



Playing Rules, Policies & Procedures 2019/20

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Abbreviations

ABF --- Australian Baseball Federation Incorporated.

ASC --- Australian Sports Commission.

CNSW---Country NSW Baseball.

NSWBL --- New South Wales Baseball League Incorporated , also known as NSW Baseball.

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

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

OABR --- Official Australian Baseball Rules as published by the ABF.

Tribunal --- NSWWBL or NSW Baseball Tribunal.

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:

ABF Member Protection Policy:

<http://baseball.com.au/Portals/27/Policies/BA%20MPP%20Version%20Six%20Aug%202013.pdf>

Baseball NSW General Policy:

<http://www.nsw.baseball.com.au/>

Baseball NSW Player Protection Policy- Specific Policy for Pitch Limitations:

<http://nsw.baseball.com.au/Portals/29/BNSW%20State%20Member%20Protection%20Policy%202016%20v.1.3.pdf>

NSW Womens League Policy:

http://www.nswwbl.baseball.com.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=Display_Page&PageID=10355&OrgID=19442

Any suspected breach of NSW Baseball Policy in regards to inappropriate behaviour (e.g. harassment, discrimination) should be referred to the Member Protection Officer of Baseball NSW. Details of the resolution process can be found in the Baseball NSW Member Protection Policy (2015).

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 Australian Baseball Rules (OABR), 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, OABR, 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.

1 LEGISLATION

- 1.1 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 have 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.
- 1.2 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.

2 DRUGS

- 2.1 The anti-doping policy that has been adopted by the ABF will be enforced.
- 2.2 Any player who is required by 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.
- 2.3 Clubs are to ensure that all players who have queries regarding prescribed drugs are advised to consult the ASADA web site at www.asada.gov.au and if further information is required, contact the drug advisory hotline on 1800 020 506.

3. REGISTRATIONS

- 3.1 For the purposes of 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 NSWWB and who maintains their eligibility to participate by at all times meeting the criteria detailed in this Policy Document. The NSWWB will adhere to all State and National policy regarding gender based sport.
- 3.2 The minimum age of players registering and competing in 2nd Grade competition is 14 years of age on 1st September in the year that the competition commences.
- 3.3 The minimum age of players registering and competing in 1st Grade competition is 15 years of age on 1st September in the year that the competition commences. 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.
- 3.4 The minimum age of a bat person(s) is to be 12 years of age.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.

- 3.7 Each WL club shall register the name, address, date of birth, Working With Children Number where required and ABF 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 prior to 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 17.5, other penalty as defined in the Penalties Document and any other such penalty as may be determined by the NSWWBL from time to time.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Only registrations of managers, coaches and Executive Officers who currently hold and continue to hold valid Working With Children certification shall be excepted. Should any Manager, coach or Executive Officers' Working With Children qualification be revoked or expire, the registration of that person is deemed to be withdrawn until such time as the Working With Children status is renewed or restored.
- 3.10 The minimum number of players being registered:
- (i) to any Stand Alone Team is to be not less than equal to ten (10),
 - (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.
- 3.11 There is no maximum number of registrations to either a Club or Team.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 Late registrations (i.e. any player/official not listed on the original prescribed form), subject to 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) Player's names must be noted on the Result Sheet for the first game they appear in.
 - (3) 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.
 - (4) No new registrations will be accepted after Close of Business on December 15th of the year in which the competition commences.
- 3.14 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.

- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 A team, subject to the exemptions granted for participants registering later in the competition as defined in sections 3.8, 3.9 and 3.13 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 each and every game in which an unregistered player, coach or manager participates.
- 3.17 Import Players may be registered subject to the following restrictions:
- (i) Designation of a player as an import is based on the following Visa eligibility (In all cases, Visa must have been issued, not just applied for):
 - Holiday Visa – Import.
 - Work Visa issued after 1st August 2017 – Import.
 - Spousal Visa issued after 1st August 2018 – Import.
 - Student Visa issued after 1st August 2019 – Import.
 - (ii) A maximum of 2 imports per club is allowed.
 - (iii) Import players may only play 1st Grade unless exceptional circumstances apply. This shall be at the sole discretion of the Competition Manager.
 - (iv) Copy of the visa must be lodged with the CM.

4 TEAM ROSTERS and FEEDER CLUBS

STAND ALONE 1st GRADE TEAMS:

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Any Feeder Club co-agreement must be notified to and confirmed in written correspondence to the NSWWBL prior to the commencement of the season or other such time as determined by the NSWWBL. The NSWWBL must give approval for Feeder Club co-agreements.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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:

- 4.6 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, exception Feeder Teams as specified below.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 If a Club has multiple 1st Grade teams and multiple 2nd Grade teams, players from these 2nd Grade team 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 prior to the start of the season and may not be changed once such nomination is approved by the NSWABL.

