



Playing Rules, Policies & Procedures 2023/24

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Abbreviations

ABF --- Australian Baseball Federation Incorporated.

ASC --- Australian Sports Commission.

BBNSW --- Baseball New South Wales.

CNSW---Country NSW Baseball.

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

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

OBR --- Official Baseball Rules as published by MLB

Tribunal --- NSWWBL or Baseball NSW Tribunal.

UIC --- Umpire in Chief.

WL --- Women's League --- NSW.

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

WLCM--- Women's League Competition Manager.

WL Executive --- NSWWBL Executive Committee.

WLSC --- Women's League Standing Committee.

WARNING ABOUT INHERENT DANGERS OF BASEBALL

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

PREAMBLE

The NSWWBL is bound by ABF and NSW Baseball Policies and Guidelines. If there is conflict, the NSWWBL policies shall take precedence.

All persons responsible for conducting or taking part in any NSWWBL event should make themselves fully conversant with all relevant ABF, NSW Baseball and NSWWBL policies included at the following locations:

[Sport Integrity Australia:](#)

[Baseball NSW General Policy:](#)

[Baseball NSW Player Protection Policy- Specific Policy for Pitch Limitations:](#)

Any suspected breach of NSW Baseball Policy in regards to inappropriate behaviour (e.g. harassment, discrimination) should be referred to Sport Integrity Australia via the BA Website.

This document specifies those conditions approved for implementation in the relevant competition, season, tournament or event under the delegation of the NSW Women's Baseball League Standing Committee. The Official Baseball Rules (OBR), and all National and NSW State Baseball policies shall be interpreted as being the "Master Documents" for all NSWWBL conducted events/competitions.

Only exceptions to these stated Master Documents are presented in the NSWWBL Policy and Procedures manual and accompanying Rules Supplement.

Should a condition/policy/interpretation not be specifically permitted in this document that particular circumstance should be interpreted as not being approved and the interpretation shall default to the negative state, OBR, National, State or NSW Women's League policy in force at that time. Should there be a conflict between the above-mentioned policies precedence shall be given to the NSW Women's League policy provided that such policy is in not in conflict with existing legislation.

For the Baseball NSW Heat, Lighting, social media, and all other Policies, please refer to the [Baseball NSW Website](#)

1. RULES AND PROCEDURES

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

2. THE GAME OBR 1.01

- 2.1 The OBR rule is replaced by the following:
Baseball is a game between two teams and for all divisions of 1st Grade games shall consist of nine players each, under direction of a manager, played on an enclosed field in accordance with these Rules, under jurisdiction of one or more umpires.
- 2.2 For Grades other than divisions of 1st Grade, teams may consist of a minimum of eight (8) players subject to these rules as amended. For all grades other than divisions of 1st Grade, when a team commences the game with less than nine (9) players no automatic out will apply to that single vacant batting position when it is not filled.
- 2.3 If a team commences a game with the minimum number of players and then sustains an injury the game can be completed 1 player short but an automatic out shall be applied.

3. A REGULATION GAME OBR 4.10

The OBR rule is replaced by the following:

- (a) A Regulation Game consists of seven (7) innings or 2 hours and 15 minutes for 1st Grade and seven (7) innings or two (2) hours for other Grades unless extended because of a tie score as defined in section (b) below, or shortened because:
 - (1) the home team needs none of its half of the seventh (7th) inning or only a fraction of it; or
 - (2) the umpire "calls" the game; or
 - (3) one team leads by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) complete innings (or the home team leads by ten (10) runs or more and does not require all or only a fraction of its fifth (5th) inning to attain a ten (10) run lead). ***This applies in all grades.***
 - (4) Mercy rules to apply at 15 runs after three (3) innings.
- (b) If the score is tied after a complete inning and the time limit has not been reached, play shall continue (maximum of 9 inning) or until:
 - (1) The visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning; or
 - (2) The home teams score the winning run in an uncompleted inning.

If the time limit is reached and the score remains tied play shall continue until the bottom of the inning in play is completed. If the score remains tied after the completion of that inning the game will be declared a draw.
- (c) If a game is "called", it is a regulation game:
 - (1) If five (5) innings have been completed (except that once the home team leads after four and one half (4 ½) innings or a fraction of the game shall be deemed a Regulation Game at that point.
 - (2) If the home team has scored more runs in four (4) or four and a fraction half innings than the visiting team has scored in five (5) completed half innings.
 - (3) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth (5th) innings to tie the score.
 - (4) If the UIC certifies that sixty (60) minutes of game have been played.

- (d) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, the umpire shall declare it a “no game”.
- (e) The Scheduled Finishing Time will be as specified in this variation to OBR 4.10:
However, during daylight saving in NSW and where the preceding game finished later than its scheduled finishing time, the Scheduled Finishing Time will be adjusted by adding the normal game time to the new start time of that game. Following games will commence fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a previous game.
- (f) The top half of an inning will NOT commence ten (10) minutes or less before the end of the Scheduled Finishing Time as indicated above, however where an inning is NOT completed at the Scheduled Finishing Time, play shall continue until the bottom half of the inning is completed or the team batting in the bottom half has scored the winning run (exception to avoid a draw as defined in section (b) above).
- (g) An innings once commenced will be played to a conclusion unless shortened as per section (a) above, i.e. the relevant time limit may be exceeded to achieve equal inning.
- (h) Rules listed in OBR 2023 that will **NOT** apply to the 2023-24 NSW Women’s League rules.
 - **Rule 4.03(c) (4)** to specify that a position player may only pitch when their team is losing by equal to or more than eight (8) runs, when their team is winning by equal to or more than ten (10) runs in the ninth inning, or in extra innings.
 - **Rule 2.03** to reflect the new measurements of first, second and third bases.
 - **Rule 5.02(c)** to reflect the new parameters that govern defensive restrictions (ie: defensive shift positioning)
 - **Pitch Timer or Pitch Clock rules.** (<https://www.mlb.com/glossary/rules/pitch-timer>)
 - **Rule 5.10 (g)** reflecting the 3-batter minimum rule.

