



BASEBALL
NEW SOUTH WALES

DUAL CHARTER (FRIENDSHIP PLAYER) FRAMEWORK

Baseball NSW Season 2026/27



Baseball NSW

Dual Charter (Friendship Player) Framework

Season 2026–27

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Approved By	Baseball NSW

This Framework should be read in full. A summary or extract should not be relied upon in place of the complete document.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Framework provides Baseball NSW with a transparent, fair, and accountable basis for considering exceptional cases in which a player seeks to participate in baseball activities outside their allocated Charter under Little League regulations.

It is intended to protect the integrity of the Charter system, Association competitions, and player development pathways, while having appropriate regard to the wellbeing and individual circumstances of players.

1.2 Scope

This Framework applies to all Baseball NSW registered players participating in the following Little League programs:

- Intermediate League
- Junior League
- Senior League

1.3 Relationship to Other Rules

This Framework operates within, and is subordinate to, the Little League Baseball Rulebook (as in force for the relevant season), the Constitution and By-Laws of Baseball Australia and Baseball NSW, and any applicable Baseball NSW Member Protection or Child Safe policy.

Where a Dual Charter Arrangement requires a formal exemption under Regulation II of the Little League Baseball Rulebook, that arrangement remains subject to the final approval of Little League International. Approval by Baseball NSW under this Framework does not, of itself, guarantee that such an exemption will be granted.

2. Definitions

In this Framework, unless the context otherwise requires:

Term	Meaning
All-Star Team	A representative team selected from a Charter to compete in Little League International tournament play.
Assessment Panel	The panel constituted under section 5.3 to assess applications made under this Framework.
Association	A Baseball NSW affiliated local Little League association operating within a defined Charter.

Charter	The geographic boundary area within which a Local Association is authorised by Little League International to operate, and within which a player must generally reside in order to be eligible to register, as set out in Regulation II of the Little League Baseball Rulebook.
Dispensation	The approval granted by Baseball NSW under this Framework permitting a Dual Charter Arrangement.
Dual Charter Arrangement	An arrangement approved under this Framework (and, where required, by Little League International) permitting a player to be registered with, and participate for, both a Primary Club and a Secondary Club within NSW for a single season.
Dual Registered Player / Friendship Player	A player who holds a current, approved Dual Charter Arrangement. The two terms are used interchangeably in this Framework.
Little League International (LLI)	Little League Baseball, Incorporated, including the Little League Baseball Rulebook in force for the relevant season.
Primary Club / Primary Association	The club and Association within the Charter of a player’s residential address, being the player’s first affiliation for registration, competition, and All-Star eligibility.
Secondary Club / Secondary Association	The additional club and Association, outside a player’s residential Charter, approved to provide a Dual Registered Player with supplementary playing opportunities under this Framework.
this Framework	This Baseball NSW Dual Charter (Friendship Player) Framework, as amended from time to time.

3. Guiding Principles

Under Regulation II of the Little League Baseball Rulebook, players are eligible to register and participate only within the Charter boundary in which they reside.

This Framework sets out the basis on which Baseball NSW will consider seeking an exemption from Little League International to permit an eligible player to participate under a Dual Charter Arrangement within NSW, while All-Star eligibility is retained strictly within the player’s residential Charter. A Dual Charter Arrangement is available only where a player meets the criteria for exceptional circumstances set out in section 4, and remains subject to the principles set out below.

- **Primary Affiliation:** a player’s Primary Club registration must be within the Charter of their residential address. A player’s primary affiliation is with the first club they played for and, if the player changes residence, that affiliation may move with them.

- **Integrity of Competition:** dispensation will not be granted where it would undermine the strength or sustainability of any Association, Charter, or regional competition.
- **Development Focus:** any approved dispensation must demonstrate a clear developmental, welfare, or participation benefit to the player, without detriment to the programmatic offering of the Charter in which the player resides.
- **Transparency:** all applications must follow the documented process set out in section 5, supported by a written rationale and the required approvals.
- **Safeguards:** a minimum proportion of games must be played for the Primary Club, in accordance with the [BNSW Age Matrix](#) published for the relevant season, to protect the integrity of, and the Primary Club's contribution to, the competition.
- **Procedural Fairness:** every application will be assessed on its merits by an Assessment Panel free of material conflict of interest, and a written outcome with reasons will be provided.
- **Privacy:** personal information provided in connection with an application will be collected, used, and disclosed only as reasonably necessary to assess and administer the application, and in accordance with section 10.2.

