



BASEBALL
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL FEDERATION

SANCTIONS

Version #: 3
Date: August 2004
Author: Michelle Anderson & Peter Wood

Baseball Australia
www.baseball.com.au

Ph. 07 5510 6800
Fx. 07 5510 6855
ABFadmin@baseball.org.au

Baseball House
2 Palm Meadows Drive
Carrara, QLD 4211

PO Box 1028
Mudgeeraba, QLD 4213




Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



Document Details

Title:	Australian Baseball Federation Sanctions
Author:	Michelle Anderson, Administration Manager & Peter Wood, National Development Manager
Created:	September 2002
File Name:	S:\ABF Shared\Policies

Document History

Revision Date	Version	Description	Distribution List	Authorised By
Sep 2002	1	First Issue of doc.	ABF Staff, State Assns / Clubs, Website, E-News	ABF
Jul 2003	2	Revision of procedures.	ABF Staff, State Assns / Clubs, Website, E-News	ABF
Aug 2004	3	Revision of procedures and addition of player clearance, sports visas and Masters.	ABF Staff, State Assns / Clubs, Website, E-News, Tour, Event and Masters organisers on file.	ABF
May 2005	4	Revision of International Player Clearance wording and new form at Appendix 14.	ABF Staff, State Assns / Clubs, Website, E-News, Tour, Event and Masters organisers on file.	ABF
23/5/05	5	Addition of membership number to Event or Activity Participants, National Player Clearance, Touring Party Details forms and International Clearance letter.	ABF Staff, State Assns / Clubs, Website, E-News, Tour, Event and Masters organisers on file.	ABF



CONTENTS

Section 1: Event, Activity or Tour Sanction	2
About Event, Activity and Tour Sanctioning	3
What Needs To Be Sanctioned?	3
Why Sanction Events, Activities and Tours?	4
International Relations	4
What Is The Cost?.....	5
Important!	5
How Do I Apply for Event, Activity or Tour Sanction	6
Appendix 1: Checklists	9
Appendix 2: Notice of Intent to Negotiate form.....	11
Appendix 3: Application for Event / Activity Sanction form.....	12
Appendix 4: Application for Tour Sanction form.....	13
Appendix 5: National Licensing and Merchandising Compliance Statement – Tours, Events & Activities.....	14
Appendix 6: Event or Activity Participants form	15
Appendix 7: Touring Party Details form	16
Appendix 8: Directory of State Umpire Executives and State / Territory Association Offices	17
Appendix 9: Payment Advice form	18
Section 2: Masters Events Participation Sanction	19
Masters Events Participants Become Member of the ABF	20
Questions & Answers	20
Appendix 10: Application for Masters Events Participation Sanction form	22
Appendix 11: National Licensing and Merchandising Compliance Statement – Masters Events Participation.....	23
Appendix 12: Payment Advice form	24
Section 3: Player Clearance	25
National Player Clearance.....	26
International Player Clearance.....	26
Appendix 13: National Player Clearance form.....	27
Appendix 14: International Player Clearance form	28
Section 4: Sponsorship of International Athlete to Australia (Sports Sponsored Visa)	29



SECTION 1

EVENT ACTIVITY or TOUR SANCTION



ABOUT EVENT, ACTIVITY AND TOUR SANCTIONING

Sanctioning of a baseball event, activity and / or tour is a requirement of the International Baseball Federation and as a member of the International Baseball Federation, the Australian Baseball Federation is obliged to uphold this protocol and provide and administer similar procedures for the sport of baseball within Australia.

Event, activity and tour sanction provides:

- regulation and protection of members and baseball as a sport;
- insurance protection (as outlined in the ABF'S National Insurance Scheme available on our website www.baseball.com.au);
- recognition and authorisation of baseball events, activities and touring parties;
- a cohesive approach to coordinating baseball around Australia; and
- a platform for cooperative interaction between international entities.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE SANCTIONED?

State associations, clubs or affiliated organisations wishing to develop and implement any baseball tournament or training / competition program that requires either interstate or international negotiation and travel, must receive written event / activity sanction from the ABF prior to any baseball activity occurring.

This is not to discourage state associations, clubs or affiliated organisations from developing concepts or creative program planning. However, it must be clearly understood that for interstate and international activities, programs or events to receive the sanction of the ABF they must meet certain criteria, including that:

- they do not conflict with existing scheduled activities, programs or events;
- they compliment or can be incorporated into the ABF's national strategic planning framework;
- they receive the sanction of the appropriate national and international bodies;
- they do not conflict with existing activities, programs or events "licensed" by the ABF; and
- they demonstrate a feasible and practical method of program implementation.

Other criteria may need to be satisfied from time to time depending upon the nature of the activity.

State associations, clubs, affiliated organisations, or corporate entities may be appointed to conduct or host licensed activities, events or programs on behalf of the ABF.

An **event or activity**, for the purpose of sanctioning, includes but is not limited to; any game or series of games involving a team or teams travelling over interstate or international borders, matches, practice sessions, training camps, promotional activity and any other baseball related appearances and activities.

A **tour** consists of any baseball athlete, team, coaching and / or support staff travelling:

- over Australian state or territory borders**;
- to another country from Australia; and
- to Australia from another country;

to participate in baseball events or activities.

(** except where the tour group originates from a region administered by another geographical state and the tour is to their administration catchment, ie, Lismore (NSW) administered by Baseball Queensland touring to Queensland.)



WHY SANCTION EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND TOURS?

