced competition structure for all grades of baseball within the GBL Competition;
  - (c) provide suitable competition pathways for all players to reach their playing goals;
  - (d) provide an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all participants; and
  - (e) 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. Where these Competition Rules and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Competition Rules will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.
- 1.1.5. 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 Chair at the address shown in the following table:

Communication method	
<b>Address:</b>	Office 2.02, Sportshouse 150 Caxton Street MILTON QLD 4064
<b>Mail:</b>	GBL Chair Baseball Queensland Inc. Office 2.02, Sportshouse 150 Caxton Street MILTON QLD 4064
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3876 2222
<b>Facsimile:</b>	07 3876 2122
<b>Email:</b>	gblchair@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
  - (b) 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

# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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.

**Age Matrix** means the chart published by BQ each Summer Season setting out age eligibility requirements for players in the Junior Competition.

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

**AWBL** means the Australian Women's Baseball League.

**Baseball Australia** means the Australia Baseball Federation.

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

**Blue Card** means a card issued pursuant to the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld) certifying completion of a "Working with Children Check".

**BQ** means Baseball Queensland Incorporated.

**BQ Appeals Tribunal** means the panel appointed as such by BQ.

**BQ Constitution** means the constitution of BQ, as updated from time to time.

**BQ Development Manager** means the individual appointed as such by BQ.

**BQ Judiciary** means the panel appointed as such by BQ.

**BQ Policies and Codes of Conduct** means all policies and codes of conduct adopted by BQ from time to time.

**BQ Team** means a team nominated by BQ under Section 2.8.

**Calendar of Events** means the schedule set out in Section 1.7.

**Club** means an incorporated club affiliated with BQ in accordance with these Competition Rules and the BQ Constitution.

**Club President** means the individual nominated as "President" of a Club on the Form N.

**Club Secretary** means the individual nominated as "Secretary" of a Club on the Form N.

**Club Treasurer** means the individual nominated as "Treasurer" of a Club on the Form N.

**Club Vice President** means the individual nominated as "Vice President" of a Club on the Form N.

**Combined Club Entry** means a team nomination consisting of players registered with multiple Clubs, as permitted by Rules 5.2.1 and 7.2.1.

**Competition Rules** means rules set out in this document.

**Curfew Time** means the time as advised by a Club to the GBL Committee pursuant to Rule 3.5.1 as being a curfew imposed on a GBL Competition venue by a local authority.

**Cut-Off Time** means the time one (1) hour prior to the Curfew Time.

**Division** means a division of competition established by the GBL Committee in the Senior Competition, Junior Competition, Masters Competition or Women's Competition.

**Extra Hitter** has the meaning given to it in Rule 5.8.4.

**Finals Series** means post Regular Season games played to determine the winner of the season.

**Form N** means the form prescribed by the GBL Committee for the purposes of affiliation.

# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**GBL Chair** means the person or committee, appointed by the GBL Committee from time to time, responsible for the management of the GBL Competition via the implementation and enforcement of these Competition Rules.

**GBL Charter** means the "GBL Competition Committee Charter" approved by the board of BQ and governing the operations of the GBL Committee.

**GBL Committee** means the committee established and governed by the GBL Charter.

**GBL Competition** means the competitions played within the "Greater Brisbane League" during the Summer Season and as governed by these Competition Rules.

**GBL Competition Administrator** is a person nominated by the GBL Committee from time to time to provide administrative support to the GBL Committee in the management of the GBL Competition.

**GBL Disputes Form** means the form prescribed by the GBL Committee for the purpose of lodging disputes to the GBL Disputes Panel.

**GBL Disputes Panel** means the panel described in Section 1.8.

**GBL Judiciary** means the panel described in Section 9.5.

**GBL Website** means the website linked to <https://www.baseballqueensland.com.au/gbl/> (or as otherwise updated by the GBL Committee from time to time).

**Grand Final** means the final round in the Finals Series.

**Green Book** means the rules of Little League®, 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.

**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** 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.



# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**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 **7.7.6**.

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

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

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

- 1.3.2. Terms and rules not defined within this document shall take the same meaning as in the Official Baseball Rules or otherwise in the Macquarie Dictionary.

## 1.4. AFFILIATION

- 1.4.1. 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 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. The GBL Committee may use its discretion to promote or relegate any team before or during the season where it is appropriate to do so having regard to the competitiveness or structure of the relevant competition.
- 1.5.5. If teams are withdrawn within two (2) weeks of the commencement of the relevant 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.

# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

## 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> September or as determined by GBL Committee
Senior Division 1 & 2 team nominations (Section 1.5)	mid-August or as determined by GBL Committee
Form N: Affiliation & team entry form (Rule 1.5)	1 <sup>st</sup> September or as determined by GBL Committee
Final Senior Competition, Masters Competition and Women's Competition team nominations (Rule 1.5)	1 <sup>st</sup> September or as determined by GBL Committee
Final Junior Competition team nominations (Rule 1.5)	One month prior to first game of the season or as determined by GBL Committee
Expressions of interest for hosting of Finals Series	end February or as determined by GBL Committee
Expressions of interest for hosting GBL awards night	end February or as determined by GBL Committee

## 1.8. GBL DISPUTES PANEL

- 1.8.1. The GBL Disputes Panel is established and administered by the GBL Committee.
- 1.8.2. The roles of the GBL Disputes Panel include:
- 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. There is no right of appeal from a decision of the GBL Disputes Panel.

## 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.

# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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 Official Baseball Rules and/or these Competition Rules. At no time can a judgment decision be protested.

1.10.2. At the time the protest arises, the protesting head coach must advise the umpire-in-chief of the nature of the protest and:

- (a) the umpire-in-chief must inform the scorers that the game is being played under protest;
- (b) the umpire-in-chief must inform the head coach of the opposing team of the nature of the protest; and
- (c) the scorers must record the time of the protest and the details of the protest on the game card and in the appropriate section of the scorebooks.

1.10.3. After the game, the protesting Club must email a GBL Dispute Form to the GBL Chair no later than 4 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 game card 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 Chair.

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.

### **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 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
<b>Failure to provide notice of curfew</b> (Section 3.5)	\$500.
<b>Forfeiture of a game</b> (Section 3.7)	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – loss of game; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence – loss of game and \$50 per defaulting team plus QBUA umpiring fees; 3 <sup>rd</sup> and further offences – loss of game, \$100 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).

# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

<b>Forfeiture of a game without two (2) business days' notice (Rule 3.7.1)</b>	\$50 (in additional to the penalty for forfeiture of a game generally).
<b>Illegal player, including breach of player eligibility, registration and suspended players (Examples: Sections 2.1-2.7, 5.7, 5.12, 6.5.2, 6.11, 7.2.4, 7.7, 7.12, 8.6, 8.11, 9.7)</b>	\$50 per illegal player and loss of game.
<b>Prohibited substances (Section 2.12)</b>	\$200 per person and ejection.
<b>Participant out of uniform (Rule 4.4.1)</b>	\$20 per person.
<b>Non-return of game card within timeframe as required (Rule 3.13.1)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence – \$50; 3 <sup>rd</sup> and further offences – loss of game and \$50.
<b>Unauthorised material alteration of game card (Rule 3.13.2)</b>	Loss of game for defaulting team.
<b>Incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate game card (Rule 3.13.1)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence – \$50; 3 <sup>rd</sup> and further offences – \$100.
<b>Failure to supply an appropriately accredited coach (Rule 2.9.3)</b>	\$75.
<b>Failure to supply any umpire (Sections 5.10, 6.9, 7.10, 8.9)</b>	\$120 per umpire.
<b>Failure to supply an appropriately accredited umpire (Sections 5.10, 6.9, 7.10, 8.9)</b>	\$50 per umpire.
<b>Breach of scoring requirements (Section 2.10)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence – \$25; 3 <sup>rd</sup> and further offences – \$50.
<b>Failure to supply a scorer (Section 2.10)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence – \$25; 3 <sup>rd</sup> and further offences – \$50.
<b>Breach of Blue Card requirements (Rule 2.9.2)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence - \$25; 3 <sup>rd</sup> and further offences - \$50.
<b>Breach of safety, grounds, field and equipment requirements (Part 4)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence – \$50 3 <sup>rd</sup> and further offences – \$100
<b>Withdrawal of a team within two weeks of commencement of season or thereafter (Section 1.7)</b>	\$100 per junior team; \$200 per senior team.
<b>Team melees</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence – warning;

# GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

<b>(Section 9.3)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and further offences – \$500.
<b>Knowingly failing to comply with a GBL Judiciary order</b>	\$500. Player suspension 20 weeks
<b>(GBL Judiciary Procedures, Section 8B)</b>	

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:

<b>Infringement / Breach</b>	<b>Fine / Penalty</b>
<b>Participation breaches (including a failure to adopt a continuous batting order (Rules 7.7.10, 7.8.2))</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence - \$200 and loss of game.
<b>Breach of PONAG rules (Appendix A)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence - \$200 and loss of game.
<b>Breach of pitching or catching rules (Section 7.13)</b> <b>NOTE - The BQ Development Manager shall be notified of all breaches of pitching and/or catching rules</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence - \$200 and loss of game. 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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; or
- (b) the actual final score if the infringing team scores no runs and the non-infringing team scores more than nine (9) runs.

# PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

## 2. PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

### 2.1 PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

2.1.1 To be eligible to participate in any game, Clubs and players must meet the conditions listed in Rules 2.3 to 2.7.

### 2.2 ABL PLAYERS

2.2.1 Any player who has played (i.e. participated as a batter, fielder, runner or pitcher) in an ABL or AWBL Regular Season or Finals Series game may only, during the same season, participate in their Club's highest ranked Senior Competition team.

2.2.2 Rule 2.2.1 applies only to Senior Competition games occurring after that player has participated in an ABL or AWBL 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 by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the lower Division.

### 2.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

2.3.1 Each player must enter his or her details into the approved database.

2.3.2 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.

2.3.3 Clubs are to regularly review their approved player list to ensure that it is accurate.

### 2.4 TRANSFERS AND CLEARANCES

2.4.1 Player transfers between Clubs shall be conducted through the "Sports Club HQ" player transfer software system.

2.4.2 Clubs shall advise by email the Club that the player wishes to transfer from that they have received a transfer request.

2.4.3 Unfinancial players shall not be eligible to transfer between Clubs and shall not be granted a clearance by the original Club.

2.4.4 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.

2.4.5 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.*

### 2.5 MASTERS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS

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

2.5.2 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.

# PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

## 2.6 JUNIORS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITION AND WOMEN'S COMPETITION

2.6.1 A Junior Player shall be eligible to play in the Senior Competition and the Women's 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 an Division commensurate with the player's physical and technical abilities.

2.6.2 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.

2.6.3 Players aged eighteen (18) years who are not otherwise covered by Rule 7.13 must:

- (a) not exceed 105 pitches per day; and
- (b) adhere to the following rest requirements:

Pitches in a day	Mandatory rest period requirements
81 or more	Four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed
61 – 80	Three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed
46 – 60	Two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed
31 – 45	One (1) calendar day of rest must be observed
1 – 30	No rest required

2.6.4 Players aged nineteen (19) years to twenty-two (22) years must:

- (a) not exceed 120 pitches per day; and
- (b) adhere to the following rest requirements:

Pitches in a day	Mandatory rest period requirements
106 or more	Five (5) calendar days of rest must be observed
81 – 105	Four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed
61 – 80	Three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed
46 – 60	Two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed
31 – 45	One (1) calendar day of rest must be observed
1 – 30	No rest required

## 2.7 JUNIORS PLAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE CLUB

2.7.1 A Junior Player playing in a Senior Competition must do so with the Club with which that player is registered.

2.7.2 A Junior Player may make an application in writing to the GBL Chair to play for a different Club if their registered Club does not have an appropriate team in the Junior Competition or Senior Competition. The application must be accompanied by letters of support from both Clubs involved.

## 2.8 BQ DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

2.8.1 BQ may nominate a team to participate in any Division of the Senior Competition which comprises of any players registered in accordance with Rule 2.3.

2.8.2 Where these Competition Rules refer to Clubs, BQ has the same powers and obligations with respect to BQ Teams.

# PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- 2.8.3 For finals eligibility calculation purposes, a game played for a BQ Team will be equivalent to a game played for the Club with which that player is registered, in the same or next highest Division in which the Club competes.

## 2.9 OFFICIALS

- 2.9.1 Clubs must, on request, provide the GBL Chair with contact details of all coaches, umpires and scorers.

- 2.9.2 All coaches, umpires, scorers and other Club officials are to have:

- (a) appropriate, current accreditations (see relevant sections for minimum accreditation requirements); and
- (b) a current Blue Card (if they are participating in games involving minors).

- 2.9.3 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 game card.

## 2.10 SCORERS AND SCORING POLICY

- 2.10.1 For every game in GBL Competition, each team shall have its own competent scorer using the official baseball scorebook.

- 2.10.2 It is recommended that scorers hold minimum accreditations as follows:

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

- 2.10.3 Scorers of both teams must observe the game together from a position as set aside by the Host Club.

- 2.10.4 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:

- (a) an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
- (b) a blank game card;
- (c) a copy of these Competition Rules;
- (d) a scorebook; and
- (e) appropriate stationery.

- 2.10.5 In Senior Competition – Division 1, both teams must complete a scorebook. The Home Team scorer must ensure, however, that the game is also scored electronically and, if possible, published simultaneously online.

- 2.10.6 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.

## 2.11 UMPIRES

- 2.11.1 The plate umpire must call the game from behind home plate.

- 2.11.2 The base umpire must remain standing at all times.

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



# PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- 2.11.4 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.
- 2.11.5 At the end of each game, the umpire-in-chief shall complete and sign the official game card and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.
- 2.11.6 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).
- 2.11.7 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.
- 2.11.8 Ejected individuals must complete an Incident Report Form and submit it via the Club to the GBL Chair by 5 pm the business day following notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the GBL Competition Administrator.

