



Sydney
Women's
Invitational 2014

Tournament Rules



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1. Preamble

- 1.1 In general, this Tournament will be played under the Official Australian Baseball Rules.
- 1.2 From time to time, however, special regulations (e.g. pitching allowances, time saving rules etc) have been introduced to apply to the Tournament. Wherever the word Team is used, it is taken to mean Participating Team.

2. Title

- 2.1 The series will be known as the Sydney Women's Invitational Tournament.

3. Tournament Venue

- 3.1 The Tournament will be played each year at a venue determined by NSWBL.

4. Tournament Dates

- 4.1 The Tournament will held in January each year, except due to special circumstances.
- 4.2 The venue and the starting date shall be advised by the NSWBL.

5. Tournament Match Committee (TMC)

- 5.1 This committee will be comprised of the Tournament Director, the Umpire Coordinator and a representative of NSWBL.

6. Lodgment of Entries

- 6.1 Teams will advise the NSWBL of their participation in accordance with the invitation.

7. Meetings

- 7.1 Managers/Head Coaches and Executive Officers of the competing teams will attend a Team Official's Meeting prior to the commencement of the Tournament which will be convened by the Tournament Director.
- 7.2 A session on clarification of Tournament Rules including a re-emphasis of the penalties for any pitching rules transgression will be included within this meeting.
- 7.3 Head Coaches will be reminded that all game balls are returned back into the game and the penalties involved should pilfering of baseballs occur.
- 7.4 The Tournament Director (TD) at this meeting will formally comment upon aspects of conduct relating to participants, with particular reference to attitudes, image and damage to property. Their on-field behavior will be monitored and leaving their position or calling out at umpires regarding decisions will not be tolerated. The TD will clearly spell out that there are penalties that will be invoked where such behavior and conduct is not in accordance with the Players Participation Agreement and that there will be minimal tolerance towards such breaches. Reference is also to be made in regards to the use of tobacco products and the consumption of alcohol. There will be no tolerance on the use of tobacco products on-field, while in uniform or within any tournament venue.
- 7.5 To avoid a cumbersome paper trail one form is to be signed by each team's Manager stating that all team personnel have completed the relevant forms and

they are in their possession should they be required by tournament management. This single form must be submitted to the TD prior to or at the Team Officials Meeting. Failure to produce such forms upon request during the tournament will be deemed a breach under tournament rules (see Appendices for forms: - Team Roster, Medical Authority and Release Forms, Player Participation Agreement, Team Official Participation Agreement, Game Official Participation Agreement). Medical Authority Forms will be checked in accordance with Section 13.2.3.

- 7.6 The Umpires Coordinator shall outline ground rules.
- 7.7 The TD shall act as Chairman of this meeting. Other interested persons may be invited to attend the meeting and join in discussions subject to the Chairman's approval. Under no circumstances can decisions be made altering the Operations Manual at this meeting.
- 7.8 Minutes from the Team Officials Meeting must be prepared by the meeting secretary and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

8. Team Rosters

- 8.1 An official Team Roster form is provided in the Appendices providing space to list details of players, coaches, managers, scorers and bat persons and is to be completed by competing teams. The rosters are to be sent by electronic format as per the instructions contained in the invitation/pre-tournament information sheet.

9. Accommodation

- 9.1 A Risk Management Plan for the Management of Player Welfare must be put in place by all participating teams. See Appendices.
- 9.2 Accommodation expenses for the Manager/Head Coach and non-player coaches shall be the responsibility of each visiting Team.

10. Meals

- 10.1 Teams may order their meals from the Canteen; it is the responsibility of each team delegation to organize suitable morning and evening meals, as well as snack foods and drinks for between meals.

11. First Aid

- 11.1 The Host Venue will ensure that a qualified First Aid attendant is present during all games of the Tournament.

12. Number of Players

- 12.1 Each team shall consist of up to 18 players but not less than 15 players (not including non-playing captains or coaches). All players and coaches must be properly attired in the uniform of their team.
- 12.2 Rosters are final and locked in after their lodgment at the pre tournament Team Officials Meeting.

13. Eligibility of Players

- 13.1 Status Determination
 - 13.1.1 Age Qualifications

13.1.2 Competing players must be 14 years of age at the start date of the Tournament, i.e. 24th January 2014.

13.1.3 Child Protection Legislation. It is the responsibility of all teams that contain Under Age Players to ensure all adult team personnel comply with both their states and the host's Child Protection Legislation. In addition, please refer to the Appendices relating to the taking of images of children.

13.2 Medical Authority

13.2.1 A Medical Authority Form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each competing under-age player or any other under-age person (e.g. bat-persons) participating with the team, in which an authority is given in respect of any medical or hospital attention (including an operation) which may be required as a result of any injury or illness sustained. This Form is not to be amended under any circumstances.

13.2.2 All adult players must also complete the Medical Authority Form.

13.2.3 These forms must be produced at the Team Officials Meeting prior to the commencement of the Tournament and must be checked under the direction of the TD before permission to compete will be given. Two forms (not carbon copies) for each player are required. One copy will be held by the TD, who at the completion of the Tournament will forward them to the NSWBL Office and the other by the Team Executive Officer. A copy of this form is attached - see Appendices.

14. Player Participation Sheets

14.1 Player Participation Agreements are to be completed by all players and submitted to the TD prior to or at the Team Officials Meeting (See 7). A copy of this sheet can be found in Appendices.