1. Insurance

If a team or athlete participates in an unsanctioned event or activity held in Australia, then insurance cover may not be provided under the ABF's National Insurance Scheme. This potentially exposes the team or athlete and the event or activity organisers to claims. The same may apply for a team or athlete travelling without official tour sanction.

2. International accord

Sanctioning indicates that the event, activity or tour is recognised by the sanctioning organisation and has their authorisation to play against other affiliated members. In general, this would be against other members of the International BAseball Federation. Involvement with organisations that are not affiliated with the International BAseball Federation that are deemed detrimental to the pursuits of members of the International BAseball Federation may lead to suspension of players and / or associations.

3. Protection of member programs

The sanction process ensures that events and activities are held with due respect for local, state, national and international objectives for the sport. This includes adherence to member benefit programs (ie, the National Licensing and Merchandising Program [Agreement available from our website www.baseball.com.au/admin]) and recognition of participation guidelines (ie, prohibiting participation of players, coaches and support staff that are undergoing bans in a local, state or national framework).

4. Standards

Officiating standards are upheld through sanctioning whereby only nationally accredited umpires may be used at Australian-based events and activities.

5. Detrimental activities

To protect the integrity of Australian baseball both here and abroad, groups undertaking activities judged to be detrimental to the interests of Australian baseball will not be given sanction through this process.

6. Communication

The ABF, as the peak body for the sport in Australia, should be kept informed of all activities pertaining to its members both here and abroad. This assists the ABF in its day to day management of the sport as well as its role in international relations.

Likewise, state and territory association offices, as the governing body for the sport within their geographical region, should be kept informed of all activities pertaining to their members both within their region and abroad.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

International relations are of vital importance to the ABF. For that reason all communications between Australian baseball organisations and any international baseball organisation concerning matters relating to baseball activity must be directed through the ABF.

This is simply achieved by forwarding a completed "Notice of Intent to Negotiate" form [Appendix 2] to the ABF.



This protocol is a specific charter of the ABF as a member of the International Baseball Federation and will assist in maintaining "world order" in regards to international baseball. It will also assist the ABF in understanding the nature and positioning of the baseball related activity you are undertaking with international entities. The ABF will formally respond to the Notice of Intent to Negotiate.

WHAT IS THE COST?

There is one cost across all sanctions – AU\$50.00:

AU\$50.00 (AUD) **per** application for tour sanction;

AU\$50.00 (AUD) **per** application for event / activity sanction;

The AU\$50.00 application fee includes GST and is non-refundable. This fee covers the administration of processing applications and is invested back into the sport of baseball.

AU\$0.00 (nil) per Notice of Intent to Negotiate.

IMPORTANT!

1. **No activity, event or tour can proceed without sanction provided by the ABF.**
2. Sanctioning should be included in the priority task list of any event, activity or tour organising committee and should be sought well in advance of the commencement date, bearing in mind the following may cause delays in processing an application:
 - The absence of any information requested within these procedures and on the application form.
 - Information that is insufficient, incorrect or unclear.
 - The absence of an international certificate of sanction (where required).
 - The absence of state or territory association office approval.
 - Inquiries required to be made in relation to any of the above.
3. Whilst providing sanction for tours, events and activities, the ABF does not acknowledge, approve or otherwise endorse the tour operators and / or those organisations arranging events, games and activities in Australia or abroad. The responsibility to establish the bona fides of the organiser(s) rests with the participants. The ABF, in granting sanction, does not provide any guarantee in relation to the performance of the tour operator or game, event or activity organiser and does not accept any liability in this regard.
4. Australian athletes or teams participating in events or activities here or overseas are to ensure that **only licensed merchandise and equipment** (ie, apparel, balls, caps), appropriately badged with the ABF's logo **is worn / used**. Refer to the ABF's National Licensing and Merchandising Program Agreement available on the ABF's website www.baseball.com.au/admin. A Compliance Statement [Appendix 5] is to be completed and forwarded with any application for tour, event or activity sanction.
5. **Only nationally accredited umpires are to be used** at events and activities held in Australia. Contact details for State Umpire Executives are provided at Appendix 8.
6. The use of the term "**Australia**", "**Australian**" or "**ABF**" in any form to represent a team either sanctioned or unsanctioned by the ABF, other than an Australian national team as selected by the ABF, is **strictly prohibited**.
7. All **events or activities** sanctioned by the ABF will be added to our website's calendar of events and monthly E-News. If you wish your event to be further promoted on either of these mediums, please contact the ABF's Administration Manager on 07-5510 6800 or ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au.



All **tours** will be listed in the ABF's E-News only.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR EVENT, ACTIVITY OR TOUR SANCTION?

1. EVENT AND ACTIVITY SANCTION

1.1 Intrastate participation only

For events and activities involving local participation only (ie, players from within own state / territory catchment) sanction is not required.

1.2 Interstate and / or International participation

For events and activities in Australia involving interstate and / or international participation:

- (1) Notify the ABF of your intention to negotiate with another country by way of the Notice of Intent to Negotiate form and receive formal response to that notification.
- (2) Advise the international touring team(s) / athlete(s) of the need to seek Tour Sanction from their national sporting body and also the ABF. (The event organiser may be required to assist in the facilitation and coordination of acquiring sanction from the ABF.)
- (3) Advise all interstate participating team(s) / athlete(s) of the need to seek Tour Sanction in accordance with these procedures from the ABF.
- (4) Complete an Application for Event / Activity Sanction form [Appendix 3] and compile all requested information / documentation.
- (5) Seek approval from your state / territory association office for the event / activity by forwarding all material at (4) above to them.
- (6) Seek sanction from the ABF for the event / activity. Once approved by your state / territory association office, they will forward your application onto the ABF. The ABF, upon approval of sanction, will notify the applicant by way of formal certification. **(NOTE: The event or activity cannot proceed until such time as the certificate has been received by the applicant.)**

2. TOUR SANCTION

2.1 Local touring

If a team / athlete is not required to cross state, territory or international borders at any time during a tour, or is touring to their administrator's catchment area (ie, Lismore (NSW) attending a Queensland event) Tour Sanction is not required.

