

CENTRAL COAST BASEBALL ASSOCIATION Inc.



Playing Rules Policies & Procedures

CCBA March 2015

WARNING ABOUT INHERENT DANGERS OF BASEBALL

The rules and procedures issued by BNSW are designed to maximise the enjoyment, fairness and safety of our game. Officials and players should be aware that baseball, just like all sports, will always have inherent dangers. Some of these dangers arise from batted balls and collision of players. Care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment (including protective equipment), proper training methods and awareness of the risks.

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Abbreviations

ABF -- Australian Baseball Federation Inc.

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

CCBA -- Central Coast Baseball Association.

CCBA Club -- A club registered as a member of the CCBA also referred to as "Club".

NSWBUA -- New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Inc.

NSWBL -- New South Wales Baseball League

Tribunal -- CCBA Tribunal.

CM -- Competition Manager

FSD -- Finals Series Director

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

These rules can only be changed by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting of the CCBA.

The Judiciary Committee (Judiciary) shall be the CCBA Judiciary committee. CCBA Judiciary procedures will apply.

In these Rules "division" shall mean the total competition e.g. Winter, Summer, etc; "grade" shall mean the sub-grades within the division e.g. 2nd grade is a grade; "team" shall mean the list of registered players making up the starting line-up of a team in a grade.

All competitions run by the CCBA shall only be open to clubs affiliated with this Association

The method of conducting competitions for member and affiliate clubs shall be as approved by the CCBA each season.

Each registered club shall be responsible for fielding: -

- * Teams in first grade of the division. If more than one team is nominated the teams must be entered indescending order of grades. Any newly formed senior club affiliating for the first time must reach first grade status within five (5) years.
- * All senior clubs affiliated with the CCBA should field teams in all junior grades.
- * Any newly formed senior club, affiliating for the first time must field a minimum of one junior team after three (3) years affiliation and teams in all junior grades after four (4) years affiliation.

1. RULES AND PROCEDURES These rules and procedures will govern the CCBA Competition. They should be read in conjunction with the OABR and if in conflict, these rules shall take precedence. The CCBA will resolve any exemptions or queries arising from matters not included in these Rules.

It is the responsibility of all clubs to ensure that they remain current with all policies generated by governing bodies i.e BNSW and Baseball Australia. If changes to any governing body policy occur mid-season, CCBA reserves the right to implement said changes. These playing rules will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they are compliant with any policy change.

- 1.1. No alteration to the playing schedule or venues is permitted without the approval of the CCBA.
- 1.2. Playing times will vary according to the draw. The CCBA may make alterations to game times when necessary.
- 1.3. The **Scheduled Finishing Time** will be as indicated in Rule 1.2. No adjustment to extend the scheduled finishing time will be allowed in any instance.
- 1.4. The top half of an inning will NOT commence ten (10) minutes or less before the Scheduled Finishing Time as indicated above, however where an inning is NOT completed at the Scheduled Finishing Time, play shall continue until the bottom half of the inning is completed or the team batting in the bottom half of the inning has scored the winning run.
- 1.5. It shall be a regulation game in first (1st) grade (weekend) as defined by the **OABR Rule 4.10 (c) (1) (2) (3)**, and in all other grades, including mid-week games, where the Umpire in Chief certifies that sixty (60) minutes or five (5) innings of play have been completed(4 ½ innings where the team leading is batting last.).
- 1.6 In first grade, game will be called when any of the following conditions are met:
 - i. If the home team is ahead by more than 15 runs after the top of the 5th or 6th innings
 - ii. If the home team is ahead by more than 10 runs after the top of the 7th or 8th inning
 - iii. If the away team is ahead by more than 15 runs after the bottom of the 5th or 6th innings OR
 - iv. If the away team is ahead by more than 10 runs after the bottom of the 7th or 8th innings.

1.7 Limits on Warm Up Pitches – Unless a pitcher enters a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, they shall be permitted preparatory pitches in accordance with OABR Rule 8.03. Time limits specified with OABR Rule 8.03 shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of each inning.

Should either team take longer than the specified time limits to make the changeover between innings, penalties will be invoked as per :

- One the first occasion, the team Manager will be given a warning by the Plate Umpire.
- Any further transgressions shall result in a called strike (if it is the batting team that offends) or a called ball (if it is the pitching team which offends.)
- The specified time limit commences immediately the third out of the previous inning is completed.

The active pitcher will be permitted to warm up prior to taking the mound by throwing in foul territory but beyond the 1st and 3rd base areas toward the outfield.

Umpires should use discretion to prevent conflict when applying this rule.

2. GAME PRELIMINARIES - FITNESS OF GROUND. The fitness of the ground for play will be decided by the authorities controlling the ground local council, the home team, the team managers, or in the event of the managers disagreeing, by the Umpire in Chief, in that order. The safety of players, officials and spectators shall be the primary concern of the officials controlling either the ground or the game. Games shall not commence, or continue, if there is a foreseeable risk of injury occurring to any player, official or spectator.

