BY LAWS

FOR

SUMMER LEAGUES
IN THE GREATER BRISBANE AREA

These bylaws are to be read in conjunction with the Baseball Queensland Rules
and the Official Australian Baseball Rules

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1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

These bylaws are implemented under the authority of the Baseball Queensland constitution, Rule 5.2.

1.1. All clubs agree to abide by these By-Laws, the Rules of Baseball in Queensland, Baseball Queensland Policies and the Official Australian Baseball Rules.

1.2. Baseball Queensland (BQ) will administer all summer league baseball in the Greater Brisbane area (GBL), for Under 12, Under U14, Under 16, Under 20 and Senior baseball. This will be inclusive of clubs outside the designated area, wishing to affiliate with the Greater Brisbane Leagues. This comprises an area bounded by Noosa (North), Toowoomba (West) and Gold Coast (South). BQ Regions are permitted to run "in-house" competitions for teams that do not enter the main stream competitions.

All correspondence relating to Baseball Queensland in these by-laws is to be sent to:-

CONTACT BASEBALL QUEENSLAND

Postal Address	Office 1.11 Sports House 150 Caxton Street MILTON QLD 4064
Telephone	**07. 3876 2222**
(International)	(+61)7 3876 2222
FAX	**07. 3876 2122**
(International)	(+61)7 3876 2122
General E-MAIL	**admin@baseballqld.asn.au**

ALL TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL PRODUCTS ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE ONFIELD CONFINES OF ANY BASEBALL FACILITY.

RECORDS

1.3. BQ shall keep accurate records of the following:

1.3.1. Results and participation of all games in the competitions;

1.3.2. All protests and reports recorded on game cards;

1.3.3. All cautions and ejection's, as recorded on game cards by umpires;

1.3.4. All points/percentages allocated to each team according to the provisions of these by-laws;

1.3.5. Other information as required.

PERCENTAGE LADDERS

1.4. BQ shall maintain a percentage ladder for each grade, in Competition Management on the BQ website, stating:

1.4.1. the name of every team in that grade;

1.4.2. the number of games played by each team;

1.4.3. the number of wins, losses and draws for each team;

OBJECTIONS

1.5. Clubs wishing to contest any content in the percentage tables must forward written objections to BQ.

1.6. The objection must contain grounds for dispute and include relevant evidence, e.g. copy of scorebooks, game cards etc.

1.7. The objection must occur within seven days of the posting of the relevant table on the web site.

1.8. BQ can alter percentages to reflect the true positions of the teams.

TEAM GRADING

1.9. Clubs must nominate teams for each level they wish to play in by the date advised in the calendar of events

1.10. BQ may review the grading of teams throughout the season.

NIGHT GAMES

1.11. All GBL Clubs hosting night games must advise BQ in writing at the time teams are submitted and prior to the commencement of the season the costs of the lights to conduct night games per hour for a minimum period of three (3) hours. These costs will be tabulated and circulated to all GBL Clubs to ensure every Club is aware of their financial liability for night games.

BREACHES AGAINST BYLAWS AND COMPETITION RULES

1.12. BQ shall forward at its discretion to the relevant club secretary, an invoice, or notification of penalty for each breach incurred.

1.13. The notification shall detail all breaches of these By-laws and/or any rules applicable.

COMMUNICATION

1.14. BQ shall deem any notification forwarded by facsimile or email to have been received by the addressee:

1.14.1. On the date of transmission (if sent by 5.00 pm) or

1.14.2. The following business day (if sent after 5.00 pm).

General Administration: What to do

My club wishes to contest the content in a ladder.
What must my club do?

- Prepare written objections, including concise grounds for the dispute.
- Include relevant evidence, e.g. copies of scorebooks, game cards etc.
- Within seven days of receipt of the statistics, forward written objections to BQ.

2. AFFILIATION

APPLICATIONS

2.1. Clubs wishing to re-affiliate for the coming season, must complete Form N: Club Information Form and provide a covering letter requesting inclusion into the various leagues, of each team they intend to field, on official club letterhead, signed by the club President. Clubs must forward or fax the Form N and the covering letter to BQ in accordance with the Calendar of Events.

2.2. Applications from clubs affiliating for the first time must include:

- 2.2.1. A covering letter signed by the club President or nominated head of the proposed organisation
- 2.2.2. A budget projection for the club
- 2.2.3. A certified copy of the Certificate of Incorporation
- 2.2.4. A submission for approval of the club's uniform colours, design and sponsorship logos.
- 2.2.5. A three year Operation Plan

2.3. Before clubs can present players in any approved competition, they must obtain approval of the club's uniform colours and design. Applications from clubs renewing their affiliation must include the club uniforms if they propose to change their authorised uniform colours, design or sponsorship logos. Clubs must also submit this if they wish to change their uniform or introduce new logos during the season.

2.4. All grounds will be evaluated on the basis of the BQ Grounds Evaluation Form.

2.5. BQ will review all affiliations, which will be valid for the ensuing 12 months.

2.6. BQ may accept or reject any application for affiliation. BQ may use its discretion to impose certain conditions in respect of a club's application. These conditions may include the rejection of any club officer or member.

