



# **Sydney Cup & Association Cup Manager/EO Handbook **2024****

## **2024 SYDNEY CUP OVERVIEW**

The Rules of the 2024 Sydney Cup (inclusive of Association Cup and Girls Division) will be predominantly in accordance with the most current version of the Little League Baseball Rulebook (Under-12's will align with Little League Majors, Under-14's with Junior League and Under-16's with Senior League), with some alterations by Baseball New South Wales to accommodate to the specific nature of the Sydney Cup Tournament.

More specifically the Tournament Rules under Section Titles: **CONDITIONS OF TOURNAMENT PLAY** and **TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES**. Where the Tournament Rules {referenced within as "TR"} are silent on an issue the Regular Season rules apply {referenced within as "PR"}. Where those rules are silent on a subject the Rules of Baseball will be applied. Where there is a conflict between the Little League Tournament Rules and this handbook, the latter shall be applied.

### **FORMAT**

- The format will be home and road where an association's age groups all compete against the same association during a given round at the same ground. The games will be played in succession of one another.
- The tournament for both the Sydney and Association Cup will be 6 rounds.
  - Each association will play three (3) home and three (3) away rounds.
- Games will follow a fortnightly schedule and will be played on Sundays. The Sydney Cup and Association Cup will alternate weeks, with each competition playing when the other is not. The only back-to-back weekend games will be for the Semi-Finals and Grand Final.
  - The Association Cup Grand Final will occur on the same Sunday as the Sydney Cup Semi-Finals.
- Age Divisions are as follows:
  - Sydney Cup – Under-16, Under-14, Under-12
  - Association Cup – Under-14, Under-12
  - Girls Division – Under-13

### **Girls Division Draw**

- Under-13 Age Group
- Will Operate in conjunction with the Association Cup.
- Players may participate in both the Sydney Cup and Girls Division.
  - Players cannot play in the Association Cup and Girls Division
- Associations may combine with other associations to form one team to enter the Girls Division.
- Rules for the Under-13 Girls Division will align with the Under-12 Sydney/Association Cup Format.

### **START AND END DATES**

- The Sydney Cup will begin on Sunday, 1 September with the final regular season round commencing on Sunday, 10 November.
  - Sydney Cup Semi Finals will begin on Sunday, 24 November and the Grand Final will be on Sunday, 8 December.

- The Association Cup & Girls Division will begin on Sunday, 8 September with the final regular season round commencing on Sunday, 1 December.
  - Association Cup will **NOT** be playing during the October Long Weekend and will resume play on 20<sup>th</sup> October.
  - Association Cup Grand Final Day will be Sunday, 8 December.

### **SYDNEY CUP DATES**

<b>SYDNEY CUP</b>	
<b>ROUND</b>	<b>DATE</b>
ROUND 1	1 SEPTEMBER 2024
ROUND 2	15 SEPTEMBER 2024
ROUND 3	29 SEPTEMBER 2024
ROUND 4	13 OCTOBER 2024
ROUND 5	27 OCTOBER 2024
ROUND 6	10 NOVEMBER 2024
<b>SYDNEY CUP FINALS</b>	
<b>ROUND</b>	<b>DATE</b>
SEMI FINALS	24 NOVEMBER 2024
GRAND FINAL	8 DECEMBER 2024

<b>ASSOCIATION CUP/GIRLS DIVISION</b>	
<b>ROUND</b>	<b>DATE</b>
ROUND 1	8 SEPTEMBER 2024
ROUND 2	22 SEPTEMBER 2024
ROUND 3	20 OCTOBER 2024
ROUND 4	3 NOVEMBER 2024
ROUND 5	17 NOVEMBER 2024
ROUND 6	1 DECEMBER 2024
<b>ASSOCIATION CUP/GIRLS DIVISION FINALS</b>	
<b>ROUND</b>	<b>DATE</b>
GRAND FINAL	8 DECEMBER 2024
N/A	N/A

