



BENDIGO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INC BY-LAWS – INDEX

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BY-LAWS

These by-laws shall be read in conjunction with Rules of the Bendigo Baseball Association Incorporated and shall be binding on its members, team, player and thereof.

1. FINANCIAL

1.1 Financial Year

The Financial Year of the BBA shall commence on the first day of November and on the last day of October in each year.

1.2 Expenses

The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall have power on behalf of the BBA without Special authority to expend of up to \$1,000 for immediate expenses of the Association, provided that such expenditure shall be submitted for ratification by the next meeting of the Committee.

1.3 Special Levies

All special levies and/or other monies set aside by the BBA for specific purposes shall be recorded in separate entries and shall be utilised only for such specific purposes.

1.4 Liability of the BBA

The BBA shall not be responsible for any debts incurred by constituent members, clubs or teams and no person shall incur any expenses to the BBA unless with the written consent of the BBA or as hereinbefore provided.

1.5 Non-Payment of money due to the BBA

Any Member or person failing to pay fees, subscription levies or other monies properly payable on or before the due date shall be liable to a late payment penalty fine as determined by the Committee. Club members shall forfeit its rights of representation at Committee meetings and its team or teams shall be debarred from taking part in any BBA final competition until all outstanding monies have been paid.

1.6 Due date for Payments of Accounts

Any account for fees, subscriptions, levies and other amounts due by each club, shall be rendered to the respective Clubs by the Honorary Treasurer on or about the first of each month during the competition. In accordance with common trading practice accounts are payable within 30 days from the date of the invoice. Accounts thirty-one (31) days past the due date of invoice will be considered overdue.

1.7 Membership, Entry Fee and Subscriptions

Membership, entry fees and subscriptions shall be set at the Annual General Meeting of the Association as set out in the Rules of the Bendigo Baseball Association, Rule 9.3.5. and are payable on or before 30 June in each year.



2. Schedule of Fines

The following fines/penalties shall apply in respect to infringements below;

General

Non-attendance by Club at a meeting (Refer Rule 8)	\$30.00
2 nd Consecutive instance – Loss of match point to highest grade team	
Late return of Match/Vote Cards within 72 hours (Excluding T-Ball)	\$10.00
Not prior to the commencement of the next game	
Unregistered Player	\$25.00
Illegal Player	\$25.00
Plus loss of points (Refer By-Laws 6.5)	
Underage Player	\$30.00
Plus loss of points (Refer By-Law 6.6)	
Exceeding Pitch Count	\$200.00
And loss of game plus	
Second or Finals offences	\$100.00
Per 10 pitches over count	\$10.00
Late start	\$10.00
Senior player not in correct Club uniform (Refer Senior Playing Rule 17)	\$10.00
Unsigned or incomplete Match Cards	\$10.00

GROUND OR PLAYING CONDITIONS

Smoking, alcohol beverages, chewing or dipping tobacco	\$100.00
No bases, home plate or painted pitching mats / lines provided	\$ 20.00 each
Diamond marking incomplete (includes home run line or cones)	\$ 20.00
No putting away equipment whilst home team at neutral venue	\$ 50.00

UMPIRE

Non-attendance of a BBA appointed Umpire	\$ 40.00
Club Line Umpire not provided, first offence	\$ 10.00
Second and subsequent offences	\$ 20.00
Failure to supply umpire for JUNIOR match	\$ 20.00



3. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

All players must be registered as follows:

- (1) PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED PLAYERS – Each club shall activate on the current approved ABF database a list of names and updated addresses and other details of previously registered players who will be playing for the club in the forthcoming season **prior to the season start and must be ticked as active.**
- (2) Additional players (senior and junior) – After a player plays his/her first game for the season, whether an existing player, new player or as a 'fill in' for the day, clubs are required to enter the players details on the approved ABF Data base within seventy-two (72) hours after playing as per ABF requirements.
- (3) After a new player (senior and junior) has participated in his/her SECOND game – players need to complete the Baseball Victoria registration form and return this to their relevant Club Official within seventy-two (72) hours.
Clubs are to safely and securely store the completed forms and may be asked to produce the form if required by the Bendigo Baseball Association Registration Secretary.
Clubs are responsible for adding details of all new players (senior and junior) on the current ABF data base.
NOTE: These players must then be **ticked** as active.
- (4) For Junior players – the relevant club official must be satisfied that the date of birth provided is correct.
- (5) Clubs are to regularly review their active player list to ensure that it is accurate.

