



Sydney Winter Baseball League Inc. 2024 Policies, Procedures & Playing Rules

Last Reviewed: 4th March 2024

Approval Authority: SWBL
Sydney Winter League
Committee

Distribution: SWBL Web Site

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1	ALTERATION TO DRAW	2
2	GAME PRELIMINARIES - FITNESS OF GROUND	2
3	POINT SCORE	2
4	UNIFORMS	3
5	DRUGS.....	3
6	LEGISLATION	3
7	REGISTRATIONS	3
8	TRANSFERS.....	4
9	MEDICAL	4
10	COACHES.....	4
11	SCORERS	5
12	UMPIRES	5
13	NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS	5
14	FINAL SERIES	5
15	ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS	6
16	PROTESTS AND DISPUTES	6
17	FORFEITS	7

Abbreviations

BA – Baseball Australia

OBR - Official Baseball Rules as published by the MLB

NSWBL - New South Wales Baseball League incorporated also known as Baseball NSW (BNSW)

SWBL - Sydney Winter Baseball League Inc.

ABL - Australian Baseball League Inc.

1 ALTERATION TO DRAW

1.1 No alteration to the playing schedule or venues is permitted without the approval of the SWBL.

2 GAME PRELIMINARIES - FITNESS OF GROUND

- 2.1 It is the HOME Clubs' responsibility to notify the Wet Weather Contact on **(0490 017 439)** of the closure after 7:00 a.m. and if possible, before 8.00 a.m. on game day, otherwise the Club responsible will be charged with the umpire's fees.
- 2.2 Any game venue, closed because of unfitness of ground, may be changed with notice to the opposition club, umpires and SWBL Registrar by **8pm** the day before the scheduled playing date.
- 2.3 When a game is NOT being played because of the ground unfitness, the result shall be declared "no game." The SWBL shall retain the right to reschedule the game and such decision will be final.

3 POINT SCORE

- 3.1 For determining semifinalists in all grades of the SWBL Competition the percentages will be calculated by the results of games played and the number of games won, lost, or forfeited. (Note: a tied game is to be regarded as a half win and a half loss) Where teams are tied, the positions will be decided by.
- (i) Head-to-Head clashes in all games between the teams involved

- (ii) If still tied, the lowest ratio of (number of runs scored against them) divided by (defensive innings played) in the games between the tied teams.
- (iii) If still tied, the team with the highest ratio of (number of runs scored for) divided by (number of runs scored against) across all games in the regular season.
- (iv) If still tied, the team with the highest (number of runs scored for) divided by (number of runs scored against) across all games against the highest place team.

3.2 Ranking of the final two tied teams will be determined by the Head-to-Head process.

4 UNIFORMS

4.1 All affiliated clubs shall register the colours, logos and design of its uniform and warm-up jackets with BNSW. 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 SWBL.

4.2 Each uniform is required to have an individual number (no duplications) not less than 150mm in size that can be clearly seen from outside the field of play. 00 or 0X are not valid numbers.

4.3 Baseball caps will form part of the uniform and must always be worn excepting when the batting helmet is worn.

4.4 Clubs may add only three sponsor patches to the uniform. The patches can 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 lettering is affixed to the uniform.

4.5 Alcohol and Tobacco advertising is not permitted. SWBL reserves the right to refuse other advertising which it considers to be not in the best interest of the sport. Its decision will be final.

5 DRUGS

5.1 The anti-doping policy that has been adopted by the BA will be enforced.

5.2 Any player who is required by doctor's prescription to treat a medical problem with proscribed drugs as defined by ASDA guidelines shall be registered with BNSW and or BA Players are to forward details accompanied by a letter from the player's doctor to BNSW.

5.3 Clubs are to ensure that all players who have queries re prescribed drugs are advised to consult the ASDA website www.asda.org.au and if further information is required, contact the drug advisory hotline on 1800 020 506.

6 LEGISLATION

6.1 The Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (as amended) particularly Section 221 now includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual harassment in sport have been accepted by BA and BNSW. Reports on any matter of this nature are to be referred immediately to the Member Protection Officer of BNSW for attention.

6.2 Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 – the working with children check requires that all clubs with players under the age of 18 require that coaches and managers (whether paid or unpaid) to declare whether they are a prohibited person under the terms of the act.