15. Code of Conduct – Players

15.1 The ABF Code of Conduct must be signed by all players (and where an under-age player is involved, by their parents) in order to participate in the Tournament. A copy of the code can be found in Appendices.

15.2 Where there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct, irrespective of whether on- field or off-field, such breaches must be reported to the TD. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the TD and team personnel.

15.3 The use or possession of any form of tobacco, tobacco products, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol of any description is banned. Team and tournament officials shall have the right to conduct a search of a player's room, bags, clothing or personal belongings if he or she has a reasonable suspicion that a serious breach of the code of conduct has occurred. This must be conducted in the presence of the player and an independent adult witness.

16. Coaches

16.1 All participating teams shall be accompanied by at least two (2) and at most four (4) coaches. Managers/Coaches are to be provided with a copy of the ABF Team Officials Participation Agreement and acknowledge they will abide by the conditions disclosed.

16.1.1 Where there has been a breach of any aspect of the Participation

Agreement, irrespective of whether on-field or off-field, such breaches must be reported to the TD. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the TD and team personnel.

16.1.2 Note: In cases where there are breaches of this Participation Agreement, the breaches must be reported to the TD. If the official is found to have a case to answer then the matter will be referred to the Tournament Tribunal for assessment of guilt or innocence and subsequent imposition of penalties where appropriate. See Section 39 – Reported Players/Coaches - for further details.

16.2 All coaches will be attired in the same team uniform as the players. On-field coaches will remain in the coaches' boxes at all times and will not talk to members of the opposing team, nor make comments relating to umpires or their decisions.

16.3 All Managers must be accredited to at least Level Three (3) and Coaches must be accredited to at least Level Two (2) standard. It is the responsibility of the Teams to ensure these standards are complied with.

16.3.1 The use or possession of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description by coaches, players or any team official while participating in the game, moving onto and off the playing grounds including batting practice areas, on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, and while in uniform or anywhere in the vicinity of the Tournament Venue is banned.

16.3.2 Penalty: Ejection from the game and appropriate follow-up as a breach of the Participation Agreement.

17. Umpires

17.1 The Panel

17.1.1 All teams are to supply an accredited umpire who will form part of the panel of officials for the Tournament. The appointment of umpires to games is the responsibility of New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Inc (NSWBUA). Such umpires shall be Nationally Accredited and/or of a standard acceptable to the State Director of Umpiring (SDU).

17.1.2 The use or possession of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description by umpires on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, while in uniform or in the vicinity of any Tournament Venue is banned.

17.1.3 Fees may be payable to any umpire at the Tournament.

17.1.4 Uniform to be worn shall be as approved by the NSWBUA.

17.2 The Umpires Coordinator

17.2.1 For each Tournament, a coordinator will be appointed for the umpiring panel. The coordinator may be a member of the panel.

17.2.2 The duties of the coordinator shall include:

17.2.2.1 Full control of the umpiring discipline of the panel both on and off the field.

17.2.2.2 Liaison with the TD for application of their requirements.

17.2.2.3 Duties associated with the appointment of umpires.

17.2.2.4 The appointment of a Crew Chief to each team of umpires in each game.

17.3 Protests

17.3.1 All protests against rulings during a game shall be resolved by the Umpires Coordinator at the time of the protest.

17.3.1.1 Such protests must be lodged immediately and be accompanied by a written submission and a \$50 fee.

17.3.1.2 Should the protest be upheld, then the \$50 Protest Fee will be refunded to the protesting team.

17.3.2 All disputes on Tournament Rules shall be settled by the TD. All disputes regarding the Tournament Rules are to be directed to the TD in writing, as soon as practical once the dispute arises. The TD is solely responsible for handling all such disputes and will use his/her discretion in deciding whether to refer the issue to the TMC for further adjudication.

17.3.3 Decisions of the Umpires Coordinator and the TD are final and binding.

17.4 Pitching Eligibility

17.4.1 The Scorers Coordinator will be responsible for the delivering to the Chief Umpire, 30 minutes before the start of each game, a list of players who are ineligible to pitch. A copy of this list will also be supplied as soon as possible prior to the game, to the opposing Managers/Head Coaches.

18. Scorers

18.1 The Panel

18.1.1 Each team shall supply an accredited scorer for all games played by that team. Appointment of scorers may be made by the New South Wales Baseball Scorers Association. Such scorers shall be Nationally Accredited and/or of a standard acceptable to the TD.

18.1.2 The use or possession of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description by statisticians on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, and while in uniform or in the vicinity of any Tournament Venue is banned.

18.2 Statistics of a Tournament

18.2.1 Players statistics will be provided where and when possible.

18.2.2 If a game is abandoned, pitch statistics and pitching rules will apply.

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

18.2.4 Statistics for all teams will be posted on display at the competition venue throughout the Championships, and may be put on the NSWBL website as soon as possible following the conclusion of each game.

18.3 Each team is to receive a copy of their statistics on a daily basis.

19. The Playing Field

19.1 Normal Baseball ground dimensions will apply except as follows:

19.1.1 Backstop – a minimum 45' is required (or as otherwise approved by the TMC);

19.1.2 Home Run Fence

- 19.1.2.1 Foul Line 270' (min);
- 19.1.2.2 Centre Field 300' (min);
- 19.1.2.3 Recommended Height 6' (min)
- 19.1.3 Pitching Mounds Diameter – 18'; Height - 10"
- 19.1.4 These dimensions may only be varied with the prior authority of the Tournament Director or TMC.
- 19.2 The back stop is compulsory behind the catcher in order to allow the catcher to retrieve passed balls easily. It is parallel to the front side of home plate and extends between the extensions of foul lines. The back stop distances and the height of the home run fences shown above are the recommended dimensions.
- 19.3 Dirt pitching mounds are compulsory and must be in accordance with the measurements shown above.