NOTE:

For members to be under the ABF insurance they must be entered on the Database.

4. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS – CLEARANCE

- 4.1 Any player registered with the Association shall have the right to transfer from one Club to another within the BBA, to an interstate Club or a Club of an affiliated body, provided that the appropriate Registration/Clearance Form is completed and endorsed by the player's parent Club.
- 4.2 Between 1 July and the completion of the final round in any season there shall be no transfer of players between Clubs of the Association except if the clearance procedure required by these By-Laws has been commenced, but not completed by 1 July.
- 4.3 The transfer of players from a Club of the Association to an interstate club or the club of an affiliated body may be carried out at any time. The completed Registration/Clearance Form for all such transfers must be endorsed by the BBA Registration Secretary before the transfer can be considered finalised.



4.4 The transfer of players from an interstate club to a club of the Association may be carried out at any time provided that:

- 4.4.1.** A clearance in writing is obtained by the player from the parent interstate club and the administration officer (or equivalent) endorses it in that State.
- 4.4.2.** The BBA Registration Secretary further endorses the clearance.
- 4.4.3.** If the clearance is received by the Registration Secretary on or after the 1 July evidence satisfactory to the Registration Secretary is submitted that the player has evidence satisfactory to the registration Secretary is submitted that the player has been continuously domiciled in Victoria for a period of 28 days.
- 4.4.4.** The player has not participated in a competition match in any State during the 28 days referred to above.

4.5 Clearance Not Required.

Any player who is not under suspension or disqualified by any Club or Association and has not played with a club or been registered as a Coach of a Club at any time during the four preceding years shall be deemed not to be registered with any Club.

5. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE.

5.1 Letter of Approach.

- 5.1.1.** Any Club desiring to approach a player from another club with a view of seeking a transfer of membership shall write to the player's parent club stating their intention to interview that player.
- 5.1.2.** A copy of such letter of approach shall be lodged with the BBA Registration Secretary.
- 5.1.3.** Players shall not be approached between 1 July and the completion of the final round in any season.
- 5.1.4.** The provisions of By-Law's 5.1.1, 5.1.2. and 5.1.3. shall be adhered to if a player approaches another Club with a view to obtaining a clearance to that Club.

5.2 Formal Interview.

The formal interview with the player will not take place until the parent club has received the Letter of Approach.



5.3 Clearance Processing by Parent Club.

- 5.3.1. Upon receipt of a properly completed Registration/Clearance Form the club, shall, if there is a possibility that the clearance may be refused, arrange to meet the player at a properly constituted Committee meeting of the Club.
- 5.3.2. The timing of this meeting shall be as follows:
 - 5.2.2.1. Within fourteen days (14) of the date of receipt for a clearance received between 1st March and 1st July in any one year.
 - 5.3.2.2. The next scheduled Committee meeting for a clearance received between the completion of the final round and 1st March.
- 5.3.3. After due consideration of the reasons put forward by the player, the Club shall make a decision at that meeting to grant or refuse the clearance.
- 5.3.4. The Registration/Clearance Form shall be endorsed accordingly and handed to the player immediately.
- 5.3.5. If after proper notification of the meeting and acknowledgment by the player, the player fails to attend the meeting, the club may decide the matter in the player's absence.

5.4 Grounds for Automatic Refusal of Clearance.

- 5.4.1. A clearance may be refused by a Club without the player being invited to a meeting if:
 - 5.4.1.1. The player is un-financial – details of a player's un-financial status shall be furnished with the refused Registration/Clearance Form and shall be made available to the Committee on request.
 - 5.4.1.2. A letter of approach in accordance with By-Law 5.1 has not been received by the Club or Committee.

