



NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S BASEBALL LEAGUE

Competition Rules & Regulations

2004/05

As at August 31, 2005

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WARNING ABOUT INHERENT DANGERS OF BASEBALL

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

1. Glossary

NSWBL	New South Wales Baseball League Incorporated
NSWWBL	New South Wales Women's Baseball League
NSWBUA	New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association

2. General

- 2.1 All games will be played under the "OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL" as adopted by the AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL FEDERATION and agreed to by NSWBL Inc., provided that, if there is a conflict, these competition rules as follows shall prevail.
- 2.2 The NSWWBL Executive Committee reserves the right to vary any of the competition rules at any time, if special circumstances warrant such action. Any substantial variation to the rules will be notified to NSWBL Inc. and Club representatives.
- 2.3 The NSWWBL Executive Committee, on behalf of NSWBL Inc., conducts the competition.

3. Competition Structure

- 3.1 The method of conducting competitions for clubs shall be as approved by the NSWWBL Executive Committee each year.
- 3.2 The NSWWBL will conduct competitions in Graded Divisions, as deemed feasible and appropriate.
- 3.3 Each club shall be responsible for fielding the number of separate complete teams as laid down by the NSWWBL each year.
- 3.4 No alteration to the specified playing schedules or venues is permitted without the prior approval of the NSWWBL Executive Committee.
- 3.5 The NSWWBL Executive Committee reserves the right to alter the competition structure and Draw where it considers it necessary.

4. Notification of Results

- 4.1 Each winning Women's team, of each competition game, shall telephone the game results to AAP (ph 9322 8000) by 7pm Sunday night following the game.
- 4.2 Each winning Women's team is required to forward the completed game result sheet to the NSWBL Executive Committee, either by fax to 9413 - 1035, by 11am on the Monday morning following the game. A completed result sheet showing the names and initial (first names where there is more than one player with the same initials) of all participating players and coaches is required. Batting and pitching statistics are also to be completed on the result sheet. All incomplete results sheets will be returned to the appropriate team for completion and will not be entered into the competition ladder until completed in full.
- 4.3 In the event of a washout being declared, each team is required to submit a results sheet to the NSWBL Executive Committee, by fax to 9413 - 1035, indicating a wash out status. To establish if a rain out has been declared or if a ground is suitable to play on, please contact Kellie Walbancke on 0403 532 934, prior to the game.
- 4.4 Penalty: If a winning team fails to comply with submitting a results sheet, by the Monday deadline, indicated previously, the winning result will not be recorded on the competition ladder until the results sheet has been submitted. The NSWBL Executive Committee will not be responsible for chasing teams to obtain results sheets.
- 4.5 Results of all games will be available on the NSWBL web page, found at www.nswbl.baseball.com.au

5. Competition Points

- 5.1 For the purpose of determining semi finalists in all grades, a percentage will be calculated on the results of games played and the number of games won, lost or forfeited.
- 5.2 Position in the competition table shall be decided by dividing the number of games played by games won, and calculated to the third decimal point.
- 5.3 For the purpose of percentages, a tied game is to be regarded as a half win and a half loss.
- 5.4 Where two teams finish on the same percentage, then the process to break the tie shall be:
- a) Highest percentage placed team.
 - b) Head-to-Head win/loss record.
 - c) Head-to-Head % runs for & against.
 - d) Head-to-Head runs for & against over the Season.

6. Registration of Teams

- 6.1 The Participating bodies/clubs/teams must submit to the NSWWBL, the completed Club Registration Form, showing details of club management and number of teams being entered into the NSWWBL competition, by the date specified by the Executive Committee.
- 6.2 Clubs must submit the completed Team Roster form with full details of all players and officials by the date specified by the Executive Committee.
- 6.3 The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse the entry of any team and/ or the registration of any person.
- 6.4 All monies owing by the club arising from accounts issued by the NSWWBL, must be paid by the date scheduled by the NSWWBL. Any club in breach of this rule will not be permitted to continue in the competition, unless the Executive Committee has granted special approval.

7. Transfers and Clearances

- 7.1 A player who transfers from one club to another must secure a clearance from the original club stating that they have been cleared of all financial obligations to that club. The club to which they transfer may register them without receiving a clearance and they may participate in games with that club provided that if no clearance is eventually granted, each game in which the player has participated in shall be debited as a forfeit, after such disclosures and on lodgement of protest by the offended club.
- 7.2 Any player in debt to a club may be listed with the NSWWBL as a defaulter. Defaulters must be notified by the fourth (4th) round of the competition. After this date, no defaulters will be added to the list for that season.
- 7.3 Letters of Intent, as outlined by the following terms, will be required for all requests for transfers and clearances.

