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## **1 Authority of Regulations**

- 1.1 These Regulations are to be used in conjunction with:
  - 1.1.1 The Current BWA Playing Regulations
  - 1.1.2 The Current Official Rules of Major League Baseball
- 1.2 These regulations of Baseball WA (BWA) are issued in accordance with the Constitution # 9.3. Should at any stage there be a conflict between the provisions of the Constitution and these Regulations then the Constitution will prevail.
- 1.3 Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations the Rules of Baseball as currently endorsed by Baseball Australia will prevail.
- 1.4 Regulations, as provided in the Constitution provision 9.3, can be amended by the Board of Directors of Baseball WA (BWA) from time to time.
- 1.5 Regulations will be current as at the 1st of October each year or when finalised by the Board. The board has the right to amend the regulations as it deems necessary during the season.
- 1.6 In these regulations, unless inconsistent with the context, words denoting one gender shall include the other gender.
- 1.7 For the purposes of these Regulations, the following shall be taken as being the standard hierarchy grade seniority:  
SENIOR GRADES: SL, SL2, SL3, A, B, C, D, E, Women's

## **2 Breaches of Regulations**

- 2.1 Any association, club or member committing a breach of these Regulations shall be subject to penalty. By order of the Board, adjudication of such matters is delegated to either the P&D Tribunal or Managing Director or Competition Department as is appropriate to the particular offence.
- 2.2 The Board may endorse any suspension or disqualification imposed by any controlling body of baseball if notification of such suspension or disqualification has been placed before the Board in writing.
- 2.3 Any person or club under suspension or disqualification by BWA shall be barred from taking part in any match under the control of BWA, except that unless the offending person was an umpire at the time of the offence they may participate in matches as an umpire during their suspension.
- 2.4 Any association, club or member failing to carry out any reasonable direction of the Board shall be liable to suspension, disqualification or other such penalty as the Board may determine.
- 2.5 Players found guilty of an offence must serve the full penalty in the grade in which the penalty occurred and as documented in the P&D Report with the next eligible playing date clearly stated. The P&D Chairman or Tribunal will decide the penalty as they deem appropriate. The player is able to participate in any game they are otherwise eligible to play at the commencement of the day recorded.

## **3 Club Regulations**

- 3.1 State League Mandatory Grades
  - 3.1.1 To be eligible to enter a team into the State League competition a club must meet the criteria in below:

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Senior: have a minimum of three (3) senior teams playing at the mandatory State League grades (SL1, SL2 and SL3).

Junior: 8 Junior Teams

- 3.1.2 Clubs who are unable to field all required grades in consecutive years will lose State League and not be eligible to compete in the State League.
- 3.1.3 No Association or club affiliated with BWA shall arrange or take part in any match with any team, within the State of Western Australia or outside the State without first obtaining the consent of the Board. Such consent shall not be granted unless the governing body of Baseball in the State in which the match is being played and Baseball Australia has sanctioned such a match.

*Note: Pre-season/scratch matches are not applicable to this regulation.*

### **4 Finance**

- 4.1 Any club which is un-financial with BWA, the WA Baseball Umpires Association or the WA Baseball Scorers and Statisticians Association as at the closing date for nomination of teams to participate in an official BWA competition shall be excluded from the relevant competition and Forfeit any right of representation to BWA until the outstanding debt has been paid.
- 4.2 Clubs must pay the fees and levies by the dates stipulated in the annual budget. Failure to comply with this stipulation will incur the following penalties:
  - 4.2.1 No Premiership wins awarded for any games played during the first thirty (30) days of a Club being un-financial.
  - 4.2.2 Should the Club remain un-financial after 30 days, no team within that Club shall be permitted to play in sanctioned competition.
  - 4.2.3 Any club un-financial to BWA after 14 Days will not be allowed to use any temporary residents to play or coach in any grade
  - 4.2.4 In addition to the monetary penalties stipulated, a penalty interest rate as determined by the Board shall be charged on all overdue BWA accounts and fees.