4. GAME PRELIMINARIES – FITNESS OF GROUND

- 4.1 In the event of inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances such as the venue being closed for use by council and which prevent a game from being played, it is the home team’s responsibility to notify the
- (1) Competition Manager,
 - (2) NSWBUA Umpires’ Co-ordinator,
 - (3) Opposing team.
 - (4) WLSC Secretary via Email
- See handbook for contact details.
- 4.2 Where sufficient notice is given, closures will be noted on the NSWWBL Facebook page.
- 4.3 Notifications are to be made as early as possible. Notifications advised after 4 hours prior to game time on game day will incur the umpire’s fees being charged to the HOME Club.
- 4.4 Any game venue closed because of unfitness of ground may be changed with notice to the opposition club, umpires and the Competition Manager by midday on Fridays and 8:30 AM on Saturdays.
- 4.5 When a game is not being played due to unfitness of the ground, excessive heat or other such reason, the result shall be declared a “no game” except that the NSWWBL reserves the right to reschedule the game and such decision shall be final. Any rescheduled game is required to be notified by the NSWWBL to the teams concerned within seven (7) days of the originally scheduled date and any rescheduled game must be played within fourteen (14) days of the originally scheduled date or other such dates as determined by the NSWWBL. NSWWBL shall be responsible for notification to the NSWBUA of any such rescheduled game(s).
- 4.6 (i) The fitness of the ground for play will be decided by the authorities controlling the ground, the team managers, or in the event of the managers disagreeing, by the Umpire in Chief, in that order. The safety of players and spectators shall be the primary concern of the officials controlling either, the ground or the game. Games shall not commence or continue if there is a foreseeable risk of injury occurring to any players, official or spectator.
- (ii) When an appeal has been made against poor light, the fitness of the light for play shall be in the

hands of the Umpire in Chief for decision. An appeal may not be made regarding this decision, refer to OBR Rule 4.12 (a), (b), and 5.10 (b).

5. POINT SCORE and DETERMINING OF RANKING

- 5.1 To determine positions in the ranking for Round Games and Semi-Finals in all Grades of the NSWWBBL Competitions, positions in the ranking will be determined by “the Highest Percentage to the Lowest Percentage” and these percentages will be calculated on the results of games played and the number of games won, lost, tied, or forfeited. If two or more teams are tied, the following methods shall be used in order until the tie is broken. Note, once a team is removed from the original tie, the process starts again (back to Head-Head) for the remaining teams.
- (a) Head-to-Head results in all games between the two teams involved.
 - (b) If still tied, the lowest ratio of (the number of runs scored against them) divided by (defensive innings played) in the games between the tied teams.
 - (c) If still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest-ranked team, then the second-ranked team, and so on.
- 5.2 Ranking of the final two tied teams will be determined by the Head-to-Head process followed by the lowest ratio then fewest runs as specified in 5.1 above.

6. UNIFORMS

- 6.1 All affiliated clubs shall register the colours, logos and design of its uniform and warm-up jackets with NSWWBBL. Only these shall be worn whilst on the field of play. Any changes will NOT be made to the colours of the uniform unless approval is given by the NSWWBBL.
- 6.2 Baseball caps will form part of the uniform and must be always worn except when the batting helmet or catcher’s protective helmet is worn.
- 6.3 Clubs may add only three sponsor patches to the uniform. The patches shall only be applied to one sleeve, the back of the uniform and the left breast. The maximum diameter allowed for such logo on the sleeve is 65mm in diameter or 65mm in height if the lettering is affixed to the uniform or other such standard that may be specified by baseball NSW or Baseball Australia from time to time.
- 6.4 Limited advertising is permitted. NSWWBBL reserves the right to refuse any advertising which it considers to be not in the best interest of the sport and its decision will be final.
- 6.5 It is recommended that abdominal protection is worn by all participants including bat/ball persons.
- 6.7 Only warm-up jackets of the players’ registered Club shall be worn on the field of play. Pitchers and relieved pitchers shall be allowed to wear Club warm-up jackets in the batting box or on the field of play and where circumstances warrant. Other players may be allowed to wear Club warm-up jackets at the Umpire-in-Chief’s discretion.

7. LEGISLATION

- 7.1 The Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (as amended) particularly Section 22(i) includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual harassment in sport has been accepted by the ABF and NSW Baseball. Reports on any matter of this nature are to be referred immediately to the Member Protection Officer of NSW Baseball for attention.
- 7.2 Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 – the Working with children check requires that all clubs with players under the age of 18 require coaches and managers (whether paid or unpaid) to declare whether they are a prohibited person under the terms of the Act.

8. DRUGS

- 8.1 The anti-doping policy that has been adopted by the ABF will be enforced.
- 8.2 Any player who is required by a doctor’s prescription to treat a medical condition with proscribed drugs as defined by ASADA guidelines shall be registered with NSW Baseball and/or the ABF. Players are to forward details accompanied by a letter from the player’s doctor to NSW Baseball.

8.2 Clubs are to ensure that all players who have queries regarding prescribed drugs are advised to consult the ASADA website at www.asada.gov.au and if further information is required, contact the drug advisory hotline on 1800 020 506.

9. REGISTRATIONS

- 9.1 For this Policy Document, a Player is defined as a natural person of the approved gender to participate in NSW Women's Baseball Competitions who is financial and registered with Baseball NSW, the NSW Women's Baseball League and a Club approved by the NSWWBL and who maintains their eligibility to always participate by meeting the criteria detailed in this Policy Document. The NSWWBL will adhere to all State and National policies regarding gender-based sports.
- 9.2 The minimum age of players registering and competing in 2nd Grade competition is 14 years of age on 31st December in the year that the competition commences.
- i. Exemptions may be granted by the NSW Technical Committee for lower-age players to participate in 2nd Grade competitions. Any such appeal must be in writing and shall be lodged with the Women's League CM.
- 9.3 The minimum age of players registering and competing in 1st Grade competition is 15 years of age on 31st December in the year that the competition commences.
- i. Exemptions may be granted by the NSW Technical Committee for lower age players to participate in 1st Grade competitions. Any such appeal must be in writing and shall be lodged with the Women's League CM.
- 9.4 The minimum age of a bat person(s) is to be 12 years of age.
- 9.5 Players who are under 18 years of age on 31st December in the year that the competition commences shall be classified as Under 18 players for the duration of that competition.
- 9.6 Players who are under 16 years of age on 31st December in the year that the competition commences shall be classified as Under 16 players for the duration of that competition.
- 9.7 Each WL club shall register the name, address, date of birth, Working With Children Number and Registration number of every player, manager, coach, bat person and scorer using the prescribed form. The prescribed form must be submitted to the NSWWBL Competition Manager (or in the absence of the position of Competition Manager being filled, the NSWWBL Secretary) and member details entered and registered into the League Registrations Database (by the Club) by the date advised by the WL Competition Committee before the commencement of the season. Failure to comply will incur a penalty of Forfeit of the match, any such applicable monetary penalty as specified in section 23.8, other penalties as defined in the Penalties Document and any other such penalty as may be determined by the NSWWBL from time to time.
- 9.8 Only persons whose registrations have been approved by the NSWWBL may participate in any competition games. The WL Executive retains the right to refuse registrations or any registration in a particular grade or team at their discretion and this decision will be final.
- 9.9 Only registrations of managers, coaches and Executive Officers who currently hold and continue to hold valid Working With Children certification shall be accepted. Should any Manager, coach or Executive Officer' Working With Children qualification be revoked or expire, the registration of that person is deemed to be withdrawn until the Working With Children status is renewed or restored.
- 9.10 The minimum number of players being registered:
- (i) to any Stand-Alone Team is to be not less than equal to twelve (12),
 - (ii) to a 1st Grade team where that Club has both 1st and 2nd Grade teams is to be not less than equal to nine (9),
 - (iii) to a Club with one each of 1st and 2nd Grade teams is to be not less than equal to twenty (20) players.
- 9.11 There is no maximum number of registrations to either a Club or Team.
- 9.12 Clubs may enter a single team or multiple teams in any grade and will be subject to the Player Roster limitations stated in this document.
- 9.13 Late registrations (i.e., any player/official not listed on the original prescribed form), subject to the approval of the WLSC, may be accepted providing that the following procedures have been followed.