6.3 Any suspected breach of BNSW Policy regarding inappropriate behaviour (e.g., harassment, discrimination) should be referred to the Member Protection Officer of BNSW. Details of the resolution process can be found in the BNSW Member Protection Policy (June 2003).

7 REGISTRATIONS

7.1 Eligibility – Unless otherwise authorized by the SWBL each affiliate Club will have to enter three (3) teams (first, second and third grades) to be eligible to compete in the Competition.

- 7.2 Players must be 15 years of age to play in the SWBL Competition. They may register when 14 but may not participate until their 15th birthday. This must be clearly indicated on the Block Registration. Qualification rules for Finals will be strictly enforced and no exemptions for these players will be granted. It is the Clubs responsibility to police this rule. Any breach of this rule will be subject to penalties as agreed by the EC. Cutoff date is as per Rule 7.6.
- 7.3 Each Club shall register the name and address and date of birth of every player, coach (including registration number), manager, bat person and scorer using the prescribed form. The block registration form must be returned to the SWBL Registrar prior to the commencement of the season. The names should be entered into the relevant database as soon as practical.
- 7.4 Late registrations (i.e., any player/official not listed on the original block registration) may be accepted providing that the following procedures have been followed.
- (i) Player's details must be entered into the relevant database.
 - (ii) Player's names must be advised to the SWBL Registrar before they participate.
- 7.5 All clubs shall register their players, coaches, and managers. The minimum number of players being registered is to be not less than equal to eleven (11) players per team entered in the competition. **(33 players)**
- 7.6 Registrations will not be accepted after 1st June in each competition year, except by decision of the SWBL, which shall be final.
- 7.7 Only persons whose registrations have been approved by the SWBL may participate in any competition games, the SWBL retains the right to refuse registrations, or any registration in a specific grade, at their discretion and this decision will be final.**
- 7.8 A team shall be debited with a forfeit of nine (9-0) to nil for any game in which an unregistered player, coach or manager participate.

8 TRANSFERS

- 8.1 Any player, coach or manager registering with a Club who has previously played for another Club, will secure a clearance from their previous Club stating that they had cleared all obligations to that club. Before such a person can participate in a game for the new Club, the previous Club must have been contacted and no notification of outstanding obligations has been received. Clearances given to a player to play for another club before transferring to a new Club does not negate the responsibility of the new Club to obtain a clearance. 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: forfeit of nine to nil (9-0) to the non-offending team.
- 8.2 Any players, coaches 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 games in which they participated in being declared a forfeit of nine (9-0) to nil to the non-offending team.
- 8.3 A player, coach etc. may not play or coach with more than one Club during the same season without the approval of the SWBL. No change may be made after final completion of Round 7 games.
- 8.4 When any registered person changes their address, the club is required to notify the SWBL Registrar of the new address and update the relevant database within fourteen (14) days.

9 MEDICAL

- 9.1 Before registering to play all people should notify their club officials and the 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.
- 9.2 Players or Officials with such a condition shall seek medical advice in relation to their continuing participation in the sport.
- 9.3 All people who register with SWBL agree that they shall NOT contravene any medical advice in relation to their continued participation
- 9.4 SWBL will NOT be held responsible for the players or an individual's failure to seek and follow appropriate medical advice.

10 COACHES

- 10.1 All coaches within the club must have a current accreditation as required by Baseball NSW at the time of the Competition. Exemptions to this requirement may be granted by SWBL. PENALTY: the offending club shall be fined \$350. **Currently Coaches require a minimum Level B Accreditation.**

11 SCORERS

- 11.1 Clubs playing in this competition are required to provide an official scorer for each grade. Each Club should have at least one scorer who is a financial member of the NSW Baseball Scorer's Association, or a CABS accredited scorer.
- 11.2 Scorer's shall be seated together in the designated area behind home plate, where possible.
- 11.3 The home team is required to provide a table, chairs and shelter that provide adequate cover from all forms of weather.
- 11.4 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. There will be individual Result Sheets for each Grade.
- 11.5 SWBL will be using Game Changer for the 2024 Season. Any club requiring assistance with GC should contact SWBL.**

12 UMPIRES

- 12.1 Official umpires will be appointed to all games by the NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc. Clubs will not interfere in any way with appointments.