### **5 Player Eligibility and Clearances**

- 5.1 A Club can at any time clear or release a player of any further obligations to the club by its own volition. Players seeking clearances will make application to their respective club. If cleared, the player must lodge the required clearance form with BWA before playing for another club. Players seeking clearances are required to be financial with their original clubs prior to the clearance being granted.
- 5.2 Any player age eligible for Big League and below is tied to the club which they played their first game and host club is not at liberty to clear player with the full backing of BWA.
- 5.3 Players may play their first game of baseball with any club. There are no residential restrictions on players except if a player has previously played at a tee-ball club that has a formal agreement with a baseball club that has been approved by BWA then such player is tied to the said baseball club.
- 5.4 No player who is registered as a playing member with one club shall be allowed to play with another club until the player has obtained a clearance from the club with which he is already registered, unless dual clearance granted by BWA. A player is permitted to play with one club and coach at a different club.
- 5.5 Clearance must be in writing and be approved by the Competitions Department prior

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to playing. A player who has just received a clearance from his former club may compete in a weekend games so long as the completed clearance has been received in to the BWA office prior to the first business day following the weekend's games.

- 5.6 For a clearance to be considered it must be lodged prior to December 31st except where a clearance is requested by a person who has not previously played baseball during the season in any recognized baseball competition in Australia or overseas.
- 5.7 Interstate players must produce a clearance from their last club with which they played and submitted to the BWA registrar prior to playing.
- 5.8 Any person or club furnishing false or misleading information to BWA shall be liable to such penalties as decided by the Board.
- 5.9 Playing an uncleared player will result in forfeiture and a fine of \$100 against the offending club.
- 5.10 Designated Pitcher Rule
  - 5.10.1 The rule only applied to local players ie. No "temporary residents"
  - 5.10.2 This rule is only applicable to State League 1 (SL1) and State League 2 (SL2) only
  - 5.10.3 The player must be marked as DP on the lineup card
  - 5.10.4 The DP may only pitch and must have a DH
  - 5.10.5 A DP assignment in SL2 does not disqualify the player from taking a starting role in SL1 however the player is ineligible to pitch in the SL1 game.
  - 5.10.6 A DP assignment in SL1 can be filled by a player who started SL2 without the required 3 inning break however the player is ineligible to take the field once the DP assignment is complete and must not have pitched in the SL2 game. (for clarity should an injury or ejection occur the player is still not eligible to occupy an offensive role in the SL1 game)

### **6 Nominations and Withdrawal of Teams**

- 6.1 Clubs are required to nominate teams for the BWA competition grades by August 31 each year.
- 6.2 The Competition Department shall consider nominations from all clubs when determining grading, but shall have complete discretion when the final grading and fixtures are decided.
- 6.3 A club withdrawing a nominated team before the season commences, but after the fixtures are finalized, shall pay a max penalty of \$200.
- 6.4 No club shall enter more than one team in any mandatory grade of the BWA's competition, unless approved by the Competition Department.
- 6.5 A club withdrawing a team once the season has commenced shall withdraw the lowest graded team of that club, unless, in the opinion of the Competition Department such other team in order to minimize fixturing disruption. All costs associated with the withdrawal of that team shall be paid to BWA.

### **7 Defunct Clubs**

- 7.1 Clubs can be expelled or withdraw from BWA in accordance with the Constitution provision # 5 and be declared defunct. No club shall be defunct until declared by the Board.
- 7.2 In the event that a player, who previously played with a club which is declared defunct, wishes to transfer to another club, they may do so under such conditions as determined by the Board.

