



NSW Women's Baseball League

Rules Supplement

Author: WLSC

Loc: BNSW Cloud Storage

Date: 22nd October 2013
Version 1.1

Document Control

Version	Date Released	Section	Remarks
1.0	18 August 2013	Various	Reformat of Rules Supplement :- All references now relate to OABR.
		1.1	Reworded.
		1.2	New addition: Old 1.2 thru 1.7 moved to new Sect. 11:- Regulation Game.
		1.3	New Addition.
		2	On Field Behavior: Moved from old sect 13.
		3	Deliberate Collision: Moved from old sect 14 and reworded with inclusions.
		4	New Section: Warm Up Pitch Limits.
		5	Tribunal: Moved from old section 17.
		6	Uniforms: Moved from old sect 3 and additions.
		7	Helmets: Moved from old sect 4 and clarification.
			Old sect 5:- Smoking and Alcohol: removed to ABF Policy Reference only.
		8	Manager: Moved from old sect 6 reworded for Manager and Coach.
		9	New Section: Game Preliminaries.
		10	Player Substitute: Reworded for 2 nd Grade games.
		11	Regulation Game: Moved from old sect 1, reworded and clarification.
		12	New Section:- Suspended Games.
		13	New Section:- Not Enough Players: moved from sect 1.7 reworded and clarification.
		14	Protesting A Game: Moved from Old sect 15.
		15	Scoring A Run:- Reworded for Grades other than 1 st Grade.
		16	Designated Hitter Rule: Reworded and clarification.
		17	Defensive Visits: Addition and clarification.
		18	Umpire: Moved from old sect 7.
		19	Violation Reports: New Section.
			Competition Grade name change from A and B Grades to 1 st and 2 nd Grades.
			Old sect 8 Infection Rule: Removed to ABF Policy reference only.
			Old sect 9 Pitching Restriction NSWBL Player Protection Policy, removed to NSWBL Player Protection Reference only.
			Old sect 12 Equipment moved to Game Preliminaries.
			Old sect 16 Forfeits moved to Policy and Procedures.
			Old sect 17 Tribunals moved to Violation Reports.
V1.1	12 October 2013	Various	Amendments to permit more than 9 batters in 2 nd Grade Line-up.

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

2	ON FIELD BEHAVIOR.....	4
3	DELIBERATE COLLISION	4
4	LIMITS ON WARM UP PITCHES	4
5	TRIBUNAL	5
6	THE GAME OABR 1.01	5
7	THE UNIFORM OABR 1.11	5
8	THE HELMETS OABR 1.16	5
9	THE MANAGER OABR 2.50	5
10	GAME PRELIMINARIES OABR 3.00	6
11	PLAYER SUBSTITUE OABR 3.03.....	6
12	ENTERING the FIELD OABR 4.01.....	6
13	A REGULATION GAME OABR 4.10	6
14	SUSPENDED GAMES OABR 4.12	7
15	NOT ENOUGH PLAYERS OABR 4.17	7
16	PROTESTING GAMES OABR 4.19	7
17	SCORING A RUN OABR 5.06	8
18	DESIGNATED HITTER RULE OABR 6.10.....	8
19	DEFENSIVE VISITS OABR 8.06	8
20	THE UMPIRE OABR 9.00	8
21	VIOLATION REPORTS OABR 9.05.....	8

Abbreviations

ABF --- Australian Baseball Federation Incorporated.

BNSW --- Baseball NSW

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

NSWBUA --- New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Incorporated.

NSWWBL --- New South Wales Women’s Baseball League.

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

Tribunal --- BNSW Tribunal.

UIC --- Umpire in Chief.

WL --- Women’s League --- NSW.

WL Club --- A Club registered as a member of the WLSC, also referred to as a “Club”.

WLSC --- Women’s League Standing Committee.