20. Maintenance

- 20.1 The following issues are to be addressed for maintenance of grounds at Tournament venues.
- 20.2 Each venue shall have a Grounds Coordinator with sufficient crew to be available at all games during the pre-game phase and during all games.
- 20.3 Facilities
 - 20.3.1 The following requirements are to be provided in regards to facilities at the venues:
 - 20.3.1.1 Screens for the protection of players and coaches are to be provided at batting practice areas and within batting tunnels as referred to in "Playing Arena" above
 - 20.3.1.2 Adequate change rooms are to be provided (i.e. The venue must have two (2) change rooms for competing teams and one (1) change room for the Series Umpires.
 - 20.3.1.3 That sufficient power points be made available at the ground.
 - 20.3.1.4 That the principal venue has access to phone, fax and computer facilities to meet the daily requirements of the series.
 - 20.3.1.5 Adequate toilet facilities are to be provided for competing teams, officials and spectators.
 - 20.3.1.6 There shall be ready access to ice supplies for players and for use in the first aid treatment of players.
 - 20.3.1.7 A St. Johns Ambulance officer, or a service of similar standard, must be in attendance at all times and a designated treatment area must be provided.
 - 20.3.1.8 Access to Doctors, Physiotherapists and Hospitals is to be advised to competing teams
 - 20.3.1.9 Available Medical Services are to be advised to competing teams which are available for use on a user pays basis.
 - 20.3.1.10 The Official Recorder should have a dedicated room/area in which to compile game statistics containing a computer and

laser printer.

- 20.3.1.11 It is strongly recommended that an isolated area be provided at all venues for use by statisticians in compiling game reports as well as use by the TD for meetings where privacy is required, e.g., tribunal or disciplinary meetings.

21. Regulation Game

- 21.1 The regulation game for the Tournament for 1st Division consists of seven (7) innings or 2hrs 15min., whichever is completed first. The regulation game for 2nd Division consists of five (5) innings or 2hrs, whichever is completed first. This is applicable to all Pool Games.
- 21.2 It shall be a regulation competition game if the Umpire certifies that play has proceeded for at least half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the regulation time or four (4) completed innings for 1st Division and at least half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the regulation time or three (3) completed innings for 2nd Division.
- 21.3 In the event of a game not being declared a regulation game for any reason (other than a forfeit), the game will be declared a “no game” and no game win/loss results will be recorded towards either team’s point’s percentage.
- 21.4 Game ends when:-
- 21.4.1 The Home Team in 1st Division has scored more runs in 6 innings than the Visiting Team has scored in 7 innings (for a 7 innings game) or in 2nd Division The Home Team has scored more runs in 4 innings than the Visiting Teams has scored in 5 innings (for a 5 innings game).
- 21.4.2 The Home team scores the winning run in the 7th innings for 1st division and 5 innings for 2nd Division before the inning is completed. If a batter in the last half of the final inning of a game hits a home run over the home run fence or into the stand, all runners on base at the time of the hit as well as the batter, shall be entitled to score, but to legally score all bases must be touched in order by all runners. The final score of such a game shall be the total number of runs scored by each team.
- 21.4.3 The score is tied at the end of the 7th innings played for 1st Division, the game is continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings, provided that if the Home team scores the winning run before the third out in any inning after the 7th the game shall terminate and be a regulation game. The score is tied at the end of the 5th innings played for 2nd Division, the game is continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings, provided that if the Home team scores the winning run before the third out in any inning after the 5th the game shall terminate and be a regulation game. This is subject to 21.4.6.4 below.
- 21.4.4 The game is Terminated by the Umpire on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible, provided 4 or more innings have been played, or the home team scores more runs in 3 innings, or before the completion of its 4th inning, than the Visiting team has scored in 4 completed innings for 1st Division and provided 3 or more innings have been played, or the home team scores more runs in 2 innings, or before the completion of its 3rd inning, than the Visiting team has scored in 3 completed innings for 2nd Division.

21.4.5 If the umpire terminates play after 4 completed innings for 1st division and 3 completed innings for 2nd Division, the score of such games shall be the score, at the end of the last completed inning. If, however, the Home team has scored more total runs than the Visiting team and the game is terminated while the home team is at bat, the score of such game shall be the total runs scored by each team. Also when a game is terminated after 4 completed innings for 1st division and 3 completed innings for 2nd Division with the Visiting team at bat and the Home team ahead, the score shall be the total number of runs scored by each team at the time the game is terminated.

21.4.6 Ten Minute Rule:

21.4.6.1 No new innings shall commence within 10 minutes of the scheduled completion time.

21.4.6.2 If, at the completion of even innings, there remains ten or more minutes of time before the scheduled completion time, a further complete inning shall be played.