2.7. BQ may use its discretion to cancel or suspend the affiliation of any club at any time

3. COMPETITION RULES

PREAMBLE

The Official Australian Baseball Rules will apply unless stated otherwise in these Bylaws. Baseball Queensland (BQ) will conduct competitions in the following Greater Brisbane Leagues (GBL).

Major League: A Grade

BQ will determine the number of clubs in the league. Clubs that are invited into the Major League are required to meet the BQ criteria for that league. Failing this, the club will be placed in the Pacific League.

Major League: B Grade

This will be the "reserve grade" for Major League.

Major League: C Grade

This is the third competition attached to the Major League

Pacific League: A, B, C & D Grades

This will be the Minor Leagues of the GBL. It will be made up of teams in A – D Grade

Masters:

This league will be formed from clubs nominating teams in accordance with bylaw 2.1. This is an over 35 league. No players under the age of 35 are permitted to play. All players are permitted to play in this league upon reaching their 35th birthday

Junior Leagues

Under 20, Under 16, Under 14 and Under 12 age groups. BQ will ascertain the number of divisions required for each age group.

The junior leagues will be formed from clubs nominating teams in accordance with By-Law 2.1

SENIOR GAME DURATION

BQ will compile the schedule and forward it to clubs at least fourteen days prior to the start of the season.

3.1. All day games in the Major League A Grade are nine innings (no time limit).

3.2. All night games in the Major League A Grade are nine innings or two and a half hours, whichever comes first.

3.3. During night games the umpire will call the game when the two and a half hour limit is reached, so long as the following criteria are satisfied:

3.3.1. A minimum of five innings has been played (four and a half if the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team).

3.3.2. At the completion of any inning beyond the fifth inning where one team has more runs than their opposition.

3.3.3. Drawn games must be played to a result unless the host venue has a light curfew.

3.4. Major League B Grade will be nine innings or 2 hours 30 minutes, whichever comes first. When the Major League A Grade team has a double header, Major League B Grade games will be nine innings or 2 hours.

3.5. Major League C Grade and Pacific League B, C & D Grades will be nine innings or 2 hours, whichever comes first.

3.6. Pacific League A Grade will be nine innings (no time limit).

3.7. Masters games will be 1 hour 30 minutes.

3.8. The start times and finishing times for Major League day and night games and other grades shall be:

Grade	Playing Day	Game start time	Game end time
Major League A Grade	Sunday single game	1.30pm	9 innings
Major League A Grade	Sunday double header	1.00pm – Game 1	7 innings
Major League A Grade	Night – single game	7.00pm	9 innings or 2 ½ hours
Major League B Grade	Sunday single game	10.45am	1.15pm
Major League B Grade	Sunday single game prior to A Grade double header	10.45am	12.45pm
Major League C Grade	Sunday single game	8.30am	10.30am
Pacific League A Grade	Sunday single game	1.00pm	9 innings
Pacific League B Grade	Sunday single game	10.45am	12.45pm
Pacific League C Grade	Sunday single game	8.30am	10.30pm
Pacific League D Grade	Sunday single game	8.30am	10.30pm
Game times can be flexible after consultation with opposing clubs. Games started without lights can be completed under lights.			

3.9. An inning started shall be completed. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.

3.10. In Major League A Grade and B Grade, five innings shall constitute a regulation game. Four and a half innings are sufficient if the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team. All Major League A Grade games must be played to a result.

3.11. In all other Leagues (EXCEPT for Masters), three (3) innings shall constitute a regulation game. Two and a half innings are sufficient if the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team. In all other Leagues (EXCEPT for Masters) - 6 runs maximum can be scored for the first three innings. If a batter causes the team to score more than 6 runs from a single hit, then the extra runs will count.

3.12. In Masters Games, two innings will constitute a regulation game. One and a half innings are sufficient if the home team is leading. In Masters Games, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is 5 per inning for the first 2 innings. If a batter causes a team to

score more than 5 runs from a single hit, then the extra runs will count.

3.13. A game of fewer than the respective minimum number of innings shall be declared "no game", except where a Major League game is suspended

3.13.1. If any games are called off because of inclement weather they will not be rescheduled, except as stated in 3.13.2.

3.13.2. Major League night games that are incomplete or washed out, will be played as a suspended game double header on the following Sunday.

3.13.3. If any Sunday double header games are called off because of inclement weather, they will be declared a no game and will not be rescheduled.

3.14. If any senior team has less than nine players at any time, then the game will be called a forfeit.

3.15. Masters games may commence and continue with 8 players. The 9th player position will be considered an automatic out.

3.16. Any game, other than Major League A Grade and Pacific League A Grade, started late, must finish at the scheduled time.

3.17. The plate umpire will be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers. There is no grace period for a team with less than the required number of players.

3.18. If, in a Major League A grade game, a team is leading by 10 runs or more after seven equal innings (five in a double header), or six and a half innings (four and a half in a double header) when the home team is leading, then the game will be called as a complete game. In lower grades, the “10 run rule” will be invoked after five complete innings or four and a half innings if the home team is leading

JUNIOR GAME DURATION

3.19. All games are two hours. BQ will compile the schedule and forward it to clubs at least seven days prior to the start of the season.

3.20. An inning started before the completion of two hours must be completed. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous innings.

3.21. In all Under 14 Division 2 games and U16 Division 2 games the maximum number of runs that can be scored is 6. If a batter causes the team to score more than 6 runs, from a single hit, then the extra runs will count.