7.3.1 Letter of Approach

- a) Any Club desiring to approach a player of another Club with the view of seeking a transfer of membership shall write to the player's parent Club stating their intention to interview that player.
- b) A copy of such a letter of approach shall be lodged with the NSW WBL Secretary.
- c) Players shall not be approached between 31st December and the completion of the Grand Final in any competition conducted by the NSWWBL.
- d) The provisions of By-laws 7.3.1(a) (b), (c) and (iii) shall be

adhered to if a player approaches another Club with the view of obtaining a clearance to that Club.

7.3.2 Request for Clearance

- a) Any player registered for a team in the NSW WBL remains registered for that club until such time as a clearance is requested and granted.
- b) Any player requesting a clearance must adhere to the "Letters of Intent" rule, fill out the Clearance/Registration form and forward to the Administrator of their current club.
- c) A club receiving a clearance request must process that request within 14 days of receipt.
 - i) Acceptance - forward signed copy of clearance form to player AND NSW WBL Secretary within 14 days of receipt
 - ii) Denial
 - 1. Financial reasons only - forward signed copy of clearance form to player AND NSW WBL Secretary within 14 days of receipt.
 - 2. If a club does not receive a letter of intent the club is entitled to automatically decline the clearance request. The club/player requesting the clearance must then submit the letter of intent, and the clearance process will commence. It must be noted that any breach of these rules will be taken into consideration at any appeal hearing of the NSW WBL.
- d) If a club declines a clearance request, a player may submit an appeal to NSW WBL, who will convene a meeting within 14 days of advice of the situation for the purposes of hearing both sides of the request, and deciding on a course of action.

8. Registration of Players, Coaches and Officials.

- 8.1 This League recognises those players registered by the NSW WBL as per the following rules.
- 8.2 Each club shall register the name, date of birth and address of each player, coach, manager and fully complete, the form prescribed by the NSW WBL. All registrations must be in the hands of the NSW WBL Executive Committee no less than four (4) rounds after the competition commencement date.
- 8.3 All new player registration should be received by NSW WBL prior to the 4th round of the competition. The Chairman or Secretary must approve all registrations after the 4th round and the appropriate form forwarded to the Executive Committee, 48 hours prior to any participation in a game. Any breach shall result in the forfeiture of any matches that player had participated in.

- 8.4 The minimum number of players to be registered by any club is to be twelve (12) per team, if the club is entering one (1) team in one (1) grade only. If the club is entering more than one (1) team, in more than one (1) grade, then the minimum number of players to be registered by any club is ten (10) per individual team entered.
- 8.5 Only persons whose registrations have been completed, submitted by the determined date and approved by the NSWBL may participate in competition games.
- 8.6 All players must be fully paid, registered players with the NSWBL Inc. No defaulters will be accepted until they have been removed from the NSWBL Inc. defaulter's list.
- 8.7 The minimum acceptable age for registration is 14 years. The player must have turned 14 years of age by the 31st December of the current competition year.
- 8.8 The minimum age of a bat person is 12 years. All bat persons must wear an approved, two-eared helmet at all times when on the field.
- 8.9 At least one coach per team involved in the NSW Women's Baseball League Competition must have a current minimum Level One accreditation and each team must have a Leave One Coach in attendance for all games. All Coaches intending to register with the NSWBL will be required to attend a "Coaches' Information Session", and sign a "Code of Conduct" prior to participation in any competition game. Where clubs fail to adhere to these requirements penalties may be imposed, including the loss of competition points and a monetary fine. Exemptions to this requirement may be granted by the NSWBL Executive Committee.

9. Eligibility of Players

- 9.1 Only registered players of the NSWBL are eligible to compete and it is the intention that any player shall NOT appear in more than one (1) NSWBL starting line-up in the same Round UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (ACCEPTABLE TO THE NSWBL Executive Committee) occur.

a) The opposing coach/manager, upon request, may allow the player/s to "double up" or play the game under protest and refer the request with an explanation to the NSWBL Executive Committee.

The explanation should be noted on the result sheet that is submitted to the NSWBL Executive Committee, where a decision will be made to accept or reject the explanation and such decision made will be final.

Where a coach/manager does NOT make a request under this rule and is subsequently found to have played an ineligible player, the game in which the breach occurs will be awarded to the non-offending team on forfeit seven (7-0) to nil

- 9.2 The names of fresh reserves and starting team must appear on the

original team line-up sheet, and any player who is scheduled to play in a higher-grade game on any day in the same round will not be permitted to enter a game in progress. To be eligible, they must be listed as being on the bench, or have played in a lower grade in the same round. Therefore, any player not on a starting line-up will not be permitted to enter a game at any stage.