## 2.12 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

- 2.12.1 All tobacco 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.
- 2.12.2 A person in a baseball uniform shall be ejected from a game and fined if seen smoking or consuming an alcoholic beverage during a game.
- 2.12.3 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.

# COMPETITIONS

## 3. COMPETITIONS

### 3.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 3.1.1 The GBL Chair 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 The GBL Committee may review the grading of teams throughout the season.

### 3.2 COMPETITION SCHEDULING

- 3.2.1 For the purpose of these Competition Rules, scheduling and/or rescheduling fixtures includes determining or changing the time, date and/or location a game is played.
- 3.2.2 The GBL Chair shall schedule fixtures for all GBL Competitions which shall be published on the GBL Website.
- 3.2.3 The GBL Chair may reschedule fixtures as needed at any time for any reason.
- 3.2.4 If the GBL Chair reschedules a fixture, the amended fixture shall be published on the GBL Website 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 Chair at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled game. The application should include the reasons for rescheduling and if the opposing team has agreed to the change. The GBL Chair may reschedule the game at their discretion and may refer the matter to the GBL Committee.
- 3.3.2 Regular Season games that are not played due to inclement weather or double forfeit shall, subject to Rules **3.3.3** to **3.3.6**, only be rescheduled if:
  - (a) agreed by both Clubs involved;
  - (b) the Club of the Home Team advises the GBL Chair in writing within seven (7) days of the original scheduled game that the teams wish to replay the game; and
  - (c) details for the rescheduled game, including the date, time and location of the game, are agreed by both teams and the Club of the Home Team advises the GBL Chair of the same within twenty-one (21) days of the original scheduled game.

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

- 3.3.3 Games may be rescheduled by the agreement of both Clubs without prior notice to the GBL Chair if completed on the same weekend as the original scheduled game.
- 3.3.4 Suspended games during the Regular Season shall be treated as follows:
  - (a) for Senior Competition – Division 1:
    - (i) as per Rule **3.3.5**; or
    - (ii) if, in the view of the GBL Chair, there is a reason that the suspended game cannot be rescheduled:

# COMPETITIONS

- (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.
- 3.3.5 Subject to Rules **3.2.3** and **3.3.6**, 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.
- 3.3.6 Senior Competition – Division 1 Clubs involved in a Regular Season game rescheduled by Rule **3.3.5** 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 **3.3.5** (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 **3.3.5** 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.
- 3.3.7 Once any game is rescheduled in accordance with this section, all Competition Rules shall apply (including forfeit procedures).

## 3.4 FINALS SERIES GAMES

- 3.4.1 Finals Series games shall be scheduled as determined by the GBL Chair and published in the schedule of fixtures, or elsewhere.
- 3.4.2 Subject to Rule **3.4.3**, all Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games, but played to a result.
- 3.4.3 All Senior Competition – Division 1 Finals Series games shall be:
- (a) played over a best of three (3) games series with the highest placed team as the Home Team for the first game, the Away Team for the second game, and the Home Team for the third game (if required); and
  - (b) the same duration as Regular Season games, except that double headers (if applicable) shall be nine (9) innings and played to a result.
- 3.4.4 The team designated as the Home Team for the Finals Series shall be:

# COMPETITIONS

- (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 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.

3.4.6 Where possible and as time permits, the preferable Finals Series is:

Standard Competitions	Home Team v Away Team	Result
<b>Major Semi Final (SF1)</b>	Team 1 v Team 2	Winner to GF, Loser to PF
<b>Minor Semi Final (SF2)</b>	Team 3 v Team 4	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
<b>Preliminary Final (PF)</b>	Loser SF1 v Winner SF2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
<b>Grand Final (GF)</b>	Winner SF1 v Winner PF	
North/South Competitions	Home Team v Away Team	Result
<b>Northside Semi Final 1 (NSF1)</b>	Team 1 (N) v Team 4 (N)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
<b>Northside Semi Final 2 (NSF2)</b>	Team 2 (N) v Team 3 (N)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
<b>Southside Semi Final 2 (SSF2)</b>	Team 1 (S) v Team 4 (S)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
<b>Southside Semi Final 2 (SSF2)</b>	Team 2 (S) v Team 3 (S)	Winner to PF, Loser eliminated
<b>Northside Preliminary Final (NPF)</b>	Winner NSF1 v Winner NSF2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
<b>Southside Preliminary Final (SPF)</b>	Winner SSF1 v Winner SSF2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
<b>Grand Final (GF)</b>	Winner NPF v Winner SPF	

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*

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 3.4.9. 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) otherwise, 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).

# COMPETITIONS

- 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;
  - (b) otherwise:
    - (i) head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
    - (ii) highest competition standing; then
    - (iii) 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 **3.4.9**, 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 Chair 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.

- 3.5.3 A game impacted by a Curfew Time shall end at the earliest of:

- (a) the ordinary 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.

- 3.5.4 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 6<sup>th</sup> inning. The game will therefore conclude, at the latest, at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning.

- 3.5.5 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.

- 3.5.6 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
- (b) otherwise, the result of the game shall be as at the time the game ends.

- 3.5.7 GBL Competition games may not:

- (a) commence less than two (2) hours prior to any Curfew Time applicable at the Host Club; and

# COMPETITIONS

- (b) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to bottom 5<sup>th</sup>)

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> to bottom 3<sup>rd</sup>)

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 Chair (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, subject to Rule **3.6.7**.
- 3.6.4 Home Team scorers must record any cancellation or suspension of games due to inclement weather on the game card or by otherwise advising the GBL Chair. Game cards for suspended games must still be submitted (for player eligibility and/or rescheduling purposes).

### *Wet Weather & Thunderstorms*

- 3.6.5 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.
- 3.6.6 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*

- 3.6.7 In the case of extreme heat, the Club Secretary of the Home Team (or their nominee) must monitor, on a half-hourly basis, current temperatures at the field's location via the Bureau of Meteorology website (or phone app) and the following will apply:



# COMPETITIONS

- (a) play shall be suspended immediately if the temperature reaches or exceeds:
  - (i) 38° Celsius for Senior Competition, Masters Competition and Women's Competition; or
  - (ii) 36° Celsius for Junior Competitions;
- (b) during play suspension, the temperature shall be monitored every ten (10) minutes; and
- (c) game play shall not resume until the temperature falls below:
  - (i) 37° Celsius for Senior Competition, Masters Competition and Women's Competition; or
  - (ii) 35° Celsius for Junior Competitions.

3.6.8 In the case of extreme heat, a temporary break in play for any reasonable period is permitted where:

- (a) the umpire-in-chief considers that the conditions could be injurious to the participants' health (including the officials"); or
- (b) by agreement of the coaches.

## *Suspensions in play*

3.6.9 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.

3.6.10 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.