3.22. In all junior games, three innings shall constitute a regulation game. Two and a half innings are sufficient if the home team is leading.

3.23. A game of fewer than the respective minimum number of innings must be declared a “no game”.

3.24. The plate umpire will be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

3.25. There will be a 15 minute grace period for a team with less than the required number of players. However, the game must finish at the scheduled time.

SPEED UP POLICY

3.26. Teams should make an inning change over within 90 seconds. Players and coaches are to run to positions.

3.27. Should either team take longer than 90 seconds from the third out to the pitcher being told to "play" then penalties should apply. If the batting team is at fault, strikes will be called and if the fielding team is at fault then balls will be called. This should happen only after a warning is given in the first instance.

3.28. Employ the runner for the catcher rule correctly. Refer By-Law 3.44.

3.29. Pitchers warm up coming from the field should be encouraged, but is at the discretion of the umpire. Warm up players for possible pitching changes during the offensive half of the inning.

3.30. The 12 second rule for the pitcher will apply with no runners on base.

GAME PARTICIPANTS

Scorers

3.31. Each team shall have its own competent scorer. Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebooks.

3.32. Major League scorers must be accredited to at least National level 2 standard. If a team is unable to provide a National level 2 accredited scorer, then BQ may appoint a properly accredited scorer to the team and invoice the club for the service.

3.33. At the completion of the game, each home team scorer shall present the official game card to the Umpire-in-Chief for checking, signing and return to the scorer. All injuries must be annotated on the card with all sections and columns completed. This includes MVP, Fielding Position, Time in/out, Pitches, Innings caught.

3.34. At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:

- An adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms
- An adequate supply of Statutory Declarations
- A blank scorecard for the relevant grade
- A copy of the BQ By-Laws
- A copy of the BQ Baseball Rules
- A scorebook
- Appropriate stationery

Players

3.35. All teams shall field nine players. Juniors and Masters Teams may commence games with a minimum of eight players. The 9th spot will be considered an automatic out.

3.36. Players 18 and 19 years old that pitch more than twenty (20) innings in the Major League A Grade cannot pitch in the U20 competition. However, any players that are Under 18 eligible may pitch in the U20 competition and any senior competition, provided the junior pitching rules are adhered to.

3.37. If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to eight players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.

3.38. Scorers must record on the official game card details of players injured in a game. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a Statutory Declaration to BQ within 14 days of when the injury occurred. The player will then be recorded on the disabled list.

3.39. Players who are injured outside the field of play, e.g. work injuries, training etc. must forward a suitable medical certificate to BQ to be eligible for the disabled list within 14 days of when the injury occurred.

3.40. Players on the disabled list will continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals (within the grade at the time of injury).

3.41. Major League A Grade defensive starting teams shall consist of nine players who have not taken part in any fixture for that day. A breach of this By-law will be deemed a forfeit by the offending team playing on that day. PENALTY – FORFEIT OF GAME

3.42. Every player starting in a Major League A Grade game must play no fewer than three complete innings of the game. Only the pitcher or an injured player can be replaced from the bench in the first three innings.

3.43. For all Major League Grades:-

3.43.1. Any player who participates in any other lower grade can participate in a higher Grade game later that day, provided the player does not enter the game prior to the completion of the third (3rd) innings.

3.43.2. A pitcher in the early game cannot then pitch in the late game.

3.43.3. Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each section for finals eligibility.

3.43.4. No player may play more than two games in the same day. Contravention of this playing condition shall result in forfeiture of the second game. The Competition Manager shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on the offending club as per Table 7.1 Schedule of Penalties.

3.44. All GBL teams may use a runner for the catcher under the following circumstances:

3.44.1. There must be two outs

3.44.2. The last player out or a player from the bench will be the runner

3.45. For Major League A Grade and B Grade games, the designated hitter shall not be counted in the starting defensive nine players.

3.45.1. A player may DH in both games

3.45.2. A player may play in Major League B Grade and DH in the Major League A Grade

3.45.3. A player may not DH in Major League B Grade and play in the Major League A Grade

3.46. A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game.

3.47. Junior players may move between teams in the same junior grade in the same club only to avert possible forfeit when one of those teams has a bye.

Juniors playing for more than one club

3.48. A junior player playing senior baseball must do so with the club with which that player is registered. However, if a junior playing at a Minor club wishes to play senior baseball at a Major League club, then the player must forward a letter of application to BQ.

UNIFORMS

3.49. All players, senior coaches and junior Div. 1 coaches must wear full club playing uniform as per the rules of baseball. Newly registered players have a maximum of three weeks to obtain the correct uniform. However, Major League A, B and C Grade players must present in full uniform at all times.

3.50. All coaches in Senior and Junior grades must wear a skull cap or batting helmet when coaching on the field.

3.51. Coaches of other junior teams must wear at least a club shirt, club cap and enclosed shoes.

3.52. Each coach and at least the Umpire-in-Chief officiating in a game shall enforce the uniforms By-law by making a note of any infringements on the game card.

BATS

3.53. All baseball bats must conform to the Rule of Baseball 1.10.

Juniors

3.54. Rookie Ball and U12 = Little League Bat rules (Little League & Below - As Per LL Rules)

"1.10 - The bat must be a baseball bat, which meets Little League specifications, and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or of material and colour tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards.

