



BASEBALL
NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW Women's Baseball League

Rules Supplement
2019/20 Season

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Loc: NSWWBL Cloud Storage

Date: 13th September 2019
Release Version 1.0

Document Control

Version	Date Released	Section	Remarks
1.0	18 August 2013	Various	Reformat of Rules Supplement :- All references now relate to OABR.
		1.1	Reworded.
		1.2	New addition: Old 1.2 thru 1.7 moved to new Sect. 11:- Regulation Game.
		1.3	New Addition.
		2	On Field Behaviour: Moved from old sect 13.
		3	Deliberate Collision: Moved from old sect 14 and reworded with inclusions.
		4	New Section: Warm Up Pitch Limits.
		5	Tribunal: Moved from old section 17.
		6	Uniforms: Moved from old sect 3 and additions.
		7	Helmets: Moved from old sect 4 and clarification.
			Old sect 5:- Smoking and Alcohol: removed to ABF Policy Reference only.
		8	Manager: Moved from old sect 6 reworded for Manager and Coach.
		9	New Section: Game Preliminaries.
		10	Player Substitute: Reworded for 2 nd Grade games.
		11	Regulation Game: Moved from old sect 1, reworded and clarification.
		12	New Section:- Suspended Games.
		13	New Section:- Not Enough Players: moved from sect 1.7 reworded and clarification.
		14	Protesting A Game: Moved from Old sect 15.
		15	Scoring A Run:- Reworded for Grades other than 1 st Grade.
		16	Designated Hitter Rule: Reworded and clarification.
		17	Defensive Visits: Addition and clarification.
		18	Umpire: Moved from old sect 7.
		19	Violation Reports: New Section.
			Competition Grade name change from A and B Grades to 1 st and 2 nd Grades.
			Old sect 8 Infection Rule: Removed to ABF Policy reference only.
			Old sect 9 Pitching Restriction NSWBL Player Protection Policy, removed to NSWBL Player Protection Reference only.
			Old sect 12 Equipment moved to Game Preliminaries.
			Old sect 16 Forfeits moved to Policy and Procedures.
			Old sect 17 Tribunals moved to Violation Reports.
V1.1	12 October 2013	Various	Amendments to permit more than 9 batters in 2 nd Grade Line-up.
2015/16	Draft v0.1		Discussion Document for 2015/16
V2.0	5 July 2015	Release	V2.0 approved for release as 2015/16 Rules Document.
		TOC & Definitions	Minor grammatical corrections, addition of definitions.
		Various	BNSW changed to NSW Baseball
		1.2	Reference now to AOBR v7
		3.3	Removes obligation to slide but retains obligation to avoid.
		5	Clarification that NSWBL shall convene tribunals for WLSC conducted events.
		5.3	Clarification that a person ejected from a WLSC Event cannot participate until a NSWBL tribunal has passed its findings.
		6	Updated to facilitate multiple divisions in 1 st Grade.
		6	Clarification that Grades other than divisions of 1 st grade may commence a game and play with 8 players without any penalty.