2.1. It is the HOME CLUBS responsibility to notify the Wet Weather contact, Umpires Co-ordinator and appointed umpires and the opposition by phone as early as possible.

2.2. The respective contact details are to be submitted to all club delegates at sub-committee level prior to the commencement of the season.

2.3. Failure to notify prior to 8.30am on game day will result in the Club being responsible for the Umpires Fees.

2.4. When a game is NOT being played because of the unfitness of the ground, the result shall be declared a “no game”. The CCBA shall retain the right to transfer or reschedule the game if appropriate, and such decision will be final.

3. POINT SCORE.

3.1. For the purpose of determining semi-finalists in all grades of the CCBA, the percentages will be calculated on the results of games played and the number of games won, lost, tied or forfeited. Where teams are tied, the positions will be decided by:

- a) Head to head results in all games between the two team involved.
- (b) If still tied, the lowest ratio of (number of runs scored against them) divided by (defensive innings played) in the games between the tied teams.
- (c) If still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team, then the second ranked team, and so on.

3.2. The Club Championship shall be determined by applying the points to each game as follows:

- 1st grade 10
- 2nd grade 8
- 3rd grade 6
- 4th grade 4
- 5th grade 2

(a) If tied score, points split evenly.

(b) Bonus 20 points for a clean sweep in all grades/games

- (c) Where a club has more than one team in a grade only the points for the highest placed team will count towards the club championship.
- (d) Final Club Points equals: Total club points for each grade divided by games the club played in that grade multiplied by the total games as per the draw for the season for that grade and then cumulated for a final total club points.

4. UNIFORMS.

- 4.1. All affiliated clubs shall register the colours, logos and design of its uniform and warm up jackets with CCBA
- 4.2. Only these shall be worn while on the field of play. No changes to the colours or design of the uniform may be made without the approval of the CCBA.
- 4.3. Only warm up jackets of the players registered club shall be worn on the field of play. Pitchers and relieved pitchers shall be allowed to wear warm up Club jackets in the batting box or on the field of play, and where circumstances warrant. Other players may be allowed to wear warm up jackets at the Umpire in Chiefs discretion.
- 4.4. Each uniform is required to have an individual number (no duplications) not less than 150mm in size that can be seen clearly from outside the field of play.
- 4.5. Baseball caps will form part of the uniform and must be worn at all times excepting when the batting helmet is worn.
- 4.6. Clubs may add sponsor patches to the uniform. The patches can only be applied to either sleeve, the back of the uniform and the left breast. The maximum diameter allowed for such logo on the sleeve is 65mm, or 65mm in height if lettering is affixed to the uniform.
- 4.7. Alcohol and Tobacco advertising is not permitted. CCBA reserves the right to refuse other advertising which it considers to be not in the best interest of the sport. Its decision will be final.

5. EQUIPMENT.

- 5.1. For weekend games, the home club supplies the match balls for all grades. All match balls will be of the same brand (as approved by BNSW) in any game under the control of the CCBA.
- 5.2. Sub committees are to determine the type of balls to be used in semi finals and finals. Clubs participating are responsible to provide this brand of ball in games they contest. Each side in a finals game is to supply two (2) balls to the umpires at the start of play. As balls go out of play each team should provide a replacement. At the end of the game balls remaining are to be returned to the clubs who provided them.
- 5.3. The subcommittee is to supply baseballs for all grand finals.
- 5.4.** Only non-metal bats, i.e. wood or wood composite are to be used exclusively in all 1st grade games and any other grade as determined by CCBA. All other grades may use metal or metal-alloy bats as per BNSW policy document.
- 5.5. Protective Equipment:** All clubs and players are required to provide safety and playing equipment as required by the CCBA.
- 5.6. Only two (2) ear flap batting helmets may be worn by batter/ runners. It is up to the umpires discretion to not allow the use of a specific helmet due to offensive imagery or poor condition.
- 5.7. Clubs that have bat persons are to ensure that they wear appropriate fitting protective equipment, including a two eared helmet and protector.
- 5.8. Catchers and any person warming up the pitcher are required to wear either an approved facemask with throat protector or "hockey style" helmet.
- 5.9. All Base Coaches MUST wear as minimum protection, a catchers style "skull cap" while coaching either 1st or 3rd base.
- 5.10. Penalty: If a player persists in warming up a relief pitcher without using the correct protective equipment the player and the manager of their side will be ejected from the game. If the player warming up the relief pitcher is not part of the game but a registered player they will be considered ineligible to play in any later games and a report will be filed with the relevant subcommittee or judiciary. If the person warming

up a relief player is not a player the team manager will be ejected and the details included in the ejection report.

- 5.11. Any person not complying with these “protection” rules will not be permitted to participate in the game.

6. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES.

All clubs and personnel are to adhere to all NSW Government and local government regulations and legislation policies concerning alcohol and tobacco.