3.6.11 Any game ended due to inclement weather shall be a suspended game (see Rules **3.3.4** and **3.4.8**).

## **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, the QBUA Appointments Officer (if applicable) and the GBL Chair at least two (2) business days 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 umpire shall record the late start and the offending team on the game card.

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) a team is unable to field the minimum number of players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win by forfeit. The umpire shall record the win as a forfeit on the game card by awarding 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**). The umpire shall record the losses on the game card.

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 game card. These players shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes. Where a game card is not completed (i.e. the team is advised of the forfeit before game day), the non-forfeiting team may submit a team roster of twelve (12) players to the GBL Chair who will have that game counted towards their eligibility. 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 game card shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes.

# COMPETITIONS

## 3.8 COMPETITION RECORDS

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

## 3.9 PERCENTAGE LADDERS

- 3.9.1 The GBL Competition Administrator shall maintain a percentage ladder for each Division on the GBL Website stating:
- (a) the name of every team in that Division;
  - (b) the number of games played by each team; and
  - (c) 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 Chair. The objection must contain grounds for dispute and include relevant evidence (e.g. copy of scorebooks, game cards 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 Chair shall allocate places using the following criteria:
- (a) "Head-to-Head" for the teams for the season; then
  - (b) runs against, head-to-head, for the season; then
  - (c) runs against overall for the season; then
  - (d) at the GBL Committee's discretion, giving reasons.
- 3.9.5 Where it is not possible to maintain a percentage ladder, a ladder based on points will be maintained.

## 3.10 TIE BREAKER RULE

- 3.10.1 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.
- 3.10.2 For each extra inning, the offensive team for every half-inning shall commence with:
- (a) a runner on 1<sup>st</sup> base, being the batter immediately preceding the batter leading off the half-inning in the batting order; and
  - (b) a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, being the batter immediately preceding the runner described at (a) in the batting order.
- 3.10.3 No pitcher shall be charged with an earned run if either of the runners described at Rule 3.10.2 score (prior to their next at-bat).



# COMPETITIONS

## 3.11 SPEED UP POLICY

- 3.11.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.
- 3.11.2 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.

## 3.12 INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 3.12.1 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.
- 3.12.2 Scorers must record on the official game card details of players injured in a game. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a statutory declaration to the GBL Chair within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred via the Club. The player shall then be recorded on the disabled list.
- 3.12.3 Players who are injured outside the field of play (e.g. work injuries, training etc.) must forward a suitable medical certificate via the Club to the GBL Chair to be eligible for the disabled list within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred.
- 3.12.4 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).
- 3.12.5 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.

## 3.13 GAME CARDS & RESULTS

- 3.13.1 The Home Team scorer shall ensure that:
- (a) game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible, with all names spelt correctly and relevant accreditation levels recorded;
  - (b) umpires-in-chief and each scorer has signed and printed their name in the appropriate place on the game card; and
  - (c) the game card is scanned or photocopied (so that it maintains legibility) and submitted to the GBL Chair via email by 6.00pm the business day following the conclusion of the game.
- 3.13.2 It is impermissible for anyone to alter the game card without the knowledge and consent of the individuals who have signed the game card.

## 3.14 TROPHIES & AWARDS

- 3.14.1 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.
- 3.14.2 The GBL Committee shall present the following trophies and awards at the conclusion of the Summer Season:

TROPHY / AWARD	ELIGIBLE TEAMS / GRADES / INDIVIDUALS
<b><u>CLUB AWARDS</u></b>	
<b>Senior Club of the Year</b>	All Clubs
<b>Junior Club of the Year</b>	All Clubs
<b><u>TEAM AWARDS</u></b>	
<b>Championship Trophy</b>	All Divisions

# COMPETITIONS

<b>Runner Up Trophy</b>	All Divisions
<b><u>INDIVIDUAL AWARDS</u></b>	
<b>David Nilsson Medal (MVP)</b>	Division 1
<b>MVP (Final Series)</b>	Division 1
<b>MVP (Grand Final)</b>	All Divisions
<b>GBL Volunteer of the Year</b>	Nominated by Clubs

3.14.3 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"):

- (a) number of teams;
- (b) number of wins for each team;
- (c) number of minor premierships (5 points for each);
- (d) number of premierships (5 points for each);
- (e) fines incurred during the season (1 point deduction for each);
- (f) number of ejections resulting in a judiciary sanction (5 point deduction for each); and
- (g) percentage growth in registered players compared to the previous season (5 point for each percentile gained).

# GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

## 4 GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

### 4.1 GROUNDS/FIELDS

4.1.1 All nominated fields must be available for the commencement of the competition, unless 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 at least base paths, foul lines and batting boxes) 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) covered player benches or dugouts which are screened from the field of play are provided for both teams;
- (d) seating and shade cover is provided for the scorers;
- (e) wet weather ground covers are available for the pitcher's mound and home plate area;
- (f) 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;
- (g) adequate toilet facilities (in a clean and hygienic condition) are open;
- (h) 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);
- (i) a canteen which provides hot and cold 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);
- (j) glass containers are not used to serve any beverages; and
- (k) 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.

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.

### 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
<b>Little League</b>	60 ft.	46 ft.	225 ft.	Removable or "Breakaway Hollywood"
<b>Junior League</b>	80 ft.	54 ft.	300 ft.	Permanent
<b>Senior League</b>	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent
<b>Big League</b>	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent

# GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Age Group	Base paths	Pitch distance	Centre field distance	Bases
<b>Senior Competition &amp; Masters Competition</b>	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent
<b>Women's Competition</b>	90 ft.	54 ft.	Open	Permanent

- 4.2.2 All Little League and Junior League games must have an age specific outfield perimeter of some description, even where fields are fully enclosed but the existing fence line exceeds age specific requirements (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:
- 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
  - submit to the GBL Chair by the time nominated in the Calendar of Events:
    - the light audit referred to in (a) above;
    - the costs of the lights to conduct Senior Competition – Division 1 night games for a minimum period of three (3) hours;
    - the cost of the lights to conduct Masters Competition night games for a minimum period of two (2) hours; and
    - the Curfew Time, if one exists (see Rule **3.5.1**).
- 4.3.2 The cost of lights for GBL Competition night games are to be shared equally between the Clubs of participating teams.
- 4.3.3 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 three (3) weeks to obtain the correct uniform.
- 4.4.4 Each coach and the umpire-in-chief shall enforce the uniform rules by making a note of any infringements on the game card.
- 4.4.5 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.

# GROUPS & EQUIPMENT

## 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 mandatory 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 not permitted to warm up a pitcher in Junior baseball (**Little League Rule 3.09**)
  - (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 Official Baseball Rules, 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 Big League 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);
  - (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.
- 4.6.4 Bats used in Little League and Junior League must meet Green Book specifications:

Age Group	Season 2021 - 2022
Little League	USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum  It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ( $\frac{15}{16}$ ) inches in diameter ( $\frac{7}{8}$ inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end.  Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.

# GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

<b>Junior League</b>	<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>
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## 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,
- 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 2, safety balls are to be used until Christmas.

