



Sydney Cup Manager/EO Handbook



The Rules of the 2023 Sydney Cup & Association Cup will be predominantly in accordance with the Little League Baseball 2023 Rulebook (U12's – Little League Majors, U14's – Junior League, U16's – Senior League), with some alterations by Baseball New South Wales to accommodate to the specific nature of the Sydney Cup Tournament. More specifically the Tournament Rules under Section Titles - **CONDITIONS OF TOURNAMENT PLAY and TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES**. Where the Tournament Rules {referenced within as "TR"} are silent on an issue the Regular Season rules apply {referenced within as "PR"}. Where those rules are silent on a subject the Rules of Baseball will be applied. Where there is a conflict between the Little League Tournament Rules and this handbook, the latter shall be applied.

2023 SYDNEY CUP OVERVIEW

Message from BNSW

BNSW are, once again, looking forward to this year's Sydney Cup which will see the Sydney Metropolitan Associations compete against each other.

The Sydney Cup is the mandatory prelude for our Baseball NSW State Championships. The Sydney Cup serves as a vital platform for associations and their players to showcase their skills and contribute to the growth of the sport in our region. The Sydney Cup is used to enhance the overall competitive experience and strengthen the baseball community across Sydney and New South Wales. From this event we will be selecting teams from interested players looking to travel to the USA to compete in a Nationally recognized tournament with some of the best international talent available.

Good luck to all of the associations this year!

Format

- There will not be any double headers or gala day-style rounds.
- Each round this year will mirror the NSW State League format with an association's three age groups playing against the same association in a home and away format one after the other.
- The games will still be played fortnightly so as not to take away the best talent from the home association competitions every week. The only games that will be played on back-to-back weekends are the Sydney Cup Semi-Final and Grand Final on the 10th and 17th of December.
- The Association Cup Finals Day is on the 10th of December.

Start and End Dates

- The first day of the Sydney Cup will commence on Sunday, 10th September with the final regular season contest commencing on Sunday, 3rd December.
- The Semi-Final will take place on Sunday, 10th December, and the Grand Final will be played on Sunday, 17th December.
- The first day of the Sydney Cup will commence on Sunday, 17th September with the final regular season contest commencing on Sunday, 26th November.
- The Association Cup Finals Day is on the 10th of December.

All-Star Game

- Baseball NSW will be hosting an All-Star Game for each age group at the conclusion of the competition. Dates to be advised later.
- The respective teams will be chosen through a voting system by the coaches in the competition.
- The All-Star event will reflect the Sydney Cup Format and be a one-day event consisting of one game per age group.



United States Tours 2024

- Baseball NSW will be advertising for expressions of interest in each respective age group to represent BNSW in our annual invitational tournament tours in North America.
- Teams will be determined prior to the Christmas Holiday, subject to availability.
- BNSW has previously sent teams to the Cooperstown Invitational in upstate New York, the Reno Youth World Series in Nevada and California, and a variety of Perfect Game tournaments across the USA.

Scoring

- GameChanger will be used as the primary scoring and reporting system for the 2023 Sydney Cup. BNSW in conjunction with the NSW Scorers Association will organise scoring sessions if necessary to ensure scorers are upskilled on how to utilize GameChanger for reporting purposes.
- If games are not scored on GameChanger and result sheets are not submitted to the BNSW Tyson Crocker (tyson@baseballnsw.com.au) or Development Officer, Coen Wynne (coen@baseballnsw.com.au) by Tuesday following the game, monetary fines will be issued to the associations in question.

TeamApp

- The 2023 Sydney Cup will have a TeamApp page where all important information regarding the Tournament will reside, such as:
 - Scores
 - Standings
 - Draws
 - News
 - Relevant Documents (Rules, Handbook, etc.)

NOTE - Game Information

- **Game Duration:** There shall be no time limit on games and all games shall play to a result.
- **Worboys Cup (U12):** Six (6) Inning Games
- **Balfour Cup (U14) & Shipley Cup (U16):** Seven (7) Inning Games
- There are no run limits per inning.
- Sixty (60) seconds will be allowed for innings changeover.
- SECTION III – TIEBREAKER PROCEDURES will be used to seed teams after pool play if necessary.
- Protests involving playing rules not resolved before the next pitch or play shall not be considered – a tournament official will be available at all games to assist with protest resolution.

NOTE – Mercy Rule

- **Worboys Cup (U12)** – 10-run lead after 5 innings will result in a mercy rule.
- **Balfour Cup (U14) and Shipley Cup (U16)** – 10-run lead after 6 innings and a 15-run lead after 5 innings will result in a mercy rule.

NOTE - Determining Home / Away Teams

- All fields are considered neutral – the home team shall be determined by the toss of a coin with the winner having the choice. Managers are to arrange between themselves at least 25 minutes before the scheduled start time of the game.

NOTE - Participation

- Participation Rules apply only to those participating in the **Worboys Cup (U12)** and **Balfour Cup (U14)**.
- The participation rules must be met for each player by the end of the season and are not necessary to meet per game.
- If a team does not meet participation requirements, then that team will be ineligible for finals.
- Reserves will be granted an exemption if an injury has occurred, and they must fill a full-time role in the team.