- (1) Member details must be entered and registered into the League Registrations Database and advised to the Competition Manager before that player participates in any game.
- (2) An updated prescribed registration form must be forwarded to the WL Competition Manager before the next scheduled game for that team or within 7 days of the player participating for the first time whichever is the lesser.
- (3) Any late registered player will have to meet minimum requirements to be eligible for finals participation regardless of the time the player registered.

9.14 Only teams whose entries have been approved by the NSWWBL may participate in any competition conducted or arranged by the NSWWBL. The NSWWBL retains the right to refuse entry of any team into a competition or a particular grade of competition and this decision will be final.

9.15 Any Club or Team may have their approval to participate or continue to participate in any competition/event suspended or withdrawn for a failure to remain financial with the NSWWBL, Baseball NSW or other affiliated body.

9.16 A team, subject to the exemptions granted for participants registering later in the competition as defined in sections 9.8, 9.9 and 9.13 above, shall be debited with a forfeit (9 – 0 loss) and other such penalties as determined by the WL Executive from time to time for every game in which an unregistered player, coach or manager participates.

9.17 Import Players may be registered subject to the following restrictions:

The BNSW Import Criteria Form must be submitted to the CM by any players wishing to play in the WL Competition.

- (i) A maximum of 2 imports per club is allowed.
- (ii) Import players may only play 1st Grade unless exceptional circumstances apply. This shall be at the sole discretion of the Competition Manager.
- (iii) A copy of the visa must be lodged with the CM.

10. TEAM ROSTERS and FEEDER CLUBS

STAND ALONE 1st GRADE TEAMS:

- 10.1 A Stand-Alone 1st Grade Club may nominate a 2nd Grade Club which does not have a 1st Grade team as their Feeder Club from which they may draw players subject to the conditions contained in the following sections.
- 10.2 Any Feeder Club co-agreement must be notified to and confirmed in written correspondence to the NSWWBL before the commencement of the season or other such time as determined by the NSWWBL. The NSWWBL must approve Feeder Club co-agreements.
- 10.3 Only one (1) Feeder Club may be nominated by any stand-alone 1st Grade Club and once confirmed to the NSWWBL may not be changed for the duration of that season.
- 10.4 Once a Feeder Club agreement is made the players of that Feeder Club may only play for that single nominated 1st Grade team for the duration of that season.
- 10.5 A Feeder Team agreement may be made between teams within a single Club when that Club has multiple teams competing in the same Grade of competition.

CLUBS WITH 1st AND 2nd GRADE TEAMS:

- 10.6 As per section 3.12 Clubs may enter multiple teams in any Grade of competition but each team shall be considered a separate entity and player exchange between teams is not permitted, except Feeder Teams as specified below.
- 10.7 For a Club which has both a single 1st and one only 2nd Grade team, that 2nd Grade team is deemed to be the feeder team for that 1st grade team and no player from any other 2nd grade team will be permitted to play in that 1st Grade team. If that 2nd Grade team does not act as a feeder for the Club's 1st Grade team, that 2nd Grade team and any player registered in that 2nd Grade team shall not be used as a feeder for any other Club.

- 10.8 If a Club has multiple 2nd Grade teams and a single 1st Grade team, players from any of their 2nd Grade teams may play for the 1st Grade team subject to limitations.
- 10.9 If a Club has multiple 1st Grade teams and a single 2nd Grade team, players from that 2nd Grade team may play for one (1) only 1st Grade team and is subject to limitations. Nomination as to which 1st Grade team that player is committed for that season shall be made upon the first game for which that player participated in any 1st Grade game.
- 10.10 If a Club has multiple 1st Grade teams and multiple 2nd Grade teams, players from these 2nd Grade teams may play for one (1) only 1st Grade team and are subject to limitations. Each 1st Grade team will be subject to the Feeder Team rule as defined in section 4.5 above and must nominate which single 2nd Grade team from which they will draw players during that season. This Feeder Team nomination shall be made before the start of the season and may not be changed once such nomination is approved by the NSWWB.

PLAYING ROSTERS:

10.11 1st Grade:

- (i) 1st Grade Registered players may not play down in 2nd Grade. **Penalty Forfeit.**
- (ii) A 1st Grade team must have a minimum of 6 registered 1st Grade players in their starting line-up. **Penalty Forfeit.**
- (iii) No 1st Grade player may be used as a substitute (start on the bench) when a 2nd Grade player is in the starting line-up (exception point (iv) below). **Penalty: Forfeit.**
- (iv) Where a 1st Grade player arrives after game commencement time necessitating a 2nd Grade player starting in that game, the 1st Grade player may enter the game as a substitute. The 2nd Grade player will be charged with a 1st Grade start irrespective of them having participated or not participated in a lower grade in that round. **Penalty: Forfeit.**
- (v) 2nd Grade Registered players may only enter the game as substitutes after three (3) complete inning or 90 minutes of the game has been played. **Penalty: Classified as a 1st Grade Start for that 2nd grade player.**
- (vi) 1st Grade teams may draw on their local junior club players and these players will be subject to the same substitution and game entry rules which apply to 2nd Grade players. (Note: The requirement remains to notify the Competition Manager in advance, the player must be registered and financial with Baseball NSW and meet the WL Player Minimum Age requirements).

10.12 2nd Grade:

- (i) 2nd Grade players may only play for the Club in which they registered unless subject to the Feeder Club rule as defined above. **Penalty Forfeit.**
- (ii) 2nd Grade players may only play for one team in 2nd Grade in any season of competition. **Penalty Forfeit.**
- (iii) 2nd Grade players may fill in for one only 1st Grade team in any season of competition. **Penalty Forfeit.**
- (iv) 2nd Grade teams may draw on their local junior club players. No local junior player may be used as a starting player or substitute when a 2nd Grade player is available to play. (Note: The requirement remains to notify the Competition Manager in advance, the player must be registered and financial with Baseball NSW and meet the WL Player Minimum Age requirements).