- 6.1 Smoking and Alcohol - A player, team official or umpire participating in a game shall not use tobacco products on the field of play. This prohibition shall also apply to “warm up” areas, batting practice areas, dugouts and all surrounding areas including spectator areas.

i.a.i.1.a.i. Clubs serving alcohol are to ensure that they comply with relevant council regulations relating to the use of sporting fields and any applicable laws.

- 6.2 A player, team official or umpire whilst in uniform shall not consume liquor in or near the playing field where a game is in progress or is about to commence.

- 6.3 PENALTY for breaches of 6.1 and 6.2: The offending person shall be removed from the game.

- 6.4 **Drugs** – The Anti-Doping policy that has been adopted by the ABF will be enforced.

- 6.5 Any player who is required by doctors’ prescription to treat a medical problem with proscribed drugs as defined by ASDA guidelines shall be registered with BNSW and or the ABF. Players are to forward details accompanied by a letter from the players’ doctor to BNSW.

- 6.6 Clubs are to ensure that all players who have queries re prescribed drugs are advised to consult the ASDA website www.asda.org.au and if further information is required, contact the drug advisory hotline on 1800 020 056.

7. LEGISLATION.

- 7.1 The Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (as amended) particularly Section 221 now includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual harassment in sport, have been accepted by the ABF and BNSW. Reports on any matter of this nature are to be referred immediately to the Member Protection Officer of BNSW for attention.

- 7.2 Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 – the working with children check requires that all clubs with players under the age of 18 require that ALL Coaches and Managers (whether paid or unpaid) declare whether they are a prohibited person under the terms of the Act, and complete relevant documentation/checks

- 7.3 Any suspected breach of BNSW Policy in regards to inappropriate behaviour (e.g. harassment, discrimination) should be referred to the Member Protection Officer of BNSW. Details of the resolution process can be found in the BNSW Member Protection Policy (June 2003.)

8. REGISTRATIONS.

- 8.1 Eligibility – Unless otherwise authorised by the CCBA, each affiliate CCBA Club will have to enter five (4) teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Grade) and 5th Grade to be eligible to compete in the CCBA.

- 8.2 (a) The minimum age for players to participate in the First and Second grade divisions will 15 years of age on 31st December in each competition year.

(b) The minimum age for players to participate in all lower grade divisions will 14 years of age on 31st December in each competition year.

- (c) The minimum age of a bat person participating in any game shall be determined at the umpires discretion.

- 8.3 All Under 18 Grade players must be Under 18 years of age on 31st December of each competition year.

- 8.4 Players who are Under 16 years of age on 31st December in each competition year shall be classified as Under 16 players.
- 8.5 Late registrations may be accepted at the discretion of the CCBA Executive or sub-committee as determined by the CCBA Executive.
- 8.6 Only persons whose registrations have been approved by the CCBA may participate in any competition games. The CCBA retains the right to refuse any registration, or any registration in a particular grade, at their discretion, and this decision shall be final.
- 8.7 All players, coaches, managers, scorers and any other team official must be registered on the IMG Registration System or current database as determined by the governing State Body.
- 8.8 A team shall be debited with a forfeit of nine to nil (9-0) for any game in which an unregistered player, coach or manager participate.
- 8.9 Clubs intending to field teams in the junior competition are to notify the junior vice president at least six weeks before the start of the competition. Teams nominated that are not affiliated with a club playing in one of the senior competitions are to be approved by the CCBA Executive.
- 8.10 Clubs intending to field teams in a senior competition are to notify the relevant sub-committee at least six weeks prior to the scheduled start of the competition.
- 8.11 For competitions organized by the senior sub committees no new player registrations are to be made after 31st December for summer and 30th June for winter.
- 8.12 A junior player with a club that is not fielding a team in the concurrent senior competition can apply to the senior sub-committee for approval to play senior games with a different club. A player approved to play with a different senior club is NOT permitted to play for more than one junior club in a season.
- 8.13 If at the end of a season a player still owes money or equipment to a club that club is to advise the other subcommittees. The subcommittee is to notify the clubs who have nominated teams and the player is not to be registered or take part in competition until they have paid any outstanding money and returned any equipment. This is independent of the default process proscribed by Baseball NSW that applies to prevent a player playing in another association. Any disputes on this issue are to be referred to the CCBA Executive for decision.
- 8.14 The club, in its application, must show that it will be competitive in this League and detail its financial position to show that it has the capacity to maintain the requirements of the CCBA. The CCBA will outline these requirements by the 30th November each year for the following year.
- 8.15 The club should also submit details of the number of its juniors over the last 3 seasons and supply full details of its junior development program to show the manner in which it will develop, expand and improve its juniors.
- 8.16 The CCBA reserves the right to refuse the entry of any club and / or the registration of any person.
- 8.17 All monies owing by a club arising from accounts issued by the CCBA must be paid by the date requested by the CCBA. Any club in breach of this rule will firstly be charged the nominated interest on all monies outstanding at a rate declared by the CCBA. As a penalty the club will not be permitted to continue in the competition, unless special approval has been granted by the CCBA.
- 8.18 There is no discrimination between Senior and Junior Clubs unless they are incorporated. Non-incorporated clubs will be seen as one identity and incur any financial debt that has been accrued.