2.2 Interstate touring

If a team / athlete is required to cross over interstate or territory borders at any time during a tour:

- (1) Complete an Application for Tour Sanction form [Appendix 4] and compile all requested information / documentation.



- (2) Seek approval from your state / territory association office for the tour by forwarding (1) above to your state / territory association office.
- (3) Seek sanction from the ABF for the tour. Once approved by your state / territory association office, they will forward your application onto the ABF. The ABF, upon approval of sanction, will notify the applicant by way of formal certification. **(NOTE: The tour cannot proceed until such time as the certificate has been received by the applicant.)**

2.3 Australians touring overseas

If an athlete or team is required to travel from Australia to another country at any time during a tour:

- (1) Notify the ABF of your intention to negotiate with another country by way of the Notice of Intent to Negotiate form and receive formal response to that notification.
- (2) Complete an Application for Tour Sanction form and compile all requested information / documentation.
- (3) Seek approval from your state / territory association office for the tour by forwarding (2) above to your state association office.
- (4) Seek sanction from the ABF for the tour. Once approved by your state association office, they will forward your application onto the ABF. The ABF, upon approval of sanction, will notify the applicant by way of formal certification. **(NOTE: The tour cannot proceed until such time as the certificate has been received by the applicant.)**

2.4 Internationals touring Australia

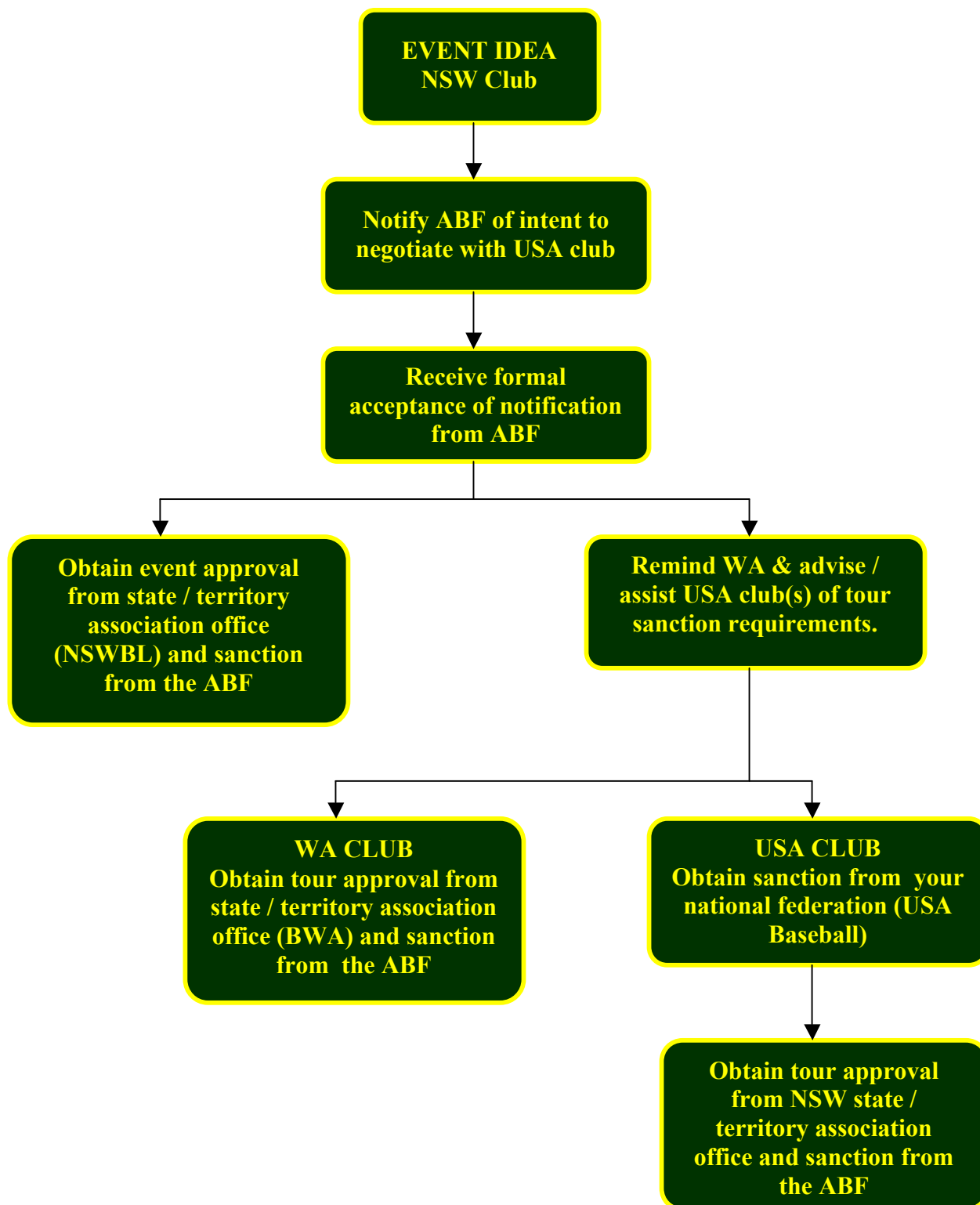
If an athlete or team is required to travel from overseas to Australia:

