



Playing Rules, Policies & Procedures 2019/20

WARNING ABOUT INHERENT DANGERS OF BASEBALL

The rules and procedures issued by BASEBALL NSW 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.

NSWBL -- New South Wales Baseball League Inc. Also known as Baseball NSW (BASEBALL NSW).

SLSC -- NSWBL State League Standing Committee.

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

NSWSL -- New South Wales State League

NSWBUA -- New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association Inc.

Tribunal -- BASEBALL NSW Tribunal.

CM -- Competition Manager

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

- 1.1. No alteration to the playing schedule or venues is permitted without the approval of the SLSC.
- 1.2. Playing times will vary according to the draw. The SLSC may make alterations to game times when necessary. Weekend Games: U18, 3rd & 2nd grade – 2 ¼ hours OR 9 innings. First Grade will follow OABR.
- 1.3. The **Scheduled Finishing Time** will be as indicated in Rule 1.2. However, during daylight saving in NSW and where the preceding game finished later than the scheduled time, the **Scheduled Finishing Time** will be adjusted by adding the normal game time as per Rule 1.2 to the new starting time for that game. Following games will commence 15 minutes after the completion of the previous game.
- 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 7.01 (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. It shall be a regulation game as defined in the OABR if one team leads by ten (10) runs after seven (7) innings **or by fifteen (15 runs) after five (5) innings. This applies to all grades.**
- 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 a maximum of 60 seconds including a minimum of three (3) warm up pitches. This same time limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of each inning.

Should either team take longer than the 60 seconds 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 60 second 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, 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 on 0490 017 439, the Umpires Co-Ordinator on 0431 552 303 and the opposition** as early as possible of the closure. Failure to notify prior to 8.30am on game day will result in the Club being responsible for the Umpires Fees.
- 2.2. If a ground is closed, Clubs may, with the approval of the CM, move the game(s) to another venue. The game can only be moved on the same weekend, and the umpires must be in agreement. It is in the interests of the League, and the game of baseball, that the game(s) must be played if possible. The decision of the Competition Manager is final.
- 2.3. When a game is NOT being played because of the unfitness of the ground, the result shall be declared a "no game". The SLSC shall retain the right to 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 SBL, the percentages will be calculated on the results of games played and the number of games won, lost, tied or forfeited. Where two or more teams are tied, the positions will be decided by:
 - (a) Head to head results in all games between all the teams 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:
 - (a) 150 points for 1st Grade (Mid-week and weekend).
 - (b) 100 points for 2nd Grade.
 - (c) 50 points for 3rd Grade.
 - (d) 75 points for Under 18.
 - (e) Total = 525 points possible per round.
 - (f) If tied score, points split evenly.
 - (g) Bonus 100 points for a clean sweep in all grades/games.

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 BASEBALL NSW. 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 SLSC.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. Baseball caps will form part of the uniform and must be worn at all times excepting when the batting helmet is worn.
- 4.5. Clubs may add only three (3) sponsor patches to the uniform. The patches can only be applied to one sleeve, the back of the uniform and the left breast. The maximum area allowed for such logo is 80cm².
- 4.6. Alcohol and Tobacco advertising is not permitted. SLSC 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 midweek games, both clubs will supply new match balls. 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 BASEBALL NSW) in any game under the control of the SLSC.
- 5.2. Only non-metal bats, i.e. wood or wood composite may be used for all SBL games in all grades.
- 5.3. **Protective Equipment:** All clubs and players are required to provide safety and playing equipment as required by the SLSC.
- 5.4. Only two (2) ear flap batting helmets in solid or "club" colours may be worn by batter/ runners.
- 5.5. Clubs that have bat persons are to ensure that they wear appropriate fitting protective equipment, including a two eared helmet and protector.
- 5.6. Catchers and any person warming up the pitcher are required to wear either an approved facemask with throat protector or "hockey style" helmet.
- 5.7. All Base Coaches **MUST** wear as minimum protection, a catchers style "skull cap" while coaching either 1st or 3rd base.
- 5.8. Any person not complying with these "protection" rules will not be permitted to participate in the game.

6. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES.