5.5. Registration Procedures for Cleared Players.

- 5.5.1. A cleared player does not become a registered player with the new club and cannot participate in a competition match for the new club, until the properly endorsed Registration / Clearance Form has been received by the Registration Secretary of the Association. A player participating in a competition match in contravention of the By-Law shall be an illegal player and the club shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in By-Law 2.0.



5.6. Right of Appeal by Player.

- 5.6.1. A player whose clearance application has been refused by the parent club may appeal to the Committee against the refusal. The appeal shall be made in writing and shall be accompanied by the refused Registration/Clearance Form. Reasons for making the appeal shall be included within the letter and shall be relevant to matters discussed at the meeting with the Club required in By-Law 5.3.
- 5.6.2. The Registration Secretary shall direct all such appeals to the Committee. The Club refusing the clearance shall, upon receipt of notice from the BBA Secretary appear before the Committee to show any cause why the Clearance was refused. Should a representative of the Club not attend, the Committee shall have the right to decide the appeal.
- 5.6.3. A player shall be allowed two (2) appeals against the refusal of a clearance in any one (1) season providing that, in the judgment of any two members of the Executive Committee **(provided neither of these persons are members or affiliated with either club involved)**, the reasons for requesting the second appeal are significantly different from the reasons of which the first appeal was based.
- 5.6.4. Appeal hearings shall be conveyed as the need arises.
- 5.6.5. The procedures of hearing any appeal shall be that decided on by the person except that only the player making the appeal and the representative of the parent Club shall appear before the Committee.
- 5.6.6. If the player making the appeal has not attained the age of 18 years, the player must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or person over the age of 18 years who will act as their Advocate and may speak on their behalf.
- 5.6.7. No appeal shall be considered by the Committee where the clearance or permit has been refused on the proven ground that monies or materials remain owing by the player to the Club or Association.
- 5.6.8. The threat to "Stand out of baseball" will not be considered as a reason for a clearance.

6 GENERAL PLAYING CONDITIONS.

6.1 Two Teams in Once Section.

- 6.1.1. Where a team has more than one team playing the one grade it must furnish to the Registration Secretary after the expiration of five rounds:
 - 6.1.1.1. A or B grade – the names of seven players who then cannot interchange.
 - 6.1.1.2. C Grade or Women's – the names of five players who then cannot interchange.
- 6.1.2. Interchange players cannot pitch.
- 6.1.3. To be eligible to play in the finals series those players named as the seven named players must have played more than 50% of his games played for that team during the season.
- 6.1.4. The players who may interchange will be required to play with the team they have played the most games for.
- 6.1.5. Where the games are equal the player must gain permission from the Committee to continue in a final series. Penalty: Refer to By-Law 2.0 – Illegal player.



6.2 Nomination of 'Top 6' Player

Top 6 players may participate in a lower grade match than they are nominated in, but if they do so, they will not enter the higher grade match until the end of the bottom of the second inning.

The intent of the rule is to allow clubs to field full teams in each grade, not strengthen their lower grade teams with nominated top 6 players from the higher team. A top 6 player from a higher grade team, cannot participate in a lower grade, unless there is no one else available. That is to say, the use of a top 6 player from a higher grade will not result in a player from a lower grade than them being started on the bench.

Each club shall nominate to the Registration Secretary of the Association a list of the "top 6" players in each A and B grade team entered by that club. This must be done prior to the commencement of the first round of matches. The nominated "top 6" lists are subject to the approval of the BBA Committee of Management.

A club may apply to change a club's top 6, or approve an application for change, by majority vote at a BBA COM meeting. Temporary approval can be given by BBA COM in emergency situations.

The top 6 rule will be regularly reviewed at each monthly meeting of the BBA, and shall be added to the agenda under "Registration Secretary". The registration will provide a report each month which details:

- Current top 6 A and B grade players for each club, and whether or not they have changed over the past month.
- How many games each top 6 player has played, and how many in each grade
- Whether or not a club wishes to change their top 6, due to a change in circumstances to any player.
- Any new registrations by any club which may affect the core 6 of their teams.