### **8 Registration of Players**

- 8.1 All players shall complete and sign an official registration form that the club will keep on file. The information from the registration form must then be uploaded on the “my club” data base prior to the player participating in their first game. Failure to do so will result in a \$100 fine and forfeiture of game/that the player participates in prior to being posted on the data base.
- 8.2 The Competition Department reserves the right to refuse registration of a player if it considers his safety is threatened by participation in baseball
- 8.3 Any BWA registered player remains bound by the rules of BWA including the adherence to Policies appended to these Regulations (Codes of Conduct, Health, Harassment-Free, Vilification-Free, Drug Free, Infectious Diseases, and Liquor Policies)
- 8.4 If a player has not been registered or participated in a BWA competition for Four (4) seasons they will be allowed to register at a new club regardless of previous registration without requiring a clearance, unless player is unfinancial with previous club;
- 8.5 Temporary Residents (Senior Player Only)
  - 8.5.1 A player who is not an Australian citizen or permanent resident shall be deemed to be a temporary resident
  - 8.5.2 Clubs to notify BWA of Non Residents via email before such player plays 1<sup>st</sup> game. Should BWA request VISA information, this is to be provided within 24 hours or player will not be allowed to take field.
  - 8.5.3 Clubs are limited to fielding a max of two (2) temporary residents in any one (1) game;
  - 8.5.4 Any current temporary resident who has applied for permanent residency of Australia may be allowed to play in BWA Competitions under the same rules and restrictions that apply to Australian residents in the BWA regulations. To remove the Temporary Resident restrictions the club must write to the BWA Competitions Manager and provide the following:
    - *Copy of application to the Department of Immigration*
    - *Copy of receipt for fee to department of Immigration*
  - 8.5.5 Any “Temporary Resident” returning to the same club after three (3) consecutive years will be allowed to play without any restrictions. If that player on his fourth (4) year goes to another club then he will be classified as a Temporary Resident again resetting their count to “year one”. If the player believes he should be allowed to play at another club without restriction he may appeal to the Board for an exemption.
  - 8.5.6 All applications will be assessed by the BWA Competitions Committee prior to the Temporary Resident being allowed to play under these rules. If the application for permanent residency is refused then that player will revert back to being a temporary resident and will then be subject to the temporary resident restrictions as per BWA regulations.
  - 8.5.7 No individual “Temporary Resident” may pitch in consecutive games for the same team.
  - 8.5.8 The “Temporary Resident” will not be eligible to pitch for any team until after the completion of the next scheduled game for which he/she last pitched. I.e. Temporary Resident Throws SL2 can’t throw for any grade until after the

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completion of the next SL2 fixtured game.

- 8.5.9 A new pitching rotation is deemed to commence with the post season irrespective of when the temporary resident last pitched in regular season games.
- 8.5.10 Maximum number of persons permitted to participate in a game is 21 - including coaching and medical staff. No other persons are permitted in the dugout area during the game.
- 8.5.11 All participating persons must be:
- In playing uniform
  - Listed on the line up sheet that is handed to the plate umpire prior to the commencement of the game. Persons not listed will not be permitted to enter the game as a player.
- 8.5.12 For State League Finals only - the number will increase to from 21 to 24.

### 8.6 Work Visas (Seniors)

Any person on a work visa brought out by a Company may play without "Temporary Residents" restrictions, but must provide the following information.

Copy of passport showing entry visa or visas into Australia

Copy of 457 visa from passport

Copy of letter from Employer (457 visa holders) the employer must not be associated with any Baseball club

## 9 Junior Aged Players

- 9.1 All Big League players and Junior League players are bound by pitching and catching restrictions that apply to that age group for the whole season, irrespective of any grade they play;
- 9.2 Players must turn 16 by 31st August 2019 to play senior baseball in the 2018/19 season
- 9.3 All players eligible in age for Big League and below will be bound by those pitching restrictions as stated in the Junior Regulations.
- 9.4 Penalties for breaching those restrictions will be as follows
- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Warning
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in same season – Forfeit of Game and \$100 fine
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense in same season – Forfeit of Game, \$100 fine and 1 game suspension for coach
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Offense in same season – As above, with additional game suspension for every further breach.

## 10 Forfeits and Bye Situations

- 10.1 A forfeiting team must give 48 hour's notice to BWA and the other club of its intention to forfeit.
- Schedule of fines
  - Prior to 12noon Friday before Game - \$0
  - Friday 12noon to Sunday morning 12am- \$50
  - Day of game - \$200
- 10.2 Where a forfeit situation occurs for any team, no player from the forfeiting team shall play in a lower grade on that day, unless they played in the lower grade the previous

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- week. Or if they have played the greater amount of games in the lower grade.
- 10.3 Penalties for forfeiture by teams do not apply to situations where a team having started a game in accordance with these regulations forfeits as a result of not having enough players to complete the game
- 10.4 A game declared a forfeit shall have a score recorded as 9 to 0 in a scheduled nine innings game or 7 to 0 in a scheduled seven innings game in favour of the non-offending team;
- 10.5 The minimum number of players to avoid forfeiture is nine (9) for State League, SL2, and Big League. For all other grades the minimum number of players required to avoid forfeiture is eight (8). Teams will not be penalised with an automatic out when playing with 8 players
- 10.6 Bye Situations
- 10.6.1 Where a bye situation occurs for any team, a player who has played in that team (grade) during the previous round of fixtures is ineligible to play in a lower grade UNLESS the person has played a greater amount of regular season games in that grade or lower before the bye (a round where a particular grade is not competing is considered a bye)