- 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.
- 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 & 6.2: **The offending club will be fined \$100 and the offending person removed from the game and cited to appear at BASEBALL NSW Judiciary.**
- 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 BASEBALL NSW and or the ABF. Players are to forward details accompanied by a letter from the players' doctor to BASEBALL NSW.
- 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 BASEBALL NSW. Reports on any matter of this nature are to be referred immediately to the *Member Protection Officer of BASEBALL NSW* 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 Coaches and Managers (whether paid or unpaid) to declare whether they are a prohibited person under the terms of the Act.
- 7.3 Any suspected breach of BASEBALL NSW Policy in regards to inappropriate behaviour (e.g. harassment, discrimination) should be referred to the Member Protection Officer of BASEBALL NSW. Details of the resolution process can be found in the BASEBALL NSW Member Protection Policy (June 2003.)

8. REGISTRATIONS.

- 8.1 Eligibility – Unless otherwise authorised by the SLSC, each affiliate SBL Club will have to enter four (4) teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and Under 18) to be eligible to compete in the SBL.
- 8.2 The minimum age of players registering is 15 years of age on 31st August in each competition year. (Exemptions may be requested, in writing, to the BASEBALL NSW Technical Committee prior to the commencement of the season.)
The minimum age for a bat person is 12 years of age.
- 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 Each SBL Club shall register the name, address, and date of birth of every player, coach (including registration number), manager, bat person and scorer in to the Baseball NSW **approved database by the date advised by the**

CM prior to the commencement of the season. A hard copy Block Registration must be submitted to the CM by the required time.

- 8.6 Late registrations (i.e. any player/official not listed on the original block registration) may be accepted provided that the following procedures have been followed:
- Players' details must be entered in to the relevant database.
 - **An updated Block Registration must be submitted to the CM.**
- 8.7 All clubs shall register their players, coaches, and managers. The minimum number of players being registered is to be at **least 45 players.**
- 8.8 Registrations will not be accepted after 15th December in each competition year, except by the decision of the SBL, which shall be final.
- 8.9 Only persons whose registrations have been approved by the SLSC may participate in any competition games. The SLSC retains the right to refuse any registration, or any registration in a particular grade, at their discretion, and this decision shall be final.

8.10 IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

- All import requests are to be tabled on the Import Player Request Template and submitted to the Competition Manager. The decision on whether the player will be classed as an import will then be determined by the BNSW Technical Committee, whose decision will be final.
- A maximum of 3 imports per club is allowed.
- Import pitchers may not pitch more than 9 combined innings per series in the regular season.
- Import players may only play 1st grade unless exceptional circumstances apply. This shall be at the sole discretion of the CM.

- 8.11 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 participates. The club will be fined \$300 for breach of any part of Rule 8.**

9. TRANSFERS.

- 9.1 Any player, coach or manager, registering with an SBL club who has previously played for another SBL club, must secure a clearance from the previous SBL 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.
- 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.
- 9.3 A player, coach etc. may not play or coach with more than one SBL Club during the same season, without the approval of the SLSC. No change may be made after the completion of Round 9 games.
- 9.4 When any registered person changes their address, the club is required update the relevant database within 14 days.

10. MEDICAL

- 10.1. Before registering to play, all people should notify their club officials and the BASEBALL NSW 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 BASEBALL NSW 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 BASEBALL NSW 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 10.4 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.
- 10.11 All clubs should have at their home ground a basic 1st Aid Kit for use if required. BNSW highly recommends the availability of a defibrillator. The link to apply for a Government Grant for a defibrillator is here: <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/defibrillator>.

11. UMPIRES.

- 11.1 Official Umpires will be appointed to all games by the NSW Umpires Association Inc. SBL 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 managers of the opposing sides, 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 BASEBALL NSW 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 BASEBALL NSW, by email, a report on any ejection, citing or protest by COB on the day following the game.

12. COACHES.

- 12.1 All coaches must be accredited to the levels as required by BASEBALL NSW. **(Currently a Level 3 is required for on field managers for all teams in State League.)** Exemptions to this requirement may be granted by the BASEBALL NSW Technical Committee. **PENALTY:** Offending club shall be fined \$350.
- 12.2 **Any accredited 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.
- 12.3 **Any approach to the Umpire must come from the on field manager, as listed on the line up.**

13. DEFENSIVE VISITS.

- 13.1 On a second visit in the same inning 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.

Please note that there have been several changes over the past 5 years that are covered in the OBR Rule 5.10 – Substitutions and Pitching Changes (including visits to the mound). It is every coach's responsibility to be aware of these rules.