21.4.6.3 If, at ten minutes before the scheduled time of completion, the home team is at bat and they are:

21.4.6.3.1 Ahead - the game ceases immediately.

21.4.6.3.2 Tied or behind - the game continues until the winning run is scored or the side is retired.

21.4.6.4 If the score is tied after 7 innings for 1st Div and 5 innings for 2nd Div and this occurs prior to the 10 minutes rule, then any subsequent innings should be played to a result providing the innings is started before the 10 minute rule for scheduled finishing time has elapsed.

22. Regulation Tied Game

22.1 It is a regulation tied game when the umpire terminates play on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible and:

22.1.1 If at the end of 5 for 1st Div and 3 for 2nd Div or more completed innings the score is tied.

22.1.2 If the Home team shall score in its uncompleted 5th(1st Div) 3rd (2nd Div) innings or any incomplete innings thereafter enough runs to equal the Visiting team's score.

23. Extra Inning Rule (for all Playoff Games)

This rule is to be used only in the Playoff Games (Semi Final, Consolation Games, Position Games and Grand Final) in the tournament. If the game remains tied after the completion of seven (7) innings or at two and one quarter hours (2h 15m) game time for Division 1 and five (5) innings or 2hrs for Division 2 the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:

23.1 1st Division: Each team will begin the 8th inning (if 7 innings are completed) or the next inning after 2hrs 15min has lapsed (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.

2nd Division: Each Team will begin the 6th innings (if 5 innings are completed) or the next after inning after 2 hours has lapsed.

- 23.2 To begin the 8th inning (if 7 innings are completed) for 1st Div or 6 innings (if 5 inning completed for 2nd Div or the next inning after regulation time has lapsed. Representatives from each team will meet at home plate and will indicate (at the same time) to the home plate umpire where the team wishes to begin the batting order. That is, the teams have the option of beginning the extra inning anywhere in the existing batting order that was in effect when the last inning ended. Note that this is not a new lineup (just potentially a different order), and it may very well be the same lineup that ended the game. The rationale for doing so is to ensure that both teams have an equal chance at having what they consider to be their best hitters and base runners in a position to score in the extra inning.
- 23.3 For example, if the team decides to have the #1 hitter in the lineup hit first, then the #8 hitter will be placed at 2B and the #9 hitter will be placed at 1B. Furthermore, if the team decides to have the #3 hitter in the lineup hit first, then the #1 hitter would be at 2B and the #2 hitter would be at 1B
- 23.4 Once those players/runners are determined for the extra inning, the order of any subsequent innings will be determined by how the previous inning ended. That is, if the 9th inning ends with the #6 hitter having the last official at bat, then the 10th inning begins the #7 hitter at bat, and the #5 hitter at 2B and the #6 hitter at first base.
- 23.5 With the exception of beginning the inning with runners on 1B and 2B with no one out, all other Official Rules of Baseball” and the ABF rules will remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.
- 23.6 The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.

24. One Sided Games

- 24.1 After 3 innings – 20 runs
- 24.2 After 4 innings – 15 runs
- 24.3 After 5 innings – 10 runs
- 24.4 Grades other than Division 1, a maximum of seven (7) runs maybe scored in one (1) ordinary innings unless the final at bat results is a home run where all runs scored are counted.

25. Suspended / Rescheduled Game

- 25.1 The TD where possible may reschedule any abandoned or suspended game. If rescheduled, suspended games will be re-commenced at the point where the games were halted.
- 25.2 If game(s) are rain delayed or rained out, they may be rescheduled on an alternate ground. This decision remains with the TD.

26. Abandoned Games

- 26.1 If the TD cannot re-schedule a suspended game, then that game will be considered as abandoned, and competing teams will be awarded points as detailed in Rule 28.

26.2 Note: If a game is abandoned, pitch statistics and pitching rules will apply.

27. Order of Benches and Batting

27.1 The First Named team in the official schedule of games will be regarded as the Home Team, field first and occupy the Third Base dug-out or bench.

27.2 Warm up before Games:

27.2.1.1 Twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled starting time of a game, the Home Team will commence their entitled seven (7) minutes warm up on the playing diamond.

27.2.1.2 Thirteen (13) minutes before the schedule starting time of the game the Away Team will commence their entitled seven minute warm up.

27.2.1.3 The remaining five (5) minutes will allow for the pre-game plate meeting.

27.2.1.4 The supervision of the warm up before the game will be the responsibility of the TD or a designated official.

27.2.1.5 If facilities at or near the playing venue are to be made available for pre-game batting practice then a standard schedule of batting practice and training will be drawn up by the TD and distributed at the Officials Meeting prior to the commencement of the series.

28. Point Score

28.1 The Points allocated to Teams during the Pool games will be as follows:

28.1.1 TWO points for a win.

28.1.2 ONE point for each team in Tied game.

28.1.3 NO points for either team in an abandoned game.

29. Ranking of Teams

29.1 Pool Games

29.1.1 After the completion of the Pool games, the teams will be ranked by the points they have scored in the round robin games, the highest ranking being accorded to the team which scores the greatest number of points (and so on)

29.1.2 Where two or more teams score the same number of points, the Head to Head method will be used to separate them.

29.1.3 If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:

29.1.3.1 The fewest runs allowed in the game(s) contested by those teams (which are tied) will gain the highest ranking.

29.1.3.2 The remaining teams will revert to the "Head to Head". If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams (which are tied) method and then back to "Head to Head", and so forth.