1 RULES AND PROCEDURES

- 1.1 These Rules shall govern the NSW Women's Baseball League (NSWWBL) Competition. All matches of the NSWWBL will be conducted under the Official Australian Baseball Rules (OABR), the amendments documented in this Rules Supplement and the approved NSWWBL Policies and Procedures document in force at that time.
- 1.2 This Rules supplement should be read in conjunction with the OABR 6th Edition and various National and State Policies. If in conflict, these rules shall take precedence.
- 1.3 In various sections of the OABR it is quoted that the League President will fulfil specific roles and functions. For all events under the control of the NSWWBL the term "League President" shall be interpreted as the WLSC or its appointed delegate.
- 1.4 The NSWWBL Womens League Standing Committee (WLSC) will resolve any exemptions or queries arising from matters not included in these rules.

2 ON FIELD BEHAVIOR

- 2.1 Willfully violent or unsportsmanlike action, including unnecessary body contact, abuse of playing equipment or facilities, fighting or other behavior 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.
- 2.2 All registered members are responsible to BNSW for their conduct and behavior at all games and events conducted by the NSWWBL, whether playing or not.
- 2.3 All Clubs are required to make their participants aware that SPORTING COMPETITORS OWE A DUTY OF CARE TO ONE ANOTHER. There is a fine line between an error of 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.

3 DELIBERATE COLLISION

- 3.1 Clubs are to ensure that the players are aware that intentional contact, under certain circumstances, will NOT be tolerated.
- 3.2 Any player who in the umpires' judgment has caused unnecessary, avoidable or deliberate collision with another player irrespective whether a play was being made or not, in addition to the application of the baseball rules of "interference" and "obstruction", will be subject to a penalty.
- 3.3 If a play on a runner is imminent at any base except 1st base the runner must slide, or otherwise attempt to avoid a collision with a fielder who has the ball and is in a position:
 - (1) on an unforced play, to apply a tag to the runner, or
 - (2) on a forced play, to tag the runner or the base.

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.

4 LIMITS ON WARM UP PITCHES

- 4.1 Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, they shall be permitted a maximum 60 seconds including a minimum of three (3) warm-up pitches. This same time limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of each inning.
- 4.2 Should either team take longer than 60 seconds to make the changeover between innings, the penalties will be invoked as follows:
 - On the first occasion, the team manager will be given a warning by the Plate Umpire.
 - Any further transgressions shall result in a called strike (if it is the batting team which offends) or a called ball (if it is the pitching team that offends).
 - The 60 second time limit commences immediately the third out of the previous half inning is completed.
- 4.3 In order to facilitate the changeover as specified in 4.2 above, batting teams will be able to replace their catcher with a "pinch runner" after two (2) outs at their own discretion.

- 4.4 The active pitcher will be permitted to warm up prior to taking the mound by throwing in foul territory but beyond 1st and 3rd base areas towards the outfield.
- 4.5 Umpires should use discretion to prevent conflict when applying this rule.

5 TRIBUNAL

- 5.1 All participants in games under the control of the NSWWBL 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 NSWWBL.
A player, registered member, or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:
- (1) Ejected from the game by the umpire.
 - (2) Cited by an umpire for an incident that occurs after the game has been “called”.
 - (3) Cited by BNSW or the NSWWBL.
- 5.2 The NSWWBL appoints the BNSW Tribunal to process all incidents referred to in these Rules.
- 5.3 When a person is ejected from a game of baseball or cited, they will:
- (1) Conform strictly to the OABR.
 - (2) 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.

6 THE GAME OABR 1.01

The OABR rule is replaced by the following:

Baseball is a game between two teams and for 1st Grade games shall consist of nine players each, under direction of a manager, played on an enclosed field in accordance with these Rules, under jurisdiction of one or more umpires. For Grades other than 1st Grade, teams may consist of between eight (8) and twelve (12) players subject to these rules as amended.

7 THE UNIFORM OABR 1.11

As per OABR with the following amendments:

- (h) Not valid for NSWWBL.
- (j) 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 Club warm-up jackets in the batting box or on the field of play and where circumstances warrant. Other players may be allowed to wear Club warm-up jackets at the Umpire-in-Chief’s discretion.