13 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 13.1 Each home Club shall SMS/telephone the SWBL Registrar **0490 017 439** at the completion of each game.
- (i) **The Result Sheet in 'soft format' should be emailed to the SWBL Statistician at sydneywinterbl@gmail.com by 9.00am Monday morning following the completed round.**
- 13.2 Where a wash out occurs a result sheet, indicating that the game was washed out, is required to be submitted to the SWBL.
- 13.3 Penalty: Failure to comply with these rules is a monetary fine of Fifty (\$50) Dollar fine per team
- 13.4 Results of all games will be available on SWBL Facebook page.

14 FINAL SERIES

- 14.1 Qualification:
- (i) During the SWBL competition rounds and the SWBL Finals series players are not permitted to be downgraded more than one (1) Grade between any SWBL Competition game or any Final Series game, without prior permission from the CM. Penalty – Forfeit 9-0 to the non-offending team.
- (ii) For the final 2 rounds of the SWBL Competition, any movement of any player or players down a grade must be approved by the SWBL EC. Penalty – Forfeit 9-0 to the non-offending team.
- (iii) The request for each down grading in accordance with SWBL Rule 14.1 (ii) must be submitted in writing to the SWBL EC at least three (3) days before the game is to be played.
- 14.2 For a player to be eligible to play in the Final Series of a specific grade, the player, unless unusual circumstances exist which would make the request for dispensation to the SWBL EC a reasonable one, is required to meet the following criteria: -
- (i) Be listed as one of the 9 or 10 starters, if a DH is used, listed on the starting line-up of any grade for at least Fifty (50%) percent of the competition games played by the club in that grade. Being listed as a fresh reserve and not taking the field does not constitute eligibility under this rule.
- (ii) Must be registered on the club's player list held by the SWBL Registrar.
- 14.3 The grade in which a player appeared in the largest number of games played in SWBL Competition Rounds **1 to 14 (2024 Season)** inclusive will be used to determine the grade that the player will be eligible to participate in during the Final Series providing: -
- (i) Being listed as a fresh reserve and not taking the field does not constitute eligibility under this rule.
- (ii) Forfeits and washouts are not included in the games used to calculate qualifications.

- 14.4 A player qualified in a lower grade is eligible to play in a higher grade in the final series.
- 14.5 Players who do not meet the qualification criteria for the Final Series may be considered for qualification at the SWBL meeting immediately prior to the Final Series. The grounds for consideration include, but not limited to; late registrations who through washouts or opposition forfeits could not play the required number of games, or players who through injury could not play the required number of games.

15 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 15.1 Only registered players of the NSWBL are eligible to compete and it is the intention that any player shall NOT appear in more than one (1) SWBL team's starting line-up in the same Round UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (ACCEPTABLE TO THE SWBL) occur.
- (i) 2nd grade substitutes must be 2nd grade reserves, 3rd grade in the same weekend.
- (ii) 1st grade reserves may be any player registered with the club.
- 15.2 The full names and uniform numbers of fresh reserves and starting team must appear on the original team line-up sheet, and any player who is scheduled to play in a higher-grade game on any day in the same 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.
- 15.3 In the event of an injury occurring or an ejection of a player/s, and no other player available, a replaced player/s may return to the field of play. However, they may not return to be a part of the battery and any ejected player will NOT be allowed to return under this rule.
- 15.4 Any player who has participated or will participate in a lower grade game in same round shall not enter a game in progress until after three (3) innings of play have been completed unless extenuating circumstances exist which are acceptable to SWBL.
- 15.5 Any player who appeared on a roster for any US College (**NCAA, NJCAA or NAIA Colleges, Divs 1 & 2**) Senior National or International Competition (including ABL) in the season prior to SWBL season may not participate any lower than first grade unless: -
- (i) A pitcher may bat or field in second grade or
- (ii) A position player may pitch in second grade.
- (iii) **Exemption request may be referred to the SWBL Executive in exceptional circumstances.**
- CLUB PENALTY FOR A BREACH of ANY PART OF RULE 15** – the game in which the player participates will be declared a forfeit and a nine (9-0) to nil win recorded to the non-offending team.