10.13 Representative Players:

(i) Players who have participated at Senior National Championships are not permitted to play in 2nd Grade. An exclusion period of two (2) years shall apply for each year that the player has participated at Senior National Championships to a maximum exclusion period of five (5) years which shall commence from the date of the last game of the relevant Championship selection. This exclusion and exclusion period shall apply to players who are selected, invited, guest, marquee, composite team players or players who have participated in an equivalent or higher-level interstate or overseas competition (friendship players may be exempt upon approval from the TC)

(ii) *Players who have participated at National Youth Championships may play in 1st or 2nd Grade subject to age limitations as specified in Section 3.*

(iii) *Exempt these players may be granted permission by the Technical Committee to sit on a 1st grade bench, to get them to the "next level".*

11. TRANSFERS

- 11.1 Any player, coach or manager registering with a WL Club who has previously registered at another WL Club will secure a clearance from their previous WL Club stating that they had cleared all obligations to that Club. Before such a person can participate in a game for the new WL Club, the previous WL Club must have been contacted and written notification of no outstanding obligations has been received. The Club being requested to provide clearance shall within seven (7) days provide such written clearance or reason to refuse clearance to the Club requesting the transfer. A copy of such notification shall be forwarded to the Competition Manager. Approval for transfer shall be subject to section 3 of this document.
- 11.2 Clearances given to a player to play for another Club before transferring to a new WL Club does not negate the responsibility of the new WL Club to obtain a clearance. It is the new Club's responsibility to check the most recent default list produced by Baseball NSW and ensure that any person from their club that appears on the list does not participate in a game until the matter has been resolved. If any player clearance is in dispute the matter shall be resolved by the WL Executive and this decision shall be final.
Note: Once a problem has been notified, the player, coach or manager CANNOT take part in any game until the matter has been resolved. PENALTY: as defined in section 10 of this document.
- 11.3 Any player, coach etc. registered in another State will NOT participate in any competition game until they have been cleared by that State's controlling body, under penalty of the game(s) in which they participated in being declared forfeit(s); Penalty: As per section 3 of this document.
- 11.4 During the same season and without the approval of the WL Executive a player, manager, or coach etc may not:
(i) play, manage, or coach with more than one WL Club,
(ii) play in a Club and manage or coach in another Club.
(Exception: Feeder Club/Team provisions as detailed in section 4).
- 11.5 A person, once having submitted a signed Registration Application to a WL Club notifying of their intent to participate with that WL Club during that season, the person must seek a release from that WL Club and which that WL Club may approve or refuse at its sole discretion before that player transfers to another WL Club.
- 11.6 When any registered person changes their address, the Club is required to notify the Competition Manager of the new address and update the League Registrations Database within fourteen (14) days of being notified by the said person.

12. MEDICAL

- 12.1 Before registering to play all persons should notify their Club officials and Baseball NSW of any condition that may affect their performance or participation in the sport of baseball. Such conditions may include, for example, pregnancy, epilepsy, diabetes etc.
- 12.2 Players or officials with such a condition shall seek medical advice about their continuing participation in the sport.
- 12.3 Information relating to an individual's medical condition shall be held confidentially (unless this is not required) but may be used by the organisation for administrative, insurance, legal or related purposes.
- 12.4 All persons who register with Baseball NSW agree that they shall NOT contravene any medical advice about their continued participation and when required, provide a medical certificate approving their continued participation in the sport.

12.5 Baseball NSW will NOT be held responsible for the players or an individual's failure to seek and follow appropriate medical advice.

12.6 **Injury List**

All players sustaining an injury during a game which prevents them from participating in baseball must adhere to the following policy.

- (i) A certificate must be provided by a medical practitioner specifying the date of injury, that the injury prevents the player from participating in a baseball game and the date of clearance to resume playing. Medical certificates dated post any missed game shall not be considered for any eligibility dispensations.
- (ii) The player must provide the required documentation to the Competition Manager for entry to the League Injured Player List at the time of the injury and upon gaining clearance to resume playing.

13. **ALTERATION TO DRAW**

13.1 No alteration to the playing schedule or venues is permitted without the prior approval of the WL Executive or its delegate (e.g., Competition Manager). The NSWWBL may make alterations to the playing schedule or venues where necessary.

13.2 Other than a change of venue or change of time to facilitate cooperation with another league, Clubs requesting approval under section 13.1 and within 7 days of the scheduled commencement of the game shall incur a fine of \$100.

13.3 Notwithstanding sections 13.2 or 4.4 if a Club requests approval under section 13.1 after the commencement of the competition shall incur a fine of \$50.

13.4 If the Competition Manager declares that an approved "deferred game" must be played or replayed within a specified period or on a set date, should that game not proceed for any reason whatsoever, the Competition Manager shall declare it a no-game or forfeit depending on the reason the game did not proceed.

14. **MANAGERS AND COACHES**

14.1 Notwithstanding OBR Section 2.0, the manager listed on the Line-up Card must have a minimum Coaching Accreditation as determined by the NSW Baseball Technical Committee from time to time.

14.2 The manager and coaches must be a financial member(s) of the Club they are managing/coaching and their detail must be entered into the official League Registration Database.

14.3 Exemptions to the requirements in sections 14.1 and 14.2 may be granted by the WL Executive in consultation with the NSW Baseball Technical Committee. PENALTY: the offending club shall be fined \$350.

14.4 Any coach registered with a Club, but not listed on the line-up, may assume the role of the manager or a coach during the game however they may not participate as a player.

15. **SCORERS**

15.1 Clubs playing in the NSWWBL competition are required to provide an official scorer for each game. All scorers are encouraged to be current financial members of the NSW Baseball Scorers Association.

15.2 Scorers shall be seated together in the designated area behind home plate where possible.

15.3 The home team is required to provide a table, chairs and shelter that provides adequate cover from all forms of weather.

15.4 Venues for night games shall have adequate lighting in the designated scorers' area so that scorers can effectively perform their duties (Home team to provide as per 15.3)

15.5 Club scorers are to ensure that all relevant details (injuries, ejections etc) are recorded on the game result sheet presented to the Umpire(s) for signature.

- 15.6 All games shall be scored in the official scorebook as purchased from the NSW Scorers Association (or relevant affiliates).

16. UMPIRES

- 16.1 Notwithstanding section 16.5 official umpires shall be appointed to all games by the NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc. or by the NSWWBL if appointments are not made by NSWBUA or if appointed official(s) fail to attend.
- 16.2 Notwithstanding section 16.5 NSWWBL Clubs shall not interfere in any way with appointments.
- 16.3 Payment of umpires fees shall be made based on 50% of the total fee due per game and shall be paid by each Club participating in that game and Preliminary Finals series Game which shall be made under the terms of the invoice(s) supplied by the NSW Baseball Umpires Association or other responsible body. All Grand Final games shall be paid by the NSWWBL upon receipt of invoice.
- 16.4 Should a forfeit be incurred for any reason whatsoever, the team forfeiting shall be responsible for 100% of the umpire fees due for that game. The Competition Manager shall inform the NSWBUA or other responsible body of any forfeit and adjustments required in this billing process.
- 16.5 In the event of an Official Umpire not attending at the time set down for the game to commence, or being unable to continue, an umpire or umpires shall be appointed by the managers of the opposing sides and the game shall proceed.
- 16.6 Every effort shall be made to appoint accredited umpires of the NSWBUA.
- 16.7 Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the NSWWBL Official Result Sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse the result of the game and any ejections or injuries.

17. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 17.1 Each home WL Club shall upload results via TeamApp (and nswwblresults@gmail.com email address) in the prescribed manner as determined from time to time within 30 minutes following the completion of the game.
- 17.2 Each Club is required to forward to the Competition Manager by the prescribed method the 'soft format' of the scanned result sheets by 6.00 PM on the Monday following the game. Penalty: a monetary fine of \$50.00 per result sheet not submitted by the required time.
- 17.3 Results of all games will be available on the NSWWBL web page: www.nswwbl.baseball.com.au

18. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 18.1 As defined in section 3 of this document only registered players of the NSWWBL are eligible to compete and it is the intention that any player shall NOT appear in more than one (1) WL team's starting Line-up in the same Round UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (ACCEPTABLE TO THE NSWWBL) occur.
- 18.2 The names of the starting team and fresh reserve players 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 weekend 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.
- 18.3 If any player is entered to the Line-up card and has not participated in the game and that team is reduced to less than the minimum number of players to constitute a team as defined in section 6 of the Rules Supplement, that team shall forfeit for failing to present the required number of players on the field when so directed by the umpire.
- 18.4 Subject to section 18.3 above which shall take precedence, in the event of an injury occurring or an ejection of a player(s) and no other player who has not participated in the game is 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 or suspended player(s) will NOT be allowed to return under this rule.

19. **PITCHING RESTRICTIONS. (MLB PitchSmart Guidelines.)**

- 19.1
- (a) This policy does not differentiate between genders and abilities.
 - (b) The word Assignment means any game or trial situation in which a player delivers a pitch, or the aggregate of all pitches thrown in a single game.
 - (c) If any pitcher delivers one pitch, they shall be charged for the relative Assignment.
 - (d) A pitcher reaching the maximum number of pitches for a **MAXIMUM** Assignment is to be removed from the game once finishing the batter in the box. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3rd out of an inning, that pitcher is entitled to remain as a batter only.
 - (e) A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate whether it is hit safely or not **shall be valid** for the purpose of recording the “number of pitches”.
 - (f) A “no pitch” i.e. Batter steps out of the batter’s box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count.
 - (g) In the event any Umpire calls an “Illegal Pitch”, the pitched ball will count toward the pitcher’s count.
 - (h) The Umpire has the authority to police the Pitching Rule; however, coaches are responsible for complying with these rules.

19.2 **Pitchers Game or Trial Situation.**

The primary risk management components of this policy concern:

- (a) The number of pitches thrown (classified as Assignments).
- (b) The desirable rest periods following an assignment.
- (c) The relationship between pitching and catching.

Pitch Count Limits and Required Rest Recommendations						
The Pitcher may Finish the Batter						
Age	Daily Limit	Short	Moderate	Substantial	Major	Maximum
Days Rest		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105
23+	125					

19.3 Pitching Assignments and Rest Periods

- (a) Rest periods relate to Pitching involvement, except where otherwise specifically provided.
- (b) No rest is required after a **SHORT** assignment.
- (c) A day’s rest is considered as **ONE FULL CALENDAR DAY**, and not calculated as a 24-hour period.
- (d) Any player aged **22 OR UNDER** pitching a **MAJOR** assignment will be required to complete one day’s rest before any **PLAYING** participation (except as a designated hitter, pinch hitter, or pinch runner) and two-or three-days’ rest (as per following table) before assuming any battery position.
- (e) A **MAJOR** assignment is 61 or more pitches. If the pitcher throws his 60th pitch during an at bat, the pitcher may finish the batter.
- (f) For players aged 22 or under, pitchers who have thrown a **SHORT** assignment may only throw another **SHORT** assignment on the same day or following day. For players aged **23 AND OLDER**, pitchers must stay under their daily limit of 125 pitches.

- (g) Under 18 players may only go to another position (except catcher) if they throw 60 pitches or fewer. The pitcher may finish the batter.
- (h) Any player aged 22 **OR UNDER** who pitches a major assignment or greater can only appear in subsequent games on the same weekend as a designated hitter, pinch hitter, and pinch runner. If a player throws less than a major, they may play in the field in subsequent games on the same weekend/round.
- (i) No player may pitch and then catch in the same game.

19.4 Junior Players

- (a) Any player under 18 years of age (as at 31st December in the current playing season) shall be classified as a junior.
- (b) Should a junior pitcher be selected in a team above their age group, pitching will be applicable to the pitchers age, not to the League or Tournament in which they are playing.
- (c) A Junior Player:
 - (1) Can come to the mound from any position provided they have properly warmed up.
 - (2) May only undertake ONE Pitching Assignment in any one game.
 - (3) Having pitched; cannot catch in the same day.
 - (4) Having caught; may pitch on the same day, but only for a MINOR Assignment.

19.5 Penalties for any breaches of Rule 19.

- (a) 9-0 forfeit to the non-offending team.
- (b) \$300 fine for the first breach in any season.
- (c) Any subsequent breach by the club in the same season; \$300 fine and suspension of the team coach.
- (d) These rules are designed to protect pitchers from overuse and to encourage clubs to develop more pitchers.

20. FINALS SERIES

- 20.1 Exemptions for any finals series game will be considered by the Competition Manager subject to the following:
- (1) Medical Exemptions:
 - (i) The player must have taken the field in a Women's League game prior to sustaining the injury and their name must have been entered into the Injured Player List held by the Competition Manager.
 - (ii) Met the requirements and conditions as specified in section 12 of this document.
 - (iii) Only written requests will be considered.
 - (iv) The decision of the Competition Manager shall be final.
 - (2) Other Exemptions:
 - (i) Requests for other exemptions shall be considered by the Competition Manager.
 - (ii) Only written requests shall be considered.
 - (iii) The decision of the Competition Manager shall be final.
 - (iv) For the purposes of finals qualification, a player's grade shall be determined by the highest grade in which the player appeared in the starting line up or participated in the game as a fresh reserve (they had not already participated in any other grade in that round) for the majority of their games played. Should this number be even then the lower grade will be applied.
- 20.2 To be eligible to play in the Finals Series a player.
- (1) Must be recorded on the WL Club prescribed team list held by the Competition Manager in accordance with Section 9 of this document.
 - (2) Must be registered and entered to the Baseball NSW approved Registrations Database.