Little League (Majors) and below: it shall not be more than thirty three (33) inches in length nor more than two and one quarter (2 & 1⁄4) inches in diameter.

Non-wood bats shall be labelled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less.

EXCEPTION: Little League (Majors) and below, for regular season play and Tournament, composite barrel bats are prohibited unless approved by Little League International. A list of approved and licensed composite barrel bats can be found on the Little League website at www.LittleLeague.org."

3.55. U14 = Junior League Bat Rules (Intermediate/Junior League - As Per LL Rules)

"1.10 It shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2 & 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part.

All composite barrel bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half--inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

If a 2 & 1⁄4 barrel bat has no composite materials, it may be used provided it is labelled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less.

(NOTE: Solid wooded barrel bats do not require a BPF label.)"

3.56. U16, U18, U20 = Senior League bat rules (Senior League/Big League - As Per LL Rules)

1.10 It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part.

The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33 inch-long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces).

All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half--inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

Aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one & half inch (1 & 1/2) on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

Seniors

3.57. Season 2015/2016:

3.57.1. Major A, B and Pacific A Grades = Wood, Wood Composite or Wood laminate bats only.

3.57.2. All other non-wood adult leagues including Masters will comply with the following:

3.57.3. It shall not be more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in

diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Aluminium/Alloy Barrel bats must not be lighter than -3. All composite barrel bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. Cracked, dented or otherwise damaged or deformed bats are not permitted. Any metal/alloy bat that does not clearly have the barrel composition marked on it by the manufacturer is not permitted.

3.58. End March 2016:

3.58.1. Furthermore the bat rules for these non-wood bat, adult leagues will be subject to further restrictions as of end March 2016 to come in line with the Senior League / Big League Bat restrictions as described in the Baseball Australia document linked above. Effectively from March 2016, any non - wood bat senior competition will need to use wood bats or metal bats that comply with the BBCOR standard.

3.59. Females playing in Adult non-wood bat leagues must be:- Bats shall be not more than thirty-four (34) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths (2 5/8) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16ths) inches and are permitted to use baseball bats - 5 ounces or heavier.

GAME BALLS

3.60. The home team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.

3.61. Teams must supply only those balls approved by BQ and meet the specifications defined in Rule of Baseball 1.09.

3.62. In Major League A& B Grade, the home team shall provide four new balls and have balls in reserve (suitable for game play).

3.63. In all other grades, the home team will provide two new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.

3.64. In all grades, the Umpire-in-Chief will check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

GAME CARDS/RESULTS

3.65. The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to BQ. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.

3.66. Home team scorer shall ensure that:

- Game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible
- Team coach's names are printed in the appropriate place on the card
- Umpires-in-Chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card.
- All names are spelt correctly

3.67. The home club shall ensure that they forward the game cards to arrive at BQ no later than the Monday following the game by email (ensure the scanned card is legible – use black pen and print in block letters).

POINTS

3.68. Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:

3.68.1. If a game is played, percentages will be awarded even where some or all of the other games in that grade in that round are washed out.

3.68.2. All competitions are by winning percentage, with ½ a win given for a draw.

3.69. MVP votes are allocated by agreement between each team coach immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card – Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.

PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

3.70. Semi-finals, preliminary finals and Grand Finals shall be played as determined by BQ and notified in the Fixture Schedule, or elsewhere.

3.71. Should any two or more teams finish in equal positions after completion of fixtures, BQ shall allocate places using the following criteria:

3.71.1. Head to head for the teams for the season.

3.71.2. Then runs against, head to head for the season.

3.71.3. Then runs against overall for the season.

3.72. A club championship shall be awarded separately for Juniors and Seniors within the overall GBL competition. If there is more than one club team in a level, only the club team gaining the highest standing will be taken into account for that level.

3.73. The team finishing highest on the table at the end of the scheduled fixtures shall be designated as the home team for the first semi-final.

3.74. BQ will determine an appropriate format for the finals series.

3.75. BQ shall meet the costs for grand final games, e.g. baseballs, umpires and lights, and shall notify the clubs involved of the arrangements for other finals.

3.76. All Major League A Grade finals games will be nine innings, including double headers and played to a result. All Major League A Grade finals shall be played over a best of three games series. The second game of any three game series shall be played on a Sunday, weather permitting. The highest placed team will be the home team for the first game, then the away team for the second game, then the home team if the third game is needed. The GBL will determine where and when the games are to be played.

3.77. All Major League B Grade finals Games will be nine innings or two and a half hours, whichever comes first and played to a result.

3.78. Pacific League A Grade finals Games will be nine innings and played to a result.

3.79. All other Senior leagues and Junior grades finals games will be seven innings or two hours, whichever comes first and played to a result.

3.80. For Juniors and Senior Grand Finals other than Major League A Grade and Pacific League A Grade:

3.80.1. All games shall be seven innings games, or two hours, whichever comes first.

3.80.2. If tied at the end of seven innings, the game shall be played until a result is achieved.

3.80.3. In the event of inclement weather, four innings shall constitute a complete game.

3.80.4. If the game is a called off due to inclement weather, BQ will reschedule the game.

3.80.5. In the event of the rescheduled Grand Final then being called off, the following process applies: Head to head throughout the season. Then Highest competition standing.