8 THE HELMETS OABR 1.16

Helmets are required as per the OABR with the following additions:

- (f) All base Coaches must wear as minimum protection an approved helmet while coaching at either 1st or 3rd base. Persons 18 years or older may wear a catchers style ‘skull cap’. Juniors under the age of 18 years are required to wear a double eared helmet at all times while on the playing field.
- (g) Any person warming up a pitcher are required to wear an approved facemask with throat guard except for “hockey style” helmets which have an approved throat guard inbuilt.

9 THE MANAGER OABR 2.50

As per OABR with the following additions:

- (d) The manager must be a financial member of the Club they are managing and their detail should be entered into the official League Registration Database.
- (e) Any coach registered with a Club, but not listed on the line-up, may assume the role of the manager or a coach during the game however they may not participate as a player.
- (f) The manager must have a minimum Coaching Accreditation of:
- Level three for 1st Grade completion
 - Level two for grades other than 1st Grade.

10 GAME PRELIMINARIES OABR 3.00

10.1 Before the Game OABR 3.01

Amend OABR section 3.01 as follows:

- (c) Receive from the home club a supply of approved regulation baseballs of a single brand, the number and make to be certified to the home club by the League President. The umpire shall inspect the baseballs and ensure they are regulation baseballs and that they are properly rubbed so that the gloss is removed. The umpire shall be the sole judge of the fitness of the baseballs.

10.2 Field Conditions 3.10

Amend OABR Section 3.10

- (a) (i) 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 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 players, official or spectator.*
- (ii) 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 **OABR Rule 4.12 (a), (b), and 5.10 (b).**

11 PLAYER SUBSTITUE OABR 3.03

As per OABR with the following addition:

Grades other than 1st Grade: Defensive changes are not formal substitutions. The first nine (9) players listed on the team line-up must take the field for that team's first defensive ½ innings. Umpires should be aware and manage substitutions in such a manner that inappropriate "delay of game" is avoided.

12 ENTERING the FIELD OABR 4.01

As per OABR with the following addition between 4.01(b) and (c):

Grades other than 1st Grade, the Managers shall then notify to the Umpire in Chief of the manner in which they elect to utilise their available Line-Up for that match and that notifications shall be limited to one of the following options:

1. Elect to bat 1 – 9 only and field 1 – 9 only with all player interchanges being classified as formal substitutions thus allowing the use of the Designated Hitter if ten (10) players are eligible and available to play.
2. Elect to bat 1- 9 and use unlimited Defensive Interchange. No Designated Hitter permitted.
3. Elect to bat 1 – 12 and use unlimited Defensive Interchange. No Designated Hitter permitted.

Players 10 (for Option 1 and 2) and 13 (for Option 3) onwards when entering the game in either offensive or defensive (including pinch hitters/runners) shall be classified as formal substitutions and subject to OABR conditions.

All player interchanges and substitutions shall be notified to the plate umpire as specified in the OABR.

13 A REGULATION GAME OABR 4.10

The OABR rule is replaced by the following:

- (a) A Regulation Game consists of seven (7) innings or two and one half (2 ½) hours for 1st Grade and five (5) innings or two (2) hours for other Grades unless shortened because:
- (1) the home team needs none of its half of the seventh (7th) inning for 1st Grade or fifth (5th) inning for other Grades or only a fraction of it; or
 - (2) the umpire "calls" the game; or
 - (3) one team leads by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) complete innings in a 1st Grade game (or the home team leads by ten (10) runs or more and does not require all or only a fraction of its fifth (5th) inning to attain a ten (10) run lead.
- (b) Not valid for NSWBL.

- (c) If a game is “called”, it is a regulation game:
 - (1) If five (5) innings for 1st Grade, or four (4) innings for other Grades, have been completed (except that once the home team leads after four and one half (4 ½) innings or a fraction of for 1st Grade or three and one half (3 ½) innings or fraction of for other Grades, the game shall be deemed a Regulation Game at that point;
 - (2) If the home team has scored more runs in four (4) or four and a fraction half innings than the visiting team has scored in five (5) completed half innings;
 - (3) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth (5th) innings to tie the score;
 - (4) If the UIC certifies that sixty (60) minutes of game have been played.
- (d) Not valid for NSWWB.
- (e) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, the umpire shall declare it a “no game”.
- (f) Not valid for NSWWB.
- (g) The **Scheduled Finishing Time** will be as specified in this variation to OABR 4.10:
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 to the new start time of that game. Following games will commence fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a previous game.
- (h) The top half on an inning will NOT commence ten (10) minutes or less before the end of 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 team batting in the bottom half has scored the winning run.