		6	Clarification that in Grades other than divisions of 1 st grade, should a team commence with 9 or more players and be reduced to less than 9 players, auto out penalties shall apply.
		9	Previous Section 9(d), Manager being a financial member of a Club has been moved to Policy and Procedures manual.
		9	Previous Section 9(f), Manager and Coach Accreditation, moved to Policy and Procedures manual.
		10.1(c)	Removed to align with OABR v7. Baseballs no longer need to be of the same brand. Remaining component of section 10 renumbered.
		11	Updated to facilitate multiple divisions in 1 st Grade.
		12	Updated to facilitate multiple divisions in 1 st Grade.
		12	Entering the Field, clarification for grades other than 1 st Grade.
		13(a)	Game duration for 1 st Grade now not time limited.
		13(a)	Games other than 1 st Grade to be seven (7) innings.
		13(a)3	Mercy rule to apply to 1 st Grade only.
		13(a)4	Mercy rule removed for all time limited games.
		13(a)4	Hard Finish at 2 hours for all timed games.
		13(b)1	Removal of provision for a Draw in 1 st Grade. No innings limit to attain a result.
		13(b)2	Clarification to allow a Draw in all grades except 1 st Grade untimed games.
		13(c)1	Amended to facilitate 7 innings in grades other than 1 st Grade and renumbering of following sub sections.
		New Section 14	Final Score: Amended to facilitate reverting to the last even inning. Renumbering of all following sections.
		15	Suspended games: Provision to facilitate Suspended Games in all Grades for every game of a Finals Series.
		16	Not Enough Players amended to facilitate multiple divisions of 1 st Grade. Clarification of Forfeit in grades other than 1 st Grade where a team fails to place 8 players on the field.
		18	Updated to facilitate multiple divisions in 1 st Grade.
		19	Updated to facilitate multiple divisions in 1 st Grade.
		22	Violation Reports to be sent to NSW Baseball and NSWWBL Secretary.
2016/17	Release v1.0		Approved Release Document for 2016/17
			Addition of Preamble.
		6	OABR 1.01 clarification re auto out application.
		13	Game Timing, 1 st Grade reduced to 2 hours 15 minutes.
		13	Amendment of "Tied Game" to reflect 2 hours 15 maximum playing time.
		15	Suspended Games clarification so that WL regulations not OABR are enforced.
2017/18	Release v1.0	Abbreviations	Clarification of NSWWBL Executive definition.
		5.2	Confirmation of Executive to decide tribunal proceedings.
		13 (a) (4) 13 (b), (c), (d), (h), (i).	Section deleted. Remove "hard finish" at 2 hours and allow inning to complete. Allow play to avoid a draw. Re-numbering of sub sections within.
		16	Removal of conflicting section 16 (b).
2019/20	Release v1.0	13 (h)	Reinstating the completion of an inning

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.

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Abbreviations

ABF --- Australian Baseball Federation Incorporated.

CNSW---Country NSW Baseball

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

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 Tribunal.

UIC --- Umpire in Chief.

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.

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 described in this document that particular circumstance should be interpreted as not being approved and the interpretation shall default to the OABR, National or State Baseball policy in force at that time.

1 RULES AND PROCEDURES

- 1.1 These Rules shall govern the NSW Women's Baseball League (NSWWBL) Competition. All matches of the NSWWBL will be conducted under the Official Australian Baseball Rules (OABR), the amendments documented in this Rules Supplement and the approved NSWWBL Policies and Procedures document in force at that time.
- 1.2 This Rules supplement should be read in conjunction with the OABR 7th Edition and various National and State Policies. If in conflict, these rules shall take precedence.
- 1.3 In various sections of the OABR it is quoted that the League President will fulfil specific roles and functions. For all events under the control of the NSWWBL the term "League President" shall be interpreted as the NSWWBL Womens League Standing Committee (WLSC) or its appointed delegate.
- 1.4 The NSWWBL Womens League Standing Committee (WLSC) will resolve any exemptions or queries arising from matters not included in these rules.

2 ON FIELD BEHAVIOUR

- 2.1 Wilfully violent or unsportsmanlike action, including unnecessary body contact, abuse of playing equipment or facilities, fighting or other behaviour considered by an umpire to be dangerous, injurious or to bring the game into criticism or disrepute will result in the player or team official responsible being ejected from the field and/or cited to appear before the Tribunal.
- 2.2 All registered members are responsible to NSWBL for their conduct and behaviour at all games and events conducted by the NSWWBL, whether playing or not.
- 2.3 All Clubs are required to make their participants aware that SPORTING COMPETITORS OWE A DUTY OF CARE TO ONE ANOTHER. There is a fine line between an error of judgment on the field and negligent conduct. Competitors should endeavour to exercise *reasonable care* not to injure other players in playing out a game or match.

3 DELIBERATE COLLISION

- 3.1 Clubs are to ensure that the players are aware that intentional contact, under certain circumstances, will NOT be tolerated.
- 3.2 Any player who in the umpires' judgment has caused unnecessary, avoidable or deliberate collision with another player irrespective whether a play was being made or not, in addition to the application of the baseball rules of "interference" and "obstruction", will be subject to a penalty.
- 3.3 If a play on a runner is imminent at any base except 1st base the runner must attempt to avoid a collision with a fielder who has the ball and is in a position:
 - (1) on an unforced play, to apply a tag to the runner, or
 - (2) on a forced play, to tag the runner or the base.