In the event of an injury occurring or an ejection of a player/s, and no other player being available, a replaced player/s may return to the field of play. However they may not return to be a part of the battery and any ejected player will NOT be allowed to return under this rule. This rule is subject to the pitching restrictions as stipulated in Rule 16

Any player who has participated, or will participate, in a lower grade game in same round shall not enter a game in progress until after three (3) innings of play have been completed UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES occur under the conditions outlined in paragraph 9.1

CLUB PENALTY – the game in which the player participates will be declared a forfeit and a seven (7-0) to nil win recorded to the non-offending team.

- 9.5 The NSWWB Executive Committee may at any time declare any player ineligible to play in any particular grade especially where players continually “double up” and their decision will be final.
- 9.6 No player or coach may play or coach with more than one club in the same competition, during the same season without the approval of the NSWWB.
- 9.7 No substitutes (that is a player used on field from another registered club) shall play if there are registered players available who have not yet participated in the game.
- 9.8 Substitutes shall only be eligible to play in the outfield, and are not entitled to bat.
- 9.9 No player having started five (5) or more competition matches in A grade, shall be eligible to play in B grade unless approval has been given by the League's Executive committee. Approval must be sought at least 48 hours before the match. This rule will come into force after round ten (10) of the competition.

10. Game Rules

- 10.1 The starting and scheduled completion times for games shall be those stated in the Competition Schedule issued by the NSWWB. The NSWWB Executive Committee reserves the right to alter Game times where deemed necessary.
- 10.2 A team may not take the field, unless it has a minimum of seven (7) players registered with that team.
- 10.3 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 4 innings. If the home team is ahead at the end of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ innings, the bottom of the inning does not need to be played out for a result.

- 10.4 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 points percentage.
- 10.5 For all games, the top half of an inning will NOT commence ten (10) minutes or less before the scheduled finishing time. If regulation time has been reached during an innings, the game shall be called to conclusion. If the home team is behind at the time the game is terminated, then the score will revert back to the end of the last completed innings.
- The last innings of the game, prior to termination, is only deemed complete if the home team has gone ahead or tied the game; if the innings is deemed incomplete the score reverts back to the last completed inning. Therefore, if the home team is ahead or tied when the game is terminated, then the score at that time will be the final score.
- 10.6 The Home Team MUST bat in the bottom half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of an innings except where the result has already been determined as per OABR 4.10 (replacing 9 completed innings with 7 completed innings)
- 10.7 If at the conclusion of the fifth (5th) innings of a game, or at the conclusion of any completed innings thereafter, a team is ten (10) or more runs ahead, such team shall be declared the winners.
- 10.8 For all B grade games only, a maximum of seven (7) runs may be scored in any one innings. The only exception is if the final play involves an out-of-the-park home run, where all runs would score.
- 10.9 A team entered into the B grade division may elect to name a maximum of twelve (12) players in their batting line up. The choice must be made and advice given to the Umpire-in-Chief prior to the start of the game. There is no restriction as to which nine (9) players take the field or which order that any player may bat. If any player (starting or substitute) is injured during the game and cannot be replaced an automatic out applies, when there is less than the minimum nine (9) remaining in the batting line up. Therefore, any player removed from a starting line up of 12 will not be penalised an automatic out unless there are less than 9 players left in the batting line up.
- 10.10 A team entered into the A grade competition will bat the regulation maximum of nine (9) players in their batting line up.
- 10.11 Each game in A grade will be of 2 hours’ duration.
- 10.12 Each game in B Grade will be of 1 hour and 45 minutes’ duration.

11. Automatic Outs

- 11.1 If a team has less than nine (9) players and is unable to field substitute player(s) prior to the commencement of the game, then the automatic out rule shall apply. The Umpire-in-Chief and the Scorers shall be notified and the game is to be played with one or more automatic outs.
- 11.2 The automatic outs must occupy the last batting positions in the line up.
- 11.3 Players who are late to the game, who have already been included in the line up, are subject to an automatic out, until they enter the game and assume their position in the batting order. The Umpire-in-Chief and the Scorers must be informed prior to the commencement of the game.

12. Forfeits

- 12.1 A forfeited game is a game declared ended by the Umpire-in-Chief in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball. "Replacing OABR rule 4.18, if the umpire declares a game forfeited, the umpire shall submit a written report to the NSWABL Executive Committee within 48 hours thereafter but failure of such submission shall not effect the forfeiture." All infringements are to be reported to NSWABL Executive Committee.
- 12.2 A team cannot commence a game with less than seven (7) players, and consequently subject to a forfeit.
- 12.3 A team receiving a forfeit shall be regarded as having scored a seven (7) to nil (0) win, and the losers a nil (0) to seven (7) loss, for the purpose of compiling the average of runs for and against. The team receiving the forfeit (i.e. the win) is responsible for submitting a completed result sheet reflecting the status of the forfeit.
- 12.4 Clubs/teams who do not provide notice of forfeiture, 24 hours prior to the game, are liable for the payment of associated Umpiring fees for that game.
- 12.5 In the event of a team not being able to field seven (7) players, or by failing to appear at the ground, or being on the ground or in the vicinity of the field and failing to play within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled time, and failing or refusing to proceed when directed by the Umpire to do so, the opposing team will be awarded the game on appeal to the umpire. The team forfeiting in such circumstances shall be required to pay a fine equivalent to the normal umpires' fee.