16 PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- 16.1 Any club wishing the SWBL to adjudicate on any dispute arising from any game shall forward to the SWBL Registrar 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.
- 16.2 Failure to observe the CORRECT PROCEDURE above shall render any protest invalid.
- 16.3 The SWBL, or persons appointed by it, 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 way they consider appropriate.
- 16.4 The SWBL will make the necessary rulings where penalties are not stipulated for rule infringements, they may include, loss of a game involved in protest, monetary fine or no penalty.
- 16.5 Any club that commits a breach of the rules that cannot be reasonably identified by the umpire during the game such as, but not restricted to, playing of an illegal player or pitchers going over their pitch limit, can be issued a Breach Notice.
- The SWBL Registrar is to be notified of any such breach **within 72 hours of completion of game**, and upon notification the following procedure will be followed.
- (i) SWBL Registrar will prepare a Breach Notice listing the offence and the penalty to be imposed if the breach is found to be correct, within seven days of receiving notification.
- (ii) The offending club may choose to accept the breach and pay the penalty or contest the breach at the next SWBL meeting.
- (iii) If contesting a breach, a written explanation of the incident must be sent to the

SWBL Registrar, prior to the next SWBL meeting.

- 16.6 Clubs will have the right to appeal any decision of SWBL to the SWBL Appeals Committee.
- 16.7 Any club wishing to appeal to the SWBL Appeals Committee shall forward to the SWBL Registrar a clear statement on the grounds of the appeal. The appeal along with a \$100 fee shall be received within three (3) days of the SWBL's original decision. The \$100 fee shall be forfeited should the appeal be dismissed.
- 16.8 In extenuating circumstances, such as when several Clubs are involved in the dispute, the SWBL may choose to refer the matter to the SWBL Appeals Committee.
- 16.9 The decision of the SWBL Appeals Committee shall be FINAL
- 16.10 Clubs who are found to breach the Playing Rules more than five times in a season will be asked to show cause for continuation in future seasons. Conditions may be imposed on such a club should they continue in the competition.

17 FORFEITS

- 17.1 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 will be fined.
 - (i) \$50 for the first breach
 - (ii) \$100 for the second breach
 - (iii) \$200 for each subsequent breach
- 17.2 Clubs who forfeit more than five games in a season will be asked to show cause for continuation in future seasons. Conditions may be imposed on such a club should they continue in the competition.

Results: SMS to SWBL Registrar

Wet Weather: Facebook – Sydney Winter Baseball League.

Sydney Winter Baseball League Inc.
Facebook Page

sydneywinterbl@gmail.com
[m](#)
Sydney Winter Baseball
League

PLAYING RULES

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 using appropriate equipment (including protective equipment) proper training methods and awareness of the risks.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	RULES AND PROCEDURES.....	9
2	GAME PRELIMINARIES - FITNESS OF GROUND	9
3	UNIFORMS	9
4	PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	9
5	SMOKING AND ALCOHOL.....	10
6	COACHES.....	10
7	UMPIRES	10
8	INFECTION RULE	10
9	PITCHING RESTRICTIONS	11
10	DEFENSIVE VISITS.....	13
11	DESIGNATED HITTER	13
12	EQUIPMENT	13
13	ON FIELD BEHAVIOUR	13
14	DELIBERATE COLLISION	14
15	PROTESTS AND DISPUTES.....	14
16	FORFEITS	14
17	TRIBUNAL.....	14

Abbreviations

BA – Baseball Australia.

OBR - Official Baseball Rules as published by the MLB

NSWBL - New South Wales Baseball League incorporated also known as Baseball NSW (BNSW)

SWBL - Sydney Winter Baseball League Inc.

NSWBUA - New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association

Inc. Tribunal - BNSW Tribunal

1 RULES AND PROCEDURES

1.1 Rules and Procedures – these rules and procedures will govern the SWBL Competition. They should be read in conjunction with the OBR and if in conflict, these rules shall take precedence. The SWBL will resolve any exemptions or queries arising from matters not included in these rules.

1.2 Scheduled Playing Times:

- (a) Third Grade – 9.00am to 11.15am. – 2hrs 15mins.**
- (b) Second Grade – 11.30am to 1.45pm. – 2hrs 15mins.**
- (c) First Grade – 2.00pm to Rules of Baseball.**

The SWBL Executive may make alterations to game times where necessary.