Provision for game situation contact between players should be taken into consideration when an umpire makes any interpretation of this requirement. Any player adjudged by the umpire to have deliberately or recklessly caused a collision to occur should be ejected from the game.

4 LIMITS ON WARM UP PITCHES

- 4.1 Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, they shall be permitted a maximum 60 seconds including a minimum of three (3) warm-up pitches. This same time limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of each inning.
- 4.2 Should either team take longer than 60 seconds to make the changeover between innings, the penalties will be invoked as follows:
- On the first occasion, the team manager will be given a warning by the Plate Umpire.
 - Any further transgressions shall result in a called strike (if it is the batting team which offends) or a called ball (if it is the pitching team that offends).
 - The 60 second time limit commences immediately the third out of the previous half inning is completed.
- 4.3 In order to facilitate the changeover as specified in 4.2 above, batting teams will be able to replace their catcher with a “pinch runner” after two (2) outs at their own discretion.
- 4.4 The active pitcher will be permitted to warm up prior to taking the mound by throwing in foul territory but beyond 1st and 3rd base areas towards the outfield.
- 4.5 Umpires should use discretion to prevent conflict when applying this rule.

5 TRIBUNAL

- 5.1 All participants in games under the control of the NSWBL will abide by and be subject to the OABR Sections 4.06, 07 and 08 (conduct), these Playing Rules and any instruction regarding the conduct of the game of baseball by the NSWBL.
A player, registered member, or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:
- (1) Ejected from the game by the umpire.
 - (2) Cited by an umpire for an incident that occurs after the game has been “called”.
 - (3) Cited by NSWBL or the NSWBL.
- 5.2 The WL Executive shall appoint a Tribunal Chairperson or the NSWBL Tribunal to process all incidents referred to in these Rules.
- 5.3 When a person is ejected from a game of baseball or cited, they will:
- (1) Conform strictly to the OABR, in particular sections 4.07, 08 and 09.
 - (2) Not participate in another game of baseball with a Club, League or Association affiliated with NSWBL until such time as the matter has been processed by the NSWBL appointed Tribunal.

6 THE GAME OABR 1.01

The OABR rule is replaced by the following:

Baseball is a game between two teams and for all divisions of 1st Grade games shall consist of nine players each, under direction of a manager, played on an enclosed field in accordance with these Rules, under jurisdiction of one or more umpires.

For Grades other than divisions of 1st Grade, teams may consist of a minimum of eight (8) players subject to these rules as amended. For all grades other than divisions of 1st Grade, when a team commences the game with less than nine (9) players no automatic out will apply to that single vacant batting position when it is not filled.

Should a team commence a game with a batting position occupied and subsequently fail to fill that batting position an automatic out will apply.

7 THE UNIFORM OABR 1.11

As per OABR with the following amendments:

- (h) Not valid for NSWBL.
- (j) Only warm-up jackets of the players’ registered Club shall be worn on the field of play. Pitchers and relieved pitchers shall be allowed to wear Club warm-up jackets in the batting box or on the field of play and where circumstances warrant. Other players may be allowed to wear Club warm-up jackets at the Umpire-in-Chief’s discretion.

8 THE HELMETS OABR 1.16

Helmets are required as per the OABR with the following additions:

- (f) All Base Coaches must wear as minimum protection an approved helmet while coaching at either 1st or 3rd base. Persons 18 years or older may wear a catchers style 'skull cap'. Juniors under the age of 18 years are required to wear a double eared helmet at all times while on the playing field.
- (g) Any person warming up a pitcher is required to wear an approved facemask with throat guard except for "hockey style" helmets which have an approved throat guard inbuilt.

9 THE MANAGER OABR 2.50

As per OABR with the following addition:

- (d) Any coach registered with a Club, but not listed on the line-up, may assume the role of the manager or a coach during the game (subject to Policy and Procedures Section 10) however they may not participate as a player.

10 GAME PRELIMINARIES OABR 3.00

10.1 Field Conditions 3.10

Amend OABR Section 3.10 (a)

- (i) The fitness of the ground for play will be decided by the authorities controlling the ground, the team managers, or in the event of the managers disagreeing, by the Umpire in Chief, in that order. *The safety of players and spectators shall be the primary concern of the officials controlling either, the ground or the game. Games shall not commence or continue if there is a foreseeable risk of injury occurring to any players, official or spectator.*
- (ii) When an appeal has been made against poor light, the fitness of the light for play shall be in the hands of the Umpire in Chief for decision. An appeal may not be made with regard to this decision, refer to **OABR Rule 4.12 (a), (b), and 5.10 (b)**.