- (1) Seek comprehensive medical and travel insurance for all those persons touring.
- (2) Seek sanction from your national Federation for your tour to Australia.
- (3) Complete an Application for Tour Sanction form and compile all requested information / documentation.
- (3) Forward all at (2) and (3) above to the event organiser who will seek approval of the application from their state / territory association office.
- (4) After approving and signing the application, the state / territory association office will forward the application onto the ABF. The ABF, upon approval of sanction, will notify the applicant by way of formal certification. **(NOTE: The tour cannot proceed until such time as the certificate has been received by the applicant.)**

3. SAMPLE SCENARIO

Explanation

A tournament is being organised in the state of New South Wales. The event organisers are inviting clubs from within New South Wales, Western Australia and a team from the USA.





APPENDIX 1: CHECK LISTS

The following are check lists and forms to assist in fulfilling sanctioning application requirements.

1. **EVENT AND ACTIVITY SANCTION APPLICATION FOR INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

- A "Notice of Intent to Negotiate" form has been completed and forwarded to the ABF.
- A formal response to our Notice of Intent to Negotiate form has been received from the ABF.
- Have informed international participating teams / athletes of the requirement to obtain tour sanction from their national sporting body and also from the ABF in accordance with these procedures.
- Have informed interstate participating teams / athletes of the requirement to obtain tour sanction in accordance with these procedures.
- An "Application for Event / Activity Sanction" has been completed.
- A "Tours, Events & Activities Compliance Statement" form has been completed.
- An event / activity program / schedule has been prepared.
- A "Event or Activity Participants" form [Appendix 6] has been completed.
- A brief outline of the aims and objectives for this event / activity has been prepared.
- A "Payment Advice" form has been completed together with money order / cheque for AU\$50.00.
- A copy of all the above has been retained for our records.
- The originals of all the above have been forwarded to our state / territory association office for approval and on-forwarding to the ABF office for sanction.



2. TOUR SANCTION APPLICATION FOR INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL TOURING

- International only – Have received Tour Sanction from our national sporting body.
- Both – An “Application for Tour Sanction” form has been completed.
- Interstate only - A “Tours, Events & Activities Compliance Statement” form has been completed.
- Both - An itinerary and playing / training schedule has been prepared.
- Both - A “Tour Party Details” form has been completed.
- Both - A “Payment Advice” form has been completed together with money order / cheque for AU\$50.00.
- Both - A copy of all the above has been retained for our records.
- International only - The originals of all the above have been forwarded to the event organiser for on-forwarding to their state / territory association office for approval and on-forwarding to the ABF office for sanction.
- Interstate only – The originals of all the above have been forwarded to our state / territory association office for approval and on-forwarding to the ABF office for sanction.



NOTICE OF INTENT TO NEGOTIATE

To: Australian Baseball Federation
PO Box 1028
MUDGEERABA QLD 4211

Fax: +61-7-5510 6855
Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au

From: First & Last Name: Phone:
()
Organisation's Name: Fax:
()
Postal Address: Mobile:
City: State: Postcode: Email:
Country:

We wish to commence negotiations with another country as follows:

Country:
Organisation:
Contact Person/s:
Topic of negotiation:
Reason for negotiation:

Intended date of event / activity / tour:

Signature:
Name:
Date:



APPLICATION FOR EVENT / ACTIVITY SANCTION

To: Australian Baseball Federation
Fax: +61-7-5510 6855
Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au
From: First & Last Name:
Organisation's Name:
Postal Address:
City: State: Postcode:
Country:

The [] Baseball Association [] / League [] / Club [] / Group [] hereby seek official sanction from the Australian Baseball Federation (ABF) for the following baseball event / activity.

Signature: [] Date: []

Official name of event / activity: []

Event / activity location (full address): []

Participating clubs / teams / athletes name and origin (ie, state and country): []

Event Date: From: [] To: [] Age group: []

In accordance with the ABF's Event / Activity Sanction procedures, the following is attached to this Application:

A. Interstate Participation

- [] A signed copy of the "Tours, Events & Activities Compliance Statement" form.
[] A copy of the event / activity schedule / program.
[] A completed "Event or Activity Participants" form.
[] A brief outline of the organising committee's aims and objectives for this event / activity.
[] A completed "Payment Advice" form (plus cheque / money order).

B. Overseas Participation

- [] All listed at A. above (excluding the Compliance Statement form); plus
[] A copy of the ABF's acceptance of the "Notice of Intent to Negotiate" form.

STATE / TERRITORY ASSOCIATION APPROVAL

QLD [] VIC [] NSW [] ACT [] NT [] WA [] SA []

Signature of State / Territory EO Full Name (please print) [] Date: []

ABF OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved [] Posted / Emailed / Faxed [] Paid [] Database [] E-News [] Website []



APPLICATION FOR TOUR SANCTION

To: Australian Baseball Federation
Fax: +61-7-5510 6855
Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au
From: First & Last Name:
Organisation's Name:
Postal Address:
City: State: Postcode:
Country:

The [] Baseball Association [] / League [] / Club [] / Group [] hereby seek official sanction from the Australian Baseball Federation (ABF) for the following baseball tour.