### 11 Uniforms

- 11.1 Applies to any participant occupying a position within the playing area including the dugout/bench at any time from pre-game diamond work to the conclusion of the game
- 11.2 All participants MUST be attired as a MINIMUM as below:
- 11.2.1 Club Cap (Same Design & Colour)
- 11.2.2 Club Playing Top – including unique numbers no smaller than 15cm (Seniors Only)
- 11.2.3 Club Baseball Pant (all must be of the same style & colour. i.e.)
- 11.2.4 Caps, Playing Tops and Pants MUST be uniform amongst ALL participants of that game, optional additional uniform items (Warm-Up Jackets, Slickers etc.) must appear consistent with the sport, failure to comply may result in the individual's removal from the game.
- 11.3 Coaches taking infield / outfield warm up or base coaching in all grades must be in the teams uniform;
- 11.4 All base coaches in ALL grades are required to wear protective helmets. Junior players must wear a double eared helmet when base coaching. Failure to wear a helmet will be removal from base coaching if a coach refuses to comply. If a coach continues to return without a helmet after being warned then the offending person shall be ejected from the game.
- 11.5 The wearing of two-eared helmets is compulsory for batting and base-running. All helmets must be uniform in colour for each grade and in good condition and must meet the NOCSAE requirement. Double-eared helmets must be worn at all times by batters and base runners in ALL Competitions.
- 11.6 All bat boys / girls must wear a double-eared helmet;
- 11.7 Any fielder may wear a non-shiny helmet the same colour as the club's cap.
- 11.8 Any person warming up a pitcher shall wear a face mask and a helmet no matter whether in the bullpen or on the playing field. The face mask will have a throat guard attached to it unless the throat guard forms part of the mask.
- 11.9 All clubs must register their uniform colours with BWA and are not to change those colours or design of uniform without the written approval of the Competition

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Department.

## 12 Equipment

- 12.1 The Home Team (including games at Baseball Park) will supply new balls for games in each grade during regular season games. For Finals, the host club is responsible for supplying balls and BWA will provide balls for finals games hosted at Baseball Park
- 12.2 State League teams are required to supply 4 approved baseballs per game. All other grades are required to supply 2 approved baseballs per game. Match balls of the approved type and quality must be replaced immediately and as necessary to complete the game with the required number of balls.
- 12.3 Games will not commence without the required number of approved balls.
- 12.3.1 Approved Balls – Minimum Standards
  - *Big League, SL3, A-F Grade and Women's*  
*Diamond Ace Minor League Easton 600 Wilson A1010 Rawlings ROLB-1*
  - *SL1 and SL2*  
*Diamond Ace Major League Easton 777 Wilson A1010 Rawlings ROLB*
- 12.4 Bats
- 12.4.1 Players participating in SL1 and SL2 shall ONLY use wood or wood composite / laminated bats with a Maximum barrel 2.75", max length 42"
- 12.4.2 All Grades SL3 and below shall use bats either the conventional wood type, wood composite, aluminum, ceramic or carbon graphite.
- 12.4.3 Any Aluminum, Ceramic or Carbon Graphite bats must meet the following standards

*Alloy or Metal Barrel bats must be a maximum of 2 ¾ Diameter and be a max -8 in weight differential*

*Any Composite Barrel bats must be marked with the BBCOR stamp*

*Any player or club found to be using bats (regular season) outside of these rules will have the bat removed from the game.*

*Any player or club found to be using these bats in finals will automatically forfeit the game.*

- 12.4.4 For season 2018/19 these Bat regulations will not be enforced for the Women's Grade. Women playing in other grades will need to adhere to these rules.