Contravention of this rule will result in a penalty as per an **Illegal Player**.

Each club shall nominate to the Registration Secretary of the Association, a list of the 'top 6' players in each A and B grade team entered by that club, after 3rd match to be discussed at May meeting.

The nominated 'top 6' lists are subject to the approval of the Committee.

If there is a change of a core 6 player's circumstances, a new player needs to be added to list core 6. Subject to the approval of the Committee.

A Top 6 A Grade player cannot drop down 2 grades in consecutive rounds

6.3 Abandoned Matches.

In the event of any matches being abandoned by adverse weather, prior to the umpire/s taking control, each club concerned shall forward to the Registration Secretary within 48 hours following the abandoned match, the team or teams, selected to represent the club for the abandoned matches.

6.4 Transferring Sections.

Players transferring from one section to another of the same Club may do so at any time during the season without obtaining a permit.



6.5 Illegal Players:

- 6.5.1. The penalty against a Club for violation of the clearance By-Law or for playing an illegal player in any round of matches shall be in accordance with By-Law 2.0 – Illegal Player.
- 6.5.2. Where the offending team is the winning team, penalty is; forfeiture of points and fine in accordance with By-Law 2.0.
- 6.5.3. The game score shall be 0-9 to the team in default and 3-0 to its opponent. Where the winning team is not the team at fault and its run percentage for the match is greater than 3-0, runs shall stand; also where the defaulting team are the losers of the match, with a loss greater than 0-9, the runs entered will remain.
- 6.5.4. Where the offending team is the losing team a fine ONLY in accordance with By-Law 2.0 will be dealt.

6.6 Eligibility to play Senior Baseball.

- 6.6.1. No player under the age of fourteen (14) years is eligible to play senior men's baseball. Refer Refer By-Law 2.0 – Underage Player.
 - 6.6.2. Females who have attained the age of 14 years are eligible to play in the Women's Competition.
 - 6.6.3. Where the offending team is the winning team, penalty is: forfeiture of points and fine in accordance with By-Law 2.0.
 - 6.6.4. The game score shall be 0-9 to the team in default and 3-0 to its opponent. Where the winning team is not the team at fault and its run percentage for the match is greater than 3-0 runs shall stand; also where the defaulting team are the losers of the match, with a loss greater than 0-9, the runs entered will remain.
 - 6.6.5. Where the offending team is the losing team a fine ONLY in accordance with By-Law 2.0 will be dealt.
- Exception:** Where Players have been assessed by two level 2 coaches from neutral teams deemed eligible through the Assessment Process, to play in a higher age group.
(see appendix 1A-C).

6.7 Two Matches in one Day.

- 6.7.1. A player shall not be permitted to take part in two games (matches) for his Club on the same day or in the same round of matches.
- 6.7.2. **Exception One:** A player may participate in any under-age competition match and then participates in a senior competition on the same day or same round. If a player catches at junior level he must not **pitch and/or catch** at senior level on the same day or in the same round.
Any junior pitcher pitching in senior competition refer to Junior Pitching Restrictions in Junior Rules.
- 6.7.3. **Exception Two:** A player having participated in a B or C Grade match may also participate in an A or B Grade match on the same day provided that:
 - 6.7.3.1. The player being a 'top 6' player, enters A or B Grade match after the second (2nd) innings.



6.7.3.2. A player who is not a nominated 'top 6' player may start the game in his second match on the same day.

6.7.3.3. He does not pitch at both levels.

6.7.4. Exception Three: Designated Pitcher.

6.7.4.1. **The principle of the rule is to allow Clubs to develop your pitchers.** Players who are under twenty-five (25) years of age as at the first scheduled playing date of the season and less than top rating pitchers may pitch in B Grade game and participate as a starting player in the first nine in the A Grade game, same round.

