

2013 - 2014 GCBA JUNIOR PLAYING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

UNDER 8

- All U8 batters will be allowed a **MAXIMUM** of two bases on any batted ball that does not clear the boundary cones on the full.
- Boundary cones at a distance of 120 feet will be required for all U8 games,
- Any batted ball that travels on the ground beyond these cones shall be ruled an automatic ground-rule double.
- Any batted ball that travels beyond these cones on the full shall be ruled a home run.

UNDER 10

- All U10 batters will be allowed a **MAXIMUM** of two bases on any batted ball that does not clear the boundary cones on the full.
- Boundary cones at a distance of 150 feet will be required for all U10 games.
- Any batted ball that travels on the ground beyond these cones shall be ruled an automatic ground-rule double.
- Any batted ball that travels beyond these cones on the full shall be ruled a home run.

LITTLE LEAGUE MINORS

- All Little League Minors will use a standard 9' baseball. (No Safety Ball)
- Runners can advance to second and third but not score on a Catchers' passed ball; runners can only score on a batted ball in play.

LITTLE LEAGUE SOFT PITCH / TOSS

- In the event that the count upon a batter in the Little League Minors competition reaches ball four, the Soft Pitch/Toss rule will come into effect. There will be no walks in Little League Minors.
- The following shall apply:
 - The count will be reset to One Strike
 - The coach shall deliver a Soft Pitch from the pitching plate;
 - If, after three pitches, the batter is unable to hit the ball, the coach shall deliver a Soft Toss Pitch.

When delivering a Soft Toss Pitch, the Coach must be on the foul line. The batter shall take his or her stance. The batter cannot bunt. The catcher must take up a position in the catcher's box. The batter retains the strike count and the Coach must pitch a Soft Toss Pitch.

- All fouls on a Soft Pitch/Toss are strikes except after two strikes, when all fouls shall be called foul.
- The ball must travel at least 5 metres from the home plate. If the ball fails to travel this distance, it shall be called a foul ball.
- A batter who achieves a safe hit from a Soft Pitch/Soft Toss Pitch shall not run more than two bases.

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The batted ball will remain in play. When a Soft Pitch/Toss Pitch is being made, the runners are not permitted to steal on the pitch and are restricted to advancing two bases maximum, on a batted ball, the same as the batter.

- Boundary cones at a distance of 225 feet will be required for all Little League games, any batted ball that travels beyond these cones on the ground shall be ruled an automatic ground-rule double.
- Any batted ball that travels beyond these cones on the full shall be ruled a home run.

LITTLE LEAGUE MAJORS

- Standard Baseball Queensland Rules.
- Curve balls are permitted.
- Maximum number of runs that can be scored is 6 per inning.
- Maximum number of runs that can be scored is 6 per inning for the first 4 innings, at the beginning of the 5th inning there is no limit to the number of runs that can be scored.

UNDER 14 DIVISION II

- Standard Baseball Queensland Rules.
- Curve balls are permitted.
- Maximum number of runs that can be scored is 6 per inning for the first 4 innings, at the beginning of the 5th inning there is no limit to the number of runs that can be scored.

UNDER 14 DIVISION I

- Standard Baseball Queensland Rules
- Curve balls are permitted.
- Maximum number of runs that can be scored is 6 per inning for the first 4 innings, at the beginning of the 5th inning there is no limit to the number of runs that can be scored.

UNDER 16

- Standard Baseball Queensland Rules
- Curve balls are permitted.
- Maximum number of runs that can be scored is 6 per inning for the first 4 innings, at the beginning of the 5th inning there is no limit to the number of runs that can be scored.

PLAYING

- Each Junior player **must** play at **least 50%** of the time allowed for that fixture;

NOTE: A five-minute leeway either side of the time will be granted.

- There is **no designated hitter** in Junior Baseball;
- In Under 12, 14, and 16 junior games, teams with 9 – 12 players must attempt to bat all players. Players from a lower age division do not have to be batted if they are a reserve on the bench (Minor rounds only);
- Runners must slide at all bases when a play is being made at such a base, except first base. At home base, all runners should be encouraged to slide feet first. This is the Umpire's judgement call. Offenders and their Coaches should be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence will result in the base runner being called out
- Players may not dangerously or deliberately throw a bat. This is the Umpire's judgement call. Offenders and their Coaches should be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence will result in the batter/base runner being called out and all runners return to the bases occupied at the time of the infraction;
- Should the last bat of the innings result in more than the required amount of runners crossing the plate, all runs scoring on the play will count;
- Teams may not steal when 10 or more runners ahead;

NOTE: Runner must return to previous base occupied.

- **Substitute players, having played 50% of the fixture (see rule above), may re-enter the game in event of an injury, or replace a Pitcher who has been substituted due to reaching the limits specified in the “Pitching and Catching”;**
- **Re-entered players are not permitted to pitch;**
- In Under 12, once the count on a batter reaches “ball four”, the “Soft Toss” rule will come into effect. The batter takes his/her stance and **shall not bunt**. The catcher must take up a position in the catcher's box. Batters retain their strike count and the Coach must pitch a soft toss pitch. All fouls on soft toss are strikes except after two strikes, and then every foul is a foul ball. The ball must travel at least 15 foot from home plate, if does not travel this distance it will call a foul ball. Any Under 10 player may have soft toss tossed to them when they come to the plate. The soft toss pitch may be delivered from either in front of the batter or on the foul line;
- A batter, who hits safely from a soft toss pitch, may run a maximum of two bases. The batted ball is still in play. Runners on base for soft toss pitchers are not permitted a lead. If a runner takes a lead, he will be called out;
- In Under 12 when a batter has three strikes and the Catcher drops the ball, the batter is out.