14. SCORERS.

- 14.1 Clubs playing in this Competition are required to provide an official scorer for each grade. All scorers must be current financial members of the NSW Baseball Scorers Association.
- 14.2 Each club shall appoint an accredited scorer as the Clubs Scoring Co-Ordinator.
- 14.3 Scorers shall be seated together in a designated area behind home plate where possible.
- 14.4 The home team is required to provide a table, chairs and shelter that provide adequate cover from all forms of weather.
- 14.5 Venues for night games shall have adequate lighting in the designated scorer's area for scorers to be able to see their scorebooks.
- 14.6 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 Each home SBL Club shall upload result sheet onto BNSW App by noon on Thursday for midweek games and by 12 noon on Mondays for weekend games.
- 15.2 Penalty: Failure to comply with these rules will result in a fine of \$50 for each offence.
- 15.3 Results of all games will be available on the BASEBALL NSW SBL website: www.sbl.baseball.com.au and also on the State Baseball League Facebook page.

16. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS. (MLB PitchSmart Guidelines.)

- 16.1 (a) This policy does not differentiate between genders and ability.
- (b) 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.
- (c) If any pitcher delivers one pitch, they shall be charged for the relative Assignment.

- (d) A pitcher reaching the maximum number of pitches for a **MAXIMUM** 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.
- (e) 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".
- (f) 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.
- (g) In the event any Umpire calls an "Illegal Pitch", the pitched ball will count toward the pitchers count.
- (h) 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.

Pitch Count Limits and Required Rest Recommendations						
Age	Daily Limit	Short	Moderate	Substantial	Major	Maximum
Days Rest		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105
23+	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 **SHORT** assignment.
- (c) A days rest is considered as ONE FULL CALENDAR DAY, and not calculated as a 24 hour period.
- (d) Any player under the age of 23 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.
- (e) **For players under the age of 23, pitchers who have thrown a SHORT assignment may only throw another SHORT assignment on the same day or following day. For players aged 23 and older, pitchers must stay under their daily limit of 125 pitches.**
- (f) **Under 18 players may only go to another position (except catcher) if they throw less than 60 pitches. The pitcher may finish the batter.**
- (g) **If a player aged 19-22 years of age pitches a MAJOR (61-75) in a game, they can only participate in a 2nd game on the same weekend as a designated hitter, pinch hitter, and pinch runner.**
- (h) **No player may pitch and then catch in the same game.**

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) \$300 fine for first breach in any season.
- (c) Any subsequent breach by the club in the same season; \$300 fine and suspension of the team coach.
- (d) 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 5.11 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 NSWBL are eligible to compete and it is the intention that any player shall NOT appear in more than one (1) SBL teams starting line up in the same round **UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (ACCEPTABLE TO THE SBL) occur.**
 - (a) 3rd Grade substitutes must be 3rd Grade reserves or Under 18 players from the same round.
 - (b) 2nd Grade substitutes must be 2nd Grade reserves or 3rd Grade or Under 18 players from the same round.
 - (c) 1st Grade reserves may be any player registered with the Club.
 - (d) If a player has not participated in a lower Grade in the same round, he must be listed on the line up as a fresh reserve.
 - (e) **U18 Double Up Rule - No more than 3 Under 18 players may start in a 1st or 2nd grade game as well as a U/18 game in the same round. If clubs are to utilise this rule, if at all possible the 3 players doubling up must be rotated within the U18 roster. The names of the U/18 players**

being doubled up must be marked with an asterisk on the team sheet of the 1st or 2nd grade team which is handed to the umpire at the plate meeting.

This rule will be reviewed at the conclusion of Round 9 by the Technical Committee.

- (f) Reserves in mid-week games can be listed as "CLUB".
- 18.2 The names of the starting team and fresh reserves must appear on the original team line up sheet. Any player who is scheduled to start in a higher grade game on any day in the same weekend will not be permitted to enter a game in progress. To be eligible to enter a game they must be listed as a fresh reserve, or have played in a lower grade game in the same round.
- 18.3 In the event of an injury or the ejection of a player(s), and no other player is available, a replaced player(s) may return to the field of play. However they may not return to be part of the battery and any ejected player WILL NOT be permitted to return under this rule.
- 18.4 Any player who has participated, or will participate in a lower grade game in the same round shall not enter a game in progress until after three (3) innings have been completed UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES occur under the conditions outlined in Paragraph 18.5.

