



# Playing Rules

## Women's League Standing Committee 2010---2011

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## WARNING ABOUT INHERENT DANGERS OF BASEBALL

The rules and procedures issued by NSWBL Inc. are designed to maximize the enjoyment, fairness and safety of our game. Officials and players should be aware that baseball, just like all sports, will always have inherent dangers. Some of these dangers arise from batted balls and collision of players. Care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment (including protective equipment) proper training methods and awareness of the risks.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	<b>RULES AND PROCEDURES</b> .....	<a href="#">3</a>
2	<b>GAME PRELIMINARIES --- FITNESS OF GROUND</b> .....	<a href="#">3</a>
3	<b>UNIFORMS</b> .....	<a href="#">3</a>
4	<b>PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT</b> .....	<a href="#">3</a>
5	<b>SMOKING AND ALCOHOL</b> .....	<a href="#">3</a>
6	<b>COACHES</b> .....	<a href="#">4</a>
7	<b>UMPIRES</b> .....	<a href="#">4</a>
8	<b>INFECTION RULE</b> .....	<a href="#">4</a>
9	<b>PITCHING RESTRICTIONS</b> .....	<a href="#">4</a>
10	<b>DEFENSIVE VISITS</b> .....	<a href="#">7</a>
11	<b>DESIGNATED HITTER</b> .....	<a href="#">7</a>
12	<b>EQUIPMENT</b> .....	<a href="#">7</a>
13	<b>ON FIELD BEHAVIOUR</b> .....	<a href="#">7</a>
14	<b>DELIBERATE COLLISION</b> .....	<a href="#">8</a>
15	<b>PROTESTS AND DISPUTES</b> .....	<a href="#">8</a>
16	<b>FORFEITS</b> .....	<a href="#">8</a>
17	<b>TRIBUNAL</b> .....	<a href="#">8</a>

## Abbreviations

**ABF** --- Australian Baseball Federation Incorporated.

**OABR** --- Official Australian Baseball Rules as published by the ABF

**NSWBL** --- New South Wales Baseball League Incorporated also known as Baseball NSW (BNSW)

**WLSC** - Women's League Standing Committee of NSWBL

**WL Club** --- A club registered as a member of the WLSC also referred to as "Club"

**WL** - Women's League --- NSW

**NSWBUA** --- New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Inc.

**Tribunal** --- BNSW Tribunal

**14 February 2013**

## 1 RULES AND PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Rules and Procedures - these rules and procedures will govern the WLSC Competition. They should be read in conjunction with the OABR and if in conflict, these rules shall take precedence. *The WLSC will resolve any exemptions or queries arising from matters not included in these rules.*
- 1.2 Playing times  
A Grade  
A grade games will be of two and a half (2 ½) hours duration or seven (7) innings, whichever is completed first. In the event of a tied game after 7 innings additional innings up to nine (9) will be played to achieve a result provided such additional innings are played within the 2 ½ hour time limit.
- Grades other than A Grade  
Games will be **two** hours or 4 innings, whichever is completed first.
- 1.3 The **Scheduled Finishing Time** will be as indicated in Rule 1.2. However, during daylight saving in NSW and where the preceding game finished later than its scheduled finishing time, the **Scheduled Finishing Time** will be adjusted by adding the normal game time as per Rule 1.2 to the new start time of that game. Following games will commence fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a previous game.
- 1.4 The top half of an inning will **NOT** commence ten (10) minutes or less before the **Scheduled Finishing Time** as indicated above, however where an inning is NOT completed at the **Scheduled Finishing Time**, play shall continue until the bottom half of the inning is completed or the side batting in the bottom half has scored the winning run.
- 1.5 Regulation Game  
A Grade It shall be a regulation game where the Umpire---in---Chief certifies that sixty (60) minutes or five (5) innings of play have been completed (4 1/2 innings where the team leading is batting last).
- Grades other than A grade It shall be a regulation game where the Umpire---in---Chief certifies that sixty (60) minutes or two (2) innings of play have been completed (1 1/2 innings where the team leading is batting last).
- 1.6 One sided game  
A Grade It shall be a regulation game as defined in the OABR if one team leads by ten (10) runs after 5 (5) innings.  
Grades other than A grade A maximum of seven (7) runs may be scored in any one (1) innings unless the final at bat results in a home run where all runs scored are counted.
- 1.7 Line---up  
A Grade 9 starting players as per the normal rules of baseball  
**Grades other than A grade may commence a game with seven (7) players. The automatic out rule will apply while a side has less than nine (9) registered players.**  
Grades other than A grade may elect, at the start of the game, to bat through their line---up. The batting order may not change during the game and the first 9 players listed must take the field for that teams first defensive ½ innings. Defensive changes are not formal substitutions.