9. TRANSFERS.

- 9.1 Any player, coach or manager, registering with an CCBA club who has previously played for another CCBA club, must secure a clearance from the previous CCBA club stating that they have cleared all obligations to that club. The new club shall be responsible for ensuring that there are no outstanding obligations.
- Note: Once a problem has been notified, the player, coach or manager CANNOT take any part in any game until the matter is resolved. Penalty – Forfeit of nine to nil (9-0) to the non-offending team.**
- 9.2 Any players, coaches etc., registered in another state **will not** participate in any competition game until they have been cleared by that State's controlling body, under penalty of the games in which they participated in being declared a forfeit of nine to nil (9-0) to the non-offending team.
- 9.3 Players may not be registered in more than one State at the same time. Players moving from one State to another must obtain a clearance before participating.

9.4 A player, coach etc. may not play or coach with more than one CCBA Club during the same season, without the approval of the CCBA. No change may be made after the completion of Round 9 games.

9.5 When any registered person changes their address, the club is required to update the relevant database within 14 days.

10. MEDICAL

10.1 Before registering to play, all people should notify their club officials and the CCBA of any condition that may affect their performance or participation in the sport of baseball. Such conditions may include, for example, pregnancy, epilepsy and diabetes.

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

10.3 Information relating to an individual's medical condition shall be held confidentially (unless this is not required) but may be used by the organisation for administrative, insurance, legal or related purposes.

10.4 All people who register with CCBA on the IMG database agree that they shall NOT contravene any medical advice in relation to their continued participation and when required, to provide a medical certificate approving their continued participation in the sport.

10.5 CCBA will NOT be held responsible for the players or individuals failure to seek, and follow appropriate medical advice.

10.6 **Infection Rule:** Any players who, having any visible signs of any body fluids, must stem the flow of these fluids and remove or clean or cover any visible sign of these fluids from clothing and equipment. While the player receives such treatment, the game may continue with a temporary player for a maximum of 6 defensive outs of the player's team. If the treated player is unable to return to the game, a substitution of this player must be made under OABR 3.03. Where the nature of the incident is obviously serious enough to prevent the player from returning to the game, an immediate substitution is required to avoid abuse of this rule.

10.7 A temporary player under rule 10.6 may be any player, whether a reserve or a player previously substituted in this game, provided the player is not:

10.8 The pitcher who is currently under a rest period as required by Rule 16.

10.9 A player who has been ejected from any game in the current competition round.

10.10 The temporary player for the player receiving treatment may not be replaced by another temporary player.

11. UMPIRES.

11.1 Official Umpires will be appointed to all games by the CCBA Umpires Association or Umpires Convenor. CCBA Clubs shall not interfere in any way with appointments. The Umpires Co-Ordinator will notify the CM of any shortages of umpires and this information will be passed on to the clubs as soon as practical.

11.2 In the event of an Official Umpire not attending at the time set down for the game to commence, or being unable to continue, an umpire, or umpires shall be appointed by the home team, and the game shall continue. Every effort shall be made to appoint accredited umpires by the NSWBUA who shall receive payment.

11.3 Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the official BNSW Result Sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse with the result of the game and any ejections, injuries or protests.

11.4 An umpire shall forward to BNSW, by email, a report on any ejection, citing or protest by COB on the day following the game.

11.5 Home teams will be responsible for the payment of umpires at the conclusion of the scheduled game at the nominated rate as determined by CCBA or at an Annual General Meeting.

12. COACHES.

12.1 All coaches must be accredited to the levels as required by NCAS. Exemptions to this requirement may be granted by the BNSW Technical Committee.

PENALTY: Loss of competition points.

Any coach, registered with a Club, but not listed on the line up, may assume the role of a coach during the game; however they may not participate as a player.

12.2 As per Rule 5.9 Coaches are required to wear catchers or coaches skull caps or batting helmet when standing in the designated coaches box on the 1st and 3rd base lines.

13. DEFENSIVE VISITS.

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

13.2 There is no restriction on the number of players who may approach the mound conference during a visit.

14. SCORERS.

14.1 Clubs playing in this Competition are required to provide an official scorer for each grade.

14.2 Scorers shall be seated together in a designated area behind home plate where possible.

14.3 The home team is required to provide a table, chairs and shelter that provides adequate cover from all forms of weather.

14.4 Venues for night games shall have adequate lighting in the designated scorers area for scorers to be able to see their scorebooks.

14.5 Club scorers are to ensure that all relevant details (injuries, ejections etc.) are recorded on the game result sheet presented to the Umpire(s) for signature.

15. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS.