- 29.1.3.3 If teams are still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the pool, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher ranking team then the remaining teams will revert to the "Head to Head". If remaining teams are still tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and then back to "Head to Head" and so forth.
- 29.1.3.4 If the teams are still tied, go to the runs allowed by the team against all opponents in there Pool.
- 29.1.3.5 The ranking of the final two team in the above situation will be determined by the head to head process.

30. Time Saving Rules

30.1 Policy and Intent

30.1.1 The intent of these rules is to encourage umpires, coaches and players to limit time-wasting and to ensure tournament games progress quickly and smoothly.

30.1.2 The Umpires are responsible for enforcement

30.2 Pre-game Practice

30.2.1 In no event should pre-game practice interfere with or delay the scheduled start of the game (with the exception of wet weather implications). The teams should comply with the Rules set forth herein regarding such matters.

30.3 12 Second Pitch Rule

30.3.1 The 12 second rule for the pitcher shall apply whenever there are no runners on base. Official Australian Baseball Rule 8.04

30.3.2 If the pitch is thrown before the violation is called, the pitch shall be deemed a ball, regardless of its location.

30.3.3 If, in the Umpire's opinion, the pitcher is intentionally violating the Rule, the Umpire may eject the offending pitcher and/or manager from the game.

30.4 Hitter to Remain in Batter's Box

30.4.1 The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless they make a request for "time" and the umpire feels that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the umpire grant time out.

30.4.2 If no runners are on base, the batter should not be granted time and permitted to leave the batter's box unless, in the opinion of the umpire, unusual circumstances exist which make the request a reasonable one.

30.5 Limits on Warm-up Pitches

30.5.1 Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, they shall be permitted a maximum of eight (8) warm-up pitches. This same limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of an inning.

30.6 Limits on Offensive Meetings

30.6.1 Teams are allowed a maximum of three (3) "offensive meetings" per game. An offensive meeting shall be charged any time a coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive player, whether it be the hitter, a base- runner or an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another

coach. If the game goes into extra innings, one (1) additional "offensive meeting" shall be permitted for each three (3) extra innings.

30.7 Visits to the Mound

30.7.1 Three (3) free visits will be allowed to the mound in a game. The fourth and any subsequent visit in a game will cause the removal of the pitcher. The second, and any subsequent visit in any one inning, will cause the removal of the pitcher.

30.7.2 Any visit may be no longer than 30 seconds to the mound (at the umpire's discretion). Time starts when the Coach / Manager crosses the foul line.

30.7.3 Should a game proceed into extra innings, then one (1) extra visit will be allowed for every three (3) innings or part thereof.

30.7.4 Pitching changes after the first visit during an inning may be made by going directly to the plate umpire.

30.7.5 All substitutions must be made via the Plate Umpire. After receiving the substitution/s the umpire will signal the scorers to indicate the substitutions.

It is recommended that there be somebody situated adjacent to the scorers to alert them when changes are being made.

31. Pitchers

31.1 A pitcher's game will be classified as:
The Assignment Table is based on a player's age as at 24th January 2014.

Age	Minor	Substantial	Major
Under 13	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			Max 125

31.2 Section 31.2 and all sub sections apply to under age players only.

31.2.1 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.

31.2.2 A pitcher reaching their maximum number of pitches for a major assignment is to be removed from the game once they have completed the batter. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3rd out of an inning, then that pitcher shall be entitled to take their place as a batter in the next half inning.

31.2.3 A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate whether it be hit safely or not shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of

pitches".

- 31.2.4 A "no pitch", e.g., batter steps out of the batter's box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count. 31.2.5 . Should a pitcher be selected out of their age group then tournament limits and game contribution will be applicable to the pitcher's age, not the championship that they are playing in.
- 31.2.6 The winning pitcher be awarded to the pitcher who completes four (4) innings and complies with the requirements of the existing rule.
- 31.2.7 A player pitching a major assignment will be required to complete one day's rest before any playing participation except as a designated hitter or for pinch hitting and pinch running and three days rest before commencing any further (pitching / catching) assignments.
- 31.2.8 For a substantial part played, 2 days rest from pitching / catching is required.
- 31.2.9 Once a pitcher has reached a "substantial part of her assignment", and relative to u16's, u18's, a pitcher 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 pitcher may continue to pitch subject to pitch limits and when replaced, must be removed from the game.
- 31.2.10 If a player pitches a substantial in the first game of a double header, then they can only participate in the second game of a double header as a designated hitter, pinch hitter or runner.
- 31.2.11 Any player pitching a minor followed by a substantial the next day will be required to complete one day rest before any playing participation except for pinch hitting, pinch running or acting as a designated hitter and three days rest before commencing any further pitching / catching assignments. Note: No pitcher may throw a major assignment directly following a minor assignment.
- 31.2.12 No day's rest is required after a minor part played. However, for two successive minor assignments, 2 days' rest is required from pitching/catching if the total number of pitches thrown in those two assignments equals or exceeds the amounts below. 1 day's rest is required if the total number of pitches is less than these amounts.
- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 31.2.12.1 | 20 pitches for Under 14 |
| 31.2.12.2 | 30 pitches for Under 16 |
| 31.2.12.3 | 40 pitches for Under 18 |
- 31.2.13 If a player completes a second minor assignment on the same day, they shall leave the game and not have any further participation on that day.
- 31.2.14 For teams participating in 'double headers' a pitcher may only throw two minor assignments on the same calendar day.
- 31.2.15 If any pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one (1) assignment.
- 31.2.16 The word assignment means that each game in which a player pitches is considered one assignment.
- 31.2.17 A player shall not undertake more than one pitching assignment per game and once removed as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
- 31.2.18 The scorers shall indicate in the score-book for each pitcher the game

contribution and when the pitcher may next play.