## 2 GAME PRELIMINARIES --- FITNESS OF GROUND

- 2.1 The fitness of the ground for play will be decided by the authorities controlling the ground, the team managers, or in the event of the managers disagreeing, by the Umpire in Chief, in that order. *The safety of players, officials and spectators shall be the primary concern of the officials controlling either, the ground or the game. Games shall not commence or continue if there is a foreseeable risk of injury occurring to any player, official or spectator.*
- 2.2 When an appeal has been made against poor light, the fitness of the light for play shall be in the hands of the Umpire---in---Chief for decision --- an appeal may not be made with regard to this decision, refer to the **OABR Rule 4.12 (a) (b) and 5.10 (b).**

## 3 UNIFORMS

- 3.1 Only warm---up jackets of the players' registered club shall be worn on the field of play. Pitchers and relieved pitchers shall be allowed to wear warm---up Club jackets in the batting box or on the field of play and, where circumstances warrant. Other players may be allowed to wear warm up Club jackets at the Umpire---in---Chiefs' discretion.

## **4 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- 4.1 All clubs and players are required to provide safety and playing equipment as required by the WLSC.
- 4.2 Only two (2) ear flap batting helmets in solid or clubs' colours may be worn by batter/runners and bat persons, who are required to wear same at all times when on the field of play.
- 4.3 Clubs that have bat persons are to ensure that they wear appropriate fitting protective equipment, including a two-eared batting helmet and protector.
- 4.4 Catchers and any person warming up a pitcher are required to wear an approved facemask with throat guard except for "hockey style" helmets.

### **4.5 Coaches Helmets- All base Coaches MUST wear as minimum protection, a catchers style 'skull cap' whilst coaching either 1st or 3rd Base.**

## **5 SMOKING AND ALCOHOL**

- 5.1 A player, team official or umpire participating in a game shall not use tobacco products whilst on the field of play. This prohibition shall also apply to the "warm up" areas, batting practice areas, dugouts or surrounding areas.
  - 5.2 A player, team official or umpire whilst in uniform shall not consume liquor in or near the playing field where a game is in progress or is about to commence.
- PENALTY: The offending club will be fined \$100 and the offending person removed from the game.

## **6 COACHES**

- 6.1 Any coach registered with a Club, but not listed on the line-up, may assume the role of the coach during the game however they may not participate as a player.

## **7 UMPIRES**

- 7.1 In the event of an Official Umpire not attending at the time set down for the game to commence, or being unable to continue, an umpire or umpires shall be appointed by the managers of the opposing sides and the game shall proceed. Every effort shall be made to appoint accredited umpires by the NSWBUA who shall receive payment
- 7.2 Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the BNSW official result sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse with the result of the game and any ejections or injuries.
- 7.3 An umpire shall contact the Baseball NSW office on Monday informing them of any player ejections and forward the report of an ejection / citing to the **BNSW office** by 9.00am on the Tuesday after the incident. The Umpire's Report is to be sent by email or fax to the BNSW office.

## **8 INFECTION RULE**

- 8.1 Any players who, having any visible signs of any body fluids, must stem the flow of these fluids and remove or clean or cover any visible sign of these fluids from clothing and equipment. While the player receives such treatment, the game may continue with a temporary player for a maximum of 6 defensive outs of the player's team. If the treated player is unable to return to the game, a substitution of this player must be made under OABR 3.03. Where the nature of the incident is serious enough to prevent the player from returning to the game, an immediate substitution is required to avoid abuse of this rule.
- 8.2 A temporary player under rule 8.1 may be any player, whether a reserve or a player previously substituted in this game, provided the player is not:--
  - (a) a pitcher who is currently under a rest period as required by rule 9 or;
  - (b) a player who has been ejected from any game in the current competition round.
- 8.3 The temporary player for the player receiving treatment may not be replaced by another temporary player.

## **9 PITCHING RESTRICTIONS (NSWBL — Player Protection Policy)**

- 9.1 General Provisions
  - (a) This policy does not differentiate between genders or ability.