CLUB PENALTY: the game in which the player participates will be declared a forfeit and a nine to nil (9-0) win recorded to the non- offending team. The club shall also incur a fine of \$100.

- 18.5 **Where a club does not have enough players to have four fresh starting line ups in a weekend, players may be allowed to "double up" subject to the following conditions:**
- (a) **First grade only may use a DH and may have 1 (ONE) fresh pitcher on the bench.**
 - (b) Players may only appear in the starting line-up in 2 grades and may not have entered another previous game as a substitute.
 - (c) The reason for doubling up must be submitted in writing (email or sms) to the CM prior to the game.
 - (d) Failure to comply with conditions (a) to (d) will result in the game in which the "double up" occurred being declared a forfeit and a nine to nil win recorded to the non- offending team. The offending team shall also be fined \$100.

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 shall be followed.
- 19.3 To be eligible to play in the Final Series, a player:
- (a) Must be listed on the Clubs Block Registration List as held by the CM.
 - (b) Unless authorised by the SLSC, must have participated for that club in at least 50% of the **competition rounds** played by the club 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) Each round a players grade shall be determined by the highest grade in which the player formed part of the starting line up (or participated in the game as a fresh reserve) i.e. they had not already participated in any other grade in that round.
 - (b) The player shall be eligible for play offs in the grade in which he played the majority of his games during the season.

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

- 19.5 **ABL PLAYER COVER RULE** – Position players must play at least 6 games during the State League regular season. Pitchers are to be treated on a case by case basis.
- 19.6 **Representative Under 18 Players (NYC or Blue Sox players) may not play in the 3rd Grade Competition. However, Representative Under 16 Players are permitted to play in the 3rd Grade Competition.**
- 19.7 A player qualified in a lower grade is eligible to play in a higher grade in the Final Series.
- 19.8 Players, who through extenuating circumstances , do not meet the qualification criteria for the Final Series may be considered for qualification by the CM 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 BASEBALL NSW for their conduct and behaviour at games and events conducted by the League, 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.
- 20.6 **Sliding to Bases on Double Play Attempts:** New Playing Rule 6.01(j) ("Sliding to Bases on Double Play Attempts") came in to effect for the 2016 season. This Rule, which was intended to eliminate avoidable collisions at the bases to protect the health of infielders making attempts to turn double plays, was developed in conjunction with the Playing Rules Committee, as well as the Players Association and World Umpires Association.

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 State League 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 BASEBALL NSW TRIBUNAL.

22. PROTESTS & DISPUTES.

- 22.1 The provisions of the OABR will apply to all competition games of BASEBALL NSW 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.
- 22.2 The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the SLSC, 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 SLSC.
- 22.6 Any club wishing the SLSC to adjudicate on any dispute arising from any game shall forward to the SBL 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 SLSC, 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 SLSC 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 SLSC Meeting. If contesting the breach, a written submission explaining the breach must be sent to the CM prior to the next SLSC Meeting.
- 22.11 Clubs have the right to appeal any decision of the SLSC to the SLSC Appeals Committee. Any Club wishing to appeal to the SLSC 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 SLSC's original decision. The \$100 will be forfeited should the appeal be dismissed.
- 22.12 In extenuating circumstances, such as when several SBL Clubs are involved in the dispute, the SLSC may choose to refer the matter to SLSC Appeals Committee.
- 22.13 The decision of the SLSC 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 **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 (with permission of CM), to avoid having to forfeit.

- 23.3 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:
- (a) \$50 for the first breach.
 - (b) \$100 for the second breach.
 - (c) 200 for each subsequent breach.
- 23.4 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.

24. TRIBUNAL

- 24.1 All participants under the control of BASEBALL NSW 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 SLSC.
- 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, SLSC or BASEBALL NSW.
- 24.3 The SLSC appoints the BASEBALL NSW Tribunal to process all incidents referred to in Rule 24.1
- 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 will a Club, League or Association affiliated with BASEBALL NSW until such time as the matter has been processed by the BASEBALL NSW Tribunal
 - (d) Clubs will be issued with a Charge Sheet for the player(s) concerned and will be advised of all applicable penalties and options.
 - (e) **Any person who is ejected from a game must leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game. They should change in to street clothes and should remain well removed from the team dugout or bullpen areas. This same restriction applies to any person who is serving a suspension.**

CONTACTS

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