## 13 Commencement of Games

- 13.1 The Team Manager/Coach shall, 30 minutes before the commencement of the game, supply the Scorers with official line up information.
- 13.2 The Manager of each team shall hand to the Umpire-In-Chief, five minutes before the official commencement of the game, 2 copies of an official line up sheet listing the starting line-up, their order at bat and position in the field.
- 13.3 All games will start on time irrespective of whether teams have completed their pre-game warm ups, unless preceding game or games cause a legitimate delay. If the same Umpires are involved then a min of 30 minutes between games is required
- 13.4 Any alteration to an official game starting time must be approved by the Competitions Manager one (1) week prior to the revised starting time
- 13.5 Other than wherein described all warm ups must take place outside the playing diamond area (infield). It is the home team manager's responsibility to ensure that the diamond is available for the visiting team to warm up for a period of seven (7) minutes, twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled starting time. The home team is



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entitled to warm up on the diamond for a period of seven (7) Minutes, twelve (12) minutes before the scheduled start time. In the event of the diamond not being available for the visiting team twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled start time, the visiting team is entitled to take its full seven (7) minutes by using time normally allotted to the home team. Neither team may continue warming up past five (5) minutes before the scheduled starting time.

- 13.6 Termination/suspensions of Games - refer to Official Rules of Baseball
- 13.7 Risk Management - during any game played under the auspices of BWA any BWA Official (employee), Board Member, or Umpires Adviser is empowered to terminate a game if in their judgement weather, darkness, or other conditions are such that players and/or spectators are exposed to a significant risk of injury.
- 13.8 Cancelled Games  
Except for State League, regular season games cancelled due to weather, darkness, or other conditions, BWA will not reschedule any make up games. NB: If both clubs can arrange the game to be replayed then BWA will allow that game to be played, all make up games must be made up prior to the final week of the regular season. All playoff games will be made up. Tournament games will be made up if schedule allows.

### **14 Results of Matches**

- 14.1 Each team shall provide a scorer who shall keep a detailed score for their team in a Baseball WA approved scorebook and shall be responsible to see that the score book is signed by the umpire and that the game report is submitted to Baseball WA on the approved forms with no modifications
- 14.2 Team scorers shall sit together and as far away from the team benches as possible.
- 14.3 All clubs must fax or email game reports to BWA by 12noon on the Tuesday following the weekend or the day after a weekday game. Failure to do so will invoke a penalty of \$10 per report.

### **15 Protested Games**

- 15.1 Where a Club Manager, Coach or Official protests a game, claiming a violation of Rules and/or Regulations, notification must be received by the Chief Umpire at that time in the game and before the next pitch or the next out is made. The Chief Umpire shall ensure each team scorebook is notarised and signed accordingly. (Signing at completion of the game is acceptable).
- 15.2 The lack of an Umpire's signature may not invalidate the protest; however that umpire may be liable to suspension from the umpiring panel by the Umpires Adviser.
- 15.3 A detailed written report of such incident shall be forwarded to BWA within 48 hours of the occurrence of the incident with a copy of the signed scorebook.
- 15.4 All protests may be referred to the P&D Committee for their consideration at the first available meeting.
- 15.5 During finals, the P&D will meet within 24 hours.

### **16 Coaching Regulations**

- 16.1 All coaches of teams in BWA competitions are encouraged to attain formal ABF / NCAS coaching accreditation.
- 16.2 State League coaches must have ABF / NCAS Level 3 coaching accreditation.  
Update?

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### 17 Finals Regulations/Minimum Games

- 17.1 Minor Grades - A person must receive game credits in at least six (6) regular season games for that club during the season to be eligible to play in final round fixtures for that club in grades below State League.
- 17.2 State League -To play in State League final round fixtures a player must receive game credits in at least eight (8) regular season games for that club.
- 17.3 Game Credits
- 17.3.1 Minor Grades -When calculating player eligibility for final round fixtures ALL regular season games in which the player participated in (started or substituted into the line-up) for that club shall be considered. Player are required participate in a minimum of Position Player/DH must complete 3 outs or 1 plate appearance and Pitcher must complete a batter.
- 17.3.2 State League -Players will only receive game credits for State League Games if they were listed in the starting line-up or if they came in to pitch in the game (Position Player/DH must complete 3 outs or 1 plate appearance and Pitcher must complete a batter). State League players will continue to receive game credits until the final regular season games are completed.
- Perth Heat Player Qualifications for Club Baseball – Australian Players Only. Import Players are not eligible under this rule
  - A. A Perth Heat player must achieve a total combined of 8 games for their Club OR on Active Perth Heat Rosters applying to both Pitchers and Position Players to qualify for State League Finals.
  - B. A Perth Heat player must achieve a total combined of 6 games for their Club OR on Active Perth Heat Rosters applying to both Pitchers and Position Players to qualify for Minor Grade Finals