### **HOST ASSOCIATION GROUND SUPERVISOR**

- A ground supervisor is to be nominated to Baseball NSW and Umpire in Charge (NSWBUA) at least two (2) days prior to the event.
- The ground supervisor is the single point of contact/escalation for each venue for the day and will:
  - Adjust game start times if necessary.
  - Adjust diamond allocations if needed.
  - Ensure umpires have a change facility.
  - Liaise with the Tournament Manager (Baseball NSW) on any rule issues.
    - The ground supervisor does not resolve protests.
  - Liaise with the Umpire in Charge (NSWBUA) on any umpiring change.

### **GAME BALLS**

- Four (4) Game Balls per game will be supplied to each host association.
- All Game Balls will be provided by Baseball NSW based on the number of nominated teams and invoiced back to the associations based on their team nominations and number of games.
- Game Balls are to be provided to the umpires by the host association (Either by the Ground Supervisor in the umpires' room or Host Team Manager at the plate meeting).

## **SCORING**

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

## **TEAMAPP**

- The 2024 Sydney Cup will have a TeamApp page with all important information regarding the Tournament will reside, such as:
  - Scores
  - Standings
  - Draws
  - News
  - Relevant Documents (Rules, Handbook, etc.)

## **GAME INFORMATION**

### **GAME START TIMES**

- Under-12 – 2.40 PM
- Under-14 – 11.50 AM
- Under-16/Girls Division – 9.00 AM

### **GAME DURATION**

- Seven (7) complete innings for Under-16 and Under-14 competitions.
- Six (6) complete innings for Under-12/Under-13 competitions.
- The game will play to the last innings unless the game time gets to 2 hours 15 minutes, at which point the batter in the box will complete their at-bat as the last batter of the game (i.e. Hard finish). If the home team is behind, then the score will revert to the previous inning. If the home team is in front or there is a tie, then the result of that inning will stand.
- A tie is a valid result for the regular pool play.
  
- There are no run limits per inning.
  
- Sixty (60) seconds will be allowed for innings changeover. Coaches can assist with this by:
  - making changes at the beginning of each break. This should be through the plate umpire (and with the scorer at the same time if that is quicker)
  - Have catchers dressed and ready.
  - Have the catcher's gear near to the front of the dugout (but not in the way of others).

- If the catcher is going to be delayed (i.e. was just batting or was on base) to have a bench player ready with a mask and glove to warm up the pitcher whilst the catcher gets dressed. Alternatively, encourage the pitcher to warm up with the third base fielder.
- SECTION III {TR} – TIEBREAKER PROCEDURES will be used to seed teams after pool play if necessary.
- Protests involving playing rules not resolved before the next pitch or play shall not be considered – The Ground Supervisor will facilitate the escalation to the Tournament Manager to assist with protest resolution. (The ground supervisor does not resolve protests).

### **RUN RULE**

- **Under-12/Under-13** – a 15-run lead after 4 innings, or a 10-run lead after 5 innings will result in a RUN RULE, ending the game.
- **Under-14 and Under-16** – A 15-run lead after 5 innings, or a 10-run lead after 6 innings will result in a RUN RULE, ending the game.

### **DETERMINING HOME / AWAY TEAMS**

- The Home Team will be the host association and will need to provide a host venue for all three age group's home games.
- Each association will have an equal number of home rounds scheduled.
- During the Finals Series, the home team will be the higher seed.

### **ROSTERS**

- All team rosters will consist of a maximum of 15 players.
  - *Minimum roster size is 10*
- *In special circumstances, associations that lack numbers in a certain age group may merge with another association that either has a surplus or also lacks numbers to form a composite team to compete in the **Girls Division ONLY**. That roster must still adhere to all roster requirements.*
- *Players may participate in both the Sydney Cup and in the Girls Division, but not the Association Cup and Girls Division as they take place on the same day.*

### **PARTICIPATION**

- There will be **NO** minimum participation requirement for the 2024 Sydney Cup

### **AT BATS**

- Continuous batting order will be in effect for all divisions.
- **NO** team will be permitted to use a Designated Hitter.