13. The Home Team

- 13.1 The team listed first on the Competition Draw shall be known as the home team, and will occupy the third (3rd) base dugout at BOP (subject to coach's negotiation and agreement). At all other grounds, it is the home team's right to choose the Dugout they wish to occupy.

- 13.2 The home team shall provide two (2) new leather match balls, and have sufficient reserve balls, in match condition, to enable the game to progress without undue delay.
- 13.3 All baseballs used are to be leather, in good order, and of a type approved by NSWBL Inc.
- 13.4 In the event of an official Umpire not being allocated, attending, or able to continue a game, it shall be the home team's responsibility to appoint/provide an umpire. Where advanced notice is provided by NSWBUA and NSWBL (1pm on game day) for an Umpire being unavailable, a volunteer umpire can be appointed; however, they must have a minimum ABF Level O qualification. If the home team does not provide an Umpire, with prior notice, the game cannot commence and the home team shall be declared to have forfeited. If the Official Umpire has not arrived at the game, without prior notice, or is unable to continue, a volunteer may be called upon, preferably with a minimum Level O qualification. No fees may be paid to a person without Level 1 as a minimum.

14. Sliding or Must Avoid Contact Rule

- 14.1 Clubs are to ensure that their players are aware that intentional contact, under certain circumstances, Will Not Be Tolerated.
- 14.2 Any player, adjudged by the umpire to have deliberately or recklessly caused a collision to occur shall be ejected from the game, and given out.
- 14.3 Runners who do not slide directly at the base or do not attempt to avoid fielders who are in possession of the ball, shall be given out.
- 14.4 Provision for game situation contact between players should be taken into consideration when an umpire makes any interpretation of this requirement.

15. The Designated Hitter

- 15.1 The Designated Hitter rule as described in Rule 6.10 of the Official Rules of Baseball will apply with the following additions and amendments.
- 15.2 A team may only start or create a designated hitter where there are at least 10 fresh players available to play
- 15.3 A team may start the game with a designated hitter.
- 15.4 A team may move the starting pitcher to the designated hitter's role and introduce a new game pitcher anytime in the game subject to Rule 15.6 below.
- 15.5 Where the designated hitter started the game, a once only switch in roles between the game pitcher and the designated hitter is allowed subject to Rule 15.6 below.
- 15.6 Where a game pitcher is moved to the designated hitter role under Rule 15.4 or 15.5 above, the manager must initiate this move on

the first visit during a defensive innings or during an offensive innings.

15.7 A designated hitter who was in the game as a pitcher or a pitcher who was in the game as a designated hitter is prevented from moving to a defensive position.

15.8 **The DH Rule & Twelve (12) Batter Rule** (Rule 10.9 must be adhered to). However, if a team has elected to bat more than nine (9) in their starting line up the DH Rule does not apply. Therefore, a pitcher replaced in the field can continue to bat in their elected position in the starting line up. Any pitcher that has pitched to their Level 2 stage may only continue to bat in their original line up position, and may not elect to fulfill any other role during the game.

16. Pitching Restriction Rules

Note: These rules are designed to protect pitchers from overuse and encourage development of new/more pitchers.

16.1 The age rules are set by the individual's date of birth at the time of the ruling/game.

16.2 It is the responsibility of the scorers to notify their team when the pitcher is within ten (10) pitches of the maximum allowable.

16.3 Any player pitching more than their Level 1 age pitch restriction will be required to complete two (2) day's rest prior to any playing participation, except for DH, pinching hitting and pinch running.

16.4 Any player pitching less than their Level 1 age pitch restriction are subject to the following rules;

a) If a player pitches more than 50% of their **Level 1** age pitch restriction, then they are required to complete one (1) day's rest before any playing participation except for DH, pinch hitting and pinch running.

b) If a player pitches under 50% of their **Level 1** age pitch restriction, then they are allowed to play and pitch the next day. However, the total number of pitches allowed the following day is the **Level 2** number, less today's pitch count. Example – a pitcher, over 18, throws 32 pitches today, therefore is allowed a maximum pitch limit the following day of 68, which gives a total of 100 over two days. The pitcher is then subject to the rest rules as above.