**14 February 2013**

- (b) Should a player from NSW be competing in any sanctioned event where there is a conflict in tournament or event rules to this policy, this policy shall take priority.
- (c) Specific Rules for tournaments or events conducted in NSW over consecutive days must be submitted to the Technical Committee prior to the event for approval.
- (d) The Chair of the Technical Committee, or their nominated delegate, when present at any event or tournament, shall have the discretion and authority to issue rulings or decisions pertaining to that specific tournament or event.
- (e) The word Assignment means any game or trial situation in which a player delivers a pitch or the aggregate of all pitches thrown in a single game..
- (f) If any pitcher delivers one pitch, they shall be charged for the relative Assignment.
- (g) A pitcher reaching the maximum number of pitches for a MAJOR Assignment is to be removed from the game once finishing the batter in the box. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3rd out of an inning, that pitcher is entitled to remain as a batter (Designated Hitter)\*\* (See 93.(g) in the line---up.
- (h) A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate whether it is hit safely or not shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".
- (i) A "no pitch", eg, batter steps out of the batter's box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count.
- (j) In the event any Umpire calls an "Illegal Pitch", the pitched ball will count towards the pitcher's count.
- (k) In Under 16's and lower, it will be the responsibility of the official scorer to notify the Chief Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within 10 pitches of the maximum allowable number.
- (l) The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule, however coach are responsible for complying with these rules.

#### 9.2 Pitchers' Game or Trial Situation

- (a) The primary risk management components of this policy concern:
  - (1) The number of pitchers thrown (classified as Assignments)
  - (2) The desirable rest periods following an Assignment
  - (3) The relationship between pitching and catching

The Assignment Table is based on a player's age as at 31<sup>st</sup> December in each year.

Age	Minor	Substantial	Major
Under 12	1 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 55
Under 14	1 - 24	25 - 54	55 - 65
Under 16	1 - 29	30 - 64	65 - 80
Under 18	1 - 39	40 - 79	80 - 100
Seniors	1 --- 59	60 --- 99	100 --- 125

#### 9.3 Pitching Assignments & Rest Periods

- (a) Rest periods relate to Pitching involvement, except where otherwise specifically provided.
- (b) No rest is required after a MINOR Assignment.
- (c) A days rest is considered as one full calendar day and not calculated as a 24 hour period.
- (d) No player shall undertake a MAJOR Assignment on the same day, or the day following a MINOR Assignment.
- (e) Any player pitching a MAJOR Assignment will be required to complete one days rest before any PLAYING participation, except as a designated hitter or for pinch hitting and pinch running, and two or three days rest (as per following table) before assuming any battery position.

- (f) Having thrown a MINOR or SUBSTANTIAL Assignment, no pitcher may throw a MAJOR Assignment on the same day, or the following day.
- (g) Relative to u16's, u18's and Seniors; a pitchers can only assume a subsequent defensive position in that game (for Under 16's only at either 1st or 2nd base) PROVIDED THAT no more than 59 pitches have been thrown. Once 60 pitches have been thrown, the pitchers may continue on the mound, or if removed from the mound, can only take further part in that game in the position of Designated Hitter\*\* (A formal ruling on OABR Rule 6.10 is being sought to see if this can occur when using only the standard DH Rule).
- (h) If a player pitches a SUBSTANTIAL in the first game of a double header, they can only participate in the second game of a double header as a designated hitter, pinch hitter or runner.
- (i) Any player may only throw two MINOR Assignments on the same calendar day.
- (j) Should a pitcher complete a SECOND MINOR Assignment on the same day then 2 days rest is required, except where the aggregate number of pitches is equal to or less than a single MINOR Assignment, then only 1 days rest is required.
- (k) If a player completes a SECOND MINOR Assignment on the same day, where the aggregate number of pitches thrown is equal to, a SUBSTANTIAL Assignment, then the player shall not have any further participation on that day, except for pinch hitting and pinch running and shall have two days rest before any further pitching Assignment.
- (l) Any player pitching a MINOR followed by a SUBSTANTIAL the next day will be required to complete one days rest before any playing participation except for pinch hitting and pinch running and three days rest before commencing any further pitching Assignment.

The following tables summarises the relevant rest periods required:

Assignment	Junior Rest		Senior Rest	
	Playing	Pitching/Catching	Playing	Pitching/Catching
Minor	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor/Minor, equal to Minor	Nil	1	Nil	1
Minor/Minor, equal to Substantial	1*	2*	1*	2*
Minor/Substantial	1	3	1	2
Substantial	Nil*	2	Nil	2
Major	1	3	1	2

\*Once having completed a SUBSTANTIAL Assignment a pitcher can only continue in that game in a defensive position in the circumstance where no more than 59 pitches have been thrown. Otherwise they can only DH.

#### 9.4 Junior Players

- (a) Any players under 18 years of age (as at 31<sup>st</sup> December in the current playing season) shall be classified as a Junior.
- (b) Should a Junior pitcher be selected in a team above their age group, pitching will be applicable to the pitcher's age, not the league or tournament in which they are playing in.
- (c) Pitchers Under 14 years may only throw fast balls or straight change ups. No other pitch types are permitted.