1.3 The Scheduled Finishing Time will be as indicated in Rule 1.2, or the game actual start time plus the length of game time. Following games will commence fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a previous game.

1.4 **Except for 3rd Grade**, the top half of an inning will NOT commence ten (10) minutes or less before 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 side batting in the bottom half has scored the winning run.

1.5 **For 3rd Grade**, the top half of an innings in 3rd grade will not commence with fifteen (15) minutes or less of the scheduled playing time remaining before the scheduled finishing time.

- (a) If a game result is not determined by the scheduled finishing time, the game will then continue for a further ten (10) minutes to gain a result.
- (b) If a result is not determined at the end of the extra 10 minutes play, then the game will stop when the batter at bat in the batter's box completes their time at bat.
- (c) Where the game ceases without a result: -
 - (i) The score shall revert to the score at the end of last full innings.
 - (ii) Pitch counts will be considered in the determination of Age Determined and Total Competition Round Pitch counts.

1.6 **It shall be a regulation game, in ALL grades, where the Umpire-in-Chief certifies that sixty (60) minutes or five (5) innings of play have been completed (4 1/2 innings where the team leading is batting last).**

1.7 It shall be a regulation game if one team leads by ten (10) runs after its opponent has completed seven (7) offensive innings, **or fifteen (15) runs after five (5) offensive innings.**

2 GAME PRELIMINARIES - FITNESS OF GROUND

2.1 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, officials 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 player, official or spectator.

2.2 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 about this decision. **(No artificial lighting may be used to extend the game time.)**

3 UNIFORMS

3.1 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 warm-up Club jackets in the batting box or on the field of play and, where circumstances warrant. Other players may be allowed to wear warm up Club jackets at the Umpire-in-Chiefs' discretion.

4 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

4.1 All clubs and players are required to provide safety and playing equipment as required by the SWBL.

4.2 Only two (2) ear flap batting helmets in solid or clubs' colours may be worn by batter/runners and bat persons, who are always required to wear same when on the field of play. **Base coaches must wear skull caps.**

- 4.3 Clubs that have bat persons are to ensure that they wear appropriate fitting protective equipment, including a two-eared batting helmet and protector. **Bat persons must be at least 13 years of age and must be registered.**
- 4.4 Catchers and any person warming up a pitcher are required to wear an approved facemask with throat guard except for “hockey style” helmets.

5 SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

- 5.1 A player, team official or umpire participating in a game shall not use tobacco products whilst on the field of play. This prohibition shall also apply to the “warm up” areas, batting practice areas, dugouts, or surrounding areas. **All Clubs are subject to NSW State Regulations regarding smoking on or near playing fields**
- 5.2 The possession of or use of chewing tobacco or possession of a chewing tobacco or like shaped container on the field of play, in the bullpen or in the dugout by a manager, coach or player whilst the game in which they are participating is in progress is prohibited. Penalty – Ejection from the game of the offending manager, coach or player and an automatic two (2) week suspension for the offending manager, coach or player. A second or any subsequent offence by any player from the same club will incur an automatic eight (8) week suspension.
- 5.3 If documentary evidence is found and presented to the SWBL EC that a Club has had chewing tobacco on the field, in the bullpen or in the dugout, after the conclusion of a game or games and such is found to be correct then the offending Club is to inform SWBL which team used chewing tobacco. Penalty - The coach of the offending team will be suspended for two (2) weeks and the Club head coach of the offending club will be suspended for three (3) weeks and the club will be fined \$200.
- (a) If the offending team: -
- (i) Won the match in question the result will be overturned, and the non-offending team will be awarded a 9-0 forfeit.
- (ii) Lost the match in question then they will have a 9-0 forfeit awarded against them.
- (b) If the offending Club does not declare to SWBL which team offended, then all Club teams which played before the offence was found will be subject to penalties described in (a) above.
- 5.4 A player, team official or umpire whilst in uniform shall not consume liquor in or near the playing field where a game is in progress or is about to commence.
PENALTY: The offending club will be fined \$100 and the offending person removed from the game.