15.1 Both teams involved in a scheduled game shall email a scanned result card to the CCBA recorder , details as advised by the Competition Manager, by COB on the Monday after the scheduled round.

15.2 Penalty: Failure to comply with these rules will result in a loss of competition points (one game) per grade.

15.3 Results of all games will be available on the CCBA website: www.centralcoastbaseball.com.au, Facebook page and via email to the nominated club delegate.

16. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS. (NSWBL –Player Protection Policy). General Provisions

16.1 (a) This policy does not differentiate between genders and ability.

(b) Should a player from NSW be competing in any sanctioned event where there is a conflict in tournament or event rules to this policy, this policy shall take priority.

(c) Specific rules for tournaments or events conducted in NSW over consecutive days must be submitted to the Technical Committee prior to the event for approval.

(d) The Chair of the Technical Committee, or their nominated delegate when present at any event or tournament, shall have the discretion and authority to issue rulings or decisions pertaining to that specific tournament or event.

- (e) The word Assignment means any game or trial situation in which a player delivers a pitch or the aggregate of all pitches thrown in a single game.
- (f) If any pitcher delivers one pitch, they shall be charged for the relative Assignment.
- (g) A pitcher reaching the maximum number of pitches for a MAJOR Assignment is to be removed from the game once finishing the batter in the box. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3rd out of an inning, that pitcher is entitled to remain as a batter only.
- (h) A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate whether it is hit safely or not shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the “number of pitches”.
- (i) A “no pitch” i.e. Batter steps out of the batter’s box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count.
- (j) In the event any Umpire calls an “Illegal Pitch”, the pitched ball will count toward the pitchers count.
- (k) In Under 16’s and lower, it will be the responsibility of the official scorer to notify the Chief Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within 10 pitches of the maximum allowable number.
- (l) The Umpire has the authority to police the Pitching Rule, however coaches are responsible for complying with these rules.

16.2 Pitchers Game or Trial Situation.

The primary risk management components of this policy concern:

- (a) The number of pitches thrown (classified as Assignments).
- (b) The desirable rest periods following an assignment.
- (c) The relationship between pitching and catching.

The Assignment Table is based on a player’s age as at 31st December in each year.

Age	Minor	Substantial	Major May finish batter
Under 16	1 – 29	30 – 64	65 – 80
Under 18	1 – 39	40 - 79	80 – 100
Seniors	1 – 59	60 – 99	100 – 125

16.3 Pitching Assignments and Rest Periods

- (a) Rest periods relate to Pitching involvement, except where otherwise specifically provided.
- (b) No rest is required after a MINOR assignment.
- (c) A days rest is considered as ONE FULL CALENDAR DAY, and not calculated as a 24 hour period.
- (d) No player shall undertake a MAJOR assignment on the same day, or the day following a MINOR assignment.
- (e) Any player pitching a MAJOR assignment will be required to complete one days rest before any PLAYING participation (except as a designated hitter, pinch hitter or pinch runner) and two or three days’ rest (as per following table) before assuming any battery position.
- (f) Having thrown a MINOR or SUBSTANTIAL Assignment, no pitcher may throw a MAJOR Assignment on the same day or on the following day.
- (g) **Players may go from pitcher to any other position (except catcher) after a Minor or Substantial Assignment.**
- (h) If a player pitches a SUBSTANTIAL in the first game of a double header or subsequent game that is played on the same day, they can only participate in the second game of the double header or subsequent game as a designated hitter, pinch hitter or runner.
- (i) Any player may only throw two MINOR assignments on the same calendar day.
- (j) Should a pitcher complete a SECOND MINOR Assignment on the same day then 2 days rest is required, except where the aggregate number of pitches is equal to, or less than a single MINOR Assignment, then only 1 days rest is required.

(k) If a player completes a SECOND MINOR Assignment on the same day, where the aggregate number of pitches is equal to a SUBSTANTIAL Assignment, then the player shall not have any further participation on that day, except for pinch hitting or pinch running and shall have 4 days rest before any further pitching Assignment.

(l) Any player pitching a MINOR followed by a SUBSTANTIAL the next day, will be required to complete 1 days rest before any playing participation except for pinch hitting or pinch running, and 3 days rest before commencing any further pitching Assignment.

The following table summarises the relevant rest periods required.

Assignment	Junior Rest		Senior Rest	
	Playing	Pitching/Catching	Playing	Pitching/Catching
Minor	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor/Minor equal to Minor	Nil	1	Nil	1
Minor/Minor equal to Substantial	1	4	1	4
Minor/Substantial	1	3	1	2
Substantial	Nil	2	Nil	2
Major	1	3	1	2

16.4 Junior Players

(a) Any player under 18 years of age (as at 31st December in the current playing season) shall be classified as a junior.

(b) Should a junior pitcher be selected in a team above their age group, pitching will be applicable to the pitchers age, not to the League or Tournament in which they are playing.