6.4.7.2. A and B Grade divisions only who wish to avail themselves of this rule shall submit for the approval of the Committee the names of their top two (2) pitchers who must be A Grade of core 6 prior to the commencement of the season. Application to change the nominated pitchers may be made at any time to the Committee but changes will only be operative after their approval.

6.4.7.3. The Committee may call upon a Club to review its nominated pitchers and may at any time withdraw the use of this rule by a club.

6.4.7.4. A club may use a player, other than the two (2) nominated pitchers, to be a starting pitcher, and only pitch, in the lesser grade game of the same round.

6.4.7.5. This player shall be known as the Designated Pitcher.

6.7.4.6. To be a Designated Pitcher, the player shall be under twenty-five (25) years of age at the first scheduled playing date of the season.

6.7.4.7. In the lesser grade game a Designated Hitter shall be used for a Designated Pitcher. The use of a Designated Pitcher shall be declared to the umpire before the game commences. If the Designated Pitcher becomes a normal player, the player may only participate in the higher grade game of the same round subject to By-Law 6.7.3. Exception Two.

6.7.4.8. On the Batting Order list and Match Report Card any Designated Pitcher used in the B grade game shall be marked "DP" and all pitchers in the A grade game shall be marked "P". Managers and Umpires shall ensure correct recording.

6.7.4.9 The Registration Secretary shall check eligibility of Designated Pitchers and shall report any breaches of the rule to the Committee.

6.7.4.10. Penalty for contravention of this Rule shall be as per illegal Player By-Law 2.0

6.7.4.11. A legal game played in each grade shall count as a game played for finals eligibility
This rule is available in the finals series.

6.7.5. Exception Four: Match Permits

B Grade players from a club which is not able to enter an A Grade team may, upon application to the Committee and at the Committee's discretion, play a B Grade game for their home club and also be able to play A Grade for another club on match permits.



6.7.6 Special Rule – Junior's

Junior players are permitted to take part in two matches on the same day or same round of matches provided that:

6.7.6.1. TBall players shall be permitted to take part in Under 12 matches provided they have attained his 8th birthday.

6.7.6.2 Under 12 players shall be permitted to take part in:

- Und13 matches provided they have attained their 9th birthday.
- Und 14 matches provided they have attained their 10th birthday.

6.7.6.3 Und 13 players shall be permitted to take part in:

- Und14 matches provided they have attained their 10th birthday
- Und15 matches provided they have attained their 11th birthday

6.7.6.4. Under 14 players shall be permitted to take part in:

- Und 15 matches provided they have attained their 11th birthday
- Und16 matches provided they have attained their 12th birthday.

6.7.6.5. Under 15 players shall be permitted to take part in:

- Und 16 matches provided they have attained their 12th birthday.
- Und 17 matches provided they have attained their 13th birthday.

6.7.6.6. Under 16 players shall be permitted to take part in:

- Und 17 matches provided they have attained their 13th birthday.
- Und 18 matches provided they have attained their 14th birthday.

Exception: Where Players have been assessed by two level 2 coaches from neutral teams deemed eligible through the Assessment Process, to play in a higher age group.
(see appendix 1A-C).

6.7.6.7. Pitchers are permitted to pitch in two games, in the one day provided that they pitch **less than half their pitch count in the first game** and do not go over their normal pitch count for the day.

Note: In each grouping mentioned above, a pitcher will be allowed to reach their maximum number of pitches, but be allowed to finish pitching to the batter they are facing. A pitcher reaching his/her maximum number of pitches is immediately removed from the mound after he/she has completed the batter.

Addition: All players playing in a higher age group are still governed by the pitch count relative to their age group.

7 BYES

Where a team is scheduled for a bye in a round, any **'top 6'** players having started at a higher level for both of this Club's preceding 2 rounds shall be ineligible to play in a lower grade or team for such round.

Exception: Designated Pitcher.

Penalty: Refer By-Law 2.0 – Illegal Player.