Signature: [] Date: []

Official name of touring party: []

Name and description of event / activity: []

Tour locations (city, state and country): []

Date of tour: From: [] To: [] Age group: []

In accordance with the ABF's Tour Sanction procedures, the following is attached to this Application:

- A. Interstate Touring Parties
[] A signed copy of the "Tours, Events & Activities Compliance Statement" form.
[] A copy of the touring party's itinerary and training / playing schedule.
[] A completed "Touring Party Details" form.
[] A completed "Payment Advice" form (plus cheque / money order).

- B. Australian Touring Parties to Overseas:
[] All listed at A. above; plus
[] A copy of the ABF's acceptance of the "Notice of Intent to Negotiate" form.

- C. International Touring Parties to Australia
[] All listed at A. above (excluding the Compliance Statement), plus
[] A copy of sanction from our national federation.

STATE / TERRITORY ASSOCIATION APPROVAL
QLD [] VIC [] NSW [] ACT [] NT [] WA [] SA []
Signature of State / Territory EO: [] Date: []
Full Name (please print) []

ABF OFFICE USE ONLY
Approved [] Posted / Emailed / Faxed [] Paid [] Database [] E-News []



**NATIONAL LICENSING AND MERCHANDISING COMPLIANCE STATEMENT
TOURS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

(To be completed by the Team Manager / Executive Officer or Event / Activity Organising Committee prior to the commencement of any tour, event or activity and submitted to the ABF with the application for sanction)

To: Australian Baseball Federation
PO Box 1028
MUDGEERABA QLD 4211

Fax: +61-7-5510 6855
Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au

From:

First & Last Name:	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Organisation's Name:	<input type="text"/>	Fax:	<input type="text"/>
Postal Address:	<input type="text"/>	Mobile:	<input type="text"/>
City:	State:	Postcode:	Email:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Country:	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>			

The National Licensing and Merchandising Program assists all participants by financially contributing to the development of baseball in Australia. To help with the success of this initiative, all players and associated on-field staff are required to wear only licensed apparel (ie, caps, tops, pants, jackets) bearing the appropriate Australian Baseball badging and using licensed equipment in competitions, events and other sanctioned activities whether in Australia or abroad. This has been a requirement since 1 April 2001.

This compliance relates to all levels of baseball with the exclusion of T-Ball and Coach Pitch.

In order to receive sanction of your event, activity or tour, this Compliance Statement must be signed acknowledging adherence to the Program. Failure to comply will result in sanction not being granted and appropriate penalties being imposed.

I certify on behalf of the following touring party / activity / event that full compliance to the ABF's National Merchandising Agreement (as is current on the ABF's website) will be administered and that failure to comply will result in our tour/ event / activity being unsuccessful in its application for sanction and that appropriate penalties will be imposed by the ABF.

Touring Party, Event or Activity Name

Signature:

Name:

Date:

**DIRECTORY OF STATE UMPIRE EXECUTIVES
AND
STATE / TERRITORY ASSOCIATION OFFICES**

ACT Baseball Association Inc
Sports House
100 Maitland Street
HACKETT ACT 2602

Phone: 02-6247 7244
Fax: 02-6247 7655
Email: actbaseball@bigpond.com

NSW Baseball League
PO Box 142
MT DRUITT NSW 2770

Phone: 02-9675 4522
Fax: 02-9675 4533
Email: bballnsw@bigpond.net.au

Baseball **Northern Territory** Inc
PO Box 40248
CASAUINA NT 0811

Phone: 08-8927 4788
Fax: 08-8927 7988
Email: ntbaseb@tpg.com.au

Baseball **Queensland** Inc
PO Box 124
SPRING HILL QLD 4004

Phone: 07-3876 2222
Fax: 07-3876 2122
Email: admin@baseballqld.asn.au

South Australian Baseball League Inc
PO Box 64
TORRENSVILLE SA 5031

Phone: 08-8234 8488
Fax: 08-8234 8599
Email: admin@baseballsa.org.au

Baseball **Victoria**
PO Box 537
LAVERTON VIC 3028

Phone: 03-9360 0766
Fax: 03-9360 0843
Email: playball@baseballvictoria.com.au

Baseball **WA** Ltd
PO Box 57
CLAREMONT WA 6910

Phone: 08-9383 7735
Fax: 08-9383 7737
Email: admin@baseballwa.asn.au



PAYMENT ADVICE

To: Australian Baseball Federation
 PO Box 1028
 MUDGEERABA QLD 4211

Fax: +61-7-5510 6855
 Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au

From: First & Last Name: Phone:
 ()

Organisation's Name: Fax:
 ()

Postal Address: Mobile:

City: State: Postcode: Email:

Country:

CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER

If paying by cheque or money order, payment must be in Australian currency and made out to "The Australian Baseball Federation".

CREDIT CARD

The Australian Baseball Federation accepts credit card payment by Mastercard, Visa or Bankcard.

Tick the card type: Mastercard Visa Bankcard

Enter card number here:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Enter card expiry date here:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Enter name on card here:

Enter AU\$ Amount here: \$

DIRECT DEBIT

The Australian Baseball Federation accepts payment directly to the following account:

Bank:	National Bank	The amount of AU\$ <input type="text"/>	was banked into this
BSB:	084-917	account on <input type="text"/>	.
Account:	640 185 998		

Signature: Print Name: Date:



SECTION 2

MASTERS EVENTS PARTICIPATION SANCTION



MASTERS EVENTS PARTICIPANTS BECOME MEMBERS OF THE ABF

From 1 September 2004, all Masters events participants will be given member status of the Australian Baseball Federation.