16.5 A coach is allowed two visits to the pitcher's mound in the same innings. On the second visit in the same innings, coaches may directly approach the Umpire-in-Chief and have the pitcher moved to another position. Should the coach enter the pitching circle, the pitcher is to be removed from the game.

16.6 Maximum Pitching Restrictions:

16.6.1 Athletes 18 and over.

Level 2 - 71 to 100 Pitches. No pitcher can throw more than 100 pitches per game. If the 100 pitch limit is reached, the pitcher is allowed to finish pitching to the current batter. Once a pitcher has thrown more than 70 pitches, the pitcher must then leave the field and cannot return to the game except where the DH rule allows.

Level 1 – 0 - 70 Pitches. If a pitcher has thrown less than or equal to 70 pitches, then the pitcher may return to the field. If the pitcher is to return to the field, she may not catch or pitch again that game.

16.6.2 Athletes aged 16 and 17.

Level 2 - 61 to 80 Pitches. No pitcher under the age of 18 may throw more than 80 pitches per game. If the 80 pitch limit is reached the pitcher is allowed to finish pitching to the current batter. The pitcher must then leave the field after that number has been reached and cannot return to the game except where the DH rule allows.

Level 1 - 60 Pitches. If a pitcher, under 18, has been used and has thrown 60 pitches or less she is allowed to return to the field, but may not catch or pitch again that game.

16.6.3 Athletes 15 and under.

Level 2 – 46 to 60 Pitches. No pitcher under the age of 16 can throw more than 60 pitches in a game. If the 60 pitch limit is reached the pitcher is allowed to finish pitching to the current batter. The pitcher must then leave the field after that number has been reached and cannot return to the game except where the DH rule allows.

Level 1 – 0 - 45 Pitches. If a pitcher under the age of 16 has thrown 45 pitches or less, she is allowed to return to the field but may not catch or pitch again that game.

Pitchers aged 18years and over

# Pitches	Level	Can Field in Current Game	Days Rest	Pitching Restrictions for Game 2
0 – 35	1	YES	0	100 pitches – Total of Game 1
36 – 70	1	YES	1	CANNOT PLAY*
71 – 100	2	NO	2	CANNOT PLAY*

Pitchers aged 16 and 17

# Pitches	Level	Can Field in Current Game	Days Rest	Pitching Restrictions for Game 2
0 – 30	1	YES	0	80 pitches – Total of Game 1
31 – 60	1	YES	1	CANNOT PLAY*

61 – 80	2	NO	2	CANNOT PLAY*
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Pitchers aged 15 and under

# Pitches	Level	Can Field in Current Game	Days Rest	Pitching Restrictions for Game 2
0 – 22	1	YES	0	60 pitches – Total of Game 1
23 – 45	1	YES	1	CANNOT PLAY*
46 – 60	2	NO	2	CANNOT PLAY*

* - Cannot play except for DH, pinch running, pinch hitting, except as specified by Rules 10.9 & 15.9

17. Grounds and Umpires.

- 17.1 The fitness of the ground for competition games shall be decided by the authorities controlling the ground, or by the officially appointed umpire, in that order. If no officially appointed umpire is in attendance, then the coaches must decide. If the coaches disagree the game is declared a no game. This rule is not subject to protest.
- 17.2 In the event of the game not being played because of the unfitness of the ground, the result shall be declared a no game unless the two (2) teams advise the NSWBL Competition Chairman and Umpires' Coordinator within seven (7) days that by mutual agreement they will play the game within 23 days of the scheduled game. No such provision exists for the two (2) last scheduled competition games of the season.
- 17.3 Where a game is called under OABR rule 4.12 (a), the game is completed, overriding OABR 4.12 (b). If the game is a regulation game as per Rule 1.5, the result will be the score at the end of the last completed innings unless the top of the innings is completed and the home team has the lead.
- 17.4 In the event of an official NSWBLA umpire not being allocated or attending at the time set down for the game to commence or being able to continue, it shall be the home club's responsibility to appoint an umpire (as per Rule 12.5).
- 17.7 Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the NSWBL official result sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse with the result of the game and any ejections or injuries.
- 17.8 An Umpire shall forward the report of an ejection/citing to the NSWBL Inc Secretary by 11am on the Monday following the incident. The Umpire's report is to be sent via email or faxed to NSWBL Inc.

18. Scorers

- 18.1 All Clubs playing in this competition are required to provide an official scorer for each grade, in which they have a participating

team. Scorers must be seated together behind the home plate, or in the designated scorer's location where possible.

- 18.2 All official scorers are required to ensure all relevant details (injuries, ejections etc) are recorded on the official game results sheet and presented to the official umpire/s for their signature/s.