8 FORFEIT

- 8.1.** A game may be forfeited to the opposing team, when a team:
- 8.1.1.** Fails to appear upon the field, or being upon the field, refuses to start play within 5 minutes after the umpire has called "Play" at the appointed starting time for beginning the game, unless such delayed appearance is, in the umpire's judgment unavoidable.
 - 8.1.2.** Employs tactics palpably designed to delay or shorten the game.
 - 8.1.3.** Refuses to continue play during a game unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire
 - 8.1.4.** Fails to resume play, after a suspension, within one minute after the umpire has called "Play".
 - 8.1.5.** After warning by the umpire, wilfully and persistently violates any rules of the game.
 - 8.1.6.** Fails to obey within a reasonable time, the umpire's order for removal of a player from the game.
 - 8.1.7.** Fails to appear for the second game of a double-header within 20 minutes after the close of the first game, unless the umpire-in-chief of the first game shall have extended the Walk intermission.
 - 8.1.8.** A game shall be forfeited to the visiting team if, after it has been suspended, the orders of the umpire's reasonable request to groundskeepers respecting preparation of the field for resumption of play are not complied with.
 - 8.1.9.** A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team is unable or refuses to put 7 players on the field. This is termed a "Walkover".
- 8.2** In the event of a forfeit, the names of the players in attendance from the defaulting team, may be recorded on the Match Report Card. The non-defaulting team must be recorded on the Match Report Card, naming a minimum of 7 players, and a maximum of 9 players. Players so named must be in attendance and Umpires must sight the players and then sign the Match Card as verification of attendance.
- 8.3** In instances where teams forfeit games prior to the appointed date, or time for the game, a Match Report Card is to be completed by the non-defaulting team. Both the non-defaulting team, a minimum of 7, and a maximum of 9 players. The team is then to forward the Match Report Cards to the registration Secretary, signed by a member of their Executive. (Refer to By-Law 21.7)
- 8.4** No player then so recorded may play in another game in that round except when in compliance with By-Law 6.7.



9 SUSPENDED GAMES

A suspended game is only called under the following circumstances:

9.1.1 A curfew imposed by law.

9.1.2. A time limit permissible under association rules.

9.1.3. Light failure or malfunction of a mechanical field device under the control of the home club.
(Mechanical field device shall include automatic tarpaulin or water removal equipment.

9.1.4. Darkness, when a law prevents the lights from being turned on.

9.2. Such games shall be known as suspended games. No game called because of a curfew or a time limit shall be a suspended game unless it has progressed far enough to have been a regulation game under the provisions of rules of baseball 4:10. A game called under the provisions of rules of baseball 4.12(a), 3 or 4, shall be a suspended game at any time after it starts.

9.2.1 NOTE: Weather and similar conditions shall take precedence in determining whether a called game shall be a suspended game. A game can only be considered a suspended game if stopped for any of the 4 reasons specified in By-Law 9.1,,9.2, 9.3, 9.4

9.3. A suspended game shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension of the original game. The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. The line-up and batting order of both teams shall be exactly the same as the line-up and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing substitution. Any player may be replaced by a player who had not been in the game prior to the suspension. No player removed before the suspension may be returned to the line-up.

9.4. A player who was not with the club when the game was suspended may be used as a substitute, even if he has taken the place of a player no longer with the club who would not have been eligible because he had been removed from the line-up before the game was suspended.

10 CLUBS WITHOUT JUNIOR TEAMS

Senior Clubs shall be required to enter such junior teams competing in matches of the Junior League as may be determined by the Committee, or in the event that such requirements are waived, fulfil such Junior obligations as directed by the Committee.

11 APPOINTMENT OF COACHES

No person shall be appointed Coach of any team or Club in the Association without having first been registered as a member of a Club that is affiliated with the Association. Penalty Illegal Player.



12 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS IN FINALS.

12.1 Player Rights in Finals

Notwithstanding anything contained in the By-Laws, the rights of a player to participate in final rounds with a lower section team shall not be prejudiced if such player has been selected to fill a vacancy in a higher section which has been caused by the absence of a player, whilst in a representative team.

12.2 Player Eligibility in Lower Grades.

A player shall not be eligible to play in finals with a lower graded team unless he has previously played in more than half the number of matches played by him in that season with such lower team.