The reasons for this are quite simple. The ABF already assists Masters events organisers through provision of a range of services which are pretty much the same as for any Baseball 'member', ie, an existing member club or association that's holding an event. We're also regularly called upon to provide event sanctioning, as more and more of the Games organisers at the top of the umbrella are requesting that each sport seeks and gains the sanction of their sport's peak body.

Historically the ABF has supported the Masters movement through provision of a range of services for their events and specifically, the event organisers. Up to this point, this has been extended as a goodwill gesture based on the comparatively small workload it encompassed. Interest in Masters games has increased markedly and the ABF has found the workload involved in servicing this demand has also increased.

In order to adequately service this sector and in the interests of all within the Baseball community, Masters event participants will now be attributed member status of the ABF through implementation of a small team fee at the point of event registration.

This will formalise the relationship so that we can continue to provide services to the Masters fraternity and also importantly, provide a vehicle through which Masters can contribute to the greater Baseball community. The fee will be **\$20 per team per event**. This new membership class will also allow us to more accurately report on actual Baseball participation to government and other funding sources.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In an attempt to make our rationale as transparent as possible, we've put together the following Q & A's.

Why should a fee be charged?

Masters events participants currently pay no fees toward Australian Baseball yet receive services similar to that of other fee-paying members. A nominal fee level has been implemented so that Masters are levied proportionally compared with other members.

How is it to be paid?

The Baseball event organiser applies for event sanction from the ABF and pays the per team registration fee according to how many teams will be playing. These costs will be recouped by the organiser either as an identified part of team participation costs or just rolled into the normal team fees. In other words, teams just pay costs associated with the event to the games organisers and they will do the rest.

Will I be a member of the ABF by paying this fee?

Yes. The ABF has created a new class of membership in its Constitution specifically for Masters events participants. Rights of membership are very much the same as for any individual member of the Baseball community with the exception of insurance. In our experience, this is always provided by the Masters games organisers.

What if I'm already a member of Australian Baseball through a club or league?

The fee still applies and this new membership relates specifically to Masters events. The figure has been kept very low so that it is not an unreasonable burden on those who are also regular club members. Research on the make up of Masters in our sport has shown that the vast majority participate in the event environment rather than regular league play. There will always be a number who exist in both but this is considered to be in the minority.



What obligations are there as a member of the ABF?

The ABF administers a number of member benefit initiatives on behalf of its members. Amongst them is the Licensing and Merchandising program which returns much needed funds to the grass roots through a licensed supplier framework.

Adherence to the ABF's Licensing and Merchandising program is one aspect of the prerequisites for event sanctioning. As such, all participating Masters events teams will be required to comply. The Australian Baseball community made a commitment to the Licensing and Merchandising program some years ago. It has been adopted nationally and exists as a means to bring benefits to all members. Compliance to this program will establish the Masters fraternity as being similarly committed to the betterment of Baseball in Australia and importantly, align them with all other members of the Baseball community.

Essentially the program promotes that game apparel (playing tops, pants, hats and warm up jackets / slickers) and game baseballs can only be purchased through a network of licensed suppliers. The strength of this collective purchasing is that those manufacturers and suppliers contribute back to Baseball through the payment of royalties. This program has already started to return dividends to the sport through cash payments to state associations.

In view of the more relaxed environment in Masters games in regards to uniforms, an exception has been made in regards to playing tops; only pants, hats and warm up jackets / slickers need to be licensed.

What about the use of current uniforms?

Like all other members, Masters events participants will be given interim badging to apply to their existing uniforms if they have not been sourced from one of the ABF's licensed suppliers. The program only requires that new uniforms be purchased from licensed suppliers in the future. Your contact on the event organising committee will have more information in regards to compliance.

In essence, the financial impact of this fee on Masters events participants is about \$1.60 per participant per event. This small contribution will facilitate membership of the greater Baseball community and therefore contribute toward the betterment of Baseball in Australia.

If you'd like more information or want to discuss any aspect of your membership, please call Peter Wood, ABF National Development Manager on (07) 5509 4116.

Thanks for your time, your understanding and your contribution to our sport.



APPLICATION FOR MASTERS EVENTS PARTICIPATION SANCTION

To: Australian Baseball Federation
 PO Box 1028
 MUDGEERABA QLD 4211

Fax: +61-7-5510 6855
 Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au

From: First & Last Name: _____ Phone: _____
 () _____
 Organisation's Name: _____ Fax: _____
 () _____
 Postal Address: _____ Mobile: _____

 City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Email: _____

 Country: _____

The _____ Baseball Association / League / Club / Group hereby seek official sanction from the Australian Baseball Federation (ABF) for the following Masters baseball event participation. The Baseball event organisers are fully aware of the requirements of official sanctioning and will not proceed with participation until certified sanction has been received from the ABF.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Official name of Masters event: _____

Location of Baseball event (full address): _____

Number and Name/s of participating team/s: _____

Event Date: From: _____ To: _____

In accordance with the ABF's sanctioning of Masters Events Participation procedures, the following is attached to this Application:

- A signed copy of the "Masters Events Participation Compliance Statement" form.
- A copy of the Baseball event schedule / program.
- A completed "Event or Activity Participants" form (refer Section 1, Appendix 6).
- A completed "Payment Advice" form (plus cheque / money order).