PLAYING ROSTERS:

4.11 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 players 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 but NOT until after three (3) complete inning have been played. 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) A 2nd Grade registered player may form part of the starting line-up of a 1st Grade team or be used as a Fresh Reserve for a maximum of five (5) appearances before becoming ineligible to play in 2nd Grade. Upon the 6th appearance that player shall be reclassified as a 1st Grade player. A Fresh Reserve is a player that has not played (taken the field) in a lower grade game in that round. **A Fresh Reserve player will have that appearance classified as a start in 1st Grade.**
- (vi) 2nd Grade Registered players may only enter the game as substitutes after three (3) complete inning or 90 minutes of the game have been played. **Penalty: Classified as a 1st Grade Start for that 2nd grade player.**
- (vii) 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).

4.12 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) If any 2nd Grade player starts or is used as a Fresh Reserve in total for six (6) games or more in 1st Grade they will not be permitted to play in any lower Grade games for the remainder of the season. After 6 starts in 1st Grade that player shall be reclassified as a 1st Grade player. **Penalty Forfeit.**
- (v) 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).

4.13 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, in an effort to get them to the "next level".

5 TRANSFERS

- 5.1 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.

5.2 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 3 of this document.

5.3 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.

5.4 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).

5.5 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 prior to that player transferring to another WL Club.

5.6 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.

6 MEDICAL

6.1 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.

6.2 Players or officials with such a condition shall seek medical advice in relation to their continuing participation in the sport.

6.3 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.

6.4 All persons who register with Baseball NSW agree that they shall NOT contravene any medical advice in relation to their continued participation and when required, provide a medical certificate approving their continued participation in the sport.

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

6.6 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 also upon gaining clearance to resume playing.

7 UNIFORMS

- 7.1 All affiliated clubs shall register the colours, logos and design of its uniform and warm-up jackets with NSWBL. 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 NSWBL.
- 7.2 Baseball caps will form part of the uniform and must be worn at all times except when the batting helmet or catcher's protective helmet is worn.
- 7.3 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 lettering is affixed to the uniform or other such standard that may be specified by baseball NSW or Baseball Australia from time to time.
- 7.4 Limited advertising is permitted. NSWBL 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.
- 7.5 It is recommended that abdominal protection is worn by all participants including bat/ball persons.

8 ALTERATION TO DRAW

- 8.1 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 NSWBL may make alterations to the playing schedule or venues where necessary.
- 8.2 Other than a change of venue or change of time to facilitate cooperation with another league, Clubs requesting approval in accordance with section 8.1 and within 7 days of scheduled commencement of the game shall incur a fine of \$100.
- 8.3 Notwithstanding sections 8.2 or 9.4, if a Club requests approval in accordance with section 8.1 after the commencement of the competition, shall incur a fine of \$50.
- 8.4 If the Competition Manager declares that an approved "deferred game" must be played or replayed within a specified time period, should that game not proceed for any reason

whatsoever, the initial decision regarding the outcome of that game made by the Competition Manager shall be re-instated and this decision shall be final.

9 GAME PRELIMINARIES – FITNESS OF GROUND

9.1 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) Wet weather Co-ordinator,
- (2) Competition Manager,
- (3) NSWBUA Umpires' Co-ordinator,
- (4) Opposing team.

See handbook for contact details.

9.2 Where sufficient notice is given, closures will be noted on the NSWWB website.

9.3 Notifications are to be made as early as possible. Notifications advised after 8.30 am on game day will incur the umpire's fees being charged to the HOME Club.

9.4 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 the day before the scheduled playing date.

9.5 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 NSWWB reserves the right to reschedule the game and such decision shall be final. Any rescheduled game is required to be notified by the NSWWB to the teams concerned within seven (7) days of the original scheduled date and any rescheduled game must be played within fourteen (14) days of the original scheduled date or other such date as determined by the NSWWB. NSWWB shall be responsible for notification to the NSWBUA of any such rescheduled game(s).

10 POINT SCORE and DETERMINING OF RANKING

10.1 For the purpose of determining positions in the ranking for Round Games and Semi Finals in all Grades of the NSWWB 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 (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.

10.2 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 10.1 above.

11 MANAGERS AND COACHES

- 11.1 Notwithstanding OABR 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.
- 11.2 Notwithstanding OABR Section 2.0, coaches listed on the Line-up Card must have a minimum Coaching Accreditation as determined by the NSW Baseball Technical Committee from time to time.
- 11.3 The manager and each coach participating in a game must have their full name (first and surname), current NCAS accreditation level and number listed on the Line-up card in a clear and legible manner.
- 11.4 The manager and coaches must be financial member(s) of the Club they are managing/coaching and their detail must be entered into the official League Registration Database.
- 11.5 Exemptions to the requirements in section 11.1 and 11.2 may be granted by the WL Executive in consultation with the NSW Baseball Technical Committee. PENALTY: the offending club shall be fined \$350.