6 COACHES

Any coach registered with a Club and participating in a game must be listed on the lineup. The Head Coach/Manager must also be nominated to the plate umpire always. All team coaches are required to hold current Baseball Australia Coaching accreditation of at least **Level B** obtained in NSW

UMPIRES

- 6.1 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. Every effort shall be made to appoint accredited umpires by the NSWBUA who shall receive payment
- 6.2 Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the SWBL official result sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse with the result of the game and any ejections or injuries.
- 6.3 An umpire shall contact the **SWBL** on Monday informing them of any player ejections and forward the report of an ejection / citing to the **SWBL** by 8 p.m. on the Monday after the incident. The Umpire’s Report is to be sent by email to the **SWBL**

7 INFECTION RULE

- 7.1 Any players who, having any visible signs of any body fluids, must stem the flow of these fluids and remove or clean or cover any visible sign of these fluids from clothing and equipment. While the player receives such treatment, the game may continue with a temporary player for a maximum of 6 defensive outs of the player’s team. If the treated player is unable to return to the game, a substitution of this

player must be made. Where the nature of the incident is serious enough to prevent the player from returning to the game, an immediate substitution is required to avoid abuse of this rule.

- 7.2 A temporary player under rule [8.1](#) may be any player, whether a reserve or a player previously substituted in this game, provided the player is not: -
- (a) a pitcher who is currently under a rest period as required by rule [9](#) or.
 - (b) a player who has been ejected from any game in the current competition round. The temporary player for the player receiving treatment may not be replaced by another temporary player.

8 PITCHING RESTRICTIONS (NSWBL - Player Protection Policy)

8.1 General Provisions

- (a) This policy does not differentiate between genders or ability.
- (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", e.g., 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 towards the pitcher's count.
- (h) The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule, however coaches are responsible for complying with these rules.

8.2 Pitchers' Game or Trial Situation

- (a) The primary risk management components of this policy concern:
 - (i) The number of pitchers thrown (classified as Assignments)
 - (ii) The desirable rest periods following an Assignment
 - (iii) The relationship between pitching and catching

The Assignment Table is based on a player's current age when playing.

ASSIGNMENT – Pitches – May finish the batter						
Current Age	Daily Limit	Short	Moderate	Substantial	Major	Maximum
Days Rest		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
15-16 yrs	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18 yrs	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	81+
19-22 yrs	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	81-105
23+	125					

8.3 Pitching Assignments & 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 under the age of 23 pitching a MAJOR Assignment will be required to complete one day's rest before any PLAYING participation, except as a designated hitter or for pinch hitting and pinch running, and two-~~or three~~ days' rest (as per following table) before assuming any battery

position.

- (e) For players under the age of 23, pitchers who have thrown a SHORT assignment may only throw another SHORT assignment on the same or following day. For players over 23, they must stay under their daily limit of 125 pitches
- (f) Under 18 players may only go to another position (except catcher) if they throw less than 60 pitches. (May finish batter)
- (g) No player may pitch and then catch in the same game.

8.4 Junior Players

- (a) Any players under 18 years of age (as of 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 pitcher's age, not the league or tournament in which they are playing in.
- (c) A Junior player:
 - (i) Can come to the mound from any position provided they have suitably warmed up.
 - (ii) Shall not undertake more than one pitching Assignment per game and once removed as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
 - (iii) Having pitched; cannot catch in the same day.
 - (iv) Having caught; may pitch on the same day but only for a Minor Assignment and only in the situation when the line-up has been fully utilized.

8.5 Penalties for breaches of this rule are:

- (a) Forfeit of 9-0 by the offending team & \$100 fine.
- (b) Any subsequent breach will result in an additional fine and the suspension of the coach.
- (c) Each League may apply additional penalties. E.g., SWBL - Any breach will result in the loss of competition ~~points~~

9 DEFENSIVE VISITS

- 9.1 On a second visit in the same innings to the pitcher, coaches must directly approach the Umpire in Chief if the pitcher is moving to another defensive position. Should the coach cross the foul line and not directly approach the Umpire in Chief, the pitcher is to be removed from the game.
- 9.2 There is no restriction on the number of players who may approach the mound conference during a visit.
- 9.3 Mound visits not requiring a pitching change shall be limited to 5 per 9 innings game. (Refer OBR Rule 5.10 (m)).

10 DESIGNATED HITTER

- 10.1 Amendments have been made to OBR 5.11 to allow more flexibility for pitchers who also hit for themselves. Coaches are responsible for familiarising themselves with the new rules.