- (3) Must have participated for that Club in that WL Grade or that Club or Feeder Club in that WL Grade in which they are registered for at least one third (with a fraction rounded up to the next whole number) of the competition games played during the current season.
- (4) No player having started or used as a fresh reserve in six (6) or more competition games in a higher Grade shall be eligible to play in a lower Grade.

20.3 The Grade in which a player shall be eligible to play in the Finals Series shall be determined according to the following criteria:

- (1) Each Round a player's Grade shall be determined by the highest grade in which the player formed part of the starting line-up (or participated in the game as a fresh reserve) i.e. they had not participated in any other Grade in that round.
- (2) For a player to be eligible to participate in the Finals Series a player may not have been deemed in a higher Grade more than three (3) times in the player's last six (6) full competition rounds.
- (3) A player qualified in a lower Grade is eligible to play in a higher Grade in the final series subject to Playing Roster and Feeder Club regulations as defined in section 10.
- (4) Games which are declared Regulation Games or games in which play is commenced but are ruled Forfeit before reaching the point of being declared a Regulation Game by the Umpire in Chief SHALL be used to determine eligibility for any Finals Series as follows:
 - (i) Both teams shall have one (1) "game played" statistic added to their Games Played Total,
 - (ii) Players from both teams who have participated in the game (taken the field) shall have one (1) "game played" eligibility statistic added to their individual total.
- (5) Games in which there is no play and are ruled "Forfeit" by the Umpire in Chief (by a team failing to present sufficient players to commence the game) SHALL be used to determine eligibility for any Finals Series as follows:
 - (i) Both teams shall have one (1) "game played" statistic added to their Games Played Total,
 - (ii) For 1st Grade games: All registered players and any fresh reserve players from the non-offending team listed on the line-up card shall have one (1) appearance credited and therefore one (1) "1st Grade game played" eligibility statistic added to their individual total,
 - (iii) For 2nd Grade games: All registered players from the non-offending team listed on the line-up card shall have one (1) appearance credited and therefore one (1) "2nd Grade game played" eligibility statistic added to their individual total,
 - (iv) No players from the offending team (forfeiting team) shall be credited with an appearance and therefore shall not have any eligibility statistics added to their individual total.
- (6) Games which are forfeited and notified to the NSWWB in advance so that the Competition Manager declares the game "Forfeit" SHALL be used to determine eligibility for any Finals Series as follows:
 - (i) Both teams shall have one (1) "game played" statistic added to their Games Played Total,
 - (ii) All players from the non-offending team listed on their prescribed Team Registration List held by the NSWWB Registrar who are available and medically fit to play in that game shall have one (1) appearance credited and therefore one (1) "game played" eligibility statistic added to their individual total,
 - (iii) No players from the offending team (forfeiting team) shall be credited with an appearance and therefore shall not have any eligibility statistics added to their individual total.
- (7) Any Bye or washed-out games are not included in the games used to calculate qualifications for either teams or individual players.

20.4 Finals Series Draw:

The following draw will apply for all Finals Series games in all Grade of competition conducted by the NSWWB irrespective of the number of teams competing in that Grade.

	Home		Away
Semi Final A	1	v	2
Semi Final B	3	v	4
Preliminary Final C	Loser of A	v	Winner of B
Grand Final D	Winner of A	v	Winner of C

20.5 Finals series games shall be played at the grounds nominated by the Competition Manager which shall be notified in advance.

20.6 Ground Fees for all Finals Series games will be paid by the NSWWB.

20.7 Umpires for the Finals Series shall be appointed by NSWBUA and paid for by NSWWB.

- 20.8 Both teams shall provide enough approved new leather game baseballs for the semi-final and preliminary final games. NSWWBL will provide game baseballs for all Grand Final games.
- 20.9 If a final series game (other than a Grand Final) is unable to start due to inclement weather or ground conditions, the game is to be played at an alternative venue. If no venue (within reason) is available to play on the scheduled day and at the scheduled time, 2nd Grade (Friday night) fixtures may be rescheduled with a Monday night cut-off. In similar instances, 1st Grade (Saturday) fixtures may be rescheduled with a Tuesday night cut-off. Thereafter, the higher-ranked team shall be declared the winner.
- In the case that the clubs cannot agree on an alternate time and venue, The Competition Manager's decision on an alternate time and venue will be final.
- 20.10 A spare date will be set aside in the Competition Draw for all grades to play or complete only a Grand Final game. Should a result not be obtained on the spare date allocated by the NSWWBL the higher-ranked team in the series at the Grand Final shall be declared the winner.
- 20.11 The duration of all Finals Series games shall be determined by innings only.
- (i) First Grade shall be 7 innings without a time limit and must be played to a result.
 - (ii) Second Grade shall be 6 innings or 3 hours.
 - (iii) Note that the seven (7) run limitation per innings applied for Round Games in all grades other than divisions of 1st Grade shall NOT apply to any Finals Series game.

However, the standard 10-minute rule applies and thus, no new inning may start after the 2hr 50-minute mark. If the game is tied at the completion of 7 innings 1st grade or 6 innings 2nd grade, or completed innings after the time has elapsed, proceed to the tie-break rule.

- 20.12 The ten (10) run ahead Mercy Rule after 5 complete innings, shall apply to all Grades and Divisions of Grades in all Finals Series games.

21. ON-FIELD BEHAVIOUR

- 21.1 Wilfully violent or unsportsmanlike action, including unnecessary body contact, abuse of playing equipment or facilities, fighting or other behaviour considered by an umpire to be dangerous, injurious or to bring the game into criticism or disrepute will result in the player or team official responsible being ejected from the field and/or cited to appear before the Tribunal.
- 21.2 All registered members are responsible to NSWBL for their conduct and behaviour at all games and events conducted by the NSWWBL, whether playing or not.
- 21.3 All Clubs are required to make their participants aware that SPORTING COMPETITORS OWE A DUTY OF CARE TO ONE ANOTHER. There is a fine line between an error of judgment on the field and negligent conduct. Competitors should endeavour to exercise reasonable care not to injure other players in playing a game or match.

22. FORFEITS

- 22.1 Clubs whose team(s) forfeit will be responsible for the payment of the umpires' fees for that game/round. In addition, the Club responsible for the forfeit shall be subject to penalties including but not limited to loss of the game and monetary fines as determined by the NSWWBL from time to time (see 17.4).
- 22.2 Clubs who continually forfeit may be asked to show cause for their continuation in current and future competitions. Conditions may be imposed on such a Club.
- 22.3 Any team forfeiting in a Finals Series game will be immediately disqualified from further participation in that Finals Series and shall be subject to all forfeit penalties defined in this document.
- 22.4 For "Not Enough Players Rule" see section 2.