At Bats (AB)

- **Disclaimer: An At bat (AB) is defined as - A player enters the batter's box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, or the inning or game ends.**
- **Batting lineups are to be 9 batters with substitutions to be made. Not a continuous batting order.**
- Each player must accumulate an average of 1.5 at-bats per game for the competition. If the regular season is 6 games, then the minimum number of at-bats per player is 9.
- If there is an odd number of regular season games and the equation is a half number, then round down (i.e., 7 games x 1.5 = 10.5 ABs then the minimum participation requirement would be 10 at-bats per player)

Defensive Outs (DO)

- **Disclaimer: A Defensive Out (DO) is earned by a player every time an out is recorded, and they are one of the nine (9) defending players on the field.**
- **Worboys Cup (U12) Minimum DO requirement per player: 36.**
- **Balfour Cup (U14) Minimum DO requirement per player: 42.**

NOTE - Pitching

- Pitching rules, including limits and applicable rest days, are included in {TR4}.
- Maximum Daily Pitching limits are included in {TR 4 (d)}.
- Pitcher's Rest requirements are included in {TR 4 (e)}.
- The pitchers pitch count for the days rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to the batter.
- No Player is permitted to pitch in three consecutive days {TR4(e)Note}
- A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. {TR4(c)}
- If a pitcher is kept to a threshold of 30 pitches (can finish the batter) in the first game, they may pitch in a second game on the same day. {TR4(f)}
- Pitchers are permitted to pitch up to, but not exceed, eight (8) preparatory pitches at the commencement of an innings or assignment. {PR8.03}
- Balks shall be applied in the U14's and U16's Divisions.
- Delivered Balks will be added to the pitch count.

NOTE - Intentional Walk

- The Defensive Manager may elect to “Intentionally Walk” a batter **at any point during an at-bat** by requesting and being granted, “time” by the umpire before notifying the plate umpire of the defence’s intent to walk the batter.
- **NOTE 2:** The ball is dead, and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award. The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter at the time of the manager’s request to complete the Intentional Walk pitches will be added to the pitch count.
- A player may only be intentionally walked once per game but may achieve base-on-balls through four pitched balls in other at-bats.

NOTE - Pitching and Catching in One Day

- Players can occupy the position of pitcher and catcher on the same day if the imposed limits are observed.
- Any pitcher, who delivers 41 or more pitches cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day (the pitcher can finish pitching to the batter in the box when the threshold limit is reached but cannot start a new batter).
- Any player, who has played the position of catcher ‘IN’ 4 or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. A player who has played the position of catcher then pitched may return as a catcher on the same day subject to the restriction in {TR4 (a) EXCEPTION}

NOTE - Visits

- Visits – A Manager or Coach may come out once in one inning to visit with the pitcher, the second time out the player must be removed as a pitcher. The Manager or Coach may come out two times in a game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out the player must be removed as a pitcher.

NOTE - Collision Rules

- In NSW Junior Baseball we have an anti-collision rule.
 - *The Championships will be played with the interpretation that rule 7.08 (a)(3) the runner is out if "... the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag..." will align with our anti-collision rules – if a play is imminent then the runner must avoid a collision.*
 - Note: There is no must-slide rule. The act of sliding, in a legal manner, is a means to avoid a collision.

NOTE - Protective Equipment

- Base Coaches must wear approved helmets (skull caps acceptable for adults). Junior base coaches must wear batting helmets.
- Catchers must wear hockey-style catcher's mask **(skull cap and mask style are not acceptable)** with dangling throat guards during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up and games {TR 1.17}.

NOTE - Substitutions / Special Pinch Runner

- Any player starting the game who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in the same position in the batting order.
- Special Pinch Runner (SPR) may only be used twice in a game and only once per inning per team. The same player may not be substituted for an SPR more than once. There is no increase in the number of SPRs allowed per game if the game enters extra innings to obtain a result.

Dug-out Designation

- The team listed first on the draw will occupy the third-base dugout, and the team listed second will occupy the first-base dugout unless a team is *in situ* due to a prior game.
- Teams are permitted to have three eligible coaches in the dugout regardless of the tournament team roster size.



SYDNEY CUP
NSW 2023

Infield/Outfield

- Infield/Outfield can only be undertaken if there is no preceding game, or the preceding game finishes more than 30 minutes before the scheduled game commencement and the Ground Crew have vacated the field 20 minutes before game time.
- If teams wish to complete an Infield/Outfield as part of the pre-game the following protocols will be observed.
- At 20 minutes before the scheduled start time, the home team will take the field for infield/outfield (7 Minutes available)
- 12 minutes before the scheduled start time the away team will take the field for infield/outfield (7 Minutes available)

VENUE	ADDRESS
Frenchs Forest	11 Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2100
ELS Hall	109A Kent Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113
Northmead Reserve	Elizabeth Cres., Northmead, NSW 2152
Apsley Baseball Field – Taren Point	223 Holt Road, Taren Point, NSW 2229
Alroy Park	Bottles Road, Plumpton, NSW 2761
Gilchrist Oval	Goldsmith Avenue Campbelltown, NSW 2560
Greenway Park	Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook, NSW 2126
Kellyville Memorial Park	6Z/8Z Memorial Avenue, Kellyville, NSW 2155
Andrews Road Baseball Complex	76 Andrews Road, Penrith, NSW 2750
Colbee Park	Old Hawkesbury Road, McGraths Hill, NSW 2756
Rofe Park	100 Galston Road, Hornsby Heights, NSW 2077
Caddies Creek Reserve	41 Millcroft Way, Beaumont Hills NSW 2155