12 SCORERS

- 12.1 Clubs playing in the NSWBL 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.
- 12.2 Each Club shall appoint an accredited scorer as the Club's Scoring Co-ordinator.
- 12.3 Scorers shall be seated together in the designated area behind home plate where possible.
- 12.4 The home team is required to provide a table, chairs and shelter that provides adequate cover from all forms of weather.
- 12.5 Venues for night games shall have adequate lighting in the designated scorers' area so that scorers are able to effectively perform their duties.
- 12.6 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.
- 12.7 All games shall be scored in the official scorebook as supplied by NSW Scorers Association.

13 UMPIRES

- 13.1 Notwithstanding section 20.1 of the Rules Supplement official umpires shall be appointed to all games by the NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc. or by the NSWBL if appointments are not made by NSWBUA or if appointed official(s) fail to attend.

- 13.2 Notwithstanding section 20.1 of the Rules Supplement NSWBL WL Clubs shall not interfere in any way with appointments.
- 13.3 Payment of umpires fees shall be made on the basis of 50% of the total fee due per game and shall be paid by each Club participating in that Round 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 NSWBL upon receipt of invoice.
- 13.4 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 specified in section 13.3 above.

14 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 14.1 Each home WL Club shall lodge results to the Competition Management System in the prescribed manner as determined from time to time within 30 minutes following completion of the game.
- 14.2 Each home WL Club shall notify the media as appointed by the WL Executive on the Sunday following the game and before the deadline for Monday publishing with the following information:
- (1) All Grades Box Scores for the Round Games including the names of pitchers, catchers and hits.
- Penalty: The NSWBL shall notify all Clubs prior to the commencement of the season or at other such time in regard to the media contact(s) for that season. Failure to comply with these rules is a monetary fine of a Fifty (\$50) Dollar fine per team per game.***
- 14.3 Each Club is required to forward to the Competition Manager by the prescribed method the 'soft format' of the result sheets by 9.00 PM on the Monday following the game. Penalty: monetary fine of \$50.00 per result sheet not submitted by the required time.
- 14.4 The result sheet shall be inscribed with the manager of each team and all coaching staff participating in that game.
- 14.5 Where a wash out occurs a result sheet, indicating that the game was washed out is required to be submitted to the Competition Manager.
- 14.6 Results of all games will be available on NSWBL web page:
www.nswbl.baseball.com.au
- 14.7 Both teams shall submit scanned copies of both pages of the scoresheets to the Statistician nswblresults@gmail.com by 6pm on the Monday following the game.

15 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 15.1 As defined in section 3 of this document 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) WL team's starting Line-up in the same Round UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (ACCEPTABLE TO THE NSWBL) occur.
- 15.2 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.
- 15.3 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.
- 15.4 Subject to section 15.3 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.

16 FINALS SERIES

- 16.1 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 6 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.
- 16.2 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 3 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.

- 16.3 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 4.
 - (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 1st Grade 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 2nd Grade 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 NSWBL 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 NSWBL 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.

16.4 Finals Series Draw:

The following draw will apply for all Finals Series games in all Grade of competition conducted by the NSWBL 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

- 16.5 Finals series games shall be played at the grounds nominated by the Competition Manager which shall be notified in advance.
- 16.6 Ground Fees for all Finals Series games will be paid by the NSWBL.
- 16.7 Umpires for the Finals Series shall be appointed by NSWBUA.
- 16.8 Both teams shall provide a sufficient number of approved new leather game baseballs for semi-final and preliminary final games. NSWBL will provide game baseballs for all Grand Final games.
- 16.9 If a final series game (other than a Grand Final) is unable to start due to inclement weather or ground condition, 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 Tuesday night cut off. In similar instances, 1st Grade (Saturday) fixtures may be rescheduled with a Wednesday 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 chair person's decision on an alternate time and venue will be final.
- 16.10 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 NSWBL the higher ranked team in the series at the Grand Final shall be declared the winner.
- 16.11 The duration of all Finals Series games shall be determined by innings only.
- (i) First Grade shall be 7 innings without time limit and must be played to a result.
 - (ii) Second Grade shall be 6 innings with a three (3) hour time limit and must be played to a result.
 - (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 6 innings, or completed innings after the time has elapsed, proceed to the tie break rule.

16.12 The ten (10) run ahead Mercy Rule shall apply to all Grades and Divisions of Grades in all Finals Series games.

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 shall be subject to penalties including but not limited to loss of the game and monetary fines as determined by the NSWBL from time to time.