- 22.5 A team that is awarded the game by Forfeit (when the opposition fails to present sufficient players to commence a game at the scheduled or amended starting time as notified by the Umpire in Chief) shall;
- (i) be awarded the game by forfeit,
 - (ii) shall be credited with a 9 – 0 Win.
- 22.6 A team that defaults by Forfeit (when it fails to present sufficient players to commence a game at the scheduled or amended starting time as notified by the Umpire in Chief);
- (i) shall lose the game by forfeit,
 - (ii) shall be debited with a Loss 0 – 9.
- 22.7 Games forfeited after being declared a Regulation Game shall be treated as any other forfeit and shall be declared a win to the non-offending team and a loss by forfeit to the offending team. Further, should the non-offending team be leading at the point of cessation of the game then all runs scored by either team shall count for statistical and ranking purposes. Should the offending team be leading at the point of cessation of the game then no runs scored by either team shall count for statistical purposes but the game shall be recorded as a 9 – 0 win/loss.
- 22.8 Forfeit Monetary Penalties to be applied are as follows:
- (i) \$150 for the first forfeit breach,
 - (ii) \$300 for the second forfeit breach,
 - (iii) \$450 for each subsequent forfeit breach,
 - (iv) Monetary Penalties must be paid before the next scheduled game.
- Penalty Forfeit.**

23. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- 23.1 Any club wishing the NSWWBL to adjudicate on any dispute arising from any game shall forward to the Competition Manager a clear statement on the matter in dispute. The report along with a \$100 fee shall be received within three (3) days of the game. The \$100 fee shall be forfeited should the protest be considered frivolous.
- 23.2 Failure to observe the CORRECT PROCEDURE above shall render any protest invalid.
- 23.3 The Women's League Competition Manager or persons appointed by them shall be the authority as to whether a protest is to be upheld and any subsequent decision. They may call upon any person to assist them in any manner they consider appropriate.
- 23.4 The NSWWBL will make the necessary rulings where penalties are not stipulated for rule infringements, these may include but not be limited to, the loss of a game involved in protest, monetary fine or no penalty.
It should also be understood that the loss of a game does not always award a "win" to the opposing team.
- 23.5 Any club that commits a breach of the rules that cannot be reasonably identified by the umpire during the game such as but not limited to playing of an illegal player, or pitchers going over their pitch limit, shall be issued a Breach Notice.
- The Competition Manager is to be notified of any such suspected breach (within 14 days), and upon notification, the following procedure will be followed.
- (1) The Competition Manager will advise the NSWWBL Secretary who will prepare a Breach Notice listing the alleged offence and the penalty to be imposed if the alleged breach is found to be correct within seven days of receiving notification.
 - (2) The offending Club may choose to accept the breach and the penalty or contest the breach by appeal to the WL Executive.
 - (3) If contesting a breach, a written explanation of the incident must be sent to the NSWWBL Secretary within seven days of receipt of any breach notice.
- 23.6 Clubs will have the right to appeal any decision of the Women's League Competition Manager to the NSWWBL Executive Committee.
- 23.7 Any club wishing to appeal to the NSWWBL Appeals Committee shall forward to the NSWWBL Secretary a clear statement of the grounds of the appeal. The appeal along with a \$100 fee shall be received

within three (3) days of the NSWWBL's original decision. The \$100 fee shall be forfeited should the appeal be dismissed.

- 23.8 In extenuating circumstances, such as but not limited to when several WL Clubs are involved in the dispute, the WL Executive may choose to refer the matter to the NSWWBL Appeals Committee or other delegated party at its sole discretion.
- 23.9 The decision of the NSWWBL Appeals Committee shall be FINAL.
- 23.10 Clubs who are found to breach the Playing Rules more than three times in a season may be asked to show cause for their continuation in the current and future seasons. Conditions may be imposed on such a Club should they continue in the competition.
- 23.11 The provisions of the OBR will apply to all competition games of the NSWWBL and in the event of an umpire giving an erroneous decision on a point of law and refusing to alter his decision, although his attention was drawn to the fact at the time on the field, by the manager/coach of the team which has suffered such wrong decisions:
- (a) The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the NSWWBL, provided that the intention to protest is indicated to the Umpire in Chief at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched or before any intervening play occurs.
 - (b) The final protest is made to the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game.
 - (c) A JUDGEMENT decision by a UMPIRE will NOT be accepted as grounds for a protest.

24. TRIBUNAL

- 24.1 All participants in games under the control of the NSWWBL will abide by and be subject to the OBR Sections 4.06, 07 and 08 (conduct), these Playing Rules and any instruction regarding the conduct of the game of baseball by the NSWWBL.
A player, registered member, or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:
- (1) Ejected from the game by the umpire.
 - (2) Cited by an umpire for an incident that occurs after the game has been "called".
 - (3) Cited by NSWBL or the NSWWBL.
- 24.2 The WL Executive shall appoint a Tribunal Chairperson or the NSWBL Tribunal to process all incidents referred to in these Rules.
- 24.3 When a person is ejected from a game of baseball or cited, they will:
- (1) Conform strictly to the OBR, in particular sections 4.07, 08 and 09.
 - (2) Not participate in another game of baseball with a Club, League or Association affiliated with NSWBL until such time as the matter has been processed by the NSWWBL-appointed Tribunal.

25. PLAYER PROTECTION POLICY

- 25.1 All NSWWBL competitions shall comply with the Player Protection Policy as approved by the NSW Women's Baseball League at that time. [Policies - Baseball NSW](#)
- 25.2 **Pitching Limits**
Where a pitcher fails to comply with the NSW Baseball Player Protection policy, the manager/coach responsible for that team at the time of the non-compliance shall be issued a breach notice and in addition to any penalty imposed by the NSWWBL or its delegate at any hearing, the manager/coach shall be automatically suspended for a period of two (2) Games for the first offence and subject to incremental increase as determined by the NSWWBL for any further offence of this same type.
- 25.3 **Pitching Restrictions**
No player under 15 years of age shall pitch in any Senior WL game whatsoever.
- 25.4 The NSWWBL adheres to the Baseball NSW policy regarding pitch limits and the current NSW policy of MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines.

26. APPROVED VENUES

All NSWWBL competitions shall be conducted only on those grounds approved by Baseball NSW for that grade of competition.

27. CLUB(S) NON-ATTENDANCE AT WLSC MEETINGS

For each WLSC meeting where a Club Delegate fails to attend without due cause deemed reasonable by the WLSC Executive during a calendar year the following sanctions shall be applied:

For the first offence, a notice of “failure to attend” shall be issued to that Club and a suspended penalty of a \$100.00 fine shall be applied.

For any second offence during that prescribed period, a fine of \$100.00 shall be applied and in addition, the previous suspended penalty shall be applied.

For any further offence during that prescribed period, a fine of \$250.00 shall be applied. Should the failure to attend fall in a non-competition period those competition points to be deducted from the team(s) total(s) shall be applied in the next immediate competition conducted by the Women’s League. Club delegates may attend the meetings via a digital platform.