31.2.19 The Chief Umpire will be supplied, 30 minutes prior to the start of the game, a list of players who are ineligible to pitch. The TD will be responsible for the delivery of this information to the Chief Umpire and the two Managers/Head Coaches as soon as possible prior to the game.

31.2.20 The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule. Scorers must be aware of and notify the umpire if an ineligible pitcher enters the game.

31.2.21 No under-age pitcher can relieve directly from the field and must come from either the dug-out or bull pen. If the proposed relief pitcher is in the game they can only relieve at the start of an inning.

31.2.22 If an Under Age pitcher is being moved from the mound to a defensive position the defensive manager must advise the plate umpire and opposing manager of the move. The umpire must check with the official scorer to ascertain if the move is legal under Rule 32. If there is a breach then the move cannot be made. If either team's manager realises that the move is in breach of the rule then they must immediately advise the plate umpire. If Rule 32 is breached, a penalty may be applied by the TD. In deciding such penalty, the TD should take into consideration any influence on the game that the illegal substitution had on the result of the game and the number of plays that the player was involved in. Such penalties could be the suspension of the manager for a number of games deemed appropriate. Forfeiture of the game is not an option as a penalty.

32. Pitcher / Catcher Rule

32.1 An under-age player, having pitched; cannot catch in the same day and having caught; may pitch on the same day but only for a Minor Assignment.

32.2 PENALTY: Immediate removal of the player from the game and the Manager/Head Coach shall be ejected from the game for first and subsequent offences. The offending team shall forfeit the game and the Manager/Head Coach shall be reported to the TD and dealt with by the TMC.

33. Designated Hitter

33.1 A designated hitter may be used in Division 1 and, subject to section 34.2, in grades other than Division 1.

34. Line-up

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

34.2 Grades other than Division 1.

34.2.1 Grades other than Division 1 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 team's first defensive ½ innings. Once the option to either bat through their line-up or bat 9 only (with or without a designated hitter) has been made, this option may not be changed for the duration of the game.

- 34.2.2 Defensive changes are not formal substitutions.
- 34.2.3 A Designated Hitter may not be used when the team has chosen to bat through their line-up.

35. Individual Trophies

- 35.1 Individual trophies may be presented at the discretion of the TMC.

36. Reported Players/officials

- 36.1 Should any player, non-playing coach or manager be ordered from the game by an umpire for any misdemeanor, the person concerned will appear before the TMC prior to such person's next game in the Tournament. Any tribunal hearing must be finalized prior to the next game in which the involved parties are engaged.
- 36.2 The Tribunal (TMC) is authorized to impose whatever penalty is deemed necessary.
 - 36.2.1 NSWBL Prescribed Penalties will apply.

37. Tribunal Procedures

- 37.1 Once the TD has been advised (or becomes aware) of any matter that is required to be determined by the Tournament Tribunal, they are to set the tribunal hearing date/time and venue. The TD shall then personally make contact by telephone or in person with tribunal members (and minute secretary) and the relevant parties (player /coach to be advised via the Manager) to advise the particulars of the Tribunal Meeting.
- 37.2 The TD shall clearly indicate to all parties the reason for the tribunal hearing (eg. player ejection, purported breach of ABF playing rules).
- 37.3 The tribunal shall be held in closed session whilst being cognizant of the principles of natural justice and will determine any matters in accord with the following procedural steps:
 - 37.3.1 The TD shall assume the role of Tribunal Chairperson and will preside over the Tribunal proceedings which shall be minuted by a minute secretary.
 - 37.3.2 The umpire, where there has been an ejection, shall present their version of the facts to the tribunal in the presence of the Manager and the ejected person. The Manager shall be entitled to ask questions in a reasonable manner to clarify matters in dispute after the umpire has presented his evidence.
 - 37.3.3 The umpire shall be given the opportunity if they desire to present other evidence (scorebook, other umpire etc) for corroborative purposes. The other evidence shall be made available during the tribunal sitting to the Manager for examination/questioning.
 - 37.3.4 Note: Where the breaking of a rule does not involve the decision of the umpire as to penalty, determination of the penalty is made by the Tribunal and the facts in such cases shall be presented by the TD in a similar manner to the umpire presenting evidence on another matter (e.g. an ejection).
 - 37.3.5 The Tribunal Chairperson and/or any Tribunal Member shall be entitled at any

time during the hearing to ask questions of the parties to clarify any evidence which would enable the determination of the matter before the tribunal.