(c) A Junior Player:

- (1) Can come to the mound from any position provided they have properly warmed up.
- (2) May only undertake ONE Pitching Assignment in any one game.
- (3) Having pitched; cannot catch in the same day.
- (4) Having caught; may pitch on the same day, but only for a MINOR Assignment.

16.5 Penalties for any breaches of Rule 16.

(a) 9-0 forfeit to the non-offending team.

(b) Any subsequent breach by the club in the same season: further loss of game and suspension of the team coach.

(c) These rules are designed to protect pitchers from overuse and also to encourage clubs to develop more pitchers.

17. DESIGNATED HITTER

17.1 A Designated Hitter may be used in accordance with the OABR Rule 6.10 and with these rules.

17.2 A Designated Hitter may only be used where there are ten (10) fresh players in the starting line-up of any game.

- 17.3 When a Designated Hitter has completed at least one (1) turn at bat and subject to Rule 16.3(g), a pitcher who is being relieved by a reserve player, may bat in the Designated Hitter slot (terminating the role of Designated Hitter for the remainder of the game), and take another defensive position OR otherwise be removed from the game.

18. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

18.1 Only registered players of the CCBA are eligible to compete and whilst not stipulated, it is encouraged that any player shall NOT appear in more than one club teams starting line up in the same round.

(a) The full names and player numbers of starting team and fresh reserves must appear on the original team line up sheet.

(b) A line up is so required to consist of no less than (6) fresh players within the starting line up (including that of the DH), that have NOT appeared in a prior game.

(c) Reserves may be any player registered with the Club.

(d) To be eligible to enter a game a player must be listed as a fresh reserve, or have played in a lower Grade game in the same round.

(e) Players are not to play a Grade more than one Grade below any appearance in the previous seven days without approval from the subcommittee. Requests for regrade of players are to be lodged with the relevant sub-committee at least 3 days before the next game.

(f) When a player has played 55% of scheduled games in a Grade they are not eligible to play below that Grade for the remainder of that season, including the final series. This number will be set at the start of the season and will not be adjusted for washouts during the season. 18.2 Players involved in other leagues are to follow the following grading rules:

- a.i. If they play in a competition considered a higher level than the Sydney State League (for example the Australian Baseball League) they can only play 1st grade.
- a.ii. If they play in the Sydney State League they cannot play lower than the grade they last started a game in the Sydney State League.
- a.iii. An appearance in the Sydney State League Under 18 competition is considered equivalent to a 2nd grade appearance for the purposes of the grade a player can play in for the following 7 days.
- a.iv. Any limitations on players involved in leagues not detailed above are to be determined by the CCBA Executive.

18.3 Any fresh player shown in the starting line up (including that of the DH) who has NOT participated in a lower Grade game in the same round shall so be required to participate for a minimum of either:

- (i) three (3) innings in a scheduled (9) inning game have been completed, or
- (ii) 1/3rd of the scheduled playing time in a timed game has been completed, UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES occur.

PENALTY: A deemed breach of 18.4 will result in the game being declared a forfeit and a nine to nil (9-0) win recorded to the non-offending team.

18.4 Should the club supply (4) or more players from a particular Grade to an approved representative event, the club may utilise a player who has participated in a lower Grade in the same round or "double up". The club is subject to the following provision:

(a) A club may utilise a player in the starting line up (including that of the DH) that has participated in a lower Grade in the same round, on a player for player basis, therefor reducing the stipulated fresh player requirement under 18.1 (b) in accordance with the following method:

Eg.

Minimum of (9) players in a line up	9
Less players on representative duties	-5
Equates to the minimum fresh players within the starting line-up	4

(b) The lowest Grade that the representative player last participated in, regardless of whether the player formed part of the starting line up or a mid-game substitution, will determine the Grade in which the application of 18.5 applies.

PENALTY: A deemed breach of 18.5 will result in the game in which the “double up” occurred being declared a forfeit and a nine to nil (9-0) win recorded to the non-offending team. 18.6 If a senior player is selected in a Central Coast Representative Squad and later withdraws without providing a reasonable explanation for doing so, then he will be suspended for three games.

Defaulters can only be listed once the procedure set down by BNSW has been completed.

Prior to listing the player a certified letter must be sent to the player stating why the player is in default and giving the player 21 days to pay the debt.

(ii) Defaulters can only be listed with the CCBA on the club's letterhead signed by the club secretary. CCBA will notify BNSW of the defaulted player.

If a player pays the debt after being listed then the onus is on the club to notify the CCBA.

18.7 Adherence to the conditions set down under 18. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS does not fall to the responsibility of the games umpiring officials.

Whilst all parties are charged with the responsibility to avoid Protests & Disputes, a game should not unnecessarily be delayed and clubs are to follow the procedures as stipulated in the OABR and points 22. Protests & Disputes by way of making representation to the CCBA.

19. FINAL SERIES

19.1 A separate set of Rules and Procedures will be issued each season prior to the commencement of the Final Series.

19.2 If games are washed out during the Final Series, the Procedures as listed in the Final Series Schedule will be followed.