3.81. BQ will provide trophies or medallions to each team winning their respective Grand Final.

GROUNDS/FIELDS

3.82. All nominated fields must be available for the commencement of the competition, unless BQ grants an exemption.

3.83. Clubs must fully and accurately mark fields for every game to the satisfaction of the Umpire. Marking must be to the correct dimensions as per the Rules of Baseball. Markings must include at least base paths, foul lines, and batting and coaching boxes. If this is not completed then the offending team may have a forfeit awarded against them.

3.84. Clubs must keep all grounds/fields in a clean and tidy condition at all times. Grounds must be free from dangerous objects and all other obstacles likely to cause injury to players, officials and visitors. Ground Marshals will carry out inspections prior to the commencement of games for the day.

3.85. Prior to the commencement of each season, BQ will inspect all fields and complete the Grounds Evaluation Form.

3.86. Clubs must maintain all fields to BQ approved standards. A BQ official may inspect a Club's fields at any time. The official may direct the club to rectify its fields and may prohibit games on those grounds until satisfied with the rectification. (Such directions may be verbal initially and confirmed in writing if necessary.)

3.87. If BQ withdraws grounds from use pending rectification, no games (Junior or Senior) can be played on those grounds until they are declared satisfactory.

3.88. The host club must provide adequate toilet facilities at their ground. The club must open these facilities during all games and training sessions at that ground. Clubs must

keep these facilities in a clean and hygienic condition in compliance with local government regulations.

3.89. All grounds must have a properly enclosed playing field and home run fence.

3.90. The host club must open a canteen during all games played at their ground. The canteen must provide hot and cold drinks and a variety of food items available for purchase during all games played at the ground. Failure to provide adequate canteen facilities may result in no future home games for that club.

3.91. Clubs must not sell beverages of any type in glass containers.

3.92. Visiting teams and supporters must not bring alcohol to a host club's ground.

3.93. The host club shall provide a clearly defined dugout, seating and shade cover for both teams, and seating and shade cover for scorers.

3.94. Clubs hosting finals are required to have a groundsman on site to maintain the field throughout the day.

3.95. Host clubs are required to provide wet weather ground covers for the pitcher's mound and the home plate area.

3.96. Host clubs must make available for perusal, copies of the Rules of Baseball, the current BQ By-Laws and BQ Baseball Rules.

3.97. Host clubs are to provide a telephone for emergency contacts, an adequate first aid kit and ice for injuries. These items must be located in close proximity to the playing field.

3.98. Each club will appoint a Ground Marshal who will be clearly identified by wearing the designated vest as supplied by BQ. The duties of the Ground Marshal are as per the attached Major League criteria.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

3.99. Failure to comply with the following will result in a forfeit being awarded against the offending team. All wet weather contacts will be listed on the BQ website.

3.100. In the case of wet weather, it is imperative that clubs inspect the grounds and if unplayable the wet weather contact must:

3.100.1. Notify the opposing club wet weather contact and the QBUA Appointments Officer, not less than two hours prior to the scheduled game start time.

3.100.2. If the visiting club is located more than 70km from the destination field, where possible, three hours notification must be given.

3.100.3. If the away team's field is available and playable then the game will be moved to that venue, with the designated home team remaining as such. Refer to 3.100.1 and 3.100.2 above.

3.101. In the case of extreme heat (40° C or more) being forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology on the day preceding games, all games will be cancelled by BQ.

3.101.1. An umpire has the discretion to call a game due to extreme temperature, but can only do so after consultation with both coaches.

3.102. Notification must, in the first instance be to the person nominated by the opposing club as the wet weather contact. Team coaches must not contact Wet Weather contacts directly but leave the arrangements to each Club Wet weather contact.

3.103. Games are to be called off one grade at a time, unless it is obvious that the ground is unplayable for the entire day.

3.104. If a game in progress is interrupted by rain, the umpires will suspend the game as per the Australian Baseball Rules.

3.105. If a game commences, but is halted due to inclement weather before it becomes a regulation game, scorers must still complete game cards and forward them to BQ. This will enable participants to be credited with game eligibility for finals (within the grade) and to keep accurate win/loss records. Home team scorers must notify BQ of a washout by sending a game card.

FORFEITS

3.106. A club that is unable to field a team in a scheduled game shall notify the opposing club and the QBUA Appointments Officer at least two working days prior to the commencement of the scheduled game. BQ must also be notified.

3.107. Any club wishing to reschedule any game must apply in writing to BQ, stating the reasons for the rescheduling. The application will only be accepted by BQ if more than 72 hours' notice is given.

4. UMPIRES

4.1. All umpires are to be conversant with the Official Rules of Baseball, the Baseball Queensland Rules and these By-Laws.

4.2. In Major League A Grade and B Grade, where no QBUA umpires have been appointed, the home team shall provide both umpires. These umpires must be QBUA approved level 1 and must wear at least the yellow shirt.

4.3. In all other senior grades, the umpire may be QBUA approved Level 0 and is required to wear the green shirt. The home team will provide both umpires.

4.4. In all junior grades and Masters the home team shall provide the plate and the away team the base umpire. These umpires must be QBUA approved minimum level 0 (including those qualified to wear the green or yellow shirt).

4.5. For all Grades, the Umpire-in-Chief must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.

4.6. Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.