11 PLAYER SUBSTITUE OABR 3.03

As per OABR with the following addition:

Grades other than divisions of 1st Grade: Defensive changes are not formal substitutions subject to Section 12 below. The first nine (9) players listed on the team line-up must take the field for that team's first defensive ½ innings. Umpires should be aware and manage substitutions in such a manner that inappropriate "delay of game" is avoided.

12 ENTERING THE FIELD OABR 4.01

As per OABR with the following addition between 4.01(b) and (c):

Grades other than divisions of 1st Grade: the Managers shall then notify to the Umpire in Chief of the manner in which they elect to utilise their available Line-Up for that match and that notifications shall be limited to one of the following options. Once notified to the umpire that decision may not be changed:

1. Elect to bat 1 – 9 only and field 1 – 9 only with all player interchanges being classified as formal substitutions thus allowing the use of the Designated Hitter if ten (10) players are eligible and available to play.
2. Elect to bat 1- 9 and use unlimited Defensive Interchange. No Designated Hitter permitted.
3. Elect to bat 1 – 12 and use unlimited Defensive Interchange. No Designated Hitter permitted.

Players 10 (for Option 1 and 2) and 13 (for Option 3) onwards when entering the game in either offensive or defensive (including pinch hitters/runners) shall be classified as formal substitutions and subject to OABR conditions.

All player interchanges and substitutions shall be notified to the plate umpire as specified in the OABR.

13 A REGULATION GAME OABR 4.10

The OABR rule is replaced by the following:

- (a) A Regulation Game consists of seven (7) innings or 2 hours and 15 minutes for 1st Grade and seven (7) innings or two (2) hours for other Grades unless extended because of a tie score as defined in section (b) below, or shortened because:
 - (1) the home team needs none of its half of the seventh (7th) inning or only a fraction of it; or
 - (2) the umpire “calls” the game; or
 - (3) one team leads by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) complete innings in a 1st Grade game (or the home team leads by ten (10) runs or more and does not require all or only a fraction of its fifth (5th) inning to attain a ten (10) run lead).
 - (4) Mercy Rule does NOT apply in 2nd Grade games.
- (b) If the score is tied after a complete inning and the time limit has not been reached, play shall continue (maximum of 9 inning) or until:
 - (1) The visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning: or
 - (2) The home teams scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning.

If the time limit is reached and the score remains tied play shall continue until the bottom of the inning in play is completed. If the score remains tied after the completion of that inning the game will be declared a draw.

- (c) If a game is “called”, it is a regulation game:
 - (1) If five (5) innings have been completed (except that once the home team leads after four and one half (4 ½) innings or a fraction of the game shall be deemed a Regulation Game at that point;
 - (2) If the home team has scored more runs in four (4) or four and a fraction half innings than the visiting team has scored in five (5) completed half innings;
 - (3) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth (5th) innings to tie the score;
 - (4) If the UIC certifies that sixty (60) minutes of game have been played.
- (d) Not valid for NSWWBL.
- (e) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, the umpire shall declare it a “no game”.
- (f) Not valid for NSWWBL.
- (g) The Scheduled Finishing Time will be as specified in this variation to OABR 4.10:
However, during daylight saving in NSW and where the preceding game finished later than its scheduled finishing time, the Scheduled Finishing Time will be adjusted by adding the normal game time to the new start time of that game. Following games will commence fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a previous game.
- (h) The top half of an inning will NOT commence ten (10) minutes or less before the end of the Scheduled Finishing Time as indicated above, however where an inning is NOT completed at the Scheduled Finishing Time, play shall continue until the bottom half of the inning is completed or the team batting in the bottom half has scored the winning run (exception to avoid a draw as defined in section (b) above).
- (i) An innings once commenced will be played to a conclusion unless shortened as per section (a) above, i.e. the relevant time limit may be exceeded to achieve equal inning.