STATE / TERRITORY ASSOCIATION APPROVAL

QLD VIC NSW ACT NT WA SA

Signature of State / Territory EO: _____ Date: _____
 Full Name (please print) _____

ABF OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved Posted / Emailed / Faxed Paid Database E-News Website



**NATIONAL LICENSING AND MERCHANDISING COMPLIANCE STATEMENT
MASTERS EVENTS PARTICIPATION**

(To be completed by the Masters baseball event organiser prior to the commencement date of the tournament and submitted to the ABF with the application for sanction.)

<p>To: Australian Baseball Federation PO Box 1028 MUDGEERABA QLD 4211</p>	<p>Fax: +61-7-5510 6855 Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au</p>
<p>From: First & Last Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Organisation's Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Postal Address: <input type="text"/></p> <p>City: <input type="text"/> State: <input type="text"/> Postcode: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Country: <input type="text"/></p>	<p>Phone: <input type="text"/> (<input type="text"/>) <input type="text"/></p> <p>Fax: <input type="text"/> (<input type="text"/>) <input type="text"/></p> <p>Mobile: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Email: <input type="text"/></p>

The National Licensing and Merchandising Program assists all participants by financially contributing to the development of baseball in Australia. The Program promotes that all game apparel (ie, shirts, pants, hats and warm up jackets / slickers) and game baseballs can only be purchased through a network of licensed suppliers.

In view of the more relaxed environment in Masters games in regards to uniforms, an exception has been made in regards to playing tops (ie, only pants, hats and warm up jackets / slickers need to be licensed bearing the appropriate Australian Baseball badging).

The National Licensing and Merchandising Program has been in operation since 1 April 2001.

In order to receive Masters Events Participation Sanction this Compliance Statement must be signed acknowledging adherence to the Program. Failure to comply will result in sanction not being granted and appropriate penalties being imposed.

I certify on behalf of the following Masters Baseball Event that full compliance to the ABF's National Merchandising Agreement (as is current on the ABF's website) will be administered and that failure to comply will result in the Masters Baseball Event being unsuccessful in its application for sanction and that appropriate penalties will be imposed by the ABF.

Masters Baseball Event Name:

Signature:

Name:

Date:



PAYMENT ADVICE

To: Australian Baseball Federation
 PO Box 1028
 MUDGEERABA QLD 4211

Fax: +61-7-5510 6855
 Email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au

From: First & Last Name: _____ Phone: _____
 () _____
 Organisation's Name: _____ Fax: _____
 () _____
 Postal Address: _____ Mobile: _____

 City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Email: _____

 Country: _____

CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER

If paying by cheque or money order, payment must be in Australian currency and made out to "The Australian Baseball Federation".

CREDIT CARD

The Australian Baseball Federation accepts credit card payment by Mastercard, Visa or Bankcard.

Tick the card type: Mastercard Visa Bankcard

Enter card number here:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Enter card expiry date here:

--	--	--	--	--

Enter name on card here:

--

Enter AU\$ Amount here: \$ _____

DIRECT DEBIT

The Australian Baseball Federation accepts payment directly to the following account:

Bank:	National Bank	The amount of AU\$ _____ was banked into this
BSB:	084-917	account on _____.
Account:	640 185 998	

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____



SECTION 3

PLAYER CLEARANCE



NATIONAL PLAYER CLEARANCE

If a player wishes to play baseball in another league or competition or register with another club or association, the player is first required to obtain approval from his / her current club or association.

Clearance signed off by the current club or association confirms that the player has no obligations outstanding with that club or association. Clearance will not be approved until such time as any obligations outstanding with the player's current club are met or arrangements made.

The Australian Baseball Federation is not required to approve or sign off on this type of clearance of an athlete.

The following form (Appendix 13) was established by the Australian Baseball Federation to assist members in the clearance process. This form is required to be completed by the athlete or current club then signed by all parties involved in the transfer process.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER CLEARANCE

If a player wishes to play baseball in another league or competition or register with another club or association overseas, the player is first required to obtain approval from his or her club or association.

Clearance signed off by the current club or association confirms that the player has no obligations outstanding with that club or association. Clearance will not be approved until such time as any obligations outstanding with the player's current club are met or arrangements made.

The Australian Baseball Federation is required to provide sanction and sign off on any international clearance of an athlete.

The following letter (Appendix 14) is to be transposed on to the player's current club's letterhead, fully completed and signed by an executive of that club then faxed or posted back to the ABF. The ABF will then draw up a formal letter of clearance addressed to the relevant country's national federation. If not too late, the letter will be issued to the player to take with them.

A description of the details required for each field of the letter is provided at the end of Appendix 14.



APPENDIX 13 – NATIONAL PLAYER CLEARANCE FORM

Player's Personal Details	Last Name: _____		Given Names: _____			
	Address: _____					
	_____				Post Code: _____	
	Email: _____	Private Phone #: _____	Business Phone #: _____	Fax #: _____	D.O.B: _____	
	Previous Address: _____					
Registration	I WISH TO REGISTER WITH THE _____ CLUB					
	In the _____ Association / League					
	For the season of: _____					
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have never been a registered member of a baseball club. <input type="checkbox"/> I am currently a registered member of _____ Baseball Club on membership number _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I have previously been registered with the following club(s) during the past four years:					
	Club: _____	Association / League Competition: _____		Season: _____		
	_____	_____		_____		
	_____	_____		_____		
	I declare that the information on this form is true and correct.					
	Player's signature: _____				Date: _____	
	I declare that the player has been accepted as a member of the club:					
Secretary Signature: _____				Date: _____		
Clearance to Transfer Details	I WISH TO APPLY FOR A CLEARANCE TO TRANSFER					
	From Club: _____	Assoc / League / Competition: _____		State: _____		
	To Club: _____	Assoc / League / Competition: _____		State: _____		
	My reasons are as follows: _____ _____ _____					
	Applicant's signature: _____				Date: _____	
	Clearance is REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/> GRANTED <input type="checkbox"/> (tick one)					
	Club: _____	Secretary Signature + Print Name: _____		Date: _____		
	Reason for refusal of clearance: _____ _____					
	Office Use Only	OUTWARD ENDORSEMENT				
		Secretary signature: _____	Assoc / League / Competition: _____	State: _____	Date: _____	
INWARD ENDORSEMENT						
Secretary Signature: _____		Assoc / League / Competition: _____	State: _____	Date: _____		

NOTE: The Inward Registration is to be completed by the relevant official before a player can participate in a competition game.