#### Example for State League Players:

Total of 4 games for their Club and 4 ABL Series on an Active Perth Heat Roster. **Total = 8 Games**

Total of 8 ABL Series on an Active Perth Heat Roster. **Total = 8 Games**

Total 8 games for the Club with no Series on Active Perth Heat Roster. **Total = 8 Games**

- 17.4 Year End – Lower grade players will receive game credits according to the above until the conclusion of the lower grade fixtures. That is, no lower grade player may receive game credits to qualify for the lower grades by playing in State League which may have regular season rounds remaining after the completion of the lower grade schedule.
- 17.5 Playing Up or Down
- 17.5.1 A player shall not be eligible to play in the finals for a team graded lower than the grade for which the player has qualified. However, players may participate in a higher grade under the limitations of these regulations. For the purposes of this regulation, the standard grading hierarchy shall be as noted previously in this document.
- 17.5.2 A player who has qualified at Big League is not automatically qualified to play in any senior grade final they wish. The player must play in the senior grade that they have played the most number of senior games.
- 17.6 Grading
- 17.6.1 Players are eligible for finals play in the grade where they have played greatest percentage of fixture games for that grade. If a player has an equal percentage in more than one grade, they are eligible to play in the lower of the two grades. If a player starts in a higher grade final then that player will not be eligible to play in

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the lower grade final for the remainder of the finals. A player may come off the bench/bullpen and return to the lower grade that he has qualified for.

- 17.6.2 SL1/SL2 – Where a club has both SL2 and SL1 playing in finals, a player who has qualified for SL2 finals can start in SL1 finals and not impact their SL2 finals eligibility.

### 17.7 Club Eligibility for Finals

- 17.7.1 Any club that owes monies to BWA and/or Scorers Association and/or Umpires Association ten (10) days before the first game of any Finals shall be disqualified from having ANY team participate in the finals.
- 17.7.2 If a club is disqualified from competing in the finals as a result of being unfinancial then in each grade where that club's teams are disqualified, all other financial teams shall move, in order, up the premiership table. These positions shall constitute the finishing order only for the purposes of playing the finals in each grade.

## 18 Premiership Format

### 18.1 Standings

- 18.1.1 Standings will be in order of WINNING PERCENTAGE, i.e.:  $(\text{WINS} + .5 \times \text{TIES}) / (\text{TOTAL GAMES PLAYED})$
- 18.1.2 If teams are tied in the standings, the team having the best win loss record in games contested between the teams tied will be ranked higher.
- 18.1.3 If teams still tied in the standings, the team having the best runs against per defensive innings  $((\text{runs against}) / (\text{defensive innings}))$  in the games contested between the tied teams will be ranked higher.
- 18.1.4 If still tied, teams will play a 1 game tie breaker to determine the higher ranked team.

### 18.2 Final Round Format

- 18.2.1 Format for the Finals series is as per the published fixtures.
- 18.2.2 After State League semi-finals the team who is ranked highest after the home & away season will assume home team status for game one & three if required.
- 18.2.3 Time Limits
- 18.2.4 Time Limits for finals shall be as follows
- SL1, SL2 – 9 innings
  - SL 3, A, B, C, D, E – 2hrs or 9 innings
  - Womens – 2hrs or 7 innings

- 18.4 Tied Score - In the event of a tied score play shall continue until 1 team leads after equal innings have been played.

### 18.5 Awards

- 18.5.1 For Players to be eligible for BWA awards Team Score Books and Statistics must be forwarded to the Western Australian Scorers and Statisticians Association for assessment for that grade. There will be notice sent to all clubs and posted on the website prior to the last regular season scheduled game of where and when Score Books have to be dropped off.
- 18.5.2 Any Player ejected from a game and found guilty of the offence shall not be considered for awards of best and fairest.