4. Grounds for Dispensation (Exceptional Circumstances)

Baseball NSW recognises that strict application of Regulation II may, in some circumstances, prevent a player from participating at an appropriate level within their home Charter, resulting in the loss of valuable playing opportunities.

Where such circumstances exist, Baseball NSW will consider the application and, if appropriate, refer it to Little League International for formal exemption. The following are examples of circumstances that may be considered. They are illustrative, not exhaustive, and each application is assessed on its individual merits:

1. **Split Family Living Arrangements** – where a player alternates residency between parents or guardians who reside in different Charter areas.
2. **Club Viability or Competition Balance** – where accommodating a player supports team or competition sustainability, for example where a home Charter does not offer a competition at the appropriate level (such as a country Association without a Division 1-type competition) and the player is able to access that level of competition in a neighbouring Charter.
3. **Special Participation Requirement** – where a player is unable, due to personal circumstances, to participate in their home Charter competition, for example as a result of compulsory school sport on a Saturday.
4. **Other Exceptional Circumstances** – any other circumstance assessed by Baseball NSW as genuinely extraordinary.

For the avoidance of doubt, dispensation will not be granted, irrespective of the ground relied upon, where the underlying purpose is to obtain additional baseball opportunities, pursue accelerated development, or satisfy a personal or family preference.

5. Application & Assessment Process

5.1 Pre-Registration Requirement

Important – a player must not register with, train with, or participate in any capacity for a Secondary Club until: (a) the Dual Charter Application has been approved in writing by both the Primary Club/Association and the Secondary Club/Association; and (b) the Application has been formally assessed, approved, and endorsed by Baseball NSW in accordance with section 5.3. Registering with, or participating for, a Secondary Club before this approval is obtained is a breach of this Framework (see section 8) and will result in the immediate withdrawal of any dispensation.

5.2 Application Steps

An application for dispensation under this Framework follows the steps set out below.

1. **Player/Parent Application** – a written application is submitted to the Baseball NSW State Little League Administrator, identifying the specific ground relied upon under section 4, together with a written rationale and supporting documentation. The application must also indicate whether the player intends to be considered for All-Star selection. This indication is for administrative and monitoring purposes only and does not limit or extend the player's eligibility to trial, which is governed exclusively by section 6(b).
2. **Primary Association Endorsement** – written confirmation and support from the player's Primary Club and Association.
3. **Secondary Association Endorsement** – written agreement from the Secondary Club and Association to accept the player under the conditions set out in this Framework.
4. **Assessment Panel Review** – the completed application is reviewed by the Assessment Panel (see section 5.3).
5. **Decision** – a written outcome, including reasons, is provided within 7 business days of receipt of a complete application.
6. **Notification** – written notice of the outcome is provided to the applicant, the Primary Association, and the Secondary Association.

5.3 Assessment Panel

Applications are assessed by a Baseball NSW Assessment Panel comprising:

- the NSW State Little League Administrator;
- the Baseball NSW Head of Performance & Operations; and
- the Baseball NSW Chief Executive Officer (or delegate).

Panel members are subject to the conflict of interest requirements set out in section 10.1.

5.4 Late Applications

An application should be submitted as early as practicable in the season. Baseball NSW retains discretion to accept or decline an application received after the season has commenced, having regard to the reason for the delay, the proportion of the season remaining, and whether considering the application would compromise the integrity of the competition or the All-Star selection process.

For the avoidance of doubt, an application received, or a Dual Charter Arrangement approved, after Baseball NSW has opened nominations for All-Star trials in the relevant Charter does not, of itself, create or restore eligibility to trial for the All-Star team in that season. Eligibility to trial remains governed exclusively by section 6(b).