- (d) A Junior player:
- (1) Can come to the mound from any position provided they have suitably warmed up.
  - (2) Shall not undertake more than one pitching Assignment per game and once removed as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
  - (3) Having pitched; cannot catch in the same day.
  - (4) Having caught; may pitch on the same day but only for a Minor Assignment and only in the situation when the line---up has been fully utilised.

9.5 Monetary fines for breaches of this rule are:

- (a) first breach \$300
- (b) any subsequent breach will result in an additional fine and the suspension of the coach.
- (c) Each League may apply additional penalties. Eg ML --- Any breach will result in the loss of competition points.

9.6 These rules are designed to protect pitchers from overuse and also to encourage clubs to develop more pitchers.

## **10 DEFENSIVE VISITS**

- 10.1 On a second visit in the same innings to the pitcher, coaches must directly approach the Umpire In Chief if the pitcher is moving to another defensive position. Should the coach cross the foul line and not directly approach the Umpire in Chief, the pitcher is to be removed from the game.
- 10.2 There is no restriction on the number of players who may approach the mound conference during a visit.

## **11 DESIGNATED HITTER**

- 11.1 A designated hitter may be used in A Grade only in accordance with the OABR Rule 6.10 and with these rules.
- 11.2 A designated hitter may ONLY be used where there are ten (10) fresh players available in the starting line---up of any game.

## **12 EQUIPMENT**

- 12.1 Home clubs will provide match balls of the same brand (as approved by the BNSW) in any game under the control of the WLSC.
- 12.2 Bats shall be ABF / BNSW approved and may be wood, wood composite/laminated, aluminium, ceramic or carbon graphite. In accordance with IBAF rules, 115 decibels will be the sound emission limit standard for non---wood bats.

## **13 ON FIELD BEHAVIOUR**

- 13.1 Wilfully violent or unsportsmanlike action, including unnecessary body contact, abuse of playing equipment or facilities, fighting or other behaviour considered by an umpire to be dangerous, injurious or to bring the game into criticism or disrepute, will result in the player or team official responsible being ejected from the field and/or cited to appear before the Tribunal.
- 13.2 All registered members are responsible to BNSW for their conduct and behaviour at games and events conducted by the League, whether playing or not.
- 13.3 All clubs are required to make their players aware that SPORTING COMPETITORS OWE A DUTY of CARE TO ONE ANOTHER. There is a fine line between an error in judgment on the field and negligent conduct. Competitors should endeavour to exercise *reasonable care* not to injure other players in playing out a game or match (Refer Rule 14.1).

## **14 DELIBERATE COLLISION**

- 14.1 Clubs are to ensure that the players are aware that intentional contact, under certain circumstances, will NOT be tolerated.

Provision for game situation contact between players should be taken into consideration when an umpire makes any interpretation of this requirement. Any player adjudged by the umpire to have deliberately or recklessly caused a collision to occur should be ejected from the game.

## **15 PROTESTS AND DISPUTES**

- 15.1 The provisions of the OABR will apply to all competition games of BNSW and in the event of an umpire giving an erroneous decision on a point of law and refusing to alter his decision, although his attention was drawn to the fact at the time on the field, by the coach/manager of the team which has suffered such wrong decisions.
- 15.2 The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the WLSC, provided that the intention to protest is indicated to the Umpire in Chief at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched or before any intervening play occurs.
- 15.3 The final protest is made to the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game.
- 15.4 A *JUDGEMENT* decision by an *UMPIRE* will *NOT* be accepted as grounds for a protest.

## **16 FORFEITS**

- 16.1 A forfeited game is a game declared ended by the Umpire---in---Chief in accordance with the OABR. Umpires are required to submit a report on such declarations outlining the reasons to ML Registrar.

## **17 TRIBUNAL**

- 17.1 All participants in games under the control of BNSW will abide by and be subject to the OABR, these Playing Rules and any instruction regarding the conduct of the game of baseball by the WLSC. A player or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:
- (a) Ejected from a game by the umpire
  - (b) Cited by an umpire for an incident that occurs after the game has been 'called'.
  - (c) Cited by BNSW or the WLSC.
- 17.2 The WLSC appoints the BNSW Tribunal to process all incidents referred to in Rule 17.1
- 17.3 When a person is ejected from a game of baseball or cited, he/she will:
- (a) Conform strictly to the OABR.
  - (b) Not participate in another game of baseball with a Club, League or Association affiliated with BNSW until such time as the matter has been processed by the BNSW Tribunal.

Wet Weather: Check the website [www.nswwbl.baseball.com.au](http://www.nswwbl.baseball.com.au)

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