28. AMENDMENT TO RULES

Once the set of competition rules for that season has been approved by the WLSC no changes may be made to those rules for the duration of the season.

29. AMENDMENT TO POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Once the Policy and Procedures for that season have been approved by the WLSC no changes may be made to those Policy and Procedures where they would impact any Competition-related item, for example: “Finals Series Format”. General Policy that would not directly impact a Competition matter would be able to be changed after ratification of the initial Policy for that season.

APPENDIX 1

Annual Awards will be made for the Sydney Women's League Competition in the categories below and shall be judged under the following criteria:

1. Most Valuable Player of the Season (MVP).
2. Batting Award.
3. Pitching Award.
4. Rookie of the Year.
5. Most Valuable Player in the Grand Final.

The above awards shall be made for each grade conducted in that season of the NSWWB competition.

Most Valuable Player of the Season.

- To be decided by a meeting of team coaches at the end of the season. Players will be considered based on their overall stats and voted on accordingly.

Batting Award.

- The Batting Award will be made to a player who has attained the highest "Batting Average" from games played in the competition rounds (excluding all finals series games).
- The Batting Average will be calculated by dividing the "Hits" by "Official At Bats" and shall not include "Hit by Pitch" or "base on Balls" statistics.
- A player must have attained a minimum of:
 - "Official At Bats" is the Total equivalent to or more than one-half of the "Official At Bats" compared to the highest number of "Official At Bats" recorded for any player in that team in that season.
- If two or more players have equal Batting Average statistics, then the award will be given to each qualifying player.
- The decision of the delegated authority in determining the award shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Pitching Award.

- The Pitching Award will be made to a player who has attained the lowest "Earned Run Average" (ERA) from regulation games played in the competition rounds (excluding all finals series games).
- The Pitching Award will be calculated by dividing the player's "Earned Runs" by "Innings Pitched" statistics multiplied by the number of innings specified for that competition, i.e., divide by nine (9) for grades competing in a nine (9) innings competition, divide by seven (7) for seven (7) innings competition and divide by five (5) for a five (5) innings competition.
- To be eligible to be considered for the award a player must have pitched a minimum equivalent to one-half the inning pitched when compared to the highest number of innings pitched by any one player in that team for that season/competition.
- If two or more players have equal ERA statistics, then the award will be given to each qualifying player.
- The decision of the delegated authority in determining the award shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Rookie of the Year.

- The Rookie of the Year Award will be made to that player considered by the WL Executive or its delegate to be the most valuable player to their team in the inaugural full season in the NSWWB competition.
- Submissions for Rookie of the Year will be invited from all teams participating in that season's NSWWB Competition(s).

- Only one (1) Rookie of the Year award shall be made in a particular grade of competition in any one season.
- Each Club may nominate **only one player in each grade** of competition from their Club for consideration for the award.
- A player will be considered a Rookie if they have not been registered and participated in a Women's League Senior Team in a prior season except that a player who has represented any Senior National, State, Region or Territory Team within or outside of Australia and although not being prior registered in NSWBL Competition shall not be ineligible for a Rookie Award.
- The decision of the delegated authority in determining the award shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Most Valuable Player of the Grand Final.

- The MVP of the Grand Final award shall be made to that player judged by the umpires officiating on that game to have been the "Best on Field" during that game.
- Only one (1) Grand Final MVP award shall be made in a particular Grand Final of that competition in any one season.
- The decision of the delegated authority in determining the award shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

APPENDIX 2

1 DELIBERATE COLLISION

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

Provision for game situation contact between players should be taken into consideration when an umpire makes any interpretation of this requirement. Any player adjudged by the umpire to have deliberately or recklessly caused a collision to occur should be ejected from the game.

2 LIMITS ON WARM UP PITCHES

- 2.1 Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, they shall be permitted a maximum 60 seconds including a minimum of three (3) warm-up pitches. This same time limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of each inning.
- 2.2 Should either team take longer than 60 seconds to make the changeover between innings, the penalties will be invoked as follows:
 - On the first occasion, the team manager will be given a warning by the Plate Umpire.
 - Any further transgressions shall result in a called strike (if it is the batting team which offends) or a called ball (if it is the pitching team that offends).
 - The 60 second time limit commences immediately the third out of the previous half inning is completed.
- 2.3 In order to facilitate the changeover as specified in 4.2 above, batting teams will be able to replace their catcher with a "pinch runner" after two (2) outs at their own discretion.
- 2.4 The active pitcher will be permitted to warm up prior to taking the mound by throwing in foul territory but beyond 1st and 3rd base areas towards the outfield.
- 2.5 Umpires should use discretion to prevent conflict when applying this rule.

3 THE HELMETS OBR

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

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

4 PLAYER SUBSTITUE OBR

As per OBR with the following addition:

Grades other than divisions of 1st Grade: Defensive changes are not formal substitutions subject to Section 5 below.

5 ENTERING THE FIELD OBR

As per OBR with the following addition apply

Grades other than divisions of 1st Grade: The managers shall then notify the Umpire in Chief of the way they elect to utilise their available Line-Up for that match and that notifications shall be limited to one of the following options.

Once notified to the umpire that decision may not be changed:

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

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

If option 3 is elected, the first nine (9) players listed on the team batting line-up must take the field for that team's first defensive ½ innings. Umpires should be aware and manage substitutions in such a manner that inappropriate "delay of game" is avoided, scorers must be made aware of defensive interchanges.

When playing more than 9 players the batting lineup will close up due to injury with no automatic out until minimum playing numbers are obtained.

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

6 THE FINAL SCORE OBR

As per OBR with the following addition:

- (e) Any regulation Round Game that is stopped and cannot be completed because of weather, curfew or other reason with the score tied or the home team behind and the current inning incomplete the score shall revert to that score at the last complete inning.

7 SUSPENDED GAMES OBR

Suspended Game regulations shall not apply to NSWABL Round Matches.

Suspended Games regulations as stipulated in the NSWABL Policy and Procedures document shall apply to all games of a Finals Series for all grades of competition.

Any game of a Finals Series suspended in accordance with OBR shall be resumed at the ground at that time and date specified by the Women's League Competition Committee.

8 NOT ENOUGH PLAYERS OBR

The OBR rule is replaced with the following:

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

- (a) Nine players on the field for all divisions of 1st Grade games of which 6 must be listed 1st graders
- (b) Eight players on the field for other Grade games.

Note games can be completed with 1 short of above numbers if injury occurs during game an automatic will apply

9 SCORING A RUN OBR

As per OBR with the following addition:

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

10 DESIGNATED HITTER RULE OBR 6.10

As per OBR with the following additions:

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

11 DEFENSIVE VISITS OBR

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

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

12 VIOLATION REPORTS OBR

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

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

End of Document. Policy and Procedures NSWBL 2023-24 v1.0.