# SENIOR COMPETITION

## 5 SENIOR COMPETITION

### 5.1 PREAMBLE

5.1.1 This Part outlines the Competition Rules applicable to the Senior Competition.

### 5.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS: DIVISIONS 1 & 2

5.2.1 To play in Divisions 1 and 2, Clubs and/or BQ must enter teams into both Divisions, either as a single Club or 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 Where an odd number of teams nominate for Divisions 1 and 2, the GBL Committee may allow a single Division 1 or Division 2 team nomination in order to avoid a bye in either Division.

### 5.3 GAME DURATION

5.3.1 Game lengths for Senior Competition games shall be:

Division	Game duration (whichever comes first)
<b>Division 1 – single game</b>	9 innings (no time limit, played to a result)
<b>Division 1 – double header</b>	7 innings (no time limit, played to a result)
<b>Division 1 – night game</b>	9 innings or 2.5 hours, played to a result
<b>Division 2</b>	9 innings or 2.5 hours
<b>Division 2 – prior to Division 1 double header</b>	9 innings or 2 hours
<b>Division 3 and below</b>	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 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning after the time limit has expired. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.

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

5.3.6 The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Rules 3.6.9 and 3.7.3).

### 5.4 RUN LIMITATION

5.4.1 In Divisions 4 and lower, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first three (3) innings.

# SENIOR COMPETITION

## 5.5 REGULATION GAME

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

Division	Game duration
<b>Division 1</b>	5 innings – all games must be played to a result
<b>Division 2</b>	5 innings
<b>Division 3</b>	3 innings
<b>Division 4</b>	3 innings
<b>Division 5 and lower</b>	3 innings

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

5.5.2 A games 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 Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after the number of innings outlined below, then the game shall be called as a complete game:

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

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

## 5.7 PLAYERS

5.7.1 All teams shall field nine (9) players, subject to Rule 5.7.2.

5.7.2 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the game card 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. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.

5.7.4 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 Players aged eighteen (18), nineteen (19) or twenty (20) years that pitch more than twenty (20) innings in Division 1 cannot pitch in the Junior Competition.

5.7.6 Division 1 defensive starting teams (i.e. not including any designated hitter) shall consist of nine (9) players who:

- have not taken part in any Senior Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of the second game in a double header; and
- play no fewer than three (3) complete innings of the game, except in the case of pitchers or injured players.



# SENIOR COMPETITION

- 5.7.7 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 Senior 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) play no fewer than three (3) complete innings of the game, except in the case of pitchers or injured players.
- 5.7.8 A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate Divisions on the same day.
- 5.7.9 No player may play more than two (2) games in the same day.
- 5.7.10 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.
- 5.7.11 Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **5.7.10** outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be approved in writing by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

## 5.8 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 but, once interchanged, that player cannot return to the Extra Hitter position in 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) for Divisions 1 and 2, the courtesy runner shall be any eligible player; and
  - (b) otherwise, the courtesy runner shall be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.
- 5.9.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 5.9.3 No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

## 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 with a minimum QBUA "Association Level" accreditation.
- 5.10.2 Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Senior Competition games with the prior written approval of 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.

# SENIOR COMPETITION

## 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.

## 5.12 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.

- 5.12.2 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 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 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 Chair for an exemption from Rule 5.12.1 if an exemption under Rule 5.7.11 has already been granted (any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game).

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

**Note:** For forfeits, see Rules 3.7.5 and 3.7.6.

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

6.3.5 The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Rules 3.6.9 and 3.7.3).

### 6.4 RUN LIMITATION

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

### 6.5 REGULATION GAME

6.5.1 In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, three (3) innings shall constitute a Regulation Game (2½ if the Home Team is ahead).

6.5.2 A games 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.

### 6.6 PLAYERS

6.6.1 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the game card 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. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.

# MASTERS COMPETITION

- 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 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 (up to and including Monday night).
- 6.6.5 Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule 6.6.4 outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

## 6.7 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 but, once interchanged, that player cannot return to the Extra Hitter position in the same game.

## 6.8 COURTESY RUNNER

- 6.8.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time. The courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.
- 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.
- 6.8.4 Teams may use a courtesy runner for a player who is temporarily injured or unable to run. That runner shall not be permitted to steal bases, and shall be called out if they attempt to do so.

## 6.9 UMPIRES

- 6.9.1 The Home Team shall provide the plate umpire and the Away Team shall provide the base umpire for all Masters Competition games with a minimum QBUA "Community Level" accreditation.
- 6.9.2 Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Masters Competition games with the prior written approval of 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.

## 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 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

# MASTERS COMPETITION

(b) Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **6.11.1** if an exemption under Rule **6.6.5** has already been granted (any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game).

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

**Note:** For forfeits, see Rules **3.7.5** and **3.7.6**.

## 6.12. TEN (10) RUN RULE

6.12.1 For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings then the game shall be called as a complete game. Where the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed

# 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, Junior League and Senior League will be governed by these Competition Rules and the Green Book. Where these Competition Rules are silent, the rules in the Green Book will apply. Where these Competition Rules and the Green Book are inconsistent, the Competition Rules will apply to the extent of any inconsistency. The relevant sections of the Green Book will be referred to where applicable.
- 7.1.3 Big League will be governed by these Competition Rules and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Competition Rules and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Competition Rules will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.

### 7.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 7.2.1 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 "duel 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 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)
<b>Big League – single game</b>	9 innings or 2 hours
<b>Big League – double header</b>	7 innings or 1½ hours
<b>Senior League – single game</b>	7 innings or 2 hours
<b>Senior League – double header</b>	7 innings or 1½ hours
<b>Junior League – single game</b>	7 innings or 2 hours
<b>Junior League – double header</b>	7 innings or 1½ hours
<b>Little League – Division 1 (single game)</b>	6 innings or 2 hours
<b>Little League – Division 1 (double header)</b>	6 innings or 1½ hours
<b>Little League – Division 2 (single game)</b>	6 innings or 1¾ hours
<b>Little League – Division 2 (double header)</b>	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.

# JUNIOR COMPETITION

- 7.3.3 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.
- 7.3.4 The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.
- 7.3.5 The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Rules 3.6.9 and 3.7.3).

## 7.4 RUN LIMITATION

- 7.4.1 In all Division 2 games, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is four (4) per inning.

### 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).*

## 7.5 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)
<b>Big League</b>	5 innings or 40 minutes
<b>Senior League</b>	5 innings or 40 minutes
<b>Junior League</b>	5 innings or 40 minutes
<b>Little League – Division 1</b>	4 innings or 40 minutes
<b>Little League – Division 2</b>	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 games 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
<b>Big League</b>		10 runs after 5 innings
<b>Senior League</b>	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
<b>Junior League</b>	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
<b>Little League</b>	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.