19. Uniforms and Equipment.

- 19.1 Each club shall only have all players and coaches wearing approved uniforms during a game of baseball. Club uniforms must be worn, baseball caps shall form part of that uniform and must be worn at all times except when the batting helmet or catcher's mask are worn. All playing tops, pants, caps and jackets and other apparel nominated from time to time are to have the National Licensing Program 'AB' logo attached. The location of the logo is to be in accordance with the requirements of the ABF.

PENALTY:

- a) Upon being notified of a breach the licensing compliance rules the club will be required to rectify the breach within an agreed timeframe.
 - b) Where a club fails to rectify the breach within the agreed timeframe penalties can be imposed including the loss of competition points and a monetary fine.
- 19.2 Pitchers and relieved pitchers only, shall be allowed to wear warm-up jackets in the batting box and on the field of play. Other players may be able to wear warm up jackets at the Umpire-in-Chief's discretion.
- 19.3 Each club shall endeavour to have uniforms carrying a number without duplication.
- 19.4 Clubs are required to provide all safety and playing equipment, as required by NSWBL Inc.
- 19.5 Only two (2) ear flapped batting helmets, in solid or club colours, may be worn by the runners/batters. Batting helmets are mandatory for all batters/runners while on the field of play.
- 19.6 All catchers must wear helmets and masks. Throat guards are required to be fitted on all helmets, excluding the 'hockey style masks'. Players warming up pitchers must wear a mask.
- 19.7 Clubs, who have bat persons or junior coaches in the coach's box, are to ensure that they wear appropriate fitting protective equipment, including two-eared batting helmet.
- 19.8 All jewellery is to be removed prior to game commencement (rings, ear rings, watches, necklaces, bracelets etc). Where it is not possible to remove a piercing, they should be covered with tape.

20. Final Series & Eligibility of Players for the Final Series

- 20.1 A separate set of rules and procedures will be issued each year for the conducting of the final series.
- 20.2 To be eligible to play in the Final Series a player;
- a) has to be registered on the club's player list held by the NSWWB Executive Committee.
 - b) unless authorised by the NSWWB Executive Committee, is to have participated for that club in any grade for at least 6 games of the competition played during the current season.
- 20.3 The grade in which a player shall be eligible to participate in the Final Series shall be determined according to the following criteria.
- c) In each round, a player's grade will be deemed by the highest grade in which the player formed part of the starting line-up (or was used as a fresh reserve **AND** participated in the game), i.e. they had not played in any other game in the round already.
 - a) For a player to be eligible to participate in the Final Series, a player must not have been deemed in a higher round more than three times in the player's last six (6) FULL COMPETITION rounds.
- 20.4 A player qualified in a lower grade is eligible to play in a higher grade in the final series.
- 20.5 Players who, through extenuating circumstances, do not meet the qualification criteria for the Final Series may be considered for qualification at the NSWWB Executive Committee meeting immediately prior to the Final Series.
- 20.6 In the event of a semi final, final or grand final not being commenced or not being completed as a constituted game, the NSWWB if possible shall endeavour to reschedule the game. If the game is again not commenced or not completed the team, which led in the competition table, shall be declared the winner, unless, in the case of a Grand Final only, a specified alternative date was declared by the NSWWB.
- 20.7 The team finishing the higher of the two in the competition will be the home team, except for the Grand Final where the home team shall be the team first into the Grand Final game.
- 20.8 The NSWWB will endeavour for final series games to have an official umpire present. However, should an officially appointed umpire not be available, each team is to nominate a suitable person as an umpire for the game (as per Rule 10.5). Those two persons shall be regarded as official umpires with the team batting

second to provide the Chief Umpire while the team batting first is to provide the Field Umpire. However, if mutually agreed the persons so nominated may change their umpire positions prior to the start of play.

- 20.9 Both teams will supply an equal number of balls for the final series, a minimum of two (2) each, and a sufficient number of reserve balls in match condition to enable the game to continue without undue delay. The umpire will be the sole judge of the fitness of the balls for play.

21. Behaviour

- 21.1 A player, coach or umpire participating in the game, shall not smoke whilst on the playing field, in the warm up areas or dugout, prior or to or during the game. Offenders will be removed from the game.
- 21.2. A player, team, or official participating in a game shall not consume alcohol in or near the playing field of dugouts, prior or during the game.
- 21.3 All registered members are responsible to NSWBL Inc. for their conduct at games and events conducted by the NSWBL.
- 21.4 Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their supporters in uniform or not, both on and off the playing field. Any breach of this rule will be subject to disciplinary action by the NSWBL. It is the responsibility of all clubs to make their members aware that participants in sporting events owe a duty of care to one another, there is a fine difference between an error in judgment and negligent conduct. Players and coaches are required to exercise reasonable care not to injure other players.
- 21.5 All players are required to abide by the Etiquette Rules, as stipulated by the NSWBL. See Appendices A.
- 21.6 All Club Coaches, Managers and Officials are required to abide by the **Code of Conduct**, as stipulated by the NSWBL. See Appendices B.