## **DEFENSIVE OUTS (DO)**

- There will be **NO** defensive out requirements.
- Teams are encouraged to consider equity in participation for all players across the whole tournament.

## **PITCHING**

- Pitching rules, including limits and applicable rest days, are included in {TR4}.
- Maximum Daily Pitching limits are included in {TR 4 (d)}.
- Pitcher's Rest requirements are included in {TR 4 (e)}.
- The pitcher's pitch count for the days rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to the batter.
- No Player is permitted to pitch in three consecutive days {TR4(e)Note}
- A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game. {TR4(c)}
- If a pitcher is kept to a threshold of 30 pitches (can finish the batter) in the first game, they may pitch in a second game on the same day. {TR4(f)}
- Pitchers are permitted to pitch up to, but not exceed, eight (8) preparatory pitches at the commencement of an innings or assignment. {PR8.03}
- Balks shall be applied in the Under-14's and Under-16's Divisions.
- Delivered Balks will be added to the pitch count.

## **INTENTIONAL WALK**

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

## PITCHING AND CATCHING IN ONE DAY

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

## VISITS

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

## COLLISION RULES

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

## PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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

## CATCHER / PITCHER COURTESY RUNNER

- With two outs, a courtesy runner may be used for pitcher or catcher of record. The runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.
- Players may be entered or re-entered defensively at any time.

## **DUG-OUT DESIGNATION**

- The team listed first on the draw will occupy the third-base dugout, and the team listed second will occupy the first-base dugout unless a team is *in situ* due to a prior game.
- Teams are permitted to have three eligible coaches in the dugout regardless of the tournament team roster size.
- Team EOs are allowed to enter the team dugout during Game times only to address player welfare and injury issues but otherwise are to remain outside of the dugout. An exception to this is where the EO is also listed as a coach and forms part of the eligible number of coaches on a team's coaching staff.
- An additional coach is permitted in the dugout under the **Development Coach Designation**.
- **Development Coach Designation**
  - In addition to the standard coaching staff, each team is permitted to have one (1) Development Coach under the following conditions:
    - The Development Coach must be between the ages of 16-21 **before** the start of the tournament.
      - A coach may turn 22 during the tournament.
    - The Development Coach must hold the necessary coaching accreditation as required by Baseball NSW (minimum Level B).
    - If a coach is 18 years or older, they must also possess a current Working with Children's Check.
    - The Development Coach is allowed in the dugout.
- **Responsibilities and Roles:**
  - The Development Coach is expected to assist the main coaching staff and contribute to the development of players.
  - The Development Coach should adhere to all the rules and conduct expected of the coaching staff.
  - The presence of the Development Coach in the dugout is to provide them with practical experience and mentorship from the experienced coaching staff.
- **Compliance and Conduct:**
  - The Development Coach, like all coaching staff, must comply with the Sydney Cup and Baseball NSW's code of conduct and policies.
  - Any breach of these rules may result in the removal of the Development Coach from the tournament.
  - By implementing these guidelines, we aim to foster the growth and development of young coaching talent within the Baseball NSW community, ensuring they receive valuable



experience while maintaining the integrity and competitive spirit of the Sydney Cup. This initiative supports the long-term development and sustainability of baseball coaching in New South Wales and Australia.

- This new rule will take effect starting with the 2024 Sydney Cup tournament. Teams are encouraged to identify and mentor young coaching talent to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **INFIELD/OUTFIELD**

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

### **WASHOUT POLICY**

- **Regular Season Games**
  - Regular season games that are washed out will not be replayed.
- **Finals Series:**
  - **Association Cup:** Two weeks are available for makeup games: December 8 and December 15.
  - **Sydney Cup:** One week is available for makeup games: December 15.
    - If teams agree, December 22 will also be available as a makeup round.
- **Determining Standings:**
  - If there is an uneven number of games played due to washouts, the win percentage will be used to determine seeding in the final standings. Any further tiebreaker determinations will be made using the Little League Tournament Rules {TR}.

