

# Baseball NSW – Dual Charter (Friendship Player) Framework

## Little League – Season 2025/26

### Framework Rationale

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a transparent, fair, and accountable framework for considering exceptional cases where a player may seek to participate in baseball activities outside of their allocated Charter under Little League regulations.

This policy ensures that the integrity of the Charter system, Association competitions, and player development pathways are maintained while supporting the wellbeing and circumstances of individual players.

#### Scope

This policy applies to all Baseball NSW registered players under the following Little League programs:

- Intermediate League
- Junior League
- Senior League

#### Guiding Principles

Under the ***Little League Baseball 2025 Rulebook (Regulation II)***, players aged are only eligible to participate in a league within the charter (Association) boundaries they reside.

This policy seeks exemption from Little League International to allow eligible players to participate in a Dual Charter (Association) arrangement within NSW, while maintaining All-Star eligibility **strictly within their residential charter**, provided the player meets the criteria outlined for exceptional circumstances.

- **Primary Affiliation:** Registration of a **Primary Club** within the Charter of their residential address, maintain affiliation with the first club they played baseball with or if they move residence their primary affiliation can move with them.
- **Integrity of Competition:** Dispensation will not be granted if it undermines the strength or sustainability of any Association, Charter, or regional competition.
- **Development Focus:** Any approved dispensation must demonstrate clear developmental, welfare, or participation benefits for the player, without being to the detriment of the charter programmatic offering within the participants residence.
- **Transparency:** All requests must follow a documented process with written rationale and approvals.
- **Safeguards:** A minimum percentage of games must be played for the Primary Club to protect its integrity and contribution to competition.

Baseball NSW recognises that there may be individual circumstances where the strict application of Regulation II results in less-than-ideal outcomes, preventing some players from participating at the appropriate level within their home charter and missing valuable playing opportunities.

Where such exceptional circumstances exist, Baseball NSW will consider the case and, if appropriate, forward it to Little League International for formal exemption. Examples of exceptional circumstances include:

1. **Split Family Living Arrangements** – where a player alternates residency between parents/guardians in different Charter areas.
2. **Club Viability or Competition Balance** – in cases where accommodating a player supports team and/or competition sustainability. For example, where a home charter does not provide a competition at the appropriate level (for example, country associations who do not provide a ‘division 1’ type competition, and that player is able to access such a competition in a neighbouring charter).
3. **Special Participation Requirement** – A player, due to personal circumstances, is unable to participate in the home charter competition (e.g. as a consequence of compulsory School sport on a Saturday).
4. **Exceptional Circumstances** - Dispensation requests considered under ‘*extraordinary*’ circumstances. These do not include opportunities for additional baseball, accelerated development, or personal preference.

All applications for exemption from the eligibility criteria set out in the ***Little League Baseball 2025 Rulebook (Regulation II)*** will be assessed on a **case-by-case basis** and must be submitted in accordance with the application and approval process outlined below.

### Conditions of Approval

If approved, the following conditions will apply:

- a. The **Primary Club and Charter** must always remain the player’s first affiliation for registration, competition, and All-Star eligibility.
- b. The minimum requirement of regular season games must be played with the Primary Club in order to be eligible to trial for the all-star team – as per the **BNSW Age Matrix**.
- c. The **Secondary Club/Charter** may only be accessed (upon approval) under the specific requirements outlined in *the examples of ‘Exceptional Circumstances’*.
- d. Written approval from both **Primary and Secondary Associations** must accompany the application.
- e. Approval is contingent upon the assurance that **no eligible local player is displaced**. Priority for team selection must always be afforded to players residing within the local Charter boundary.
- f. Players undertaking Pitching and Catching must comply with **Pitch Smart Rules** - pitch counts and mandatory rest days carrying over (i.e., pitches thrown Friday apply to Saturday/Sunday eligibility). Parent/Guardians must engage both Coaches communicating pitching/catching innings to secondary club coach to ensure pitch smart rules have been followed.
- g. The arrangement is valid for **one season only** and must be reapplied for annually.
- h. Approval does not guarantee ongoing dispensation in subsequent seasons.

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#### Application & Compliance Process

##### Application & Assessment Process

1. **Player/Parent Request:** Submit a written application addressed to the Baseball NSW – Little League District Administrator, including exception sought under specific eligibility criteria, detailed rationale and supporting documentation.
2. **Primary Club and Association Endorsement:** Confirmation and support from the player’s Primary Club and Association.
3. **Secondary Association Endorsement:** Agreement from the Secondary Club/Association to accept the player under the stated conditions.
4. **Review Panel:** The application will be reviewed by a **Baseball NSW panel**, comprising:
  - Little League District Administrator
  - Baseball NSW Competitions Manager
  - Baseball NSW CEO (or delegate)
5. **Decision:** A written outcome (approved or declined) will be provided within 7 days.
6. **Final Determination:** All decisions of the Baseball NSW Dispensation Committee are final and binding. There is no avenue for appeal.

##### Compliance & Monitoring

- Clubs must record all games played by dispensation-approved players to verify compliance with the **minimum** requirement of regular season games in order to be eligible to trial for the all-star team – as per the [BNSW Age Matrix](#).
- Breaches of this policy will result in immediate withdrawal of dispensation and potential sanctions for clubs or players.
- Baseball NSW will continue to review and monitor the above policy implementation within affiliated competitions. The policy is reviewed annually with continuation into future seasons determined by stakeholder compliance, application, and endorsement.

##### Effective Date

This policy comes into effect for the **2025–26 season** and will be reviewed annually by Baseball NSW.