22. Blood Rule

- 22.1 Players who require treatment to stem the flow of any body fluids may leave the game without penalty, and may re-enter the game, once treatment is completed.
- 22.2 The player, if removed for treatment, shall not bat until their turn in the line up arrives again, and if in the field a courtesy fielder may be utilized while treatment is applied.
- 22.3 Soiled clothing must be replaced.
- 22.4 Players who, after treatment, are unable to return to the game shall be replaced. In the event of a fresh reserve player being unavailable, any replacement player may re-enter the game.

- 22.5 Any player who has been removed from any game for misconduct etc, by the Umpire will NOT be eligible to re-enter any game under this rule.

23. Player Condition/Medical Notification Rule

- 23.1. Players should notify their coach and club officials of any condition that may affect their performance or participation in the sport of baseball. Such conditions may include for example; epilepsy, pregnancy, diabetes etc. Officials and players should be aware that baseball, just like other sports, will always have inherent dangers and a risk of injury. It is strongly recommended that players seek all available advice with regard to potential risks they may encounter if they chose to participate in the game. It is strongly recommended that players, who are aware they are pregnant, consider the potential risks participation in the game may place them in.
- 23.2. Players with any medical condition should seek medical advice in relation to their ongoing participation in the sport.
- 23.3. The NSWBL and NSWBL Inc. shall not be held responsible for the players or individual's failure to seek and follow appropriate medical advice.
- 23.4. Information relating to a player's condition shall be held confidentially (unless this is not required) but may be used by the organisation for administrative, insurance, legal or related purposes.
- 23.5 All people who register in the NSWBL agree that they shall NOT contravene any medical advice in relation to their continued participation, and when required provide a medical certificate approving their continued participation in the sport.

24. Legislation

- 24.1 ***The Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984*** and the ***NSW Anti Discrimination Act 1977*** (as amended), particularly s221 now includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual harassment in sport. This has been accepted by the ABF Inc. and NSWBL Inc, and must be adhered to. Reports on any matter of this nature are to be referred immediately to the NSWBL Executive Committee and to NSWBL Inc. for attention.
- 24.2 ***Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998*** – specifies that all coaches and managers (paid or voluntary), involved in clubs with players under 18 years of age, are required to complete *the working with children check*. A status of *prohibited persons* must be established, under the specifications of the *Act*.

25. Judiciary

- 25.1 All participants in games under the control of NSWBL Inc. will abide

by and be subject to the Rules of Baseball, these playing rules and any instruction regarding the conduct of the game of baseball by NSWBL Inc. A player or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:

- a) Ejected for a game by an Umpire
- b) Cited by an Umpire for an incident which occurs after a game has be 'called'
- c) Cited by NSWBL Inc.

25.2 When a person is ejected from a game of baseball or cited he/she will:

- a) Conform to the strict Rules of Baseball
- b) Not participate in another game of baseball associated with NSWBL Inc until such a time as the matter has been heard by the NSWBL Judiciary Committee (or as otherwise determined by the Judiciary Chairperson).
- c) Submit a written report to the NSWBL Judiciary Committee by 11am Monday following the incident.
- d) The NSWBL Judiciary Committee meets every Tuesday night (7.30pm) at Sports House, Blacktown Olympic Park, Function Centre.
- e) Should a person not be able to attend this Committee, they must notify NSWBL Inc by 11am on the Monday following the incident. The person can elect to:
 - i) Request the matter be heard in absence; or
 - ii) Appoint a representative to appear on their behalf; or
 - iii) Enter a plea of guilty and accept any penalty given
- f) Should the Judiciary not meet as scheduled, the Chairperson will determine the eligibility of the player to participate in further games.
- g) A person, who fails to appear before the Judiciary, as scheduled, will not be eligible to participate in further games, until the matter has been resolved.
- h) The Judiciary Committee, under the direction of the Commissioner of Baseball in NSW, may fine clubs and/or suspend any player, team or official for any violation of the Rule of Baseball or any directive of NSWBL Inc, at their discretion.

26. Fines and Penalties.

26.1 The Executive Committee reserves the right to implement fines, or the penalty of loss of points, to clubs who breach these rules.

27. Protests & Disputes.

27.1 In the event of an umpire giving an erroneous decision on a point of law and refusing to alter that decision although attention is drawn to the fact at the time, on the field by the coach of the team who has suffered by such wrong decision, then the team so suffering has the right to protest to the NSWWBL Judiciary Committee provided that the intention to protest is indicated to the umpire at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched, and before any intervening play occurs and is so marked in the score book. Confirmation of the Club's intention to protest must be made to the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game..