## **UMPIRE POLICY**

- **Local Umpires preferred.**
  - Umpires for each round are to be nominated by the Host association's Umpire coordinator (or Association Delegate in the absence of a Umpire coordinator).
  - To minimise travel costs and grow umpires across all associations, preference be given in the allocation of games to local Umpires.
  
- **Final Allocation to games**
  - NSWBUA will allocate the umpires to each game based on the recommendation from the host association Umpire Coordinator

## **KEY CONTACTS**

- **Tournament Manager**
  - Tyson Crocker – [tyson@baseballnsw.com.au](mailto:tyson@baseballnsw.com.au)
  
- **Communications Manager**
  - Georgia Marino – [georgia@baseballnsw.com.au](mailto:georgia@baseballnsw.com.au)
  
- **Development Officer**
  - Coen Wynne – [coen@baseballnsw.com.au](mailto:coen@baseballnsw.com.au)
  
- **Umpire in Charge**
  - Andrew Clements – [juniors@nswbua.org](mailto:juniors@nswbua.org)

### **Message From Baseball New South Wales**

*The Sydney Cup is the essential prelude to our prestigious Baseball NSW State Championships. This pivotal event provides associations and their players with a unique platform to refine and showcase their talents, significantly contributing to the growth and vibrancy of baseball in our region.*

*By fostering competitive excellence and camaraderie, the Sydney Cup plays a crucial role in strengthening the baseball community across Sydney and New South Wales, starting from the grassroots level.*

*This tournament is meticulously designed as a developmental tool, enabling players, coaches, and associations to not only exhibit their skills on the field but also to cultivate a deeper sense of community. Emulating the "State League" atmosphere before they begin their own journey in the NSW State League and beyond. The Sydney Cup introduces participants to a style of baseball that will shape their careers and forge lifelong connections within the sport.*



<b>VENUE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
Gilchrist Oval	<a href="#"><u>Goldsmith Ave, Campbelltown NSW 2560</u></a>
Aquatic Reserve	<a href="#"><u>11 Aquatic Dr, Frenchs Forest NSW 2100</u></a>
North Narrabeen Reserve (Rat Park)	<a href="#"><u>Pittwater Rd, Warriewood NSW 2102</u></a>
Apsley Place Reserve	<a href="#"><u>Apsley Pl, Taren Point NSW 2229</u></a>
Kelso Park	<a href="#"><u>Kelso Park North, 565 Henry Lawson Dr, Panania NSW 2213</u></a>
Alroy Park	<a href="#"><u>Bottles Rd, Plumpton NSW 2761</u></a>
Tregear Reserve	<a href="#"><u>49 Wilkes Cres, Tregear NSW 2770</u></a>
Kellyville Memorial Park	<a href="#"><u>Stone Mason Dr, Kellyville NSW 2155</u></a>
Murray Farm Reserve	<a href="#"><u>55 Carmen Dr, 71 Murray Farm Rd, Carlingford NSW 2118</u></a>
Caddies Creek Reserve	<a href="#"><u>Caddies Creek Reserve, 41 Millcroft Way, Beaumont Hills NSW 2155</u></a>
Colbee Park	<a href="#"><u>Old Hawkesbury Rd, McGraths Hill NSW 2756</u></a>
ELS Hall	<a href="#"><u>109A Kent Rd, North Ryde NSW 2113</u></a>
Auluba Oval	<a href="#"><u>Auluba Rd, South Turramurra NSW 2074</u></a>
Greenway Park	<a href="#"><u>Shepherds Dr, Cherrybrook NSW 2126</u></a>
Golden Jubilee Reserve	<a href="#"><u>Esk St, North Wahroonga NSW 2076</u></a>