14 SUSPENDED GAMES OABR 4.12

Suspended Game regulations shall not apply to NSWWB Round Matches or Semi Final and Preliminary Final rounds.

Suspended Game regulations shall apply to the first scheduled date of any Grand Final match but only where a “spare Grand Final date” has been scheduled and approved by the WLSC prior to the start of the competition.

15 NOT ENOUGH PLAYERS OABR 4.17

The OABR rule is replaced with the following:

A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team is unable or refuses to place:

- (a) Nine players on the field for 1st Grade games,
- (b) Eight players on the field for other Grade games, (automatic out will apply each and every time that a batter fails to take their turn at bat or a batting slot is unoccupied).

16 PROTESTING GAMES OABR 4.19

As per OABR with the following additions:

- (a) The provisions of the OABR will apply to all competition games of the NSWWB 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 manager/coach of the team which has suffered such wrong decisions:
 - (1) The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the NSWWB, 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.
 - (2) The final protest is made to the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game.
 - (3) A JUDGEMENT decision by an UMPIRE will NOT be accepted as grounds for a protest.

17 SCORING A RUN OABR 5.06

As per OABR with the following addition:

Grades other than 1st Grade: a maximum of seven (7) runs may be scored in any one (1) inning unless the final at bat hits the ball out of play and is ruled a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run (excluding inside the park home run) that drives in excess of seven (7) runs for the inning, all runs for that inning will be added to the team's score and the umpire shall declare side away at the completion of the play.

18 DESIGNATED HITTER RULE OABR 6.10

As per OABR with the following additions:

- (c) A designated hitter may be used in 1st Grade competitions in accordance with the OABR.
- (d) A Designated Hitter may be used in Grade competitions other than 1st Grade under the following conditions only:
 - (i) Must conform to all Designated Hitter provisions of OABR 6.10 plus, may only be used where, at the plate meeting prior to commencement of the game, the team manager has elected option (1).
- (e) A Designated Hitter may only be used where there are ten (10) fresh players available in the starting line-up of any game.
- (f) When a Designated Hitter has completed at least one (1) turn at bat (subject to section 4.7 of the BNSW Player Protection Policy regarding Junior Players and their pitching assignment limits), a pitcher who has been relieved by a reserve player, may bat in the Designated Hitter slot (terminating the role of Designated Hitter for the remainder of the game) and take another defensive position OR otherwise be removed from the game.

19 DEFENSIVE VISITS OABR 8.06

As per OABR with the following addition after (d) and before the next paragraph:

- (e) On a second visit in the same innings to the pitcher, the manager/coach must directly approach the Umpire in Chief if the pitcher is moving to another defensive position. Should the manager/coach cross the foul line and not directly approach the Umpire in Chief, the pitcher is to be removed from the game.

20 THE UMPIRE OABR 9.00

20.1 Appointments OABR 9.01

As per OABR with the following addition after (e) (2):

- (f) 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.
- (g) Every effort shall be made to appoint accredited umpires by the NSWBUA.
- (h) Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the NSWWBL Official Result Sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse with the result of the game and any ejections or injuries.

21 VIOLATION REPORTS OABR 9.05

As per OABR with the following replacing paragraph (b):

- (b) When any trainer, manager, coach or player is disqualified for a flagrant offence, such as the use of obscene or indecent language, or an assault upon an umpire, trainer, manager, coach or player, the umpire shall contact the BNSW office on the next business day informing them of any ejections and forward the report of each ejection/citing to the BNSW office by 9.00am on the second business day after the incident. The Umpire's Report(s) are to be sent by e-mail or fax to the BNSW office.

End of NSWWBL 2013-14 Rules Supplement Document v1.1.