4.7. Umpires must be suitably dressed, in the QBUA approved shirt. Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and, in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective equipment. Umpires are not permitted to wear club playing uniforms.

4.8. All umpires, of any level have the same rights and authority. They therefore:
- command the same respect and
- have the same responsibilities to the BQ Judiciary.

4.9. At the end of each game, Umpire-in-Chief shall complete and sign the official game cards and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.

4.10. All umpires must complete an incident report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report. Refer to the Reported Player & Tribunal Procedure.

4.11. The umpire will eject any player or official found using any tobacco or alcohol products, or any illicit drugs during a game. In accordance with Queensland Government legislation, this includes anywhere within the boundaries of the playing field.

4.12. If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach will be ejected from the game with the player. He will be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game.

5. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

5.1. Clubs must ensure all players are registered on the IMG database, including ABL players, and they are to be made active and financial before taking the field to train or play.

5.2. All Clubs must ensure that all players are registered with payment on the IMGSTG registration portal. Once the player registration is submitted and paid for online, players are deemed to be affiliated. No player can take part in any sanctioned BQ game until they are properly registered with the club they intend to play for.

5.3. Clubs are advised to inform members of their Username and Password so that they can amend their own records when necessary.

5.4. All clubs are to pay invoices within thirty days of receipt of invoice, or they will be deemed unfinancial.

5.5. Any Club deemed unfinancial by BQ will not continue to play in the competitions. Games scheduled during the unfinancial period will be deemed to be a win for the opposing team.

5.6. Any club deemed unfinancial shall not receive trophies or awards until the club becomes financial.

LISTING OF COACHES AND SCORERS

5.7. Clubs must provide BQ with contact details of all coaches, umpires and scorers. All coaches, umpires, scorers and other club officials are to have the appropriate current accreditation and be in possession of a current Blue Card if they have minors in their teams, in accordance with the Act.

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

5.8. To be eligible to participate in any game, clubs and players must meet the conditions listed in the remaining paragraphs.

5.9. Players transferring between clubs must meet the specific conditions listed in paragraphs 5.11 to 5.13.

5.10. In the current season, any contracted ABL player is not eligible to play at any level other than the Major League A Grade level. PENALTY – FORFEIT OF GAME.

Transfers within GBL and intrastate

5.11. All clearances for players are to be completed in accordance with the instructions on the BQ website.

5.12. Transfers between clubs during the season shall be granted only if application in writing is made to BQ, outlining the extenuating circumstances.

5.13. Unfinancial players are not eligible to transfer between clubs and should not be granted a clearance by the losing club.

5.14. All clearance requirements must be fulfilled before a player can take the field.

Import players

5.15. An import player who has not played previously for any club in Australia must register in accordance with these By-laws.

5.16. An import player who has played previously in Australia must provide a clearance in the same manner as a player transferring from another club.

5.17. Any player who is not an Australian citizen or a permanent resident is deemed an import. This does not include players attending an Australian university, college or high school. BQ will rule on this if a club is unsure.

5.18. Maximum number of import players is three Import players per Club each season.

5.19. Clubs must notify BQ in writing of any import players playing with the club, assuring BQ that all legal matters pertaining to visas have been properly completed.

Playing in Grades – Two games in the same day

5.20. No player shall be allowed to play in more than two grades on the same day.

Eligibility for finals

5.21. To be eligible for the senior finals, players must play in the minimum number of games listed below and the majority of games as a percentage of games played by the team, must not be in a higher grade.

5.22. Major League A, B & C Grade and Pacific League all Grades and Masters - 33% of qualifying games played by the team

*** Please note increase to minimum number of games from 25% to 33%

5.22.1. Games played in Seniors, Masters, Women's and Junior competitions are deemed separate competitions for eligibility purposes and are therefore unable to be counted towards finals eligibility in any other competition.

5.22.2. The lowest grade that a player can participate in a play-off series is that grade in which the player has played the majority of their regular season games as a percentage of the games played by the team. (i.e. 20 games in Major League A Grade when the team has played 40 games (50%), 15 games in Major League B Grade when the team has played 20 games (75%) - this player would be eligible for Major League B Grade - in this case the majority of games as a percentage have been played in the Major League B grade).

5.22.3. However, ABL players that have been registered with their GBL club prior to 1st January, will be credited with two games for every ABL playing roster on which they are named after their club registration is effective on the database.

5.22.4. U20 players are permitted to play in senior finals at any level as long as they have qualified for that level in terms of number of games played at that level or below.

5.23. To be eligible for junior finals, players must have played in a minimum of 25% of junior games for their club and satisfy all other criteria as set out in these By-laws or elsewhere.

5.24. Providing by-laws 5.21, 5.22 and 5.23 above are satisfied, if need be, players can play only in the level immediately above their registered level during finals.

5.25. Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as "games played" in determining a player's eligibility for finals.

5.26. In respect of forfeits, only the non-forfeiting team will be credited with eligibility.

5.27. Players cannot be nominated for more than one team at the same time, unless they are juniors playing seniors games.

5.28. Before U18 (by age) players are permitted to play senior baseball, they must first fulfil their obligations to the U20 competition. Exceptions to this bylaw must be approved by BQ in writing prior to the commencement of the season and each application will be treated on a case by case basis.