PITCHING AND CATCHING

- No Junior player may pitch and catch in the same day;
- No Junior Pitcher may pitch in more than one game per day or two days in a row;
- Catchers are to wear full protective equipment at all times when catching in a game **or** warming up a pitcher;
No player may catch in more than two games in a day;
- Pitchers may not exceed the game maximums, **with the exception that should they reach their maximum number of pitches while there is still an incomplete batter at bat in the box, they may complete that batter and then be immediately replaced.** Scorers are to inform the UIC when the pitcher is within 20 pitches of reaching the maximum limit;

NOTE: All Junior Coaches will be required to keep Daily Game Pitching and Pitch Count Charts.

Grade	Game Maximum	Weekly Maximum
U12	60	80
U14	70	100
U16	80	120

- **NOTE:** It is STRONGLY recommended that pitchers at junior levels throw at least 75% fast balls in all games throughout the season. This is considered an arm Safety and Player Development requirement.
- No Junior Pitcher is permitted to exceed the weekly maximum, for the purposes of regular season, weekly maximums are from Friday to Monday inclusive;
- All Junior Pitchers If they exceed 50% of their game maximum must have at least two complete days' rest from pitching (eg. A player who pitches Saturday, cannot pitch again until Tuesday);
- Between innings the UIC shall allow approximately **one** minute between the last play of one half of an innings and the first pitch of the next or 5 warm-up pitchers maximum (All players are to be encouraged to move quickly into position);
- A Junior pitcher, once relieved in a game, may not pitch again during that game. Once removed from the mound, a pitcher may play in the field, **but not catch**;
- **Relieving pitchers should come from the bench.** However, if relievers come from a position in the field, that player/pitcher must have the opportunity to warm-up whilst their team is on offence;
- **No junior player may play in more than 3 games within a 24 hour period within the GCBA competition.** Any participation (except where a player is used as a pinch runner **only**) is counted as “a game”;
- For multiple games over more than a one-day period, please consult the BQI Tournament Rules.
- **NOTE:** Teams breaching the pitching and catching rules for Junior Players **will forfeit the game** where the breach occurred. The GCBA Judiciary, taking into account the circumstances surrounding a breach of these rules, will levy STRONG penalties on COACHES who repeatedly, deliberately or knowingly breach these rules. Coaches who breach the rules will be reported to BQI.

TOURNAMENT PROVISIONS

- Teams will use a continuous line-up (Up to 12 players) of all present, eligible, uniformed players. All players other than the nine (9) defensive position players are Extra Hitters and may move freely in defensive positions with the exception of the pitching position. Any player(s) arriving after the game has begun, shall be added to the bottom of the batting line-up. When using the continuous lineup and a player has to leave the game for any reason, that position in the line-up becomes an out when that at bat comes around.
- If a team has more than 12 players they must be substituted into the game at the 45 minute mark or Beginning of the 4th Inning whichever comes first.
- Teams may play an official game with an eight (8) player line-up. If a team plays with an eight (8)-player line-up, an out shall be declared for the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat. A ninth (9th) player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the batting line-up as soon as they become available.
- A team may continue a game with a minimum of eight (8) eligible players.
 - All Pitchers will have a daily limit of 3 Innings and a Tournament limit of 4 Inning
 - All Catchers will have a game limit of 3 Innings and a Tournament Limit of 9 Innings
 - Players may not Pitch and Catch in the same game

PLAYING OUTSIDE NATURAL AGE GROUP:

- All teams must have 9 registered age eligible players to be considered a team.
- In the event a team does not have 9 registered age eligible players available for a single fixtured game; registered GCBA Junior players from the same club are permitted to play UP one age group ONLY providing they adhere to the procedure below. (Players are not eligible to play DOWN an age group without the completion of an assessment by the GCBA RDC and a TYPE 2 Player Clearance)
 - U10 is eligible for LL Minors
 - LL Minors is eligible for LL Majors and U14 Div I and II
 - LL Majors is eligible for U14 Div I and II
 - U14 Div II is eligible for U14 Div I and U16
 - U14 Div I is eligible for U16
- ALL players playing UP when Playing Outside their Natural Age Group must adhere to the following stipulations:
 - Where scheduling permits Players MUST play their Natural Age Group first.
 - Players must submit a Type 1 Clearance to their scorer who will place it with the relevant game card EVERY TIME they play up.

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- **The appropriate PONAG form is available on the GCBA website under By Laws and Forms**
- Only Players in the U10 age group who play Little League Minors are permitted to take the place of an age eligible player, all other players playing UP may NOT take the place of an age eligible player.
- Only Players in the U10 age Group who play Little League Minors are permitted to Pitch and Catch while playing UP.
- U10's Pitching in Little League Minors must adhere to the U10 pitch limit of 35 Pitches
- U10's Catching in Little League Minors must adhere to the Little League Limit of 9 defensive outs at the position per game
- All Coaches are expected to know the rules for the competition that they are coaching in.
- **Current Baseball Queensland Rules are available on the GCBA website under By Laws and Forms**