19.3 To be eligible to play in the Final Series, a player:

(a) Must be listed on the IMG Registration database or current database as determined by the governing State body.

(b) Unless authorised by the CCBA, must have participated for that club in at least 50% of the available competition rounds, played by the club, not including washed out fixtures, during the current season.

19.4 The grade in which a player shall be eligible to participate in the Final Series shall be determined according to the following criteria:

(a) Notwithstanding rule 18.1 (f), the player shall be eligible for play offs in the grade in which he played the majority of his games during the season.

(b) Forfeits are not included in the games used to calculate qualifications.

(c) Prior to the commencement of the Final Series, if the gradings fail to establish a minimum of (9) players per Grade, then the player/s with a lower grading, but with the next most games played in that higher Grade will assume the higher grading. This clause will continue to apply until such time a minimum of (9) players are established for each grade.

(d) If rule 19.4 (c) is applicable to 1 or more players who are on equal games played, then a club may exercise their discretion and elect which player is to qualify in the higher grade.

(e) The players grading at the cessation of all scheduled rounds is regardless of their participation in the final series.

19.5 Representative Cover Rule - To be treated on a case by case basis at the qualification meeting.

(i) The Sub-Committee may approve eligibility based on non-participation in games specifically due to

- Representative Commitments
 - Participation in the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program
- Factors specifically not considered include:
- Work commitments

19.6 A player qualified in a lower grade is eligible to play in a higher grade in the Final Series.

19.7 Players, who through extenuating circumstances, do not meet the qualification criteria for the Final Series may be considered for qualification at the CCBA Meeting immediately prior to the Final Series. Extenuating circumstances would include, but not limited to, late registrations who through washouts or opposition forfeits could not play the required number of games, or players who through injury could not play the required number of games.

20. ON FIELD BEHAVIOUR

20.1 Wilfully violent or unsportsmanlike action, including unnecessary body contact, abuse of playing equipment or facilities, fighting, or other behaviour considered by an umpire to be dangerous, injurious or to bring the game into criticism or disrepute, will result in the player or team official responsible being ejected from the field and/or cited to appear before the TRIBUNAL.

20.2 All registered members are responsible to BNSW for their conduct and behaviour at games and events conducted by the CCBA, whether playing or not.

20.3 All clubs are required to make their players aware that SPORTING COMPETITORS OWE A DUTY OF CARE TO ONE ANOTHER. There is a fine line between an error in judgement on the field and negligent conduct. Competitors should endeavour to exercise **reasonable care** not to injure other players in playing out a game or match.

20.4 **Deliberate Collision:** Clubs are to ensure that all players are aware that intentional contact, under certain circumstances, will NOT be tolerated.

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

20.5 **Collisions at Home Plate:** All clubs are advised that new rules have been introduced regarding collisions at Home Plate and they come in to force in September 2014. OABR Rule 7.13.

21. **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

21.1 All registered club personnel, including players, volunteers and officials are subject to the ABF Social Media Policy, which is available on both the CCBA and ABF websites. It will also be distributed to all clubs.

Any breach of this policy will result in the offending persons being referred to the CCBA and BNSW Tribunals.

22. **PROTESTS & DISPUTES.**

22.1 (a) The provisions of the OABR will apply to all competition games of BNSW and in the event of an umpire giving an erroneous decision on a point of law and refusing to alter his decision, although his attention was drawn to the fact at the time, on the field, by the coach/manager of the team which has suffered such wrong decision.

(b) Every official – coach, manager, scorer and umpire is charged with the responsibility to do everything in order to avoid any potential protest.

22.2 The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the CCBA, provided that the intention to protest is indicated to the Umpire in Chief at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched or before any intervening play occurs.

22.3 The final protest is confirmed with the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes of the completion of the game.

22.4 A *Judgement Decision* by an Umpire will NOT be accepted as grounds for a protest.

22.5 This process does not apply to breaches of Rules 16 or 18 which will be dealt with by CCBA.

22.6 Any club wishing the CCBA Executive to adjudicate on any dispute arising from any game shall forward to the CCBA CM a clear statement on the matter in dispute. The report, along with the \$100 lodgement fee, shall be received within three (3) days of the game. The \$100 fee shall be forfeited should the protest be considered frivolous.

22.7 Failure to observe the CORRECT PROCEDURE shall render the protest invalid.

22.8 The CCBA, or persons appointed by it, shall be the authority as to whether or not a protest is to be upheld, and any subsequent decision. They may call upon any person to assist them in any way they consider appropriate.

22.9 The CCBA will make the necessary rulings where penalties are not stipulated for rule infringements.

22.10 Any breach of Rules 16 and/or 18 will result in a breach notice being issued to the Club concerned. The club concerned may choose to accept the penalty imposed, or contest it at the next CCBA Meeting.

If contesting the breach, a written submission explaining the breach must be sent to the CM prior to the next CCBA Meeting.