17.2 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.

17.3 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.

17.4 For "Not Enough Players Rule" see the NSWBL Rules Supplement section which specifies amendments and additions to OABR section 4.17.

17.5 A team who 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.

17.6 A team who 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.

17.7 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.

17.8 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.

18 PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 Failure to observe the CORRECT PROCEDURE above shall render any protest invalid.
- 18.3 The NSWWBL or persons appointed by it shall be the authority as to whether or not 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.
- 18.4 The NSWWBL will make the necessary rulings where penalties are not stipulated for rule infringements, these may include but not be limited to, loss of a game involved in protest, monetary fine or no penalty.
It should also be understood that loss of a game does not always award a "win" to the opposing team.
- 18.5 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, 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.
- 18.6 Clubs will have the right to appeal any decision of NSWWBL to the NSWWBL Appeals Committee.
- 18.7 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.
- 18.8 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.
- 18.9 The decision of the NSWWBL Appeals Committee shall be FINAL.
- 18.10 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.

19 PLAYER PROTECTION POLICY

19.1 All NSWWBL competitions shall comply with the Player Protection Policy as approved by the NSW Women's Baseball League at that time (see NSW Women's Baseball League web site for full policy details, (<http://www.nswwbl.baseball.com.au/>).

19.2 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) weeks for the first offence and subject to incremental increase as determined by the NSWWBL for any further offence of this same type.

19.3 Pitching Restrictions

No player under 15 years of age shall pitch in any Senior WL game whatsoever.

19.4 The NSWWBL adheres to the Baseball NSW policy regarding pitch limits and the current NSW policy of MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines. A copy of the current policy is attached as Appendix 2.

20 APPROVED VENUES

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

21 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 proscribed 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 proscribed period, a fine of \$250.00 shall be applied and in addition two (2) competition points shall be deducted from the total competition points of each and every team of that Club entered into any Women's League competition in progress at that time. 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.

22 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.

23 AMENDMENT TO POLICY AND PROCEDURES

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

End of Document. Policy and Procedures NSWBL 2019-20 v1.0.

Appendix 1.

Annual Awards will be made for the Sydney Women's League Competition in 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 NSWBL competition.

Most Valuable Player of the Season.

- The MVP award shall be made to that player attaining the highest number of points awarded throughout the competition rounds (excluding all finals series games).
- Only one award of points may be made in each game and to only to one single player.
- The game must be deemed by the umpire in chief to be a "Regulation Game" for any MVP points to be awarded.
- Three (3) points shall be awarded to that one player deemed to be the most valuable in that game.
- These points shall be awarded by the scorers (one scorer from each team competing in that game) at the conclusion of each game. These results shall be held in confidence and forwarded to the Women's League Secretary in the approved manner applicable at that time.
- If common agreement regarding the most valuable player cannot be made by the scorers from each team for that game, no points shall be allocated to any player towards the Season MVP award.
- No one player may receive more than a single allocation of points from a single game.
- The decision of the delegated authority in determining the award shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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" Total equivalent to or in excess of 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 inning 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 NSWABL competition.
- Submissions for Rookie of the Year will be invited from all teams participating in that season's NSWABL 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 one only 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 NSWABL 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

PITCHING RESTRICTIONS. (MLB PitchSmart Guidelines.)

- 16.1
- (a) This policy does not differentiate between genders and 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" 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 pitchers count.
 - (h) The Umpire has the authority to police the Pitching Rule; however, coaches are responsible for complying with these rules.

16.2 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.

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	76+
19-22 yrs	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
23+	125				76-100	101+

16.3 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 days rest is considered as **ONE FULL CALENDAR DAY**, and not calculated as a 24-hour period.
- (d) Any player pitching a **MAJOR** assignment will be required to complete one days 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) Having thrown a **SHORT** Assignment, a pitcher may only throw another **SHORT** Assignment on the same day or on the following day.
- (f) Senior players may go from Pitcher to any other position (except catcher) after pitching a Major Assignment. (100 pitches) – May finish batter.
Under 23 players may go from pitcher to any other position (except catcher) after pitching a Major Assignment. (75 pitches) – May finish batter.
Under 18 Players may only go to another position (except catcher) after a Substantial Assignment. (60 pitches) – May finish batter.
- (h) If a player pitches a **MAJOR** in a game, they can only participate in a second game of the same **weekend** as a designated hitter, pinch hitter, or runner. (60-75-100 pitches)
- (i) No player may pitch and then catch in the same game.

16.4 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.

16.5 Penalties for any breaches of Rule 16.

- (a) 9-0 forfeit to the non-offending team.
- (b) \$300 fine for 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 also to encourage clubs to develop more pitchers.

End of Appendix. Policy and Procedures NSWBL 2019-20 v1.0.