# JUNIOR COMPETITION

## 7.7 PLAYERS

- 7.7.1 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as part of the continuous batting order or as a designated hitter, where applicable). Players listed on the game card 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. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.
- 7.7.3 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 Players aged eighteen (18), nineteen (19) or twenty (20) years that pitch more than twenty (20) innings in Senior Competition – Division 1 cannot pitch in the Junior Competition.
- 7.7.6 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**).
- 7.7.7 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).
- 7.7.8 Players may freely interchange between Divisions throughout the season in the same age group, except that:
- once a player has played five (5) games at the Division 1 level, that player must continue to play at the Division 1 level for the balance of the season; and
  - where a team competing in the higher ranked Division has a bye, no more than two (2) players who ordinarily play in that higher ranked team may play in the lower ranked Division that weekend.
- 7.7.9 Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **7.7.8** 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.
- 7.7.10 A player in the starting line-up who has been substituted may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order, provided the player they substitute has:
- completed at least one at-bat; and
  - played defensively for at least six (6) consecutive outs.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*Any player (excluding Substitute Players) not in the starting defensive line-up ought to be entered into the game at the half-way mark of the time allowed for that game unless players require substitution because of injury, ejection or needing to leave the game site early.*

## 7.8 BATTING RULES

### *Designated hitter*

- 7.8.1 Teams in the following Divisions may use a designated hitter:
- Big League; and
  - Senior League, but only if that team has more than twelve (12) players available and the team is also using a continuous batting order for twelve (12) players.

### *Continuous batting order*

- 7.8.2 Teams in Divisions of Little League and Junior League which have more than nine (9) players present at any game must use a continuous batting order whereby all players (up to twelve (12) players) must



# JUNIOR COMPETITION

bat. Where players arrive to the game late, they must be added to the batting order immediately (unless there are already twelve (12) players present). This Rule does not apply to Substitute Players, however a Substitute Player may be included in a team's continuous batting order at the discretion of that team's coach.

- 7.8.3 Teams in Divisions of Senior League and Big League 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. If a coach elects to use a continuous batting order at the beginning of the game, it may only be reduced where a player is ejected, injured or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no other players available to replace them. 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.
- 7.8.4 The position of any additional 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 but, once interchanged, that player cannot return to the Extra Hitter position in the same game.

## *Replacing a batter*

- 7.8.5 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*

- 7.8.6 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.

## *Little League Division 2*

- 7.8.7 For all Little League Division 2 (or lower) games:
- (c) there is no "dropped third strike rule"; and
  - (d) 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:
    - (i) 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.
    - (ii) If the batter misses three strikes then they are out.
    - (iii) Alternatively coaches can side (soft) toss to the batter.
    - (iv) If the batter misses three strikes then they are out.

## **7.9 COURTESY RUNNER**

- 7.9.1 Courtesy runners are not permitted in 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 all Junior Competition games with a minimum QBUA "Community Level" accreditation.
- 7.10.2 Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Junior Competition games:
- (a) corresponding to the age group in which they are eligible to participate as a player, or below that age group; 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.

# JUNIOR COMPETITION

## 7.11 DEFENSIVE VISITS

7.11.1 A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than:

- (a) three (3) times in one (1) game; and
- (b) twice in one (1) inning.

Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game, but the player may otherwise remain in the game.

## 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, Junior League and Senior League, participated in at least five (5) of the Regular Season games played by that team; and
- (b) for Big League, 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 (a) above if an exemption under Rule 7.7.9 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.

## 7.13 PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS

7.13.1 For players substituted from pitcher to another position:

- (a) in Little League, the player may not return as pitcher for the remainder of the game; and
- (b) in Junior League, Senior League and Big League, the player may return to pitcher at any time in the remainder of the game, but only for one (1) additional outing.

7.13.2 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 Junior League, Senior League and Big League, a player may pitch in up to two (2) games in a day (but must adhere to mandatory rest periods).

7.13.3 For daily pitching restrictions, the following tables apply to all Junior Players:

League Age (as of 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021)	Daily pitch limit (per day)
Little League Division 2	30 pitches per day

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Little League Division 1	55 pitches per day
Junior League	65 pitches per day
Senior League	75 pitches per day
Big League	85 pitches per day

7.13.4 Pitchers league age fourteen (14) and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

Pitches in a day	Mandatory rest period requirements
<b>66 or more</b>	Four (4) calendar days
<b>51 – 65</b>	Three (3) calendar days
<b>36 – 50</b>	Two (2) calendar days
<b>21 – 35</b>	One (1) calendar day
<b>1 – 20 on consecutive days</b>	One (1) calendar day
<b>1 – 20</b>	No rest required

7.13.5 Pitchers league age fifteen (15) to sixteen (16) must adhere to the following rest requirements:

Pitches in a day	Mandatory rest period requirements
<b>76 or more</b>	Four (4) calendar days
<b>61 – 75</b>	Three (3) calendar days
<b>46 – 60</b>	Two (2) calendar days
<b>31 – 45</b>	One (1) calendar day
<b>1 – 30 on consecutive days</b>	One (1) calendar day
<b>1 – 30</b>	No rest required

7.13.6 Big League pitchers must adhere to the following rest period requirements:

Pitches in a day	Mandatory rest period requirements
<b>76 or more</b>	Four (4) calendar days
<b>61 – 75</b>	Three (3) calendar days
<b>46 – 60</b>	Two (2) calendar days
<b>31 – 45</b>	One (1) calendar day
<b>1 – 30 on consecutive days</b>	One (1) calendar day
<b>1 – 30</b>	No rest required

7.13.7 If a pitcher reaches their daily pitching limit or the mandatory rest period threshold for their league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch (without penalty) until any one of the following occurs:

- (a) that batter reaches base;
- (b) that batter is put out; or
- (c) the third out is made to complete the half-inning.

7.13.8 A pitcher who delivers forty-one (41) or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

7.13.9 A catcher who plays the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day. Catching to a single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning caught.

7.13.10 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,

# JUNIOR COMPETITION

provided the said pitcher has observed any mandatory rest periods applicable on the day of the rescheduled game.

7.13.11 There are no balks in Little League.

## **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.*

## **7.14 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.

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

7.14.2 In Little League, 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

*Coaches must not encourage their players to take extra bases in a 'suicide' manner with the intention of enticing an overthrow. This is a breach of the Coaches' Code of Conduct and could result in the runner(s) involved being called out, the coach being ejected, or both.*

# WOMENS COMPETITION

## 8. WOMENS COMPETITION

### 8.1. PREAMBLE

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

### 8.2. TEAM NOMINATIONS

8.2.1. Teams must consist of female players aged fifteen (15) years and older. All female players are permitted to play in this League upon reaching their fifteenth birthday. All female players must be registered as a Women's Player or age registered appropriately on the approved database.

### 8.3. GAME DURATION

8.3.1. All Women's Competition games are nine (9) innings or one and a half (1.5) hours, whichever comes first.

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

8.3.5. The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Rules **3.6.9** and **3.7.3**).

### 8.4. RUN LIMITATION

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

### 8.5. REGULATION GAME

8.5.1. In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, three (3) innings shall constitute a Regulation Game (2½ if the Home Team is ahead).

8.5.2. A games 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 listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the game card shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.