Basic Principles:

- a) Where a DH is to be utilised, DH MUST be named as such in the starting line-up.
- b) Where a team is seeking to utilise the SP as the DH, the player needs to be NAMED TWICE on the lineup. Once as the DH AND once as the SP.
- (c) The named DH must come to bat at least once unless the opposing team changes pitchers, or otherwise ill, injured etc. However, the DH position in the line-up MUST bat as the DH at least once.
- (d) Once the DH moves to a defensive position, or once the Pitcher moves to a defensive position, the DH role is terminated.
- (e) The Pitcher may only Pinch Hit or Pinch Run for the DH.

With regards to the SP/DH single player:

- a) Once substituted from their starting pitching assignment they may continue to act as the DH for subsequent relief pitchers that come from the bench.
 - b) While maintaining their role as the SP, the DH may be substituted for (noting compliance with the DH requirements) and the SP can continue to pitch. However, once the player is substituted as the pitcher they are to be removed from the game..
- 10.2 A designated hitter may ONLY be used where there are ten (10) fresh players available in the starting line-up of anygame.

11 EQUIPMENT

- 11.1 Home clubs will provide match balls of the same brand (as approved by SWBL) in any game under the control of the SWBL.
- 11.2 Only non-metal bats, i.e., wood or wood composite, may be used in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade SWBL games.
- 11.3 Junior players may use a BB Core bat only. (A Junior player is a person that will be eligible to compete in a Junior Competition (U16 - conducted by NSWBL in the summer baseball season immediately following the current SWBL season)
- 11.4 3rd Grade players entitled to use BB Core Bats are to be advised the Home Plate Umpire at the pre-game meeting or when they substitute during the game, placing a Cross (X) alongside that players position in the batting order.
- 11.5 Where a Junior 3rd Grade player is promoted to or substituted into a 2nd or 1st Grade game the player must comply with the bat regulations for 2nd and 1st Grade.

12 ON FIELD BEHAVIOUR

- 12.1 Willfully 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.
- 12.2 All registered members are responsible to SWBL for their conduct and behaviour at games and events conducted by the League, whether playing or not.
- 12.3 All clubs are required to make their players aware that SPORTING COMPETITORS OWE A DUTY OF CARE TO ONE ANOTHER. There is a fine line between an error in judgment on the field and negligent conduct. Competitors should endeavour to exercise reasonable care not to injure other players in playing out a game or match (Refer Rule [14.1](#)).

13 DELIBERATE COLLISION

- 13.1 Clubs are to ensure that the players are aware that intentional contact, under certain circumstances, will NOT be tolerated.
- 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.

14 PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- 14.1 The provisions of the OBR will apply to all competition games of SWBL 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 coach/manager of the team which has suffered such wrong decisions.
- 14.2 The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the SWBL, 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.
- 14.3 The final protest is made to the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game.
- 14.4 A JUDGEMENT decision by an UMPIRE will NOT be accepted as grounds for a protest.

15 FORFEITS

- 15.1 A forfeited game is a game declared ended by the Umpire-in-Chief in accordance with the OBR. Umpires are required to submit a report on such declarations outlining the reasons to SWBL Registrar.

16 SWBL shall abide by all overarching policies of the governing body.

17 TRIBUNAL

17.1 All participants in games under the control of SWBL will abide by and be subject to the OABR, these Playing Rules and any instruction regarding the conduct of the game of baseball by the SWBL.

A player or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:

- (a) Ejected from a game by the umpire
- (b) Cited by an umpire for an incident that occurs after the game has been 'called'.
- (c) Cited by the SWBL.

17.2 The SWBL appoints a SWBL Tribunal to process all incidents referred to in Rule [17.1](#)

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

- (a) Conform strictly to the OBR.
- (b) Leave the vicinity of the dugout and play no part in the game.
- (c) Not participate in another game of baseball with a Club, League or Association affiliated with BNSW until such time as the matter has been processed by the SWBL Tribunal.
- (d) Submit an incident report to SWBL within 24 hours of the ejection/citing.

Wet Weather: Check the Facebook page.

Sydney Winter Baseball League Inc. Web Site Email Address	Registrar - sydneywinterbl@gmail.com
---	--