APPENDIX 14 – TRANSFER OF ATHLETE FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER

(1).....

Australian Baseball Federation
PO Box 1028
MUDGEERABA QLD 4211

fax: 07-5510 6855
email: ABFAdmin@baseball.org.au

Attention: Administration Manager

Dear ABF Administration Manager

This is to confirm that (2)....., born at

(3)..... is a current registered member of

(4)..... Baseball Club in (5)....., membership

number (6)....., (7)..... Baseball Club

hereby authorise the release of the above named athlete for transfer to

(8)..... in (9)....., from

(10)..... to (11).....

Yours sincerely

(12)..... (13).....

(14)..... (15).....



ALL THE ABOVE DETAILS MUST BE CORRECT, IN FULL AND COMPLETE BEFORE
THE ABF CAN PROVIDE FORMAL SANCTION FOR TRANSFER.

- (1) Today's date (d mmm yyyy)
- (2) Athlete's full name (given, middle, last names).
- (3) Athlete's date of birth (dd / mm / yy).
- (4) Official name of baseball club athlete currently registered with (full name – no initials / slang).
- (5) Town and state location of club (ie, Surfers Paradise, QLD).
- (6) Players club registration / membership number.
- (7) Same as (4) above.
- (8) Full name of club Athlete will be transferred to.
- (9) Country where new club is located.
- (10) Date to be released from current club.
- (11) Date to cease with new club.
- (12) Signature of an authority within the club (4) and (7) above, ie, President, or Secretary or Club Executive.
- (13) Printed name of (12).
- (14) Contact phone number of authority at (12) and (13) above or of Club.
- (15) Email address of authority at (12) and (13) above, or of Club.



SECTION 4

SPONSORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL ATHLETE TO AUSTRALIA (Sports Sponsored Visa)



From time to time, state associations, clubs or other affiliated organisations may require expert playing, coaching or instructional personnel from another country. If these people are required for an extended stay in Australia and will be working for fees or wages, they will require a "sponsor" (the organisation seeking their services) in support of an application for the appropriate Australian visa.

Sporting Visas are used by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs to allow a sports person to enter into Australia to play, coach sport, etc. Generally, this person will bring in a skill unable to be obtained in Australia or a skill which will improve the sport. The Sporting Visa will allow that person to work and earn money while they are in Australia.

On application for a sporting visa from baseball, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs will require a letter of endorsement from the Australian Baseball Federation in support of a sponsor's / applicant's application. This letter will serve as sanction for the entry of the applicant to participate in Australian baseball activity. Without it, the applicant cannot participate in Australian baseball activity and is very unlikely to receive entry to Australia.

WHAT'S REQUIRED?

1. Agree to sponsor the applicant and draw up a contract of duties, responsibilities, fees / wages and other relevant information signed and dated by both parties.
2. Assist in the lodgement of an application form to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.
3. Visit the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs website (www.immi.gov.au) or contact them by phone to find out what is required. Usually, you would obtain document "Form 147 – Application for a temporary residence visa (non-business)" (www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/147.pdf). The visa the applicant will be applying for would be Class: Cultural / Social (Temporary), Sub Class: 421 Sport. The purpose of this visa would be for "temporary stay of amateur or professional sports people to engage in competition with Australian residents and to improve general sporting standards in Australia through high calibre competition and training". Check that this is still the case today.
5. Once you have the forms, pass them onto the applicant for completion. The applicant must read the whole document fully, ensuring they clearly understand what is required. This form must be completed in all honesty and must be accompanied by all necessary additional information / documentation requested throughout the form, back to the sponsor.

NOTE: The application can be lodged personally by the applicant, by a representative (sponsor), or sent by mail. (This document is written in the context that the sponsor will assist with most of the preparation of this application.)

6. In support of this visa application:
 - the applicant is aware that he / she is unable to change employer without prior permission;
 - inquiries about health checking procedures and forms requirements are made at the office where it is intended to lodge the application;
 - documented proof is available of sufficient health insurance to cover the applicant's intended duration of the visa;
 - the organisation's (sponsor) balance sheet and or bank statements are available;
 - the sponsor acquires a letter of support from their state association office;
 - the sponsor acquires a letter of endorsement from the ABF (which acts as ABF sanction).



The ABF will issue a letter of endorsement to the sponsor upon receipt of the letter of support from the State Association and a copy of the contract drawn up between the sponsor and the applicant.

The letter of support from the State Association will verify that there is no reason why the applicant should be denied an endorsement from the ABF. The State Association is responsible for ensuring that all the necessary checks have been carried out on the applicant and are satisfied that there are no legalities which would impede entry into Australia.

It is important that the sponsor check with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs to make sure that there are no changes to what is required.