8.6.2. Games may commence and continue with a minimum of seven (7) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with seven (7) players, the eighth and ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a eighth and ninth player. Where a player leaves a game (for injury, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.

8.6.3. If any team has less than seven (7) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.

8.6.4. 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.

# WOMENS COMPETITION

- 8.6.5. Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **8.6.4** outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GBL Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

## **8.7. 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" 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 in the same game.

## **8.8. COURTESY RUNNER**

- 8.8.1. All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time. The courtesy runner must be the last player out or, if they are not available, the last player to score.
- 8.8.2. A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 8.8.3. No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.
- 8.8.4. Teams may use a courtesy runner for a player who is temporarily injured or unable to run. That runner shall not be permitted to steal bases, and shall be called out if they attempt to do so.

## **8.9. UMPIRES**

- 8.9.1. The Home Team shall provide the plate umpire and the Away Team shall provide the base umpire for all Women's Competition games with a minimum QBUA "Community Level" accreditation.

## **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.

## **8.11. 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

# WOMENS COMPETITION

(b) Clubs may apply in writing to the GBL Chair for an exemption from Rule **8.11.1** if an exemption under Rule 8.6.5 has already been granted (any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game).

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

**Note:** For forfeits, see Rules **3.7.5** and **3.7.6**.

## 8.12 TEN (10) RUN RULE

8.12.1 For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings then the game shall be called as a complete game. Where the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed

# BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

## 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 the game card is completed. 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.



# BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

- 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.
- 9.5.3. The GBL Judiciary may refer matters at their discretion to the BQ Judiciary.
- 9.5.4. Decisions of the GBL Judiciary may be appealed to the BQ Appeals Tribunal in accordance with the *GBL Judiciary Procedures* and any applicable BQ Appeals Tribunal procedures.

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

## APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

### 1) INTRODUCTION

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

### 2) BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

### 3) AGE REQUIREMENTS

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

# APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

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

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

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

## 5) PLAYING UP CONSENT

- a) Players seeking to play up an age level must have a parent/guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player) complete a Playing Up Consent Form; either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their natural age group. The completed form is to be retained and held by the Club - refer 3. c).
- b) Permission to play up is automatically given once the completed PONAG Playing Up Consent Form is completed. A player can only apply for a maximum of up to 5 Playing Up opportunities per season including Finals games or can apply for the full season.
  - i) A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- c) Permission to play up for the season is automatically given once the completed PONAG Playing Up Consent Form is completed.
- d) The GBL Competition Committee may, in its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Up Consent it deems appropriate.

### ***Playing Up Consent Restrictions/Allowances***

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

# APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

## 6) PLAYING DOWN CONSENT

- a) Players seeking to play down an age level must have a parent/guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player) complete a Playing Down Consent Form either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their natural age group. The completed form is to be retained and held by the Club - refer 3. c).
- b) A copy of the completed Playing Down Consent Form must be emailed to the GBL Chair immediately the Playing Down Consent Form has been completed and prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- c) Permission to play down for the season is automatically given once the completed PONAG Playing Down Consent Form is completed.
- d) The GBL Competition Committee may, in its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Down Consent it deems appropriate.

### *Playing Down Consent Restrictions/Allowances*

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

## 7) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

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

## 8) APPEALS AND REVIEWS PROCESS

- a) Appeals against any decision to play outside natural age group must be referred to BQ. Any appeal must be made in writing to BQ and be accompanied by a detailed account of the situation to date. Please address appeals to:
  - The Development Manager
  - Baseball Queensland
  - Office 1.11 Sports house
  - 150 Caxton Street
  - MILTON QLD 4064

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

## APPENDIX B – GBL DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

### 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 the 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.

# APPENDIX B – GBL DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

- 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

- B. Terms defined in the 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 the 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

- A. The GBL Committee shall appoint:
- i. 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
  - ii. a chairperson who is responsible for conducting any hearings set down in accordance with these Procedures (**Chairperson**).
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. The jurisdiction of the GBL Judiciary shall be that where conduct described in a Referral occurs at or in the vicinity of a game within the GBL Competition, or otherwise relates to the GBL Competition and is not referred to the BQ Judiciary under subsection (E).
- E. 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.
- F. 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.

# APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

## 4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

A. Any person may be reported (**Reported Person**) to the GBL Judiciary for breaching the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 or Section 9 of the *GBL Competition Rules* 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 must 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, as soon as practicable; 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. the scorers have recorded the ejection on the game card;
- ii. an Incident Report Form is submitted to the QBUA no later than 10 am the next business day following the game for review; and
- iii. they, or a representative from the QBUA, inform the GBL Competition Administrator the name and Club of the ejected player as soon as practicable;

D. 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.

### Urgent Referrals

E. Any of the Referrals made under subsection (A) may, if sufficiently serious, be made urgently to the GBL Competition Administrator to be dealt with as soon as practicable (**Urgent Referral**).

*Note: The intent of this rule is to allow serious conduct to be dealt with temporarily where the procedure set out in section 5 cannot be followed prior to the Reported Person's next scheduled game (e.g. conduct at a Division 1 Friday night game which may warrant suspension from the Sunday game).*

F. Where an Urgent Referral is made, the GBL Competition Administrator shall contact the Chairperson for the purpose of determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6. If the Chairperson is unable to be contacted within a reasonable time, the GBL Competition Administrator may, at their discretion, contact an alternative judiciary member or, failing that, the GBL Chair, for determination.

G. In determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction for an Urgent Referral, the Chairperson (or other judiciary member) may treat the Referral as prima facie evidence of the Reported Person's conduct and otherwise inform themselves in any way they consider appropriate.

## 5 PRE-HEARING PROCEDURE

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

- i. that a Referral has been made against the Reported Person;
- ii. the nature of the complaint/allegations; and
- iii. that the Chairperson may dismiss the Referral, refer it directly to a judiciary hearing or lay a charge against the Reported Person and propose a penalty.

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

### Reported Person Incident Report Form



# APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- B.** 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 Competition until the judiciary hearing unless otherwise directed by the Chairperson.

### **Chairperson determination**

- C.** Where the Chairperson is satisfied with the information provided, within one (1) business day following the receipt of both the Referral and the Reported Person’s Incident Report Form (if provided), the Chairperson 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 Chairperson may delay making a determination under this section where he or she determines further investigation is necessary.

- D.** The Chairperson may, at any time, form the GBL Judiciary pursuant to section 3B and consult other members of the GBL Judiciary in their decision making under this section.

### **Penalty offer**

- E.** The GBL Competition Administrator shall notify the relevant Club Secretary 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 Chairperson.

### **Plea**

- F.** If charges are laid and a penalty offer is made, the Club 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.

If the Club 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.

- G.** 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”.

- H.** If the Reported Person rejects the penalty offer or pleads not guilty, a hearing shall be set down in accordance with section 7.

# APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

## ***Other Matters***

- I. In all cases, the Club shall be responsible for notifying the Reported Person of any correspondence it receives related to the conduct and the duties the Reported Person has under these Procedures.