- 37.3.6 Upon the completion of the presentation of the Umpires' and their witnesses' evidence, they shall be asked to leave the room and not the general area in case they are needed for any points of clarification. The Manager, (or in the case of a breach regarding an adult, the alleged perpetrator) is then invited to put forward the case for the alleged offender/or his/her team.
- 37.3.7 The player/coach when presenting their version of the incident shall be given a reasonable time to explain his position. The Manager may ask questions of their team member to assist in presenting their version of the facts and to clarify any points.
- 37.3.8 The Tribunal Members only shall be entitled to cross examine the player/coach in regards to the facts presented.
- 37.3.9 The Manager may then present any written evidence (e.g. Scorebook) and/or call a reasonable number of other witnesses for corroboration with such witnesses being subject to any questions in cross examination that may be put by tribunal members.
- 37.3.10 The Manager is then invited by the Tribunal to add any comment in summary relating to the facts presented at the conclusion of which the Manager and witnesses shall be requested to leave the confines of the room whilst the members of the tribunal consider the facts.
- 37.3.11 Once the members have arrived at their decision the minute secretary shall re-call the Manager (and player/coach) to be presented the Tribunal's decision by the Chairperson.
- 37.3.12 The Tribunal Chairperson where there is a requirement to apply a discretion in application of penalty shall give the manager the opportunity to speak in mitigation of such penalty. The Manager (and player/coach) shall after presentation of the plea in mitigation shall be asked to once again leave the room whilst the discretionary penalty is determined.
- 37.3.13 The Manager (and player/coach) shall be recalled and the Tribunal Chairperson shall announce penalty and close the hearing.
- 37.3.14 At the conclusion of the tribunal hearing the minute secretary shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings which shall be signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record. The Manager shall be advised in writing (notice prepared by minute secretary) of the penalty as announced by the Tribunal Chairperson and such notice shall be signed by the Chairperson.
- 37.3.15 The relevant matters in regards the decision of the tribunal are then applied.
- 37.3.16 The minutes of the tribunal hearing are required to be submitted to the Baseball NSW following the tournament for validation of penalty where discretionary fines to a maximum figure are applicable.
- 37.3.17 Note: Whilst there are a number of steps depicted above the Tribunal proceedings must be carried out in an informal but fair manner.

38. Infectious Diseases Policy

38.1 Definitions

38.2 In this policy:

38.2.1 "ASMF" means Australian Sports Medicine Federation;

38.2.2 "Club" means any team competing in ABF-affiliated Leagues and Tournaments;

38.2.3 "Official" means an official, Baseball umpire, ABF director, coach, trainer, medical practitioner, sports scientist or psychologist or any other person associated with the sport of Baseball and recognised by the ABF in an official capacity other than as an athlete;

38.2.4 "Player" means a person who plays the game of Baseball under the jurisdiction of the ABF and/or its affiliated members; and is a registered member of the ABF and/or its affiliate;

38.2.5 "ABF" means Australian Baseball Federation Inc., being the national sporting organisation for the sport of Baseball in Australia as recognised by Australian Sports Commission, Australian Olympic Committee and the national governing body for the sport of Baseball as recognised by International Baseball Association ;

38.2.6 "Baseball" includes the sport of Baseball which is being conducted under the jurisdiction, control or sanctioning consent of the ABF or its affiliated State or Territory associations;

38.3 Introduction

38.3.1 As in most sports, there is a chance of physical contact and or collision in Baseball. A number of blood-borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during body contact during physical contact or collision. The more serious of these include Hepatitis and HIV infections. These diseases may be spread by contact between broken skin or mucous membranes and the infected agents such as:

38.3.1.1 Blood

38.3.1.2 Saliva (not for HIV)

38.3.1.3 Semen and vaginal fluids

38.3.1.4 NB. At this stage there is no evidence that sweat/urine, and tears will transmit Hepatitis or HIV.

38.4 Object and Application of This Policy

38.4.1 The object of this policy is to:

38.4.1.1 Set out the basis for procedures which must be adopted by players, teams and officials in order to prevent the spread of Infectious diseases, namely HIV and Hepatitis B & C within the sport of Baseball.

38.4.1.2 Detail the responsibilities of athletes, officials and ABF relating to the possible transmission of Infectious Diseases.

38.4.1.3 Educate athletes and officials on the subject of diseases transmitted through the exchange of blood or other bodily fluids.

38.4.1.4 Provide the method for determining whether a breach of this policy has occurred.

38.4.1.5 This policy applies to:

38.4.1.5.1 All Australian athletes involved in the sport of Baseball under the control or jurisdiction of the ABF, in Australia or overseas.

38.4.1.5.2 All officials involved in the sport of Baseball in any way and under the jurisdiction of the ABF.

38.4.1.5.3 All foreign athletes competing in Baseball competition in Australia.

38.4.1.6 This policy shall be binding on all players/officials/organising affiliates and members of the ABF.

38.5 Responsibilities of Athletes

38.5.1 It is the participant's responsibility to maintain strict personal hygiene as this is the best method of controlling the spread of these diseases.

38.5.2 It is strongly recommended that all participants, involved in baseball and playing under adult rules be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

38.5.3 All participants with prior evidence of these diseases should obtain confidential advice and clearance to participate from a doctor prior to participation in baseball.

38.5.4 No Player shall participate in any Baseball game or continue to participate in any game for so long as such Player:

38.5.4.1 is bleeding or

38.5.4.2 has blood on any part of his person or uniform.

38.5.5 A Player shall immediately upon a direction by an umpire leave the playing arena where such umpire is of the opinion that the Player is bleeding or has blood on any part of his/her person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing arena, a Player shall not return or take any further part in any Baseball game until and unless:

38.5.5.1 The cause of any such bleeding has been abated and the bleeding has stopped.

38.5.5.2 The injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from.

38.5.5.3 Any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced and

38.5.5.4 Any blood on any part of a Player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.

38.6 Responsibility of Teams

38.6.1 Those handling bleeding players must wear disposable rubber or plastic gloves. Resuscitation bags or disposable mouth to mouth devices must be available.