22.11 Clubs have the right to appeal any decision of the CCBA to the CCBA Appeals Committee.

Any Club wishing to appeal to the CCBA Appeal Committee shall forward to the CM a clear statement of the grounds for the appeal. The appeal, along with the \$100 lodgement fee, shall be received with three (3) days of the CCBA's original decision. The \$100 will be forfeited should the appeal be dismissed.

22.12 In extenuating circumstances, such as when several CCBA Clubs are involved in the dispute, the CCBA may choose to refer the matter to CCBA Appeals Committee.

22.13 The decision of the CCBA Appeals Committee shall be FINAL.

22.14 Clubs who are found to breach the Playing Rules more than five (5) times in a season will be asked to show cause for continuation in future seasons. Conditions may be imposed on such a club should they continue in the competition.

23. FORFEITS

23.1 **Game forfeited during play:** A forfeited game is a game declared ended by the Umpire in Chief in accordance with the OABR. Umpires are required to submit to the CM a report on such declarations outlining the reasons for the forfeit.

23.2 In the event of a club being forced to forfeit any game, they must do so by forfeiting their lower nominated grade or grades first. The highest grade side nominated by that club shall not be forfeited without first forfeiting all nominated lower grades(junior grades excluded).

23.3 **Game forfeited prior to play:** If a club is unable to field a team of 9 players, having made all reasonable effort, then a forfeit shall be declared. Clubs may “double up” players to avoid having to forfeit.

23.4 Clubs whose team(s) forfeit will be responsible for the payment of umpire’s fees for that game/round. In addition the club responsible for the forfeit will be fined:

23.5 Clubs who forfeit more than five (5) games in a season will be asked to show cause for continuation in future seasons. Conditions may be imposed on such a club should they continue in the Competition.

23.6 In any grade except the lowest grade a club appears in at a ground on a day, they are to have 9 players in the game at all times. Where a team competing in the lowest grade a club is appearing at a ground on a day does not have 9 players to start the game, they are permitted to play:

- (i) With no less than 7 (seven) players. In this case the coach of the side with less than 9 players will nominate where the gap(s) is/are in their batting line up and an automatic out will be recorded when the gap comes up in the line-up.

24. TRIBUNAL

24.1 All participants under the control of BNSW and CCBA will abide by, and be subject to the OABR, these Playing Rules and any other instruction regarding the conduct of the game of baseball by the CCBA.

24.2 Any player or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:

- (a) Ejected from a game by the Umpire.
- (b) Cited by an Umpire for an incident that occurs after the game has been “called”.
- (c) Cited by the CM, CCBA or BNSW.

24.3 The CCBA appoints the Tribunal Chairman to process all incidents referred to in Rule 24.1 using the proscribed descriptors.

24.4 When a person is ejected from a game of baseball, or cited, he/she will:

- (a) Conform strictly to the OABR.
- (b) Not participate in another game of baseball with a Club, League or Association affiliated with BNSW until such time as the matter has been processed by the BNSW Tribunal
- (c) Clubs will be issued with a Charge Sheet for the player(s) concerned and will be advised of all applicable penalties and options.

24.5 Suspensions are to be expressed in terms of weeks of competition that the player will miss. For the purposes of counting weeks the following will apply:

- a.v. The grade that the player has played most games in at the time of the ejection will be the grade that matters for the purposes of determining weeks.
- a.vi. If the team has a bye or a game is washed out during the period this week will not count towards serving the suspension.
- a.vii. If the team makes the play offs then any games they play will count towards serving the suspension.
- a.viii. If the player played in the previous alternate season competition then the games their team is scheduled to play in the next season will count towards serving the suspension. For the purposes of this rule, the previous season will only count if the player took part in sufficient games to qualify for the finals series. If for some reason the team they qualified with does not take part in the following season a team from the relevant grade will be selected by the CCBA Executive for the purposes of counting weeks.

25.1 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES: SMOKING AND LIQUOR

No player, coach, manager, assistant manager or an umpire participating in a game shall smoke or consume liquor whilst on the field of play or surrounding area. This prohibition shall also apply to all junior players at all times.

PENALTY: The offending player will be removed from the game and the offending club penalised with loss of two competition points

JUNIOR PLAYING RULES

Under 8 to Under 16

These rules and conditions of this document will also govern all competitions run by the Central Coast Baseball Association Junior Committee, including summer and winter. They should be read in conjunction with the playing rules and procedures of the CCBA, OABR and the Official Rules of Aussie T-Ball. Where there is conflict, Junior rules will take precedence.

A summary of Junior playing rules and amendments is available on www.centralcoastbaseball.com.au. It is the responsibility of clubs and the relevant sub-committees to ensure that the summary is updated on a seasonal basis.

Junior teams will align with the pathways as presented by the governing bodies of BNSW and Baseball Australia. CCBA reserves the right to alter the pathways as required for all Junior competitions.

CONTACTS

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