5.29. Where two or more Junior or Senior teams compete at the same level within a club, the club may not exchange or alternate players among these teams in normal competition or during any final, unless stated otherwise in these By-laws.

6. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS

DISPUTES (DISAGREEMENT WITH COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION)

6.1. Any club or player may dispute anything relating to the administration of the competitions by forwarding a written request to BQ.

6.2. BQ will nominate a Disputes Committee to hear any dispute. The Disputes Committee will be appointed by BQ.

6.3. The Committee shall decide the outcome of a dispute either by considering written submissions alone, or by interviewing parties to the dispute. At any such interview, parties will have time to present their case.

6.4. The decision of the Disputes Committee shall not be subject to further appeal.

PROTESTS (DISAGREEMENT WITH TECHNICAL GAME RULES)

6.5. During a game, any team head coach may protest a ruling associated with a game on the grounds that the ruling is contrary to the rules of baseball and these bylaws. At no time can a judgement decision be protested.

6.6. At the time of a protest, the protesting head coach must advise the Umpire-in-Chief of the nature of the protest.

6.7. When a protest is made during a game:

- 6.7.1. The Umpire-in-Chief must inform the scorers that the game is being played under protest.
- 6.7.2. The Umpire-in-Chief must inform the head coach of the opposing team of the nature of the protest.
- 6.7.3. Scorers must record details of the protest on the game card.
- 6.7.4. Scorers must record the time of the protest on the game card and in the appropriate section of the scorebooks.

6.8. After the game, scorers must advise BQ of the protest when advising the game result.

6.9. After the game, the protesting club must fax or email the protest to BQ.

6.10. BQ will then take appropriate action to resolve the protest as soon as practicable. If the above protest format is not followed then the protest will be dismissed.

6.11. No protest pertaining to Technical Game Rules can be made after the game has been completed. All protests must be made at the time the play occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play.

DISPUTES ABOUT ADMINISTRATION: WHAT TO DO

I/We wish to dispute some aspect of game administration.
What must I/we do?

- Forward a written dispute to BQ including all relevant details of the dispute.

PROTESTS DURING A GAME

Protesting club

I/We wish to lodge a protest about an incident during the game.
What must I/we do?

- Advise the Umpire-in-Chief of the nature of the protest.
- Be sure your protest is made in accordance with Bylaw 6.11
- Forward a written protest including all relevant details to BQ by the next working day.

Scorers

A protest is lodged during the game.
What must we do?

- Immediately copy the details of the protest onto the game cards.
- Immediately copy the time of the protest onto the game cards and in the appropriate section of the scorebook.
- When advising game results to BQ, advise details of the protest

7. SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES

7.1. BQ shall have the right to impose a penalty for any breach of these By-laws.

7.2. If the penalty is not monetary, it shall be the same as stated in these By-laws.

7.3. Clubs must pay all breaches in full within 14 days of the date of the Invoice (but two days prior to participation in any finals). If fine is not paid in full within 14 days of the Invoice, no appeal will be considered.

Table 7.1 Schedule of Penalties

Infringement	Fine
Forfeiture of a game	Loss of game After a 3rd breach, the club must show cause why the team should not be removed from the competition
Breach of player safety	$100
Illegal Player – including breach of player eligibility, registration and import player	$50 per player and loss of game
Prohibited Substances	$200 per person and ejection
Player out of uniform	$50 per player
Non-return of Game Card within 72 hours	$20
Club's failure to supply an accredited umpire	$75
Club's failure to supply a scorer	1st Offence – Warning : 2nd Offence - $25 3rd or further offences - $50
Withdrawal of a team during the season	$200 per senior team : $100 per junior team
Fines for breach of Junior Specific Rules	**Fine**
Participation	1st Offence - $100 (loss of game if finals) 2nd Offence - $200 (loss of game if finals)
Players playing in higher/lower age/grade	1st Offence - $100 (loss of game if finals) 2nd Offence - $200 (loss of game if finals)
Pitching and Catching rules	1st Offence - $100 (loss of game if finals) 2nd Offence - $200 (loss of game if finals)
All pitching and catching breaches will be notified to the BQ Development Manager.	

8. JUDICIARY

PROCEDURE

Refer to Baseball Queensland Reported Players and Tribunal Procedures available from the BQ website.

The Judiciary will sit on Thursday nights commencing at 6:30pm unless all parties are informed otherwise by the judiciary.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Any player, coach, official or individual that makes disparaging remarks on social networks that are brought to the attention of the judiciary, may be charged with Bringing the Game into Disrepute, as defined in Reported Players and Tribunal Procedures available from the BQ website.

JUDICIARY: WHAT TO DO

UMPIRES:

I have cautioned a player/official. What must I do at the end of the game?

- Obtain the official game card from the scorer.
- On the game card, record the alleged offender's name and number, and details of the alleged offence.
- Sign the card and return it to the scorer.

I have ejected a player/official. What must I do at the end of the game?

- Obtain the official game card from the scorer.
- On the game card, record the alleged offender's name and number, and details of the alleged offence.
- Sign the card and return it to the scorer.
- Obtain an Incident Report Form from the Scorer or QBUA
- Complete the report.
- Forward the report to BQ by 2:00pm on the next working day following the game.

PLAYERS/OFFICIALS/CLUBS:

I have been ejected from a game.