27.2 A club wishing the Women's NSWWBL Judiciary Committee to adjudicate upon any dispute shall forward to their NSWWBL in writing within three (3) days of the game out of which the dispute arose, a clear statement of the matter in dispute signed by a club official and enclosing a fee of \$50. If the protest is upheld the fee will be returned.

27.3 A player or coach dismissed from a game of baseball shall be required to attend the Judiciary committee meeting, where their case is to be heard. The umpire shall be required to submit a report on the incident to the NSWWBL on the day following the sending off. The umpire shall advise the offending club's coach of the nature of the offence. The Judiciary will determine if the umpire should be present at the hearing.

27.4 If the Judiciary hearing is not held prior to the player's next scheduled game, she may play unless the Judiciary specifically instructs the player and club that she cannot play. If she plays after receiving instructions not to play, the game is forfeited.

27.5 A player, manager or coach who is under suspension by this NSWWBL or any other NSWWBL or Association affiliated to the NSWBL Inc. is ineligible to participate in any game of baseball under the control of the NSWBL Inc. Playing ineligible players will mean forfeiture of the game in which they play

27.6 Any matter brought to the attention of the NSWWBL with regard to behaviour, breach of rules or any act which could adversely affect the good name of the NSWWBL will be investigated and acted on by the NSWWBL. The NSWWBL reserves the right to pass any such matter on to the Judiciary Committee for their investigation and advice.

27.7 The NSWWBL Executive Committee (or person appointed to it) shall be the authority as to whether a protest is to be upheld, and any subsequent decisions. The Committee may call upon any persons they deem appropriate to assist them in adjudication of

disputes/protests.

- 27.8 It should be understood that loss of a game does not always award a win to the opposing team.
- 27.9 A Judgment Decision by an umpire will not be accepted as grounds for a protest.
- 27.10 Failure to comply with the above procedures may render a protest invalid.
- 27.11 The NSWBL Executive Committee reserves the right to make all rules it deems appropriate. Outcomes may include; loss of game, monetary fine, suspension of membership, or no penalty.

Appendix A

Women's Baseball Etiquette Rules

1. Uniforms are to be worn in the correct manner.
2. Do not steal bases with a 10 run lead. Advance on a batted or played ball. Give consideration to the opposition.
3. Do not encourage your team through criticism of the opposition.
4. Pitchers & Catchers should always apologise to batter for a hit by pitched ball and to a runner for a collision.
5. Do not excel or acclaim failures, always praise a good play by all players.
6. Always show respect and thank the opposition, umpires and scorers.
7. The Umpire-in-Chief must be informed first prior to all position changes and substitutions.
8. During a game, players and coaches should only engage in conversation with members of their own bench. Do not engage in discussion with the opposition, players or spectators.
9. Take 'Cheap-outs' out of your game. Players shall demonstrate a respect for a good return to a base on a 'pick off' or a slide into a base. Do not keep a hold of the player/runner
10. A letter of intent is to be issued when a player or Club speaks to or approaches another Club with the intention of the player joining that Club from another Club participating in the League.

Appendix B

Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct must be abided by all Club Coaches, Manager & Officials, and is a condition of participation in all competitions officiated by the NSW Women's Baseball NSWBL.

As a Coach, I am accredited to a Level 1, or higher, under the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme, as sanctioned by the Australian Baseball Federation Inc, and endorsed by NSWBL Inc and NSWBL.

I will;

1. Provide supervision of the behaviour of all my registered players at all times.
2. Encourage appropriate behaviour among my club players.
3. Ensure that myself, and my club's players dress in appropriate/approved uniforms and maintain a dress code consistent with the good image of baseball.
4. Be conversant and abide by the Official Australian Baseball Rules, the current season NSWBL rules, competition draws, and Judiciary Committee procedures.
5. Recognise that swearing or verbal abuse of officials, other players & coaches, by myself, or any member of my team, will not be tolerated.
6. Not criticize other teams, supporters or officials by word or gesture.
7. Never deliberately provoke any member of the opposition.

8. Accept all judgment decisions made by Umpires as being fair and called to the best of their ability. I will not ridicule or abuse the umpire nor allow any member of my team to do so.

9. Ensure that at no time will I encourage or permit any player to undertake a play, which could lead to injury. I will encourage my team players to exercise caution at all times.

10. Set a good example in my personal appearance and behaviour.

11. Abide by the rules & regulations as stipulated by the NSWBL Executive Committee.

Print Name

Signature

Coaches Accreditation number: _____

Date: ____/____/____