38.6.2 It is the Host Venue's responsibility to ensure that the dressing rooms be clean and tidy. Particular attention should be paid to hand-basins, toilets

and showers. Adequate soap, paper hand towels, brooms, refuse disposal bins and disinfectants, must be available at all times.

- 38.6.3 Communal bathing areas (e.g. Spas) within the clubs should be strongly discouraged.
- 38.6.4 The practices of spitting and urinating in team areas is not permitted.
- 38.6.5 All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood must be treated as potentially infectious. Household bleach in a 1:10 solution may be used to wash contaminated areas and white clothing should be soaked in 1:10 solution bleach for 30 minutes before washing. Bleach should be rinsed off after use. Coloured clothing should be soaked in disinfectant for 30 minutes then washed at high temperature on a long cycle.
- 38.6.6 Sharing of towels, shaving razors, face washers and drink containers must not occur.
- 38.6.7 All personnel working within baseball areas should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- 38.6.8 In all training areas, open cuts and abrasions must be reported to the coach/official and be treated immediately.
- 38.6.9 Teams should undertake education programs to advise players and officials of this policy.
- 38.6.10 No Club shall allow any Player to participate in any Baseball game or continue to participate in any game for so long as such Player:

- 38.6.10.1.1 is bleeding or

- 38.6.10.1.2 has blood on any part of his person or uniform.

38.7 Responsibility of Umpires

- 38.7.1 Those who officiate in baseball should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- 38.7.2 When an umpire notices that a player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform, he is to direct the Player to leave the playing field.
- 38.7.3 Where a Player is directed by an umpire to leave the field under this Rule the umpire shall wait a reasonable period to allow the bleeding to be attended to. The amount of time is entirely at the discretion of the umpire. If, when this time has elapsed, the player is unable to take his place in the team, he must be replaced in the usual manner of substitution.
- 38.7.4 A player who refuses to promptly obey a direction of an umpire given in accordance with this paragraph (6b) shall be reported by the umpire to the relevant body of baseball at that level.
- 38.7.5 Such Player shall be dealt with by that body as it deems fit.
- 38.7.6 Umpires have power to eject a player/official if they refuse to obey the rule.

38.8 AMENDMENT OF THIS POLICY

- 38.8.1 This Policy will be reviewed regularly and updated accordingly. The ABF may amend this policy at any time, such amendment to take effect upon notification to the affiliated State and Territory association.
- 38.8.2 It is strongly recommended that all team physicians, other sports medicine staff, coaches, referees, team managers, administrators, players and their

parents be informed of this policy and adopt and implement its commonsense recommendations.

38.9 For further information you may contact

The Australian Baseball Federation
Ph. (07) 5510 6800

Alternatively: The Australian Sports Medicine Federation
Ph: (02) 6251 6944
Fax: (02) 6253 1489

38.10 The Australian Sports Medicine Federation has further information on Infectious Diseases Policy in Australia and Guidelines which must be followed.

39 Protective Equipment

Protective Helmets

39.1 Each team must provide an adequate number of protective helmets as approved by the ABF. Double eared helmets will be mandatory in all games for the hitter, the hitter on deck, the base runners and the bat person. Adult base coaches are required to wear a minimum of a 'skull cap' style helmets (i.e., without ear covers). Junior players if acting as base coaches must wear a double eared helmet.

39.2 All catchers are required to wear protective head gear and shall wear a protective throat guard unless this is inbuilt as part of the helmet.

39.3 All helmets are required to comply with the International Safety standard endorsed by NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) - Standard Performance Specification for Newly Manufactured Baseball/Softball Batter's Helmets. ND022-10m10b

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

End of document v1.0 2014.

Change Control

1. Section: Various. Minor editing and formatting.
2. Title Page: Update year to 2014.
3. Title Page: Replace 2013 logo with 2014.
4. Title Page: Version incremented to v1.0. 23/12/2013.
5. Section 11: NSWBL replaced by Host Venue will ensure etc.
6. Section 14.1: Tournament changed to Team Officials Meeting for consistency.
7. Section 16.3: Manager minimum level changed from Level 2 to Level 3.
8. Section 16.3: Coach minimum level changed from Level 1 to Level 2.
9. Section 21: Changed Div 1 to 2 ¼ Hrs and added Div 2.
10. Section 21: Correction to Div 2 innings from 7 to 5, (20/1/2013 v1.4).
11. Section 21: Division 2 Regulation Game changed to 2hrs, (23/1/2013. v1.4).
12. Section 23: Clarification of 7 innings 2 1/4 hrs Div 1 and 5 innings 2hr for Div 2 then extra innings playoff procedure. 23/1/2013, v1.4.
13. Section 24: Added to include Div 2 run limit per innings.
14. Section 31: Pitching regulations added to include under age pitchers.
15. Section 31: Table of assignments re-numbered v1.3 20/1/2013.
Section 31: Re-numbering of section 31.1 – end of 31 for clarification of restrictions being applicable to Under Age only. v1.3 of 20/1/2013.
16. Section 31.2.2 Remove reference to 5 additional pitches or to DH.
17. Section 31.4 Amendment to allow for junior pitchers.
18. Section 33: Designated Hitter amendment.
19. Section 34: Line-Up, Amended to reflect Div 2 requirements.
20. Section 39 Protective Equipment, new section.
21. End of Document footer updated to v1.0 for initial release 2014.