What do I need to do at the end of the game?

- Obtain a copy of the Incident Report Form from the scorer.
- Complete the form. Do not make a plea on this form.
- Forward the form to BQ by 10:00am on the next working day following the game.

I have been cited to appear before a judiciary hearing.

What do I do now?

If you are JUNIOR PLAYER:

- Arrange for your team coach to accompany you at the hearing. (If your team coach is not available, arrange for your club President to accompany you.)
- Appear at the hearing, at the time and place stipulated in your citation, together with your team coach.

If you are SENIOR PLAYER or an OFFICIAL

- Decide whether you want to attend the hearing with or without an advocate.
- Appear at the hearing, at the time and place stipulated in your citation, together with any witnesses that have been advised to the Judiciary Committee

If you are a CLUB

- Appoint the club President or next highest available member of the club's executive committee to attend the hearing.

I wish to appeal against a Judiciary Committee decision.

How do I do this?

- Explain fully in writing clear grounds for your appeal.
- Within two working days after notification of the judiciary decision, lodge your written appeal to BQ

9. GENERAL DEFINITIONS

WHEN THE BY-LAWS SAY THIS:	*... THEY MEAN THIS:*
ABF	Australian Baseball Federation
BQ	Baseball Queensland
Due date	Date set out in the *Calendar of Events* unless otherwise specified
Field	Area of play, including dugouts and scorers box
Grade	Competency ranking within the player's age level
Ground/s Venue	Entire club complex
Player	Any registered player (for judiciary purposes, this also includes coach, manager and scorer)
QBUA	Queensland Baseball Umpires Association
QBS	Queensland Baseball Scorers

10. FORMS IN USE

GROUNDS EVALUATION FORM
INCIDENT REPORT FORM
NOTICE OF BREACH
CLUB INFORMATION FORM (Previously Form N)

11. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Requirement	When
Club Information Form (Form N)	31st July at the latest
Affiliation Letter	31st July at the latest
Availability of Grounds, Ground Evaluation and Light	1st September
All Registrations and Seniors Team Nominations	1st September
Costs of lights for night games	1st September
Junior Team Nominations	15th September
Junior Team Nominations	1st September - 2016/2017
Major League Criteria	September 1

GROUNDS EVALUATION FORM

Name of Club: _____ Field Name / Number: _____

Date Inspected: ___/___/___

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

BQ Rep: _____ Club Rep: _____

Structure	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Comments
Backnet			
Dugouts			
Scorers Box			
Home Run Fence			
Side Fences			
Infield			
Outfield			
Base Cut-out's			
Pitching Mound			
Batting Boxes			
Home Plate			
Pitchers Plate			
Pass Ball Area			
Foul to Dead Ball – First Base Line			
Foul to Dead Ball – Third Base Line			
Coaches Boxes			
Warm Up Areas			
Bull Pens			
Hitting Cages			
Score Board			
Spectator Seating			
Overall Shade			
Clubhouse w/ phone			
Change Rooms			
Canteen w/ first aid			
Shower Room			
Toilet Facilities			
Parking			

Signature BQ Rep: _____

Signature Club Rep: _____

INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Please print legibly

This form is to be forwarded to Baseball Queensland in accordance with the By-Laws

Date of Game: _____ Venue: _____

Name of Ejected person: _____ Playing for: _____

Grade of team: _____ Home Team: _____ Visiting Team: _____

Player's Contact number or email: _____ Ejecting Umpire: Plate or Base (please circle)

Reason IAW By-Laws (e.g. fighting): _____

Ejected person's position:

Manager ( ) Coach ( ) Pitcher ( ) Fielding ( ) Batter ( ) Runner ( ) Bench ( ) Other ( )

Describe the game situation at the time of the incident:

Inning: _____ Outs: _____ Count: _____ Score: _____ In favour of: _____

Describe the incident that occurred and your actions. Include pertinent details. Include any after affects. If there is insufficient space, please attach additional pages

The above statement and details are to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/_____/_____
Umpire or Ejected Person (please circle)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Lodged: _____ Time Lodged: _____ How Lodged: _____

Received and actioned by: _____ Name: _____

NOTICE OF BREACH

The Secretary

_____Baseball Club

A report has been received that your club is in breach of Baseball Queensland By-Laws or Rules.

The Rule or By Law is: _____

Description of Breach: _____

_____

_____

Player or Team: _____

Date of Breach: ____/____/____

Penalty: _____

Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Date of Notice: ____/____/____
Competition Manager

This Breach notice has been issued in accordance with the Baseball Queensland By-Laws and Rules and a fine or other penalties may be levied. If your club wishes to dispute the breach, please contact the Baseball Queensland office in writing, on club letterhead, within 14 days from the date of notice. The dispute may be faxed, mailed or emailed. Contact details are at the front of the by-laws. If the club does not wish to dispute this breach notice, or fails to respond within the 14 days, then the penalty stated above will apply.

Note: A breach of the By-Laws by an individual player or team is considered to be a breach by the club.

FORM N: CLUB INFORMATION FORM

Club Name:	
Field Location:	
Mailing Address:	
Clubhouse Phone Number	
Contact Email	
President	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Vice President	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Secretary	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Treasurer	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Registrar	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Wet Weather Contact	
Telephone:	
Email:	

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