14 THE FINAL SCORE OABR 4.11

As per OABR with the following addition:

- (e) Any regulation Round Game that is stopped and cannot be completed because of weather, curfew or other reason with the score tied or the home team behind and the current inning incomplete the score shall revert to that score at the last complete inning.

15 SUSPENDED GAMES OABR 4.12

Suspended Game regulations shall not apply to NSWWBL Round Matches.

Suspended Games regulations as stipulated in the NSWWBL Policy and Procedures document shall apply to all games of a Finals Series for all grades of competition.

Any game of a Finals Series suspended in accordance with OABR 4.12 shall be resumed at the ground at that time and date specified by the Women's League Competition Committee.

16 NOT ENOUGH PLAYERS OABR 4.17

The OABR rule is replaced with the following:

A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team is unable or refuses to place:

- (a) Nine players on the field for all divisions of 1st Grade games,
- (b) Eight players on the field for other Grade games.

17 PROTESTING GAMES OABR 4.19

As per OABR with the following additions:

- (a) The provisions of the OABR will apply to all competition games of the NSWBL and in the event of an umpire giving an erroneous decision on a point of law and refusing to alter his decision, although his attention was drawn to the fact at the time on the field, by the manager/coach of the team which has suffered such wrong decisions:
 - (1) The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the NSWBL, provided that the intention to protest is indicated to the Umpire in Chief at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched or before any intervening play occurs.
 - (2) The final protest is made to the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game.
 - (3) A JUDGEMENT decision by an UMPIRE will NOT be accepted as grounds for a protest.

18 SCORING A RUN OABR 5.06

As per OABR with the following addition:

Grades other than divisions of 1st Grade: a maximum of seven (7) runs may be scored in any one (1) inning unless the final at bat hits the ball out of play and is ruled a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run (excluding inside the park home run) that drives in excess of seven (7) runs for the inning, all runs for that inning will be added to the team's score and the umpire shall declare side away at the completion of the play.

19 DESIGNATED HITTER RULE OABR 6.10

As per OABR with the following additions:

- (c) A designated hitter may be used in divisions of 1st Grade competitions in accordance with the OABR.
- (d) A Designated Hitter may be used in Grade competitions other than 1st Grade under the following conditions only:
 - (i) Must conform to all Designated Hitter provisions of OABR 6.10 plus, may only be used where, at the plate meeting prior to commencement of the game, the team manager has elected option (1).
- (e) A Designated Hitter may only be used where there are ten (10) fresh players available in the starting line-up of any game.
- (f) When a Designated Hitter has completed at least one (1) turn at bat (subject to section 4.7 of the NSWBL Player Protection Policy regarding Junior Players and their pitching assignment limits), a pitcher who has been relieved by a reserve player, may bat in the Designated Hitter slot (terminating the role of Designated Hitter for the remainder of the game) and take another defensive position OR otherwise be removed from the game.

20 DEFENSIVE VISITS OABR 8.06

As per OABR with the following addition after (d) and before the next paragraph:

- (e) On a second visit in the same innings to the pitcher, the manager/coach must directly approach the Umpire in Chief if the pitcher is moving to another defensive position. Should the manager/coach cross the foul line and not directly approach the Umpire in Chief, the pitcher is to be removed from the game.

21 THE UMPIRE OABR 9.00

20.1 Appointments OABR 9.01

As per OABR with the following addition after (e) (2):

- (f) In the event of an Official Umpire not attending at the time set down for the game to commence, or being unable to continue, an umpire or umpires shall be appointed by the managers of the opposing sides and the game shall proceed.
- (g) Every effort shall be made to appoint accredited umpires of the NSWBUA.
- (h) Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the NSWWBL Official Result Sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse with the result of the game and any ejections or injuries.

22 VIOLATION REPORTS OABR 9.05

As per OABR with the following replacing paragraph (b):

- (b) When any trainer, manager, coach or player is disqualified for a flagrant offence, such as the use of obscene or indecent language, or an assault upon an umpire, trainer, manager, coach or player, the umpire shall contact the NSWBL office and the NSWWBL Secretary on the next business day informing them of any ejections and forward the report of each ejection/citing to the NSWBL office by 9.00am on the second business day after the incident. The Umpire's Report(s) are to be sent by e-mail or fax to the NSWBL office.

End of NSWWBL 2019-20 Rules Supplement Document v1.0.