6. Conditions of Approval

If an application is approved, the following conditions apply:

- Primary Affiliation Maintained** – the Primary Club and Charter must at all times remain the player's first affiliation for registration, competition, and All-Star eligibility.
- Minimum Game Requirement** – the player must play the minimum number of regular season games for the Primary Club required by the BNSW Age Matrix in order to be eligible to trial for the All-Star team. This requirement is assessed against games actually played as at the date of trials and applies regardless of whether the player indicated an intention, or no intention, to trial for All-Stars earlier in the season. A player who has not met the requirement by that date is not eligible to trial for the All-Star team in that season, irrespective of a later decision to trial, the date of any application under this Framework, or the date of any approval.
- Limited Secondary Access** – the Secondary Club/Charter may only be accessed for the specific ground approved under section 4.
- Dual Written Approval** – written approval from both the Primary and Secondary Associations must accompany, and remain on file with, the application.
- No Displacement of Local Players** – approval is conditional on the assurance that no eligible local player is displaced. Priority for team selection must always be given to players residing within the local Charter boundary.
- Pitch Smart Compliance** – a player undertaking pitching or catching duties must comply with [Pitch Smart](#) pitch count and mandatory rest requirements, including where rest obligations arising from one club carry over to fixtures with the other (for example, pitches thrown on a

Friday may affect eligibility to pitch on the following Saturday or Sunday). The player's parent/guardian must ensure that pitching and catching innings are communicated between the Primary and Secondary Club coaches so that Pitch Smart requirements are observed across both clubs.

- g. **Single Season Validity** – the arrangement is valid for one season only and must be reapplied for annually; it does not carry over between seasons.
- h. **No Guarantee of Renewal** – approval in one season creates no entitlement to, and does not guarantee, dispensation in any subsequent season.
- i. **Pre-Registration Compliance** – registration with, or participation for, the Secondary Club must not occur until the requirements of section 5.1 have been satisfied.

7. Management of Dual Registered Players

Subject to compliance with this Framework (including the Conditions of Approval in section 6, and in particular the requirement that no eligible local player be displaced), Associations and Clubs retain autonomy to determine how a Dual Registered Player is managed within their own playing environment.

This may include, without limitation, decisions about team allocation and the pooling or rotation of players across teams, provided that any such arrangement remains consistent with the rationale and ethos of this Framework.

Baseball NSW does not prescribe a uniform operational model for managing Dual Registered Players and will not intervene in an Association's or Club's operational decisions made in good faith and in accordance with this Framework.

8. Compliance, Monitoring & Breach

- **Record-Keeping:** Clubs must record all games played by every Dual Registered Player, regardless of whether the player has indicated an intention to trial for All-Stars, and make those records available to Baseball NSW on request, to verify compliance with the minimum game requirement in section 6(b).
- **Breach:** a breach of this Framework will result in the immediate withdrawal of the relevant dispensation and may result in sanctions against the club, Association, or player, and may affect the player's or club's ability to apply for, or be granted, dispensation in future seasons.
- **Ongoing Review:** Baseball NSW will monitor implementation of this Framework within affiliated competitions. The Framework is reviewed at least annually, and its continuation into future seasons is determined by Baseball NSW having regard to stakeholder compliance, application volume, and endorsement.

9. Decisions, Finality & Escalation

An outcome determined by Baseball NSW under this Framework is final and binding as the final level of internal review available within Baseball NSW.

Where a party to an application is dissatisfied with an outcome, the sole avenue of escalation is to Baseball Australia, via the National Little League Administrator, whose determination on the matter is final.

This section governs the internal review process available under this Framework and the respective structures of Baseball NSW and Baseball Australia. It does not exclude, restrict, or otherwise affect any other right or remedy that a party may have available to it at law.

10. General Provisions

10.1 Conflict of Interest

A person involved in assessing or determining an application under this Framework, including a member of the Assessment Panel, must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest and must not take part in assessing or determining that application where a conflict exists. Baseball NSW will appoint a suitable substitute or delegate as required to ensure an application is assessed by an appropriately constituted, conflict-free decision-maker.

10.2 Privacy & Confidentiality

Personal information provided in connection with an application is collected, used, and disclosed only as reasonably necessary to assess, administer, and monitor compliance with a Dual Charter Arrangement, including disclosure to the Primary and Secondary Associations, the Assessment Panel, Baseball Australia, and Little League International, where relevant. Information is handled in accordance with the Baseball NSW Privacy Policy and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

10.3 Severability

If any provision of this Framework is or becomes invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable, that provision is to be read down to the minimum extent necessary to cure the defect, or if that is not possible, severed, without affecting the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions.

10.4 Variation & Review

Baseball NSW may amend this Framework at any time. This Framework will be reviewed at least annually in accordance with section 8.



11. Effective Date

This Framework takes effect from the commencement of the 2026–27 season and supersedes the Baseball NSW Dual Charter (Friendship Player) Framework – Season 2025–26 in its entirety. It will continue to be reviewed annually by Baseball NSW in accordance with section 8.



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