## **6 TEMPORARY SANCTION**

- A. Where the Chairperson has laid charges against a Reported Person under section 5, or otherwise received an Urgent Referral, a temporary penalty may be imposed pending notification of a plea and accepting a penalty offer, attending a judiciary hearing or as otherwise ordered by the Chairperson (***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 Competition 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 Chairperson, 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 Chairperson or the GBL Judiciary.
- E. A person the subject of a Temporary Sanction may appeal to the BQ Appeal Tribunal for a stay of the Temporary Sanction.

## **7 JUDICIARY HEARINGS**

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

### **Date & Time**

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

### **Attendance**

- D. The 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.
- E. The Complainant is not required to, but may, attend the judiciary hearing.
- F. If the Reported Person is unable to attend the judiciary hearing, their Club 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) or determine the matter based on the written evidence.
- G. If the Reported Person does not appear at the scheduled time nor after a reasonable period of grace, the hearing shall go ahead in their absence with their written evidence taken into account.

### **Advocates**

- H. The Reported Person, or the Complainant if they are under 18 years of age (e.g. a junior umpire), may have an advocate speak on their behalf at the judiciary hearing. The advocate shall assume control of the Reported Person's defence and the Reported Person will not be permitted to speak unless to give evidence on their own behalf. The GBL Competition Administrator must be notified by 5 pm the day before the judiciary hearing of any advocates.

# APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- I. 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**
- J. The GBL Judiciary may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- K. 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.
- L. 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.
- M. 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.
- N. 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.
- O. 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.
- P. 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.
- Q. The Reported Person, the Complainant and any witnesses detailed in subsection (P) shall be given reasonable opportunity to provide evidence at the judiciary hearing.
- R. All evidence given at a judiciary hearing is on a confidential and “without prejudice” basis.
- S. 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.
- T. The Chairperson has the sole discretion to request any person to remove themselves from the judiciary hearing at any time.
- U. 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**
- V. Unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson, the order of proceedings shall be:
- i. Introduction  
The Chairperson shall introduce the GBL Judiciary 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.

# APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

- 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 in all or specified capacities for a definite period of time or until a definite pre-set goal is reached;
  - iii. expulsion – from participation in any capacity in the GBL Competition as a response to a very serious offence;
  - iv. finer – 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 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*.

# APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

## 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. A Reported Person or the Complainant may appeal to the BQ Appeals Tribunal against a decision of the GBL Judiciary.
- B. An appeal must be made to the GBL Competition Administrator no later than 28 days after the original decision was communicated to the parties.
- C. If the appeal is not lodged with the GBL Competition Administrator within 28 days, an explanation for the delay must accompany the appeal.
- D. An appeal lodged after 28 days may only be heard with the leave of the chairperson of the BQ Appeals Tribunal and only if that chairperson is of the view that the appeal has reasonable prospects of success.
- E. An appeal must be based on at least one of the following grounds:
- a denial of natural justice;
  - a denial of procedural fairness;
  - 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
  - the penalty imposed was manifestly excessive or manifestly inadequate.

## 11 CHARGES AND RECOMMENDED TABLE OF PENALTIES

- A. The following charges may be laid against a Reported Person:

Class E – General Misconduct	
<b>Unsportsmanlike conduct</b>	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"><li>deliberately breaching rules or taking unfair advantage of a situation;</li><li>deliberately distracting or provoking another person;</li><li>insulting or otherwise deliberately offending another person;</li><li>unreasonably refusing to cooperate with a coach, player or official;</li><li>failing to display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat;</li><li>disrespecting the rights, dignity and worth of any participants;</li><li>encouraging others to act in an unsportsmanlike manner; or</li><li>otherwise bringing the game into disrepute.</li></ul>
<b>Consuming alcohol or tobacco</b>	Where a person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>consumes alcohol while participating in a game;</li><li>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</li><li>smokes tobacco within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at any Junior Competition game.</li></ul>
<b>Audible obscenity</b>	Any obscene language or swearing in a game that is loud enough to carry to the spectators but not directed at any person. Language that cannot be heard by the spectators, or otherwise constitutes verbal abuse, is not conduct covered by this charge. A coach may be

# APPENDIX C – GBL JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

	charged under this section if an audible obscenity comes from an unidentifiable person in that coach's dugout.
<b>Equipment abuse</b>	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.
<b>Class D - Dissent</b>	
<b>Dissent</b>	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"> <li>• arguing an umpire's judgment calls (e.g. balls and strikes);</li> <li>• a player (who is not also the team's coach) disputing an umpire's technical game ruling; or</li> <li>• disobeying an umpire's direction (unless constituting a "failing to leave" charge).</li> </ul> Discourteous or disrespectful behaviour directed at the umpire.
<b>Class C – Offensive Behaviour</b>	
<b>Verbal abuse</b>	Any comments directed to another person that could reasonably be construed as abusive or harassing. Comments need only be audible to the Complainant.  Taunting, baiting, verbally abusing or ridiculing another individual.
<b>Racial abuse</b>	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.
<b>Class B – Intimidation</b>	
<b>Touching an umpire</b>	Any intentional, unwanted physical contact with an umpire or physical contact incidental to a confrontation.
<b>Failing to leave</b>	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.
<b>Intimidation</b>	Physical or verbal conduct that could reasonably be construed as intimidating including, but not limited to, circumstances where a person leaves their designated position (e.g. as a fielder, batter, coach or from the dugout) to confront another person in an aggressive manner.  Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent,
<b>Class A – Dangerous Act</b>	
<b>Intentional or reckless dangerous play</b>	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).
<b>Attempting to strike</b>	An intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike another person. This may include engaging in a melee.
<b>Striking</b>	Intentionally striking another person in any way.
<b>Aggravated equipment abuse</b>	Conduct amounting to equipment abuse whereby a player is hit or injured as a result of the equipment abuse.

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<b>Spitting</b>	Spitting on or at any individual.
<b>Breach of Judiciary Order</b>	
<b>Breach of GBL Judiciary order</b>	Where a person or a Club breaches an order previously given by the GBL Judiciary.

- B.** Conduct which, in the opinion of the 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.
- C.** Where the same conduct constitutes more than one offence, the more serious offence (based on the Class) shall be laid.

**D. Recommended Table of Penalties**

The following table sets out recommended penalties for the charges defined in this section. These penalties represent a recommendation only and the 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 of Charge	Recommended suspension range (weeks)
<b>Class E – Misconduct</b>	1 - 2
<b>Class D – Dissent</b>	2 - 4
<b>Class C – Offensive Behaviour</b>	3 - 6
<b>Class B – Intimidation</b>	4 - 8
<b>Class A – Dangerous Act</b>	10 - 20
<b>Breach of GBL Judiciary order</b>	Player – minimum 20
<b>Breach of GBL Judiciary order</b>	Club – minimum \$500



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## APPENDIX D – HEALTH RULES AND COVID 19

### 1 COVID-19 SAFE PLAN

- A. The GBL Competition adopts BQ's COVID-19 Safe Plan, available via BQ's website.

### 2 WET RAG RULE

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



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