12.3 Number of Rounds Required.

No player in the senior competition shall be allowed to take part in finals rounds of matches unless they have been registered for their club with the Registration secretary of the BBA and played in at least five (5) rounds of matches with their club during the same season previous to finals. The qualifying standard for juniors is three (3) such matches as per the above. Credits at either level are not interchangeable. Two games played in the same round in different divisions will only result in one round being credited.

In order to be eligible to represent Bendigo in the State Winter Championships, a player must be currently registered with the BBA Registration Secretary, and they must have played in a least one more than half the games available in their respective local league fixtures to each Championships. This standard applies for both Senior and junior teams (as per BV SWC).

12.4 Abandoned Matches/Other Eligibility/Appeal

In the event that the eligibility of a player to take part in final rounds has been affected by matches being abandoned by adverse weather, byes (*), of by his being on duty with the armed forces of the Commonwealth, or by being engaged on work of national importance, or having sustained injury, **or other exceptional circumstances**, such player shall have the right of appeal to the Committee.

(* In interpreting the use of a bye to determine if a player is eligible to participate in a lower grade, the Committee will take into consideration, the difference between the number of byes and the number of rounds the player requires to be eligible (eg. 10 in the higher grade & 8 in the lower grade plus three byes would effectively mean that had there not been a bye, the player would normally be eligible for the lower grade).

All appeals under this sub-clause must be in writing and received by the Tuesday in the week prior to the Finals Rounds. The appeal shall be dealt with by the Committee.



13 TEAM ENTRIES.

13.1 Club Entries

- 13.1.1.** Any Club making application to the Association shall, by its Secretary or Manager apply in writing to the Secretary of the Association giving particulars of the proposed name, ground arrangements, uniform and names and addresses of Officials of the club, together with any other particulars as may be required by the Committee.
- 13.1.2.** Generally, no additional teams or clubs shall enter BBA competition after a draw has been completed for competition. In exceptional circumstances the Committee may accept additional Junior or Senior team entries into the competition.
- 13.1.3.** In exceptional circumstances the Committee may accept the withdrawal of a senior team. The Committee reserves the right to impose such penalty upon the club as it deems appropriate with any financial penalty no to exceed \$100.00
- 13.1.4.** At any time after the commencement of a season, the Committee as the right to re-grade teams which the Committee considers to be entered in an inappropriate grade or section. In exceptional circumstances clubs may request in writing a regrading by the Committee. The Committee will have the sole responsibility for deciding if any re-grading will occur and for determining at its discretion, the reallocation of match points if at all.

13.2 Uniforms

Each Club affiliated with the Association shall register particulars of the uniform of the club, and each new Club applying for affiliation shall state in writing the particulars of its uniform, such to be approved by the Committee.

14 ASSOCIATION UNIFORM

14.1 Association Colors

The colours of the Association shall be primarily Royal Blue, Gold and Grey. Before issuing uniforms to player selected to participate in representative matches, the Secretary of the Association, Manager, or duly appointed representative, shall obtain from each player a receipt, for the uniforms as part of the agreement signed by players, mentioned in the Championships Plan accepting responsibility for the care and return of the uniform in good order and condition.

Should it be deemed necessary, it shall be lawful for the Secretary to demand a deposit of 20%, or more, as security. The security to be refunded on return of the uniform in a condition satisfactory to the Secretary or the manager of the team. Uniforms of the Association shall be returned to the Team Manager on completion of the relevant competition. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure all uniforms are returned to the Secretary of the Association.



14.2 Penalty for non-return of uniform:

- 14.2.1. One warning to both player and Club, requesting return of uniform & advice of next penalty.
- 14.2.2. If item of uniform cannot be recovered within 14 days, player responsible will be given 7 days to pay for the item. If in 7 days the player has not provided payment, a penalty will be applied as per By-Law 15.1.

15 SUSPENSION, DISQUALIFICATIONS, PENALTIES.

15.1. Failure to carry out direction.

Any Club, team or affiliated or associate Association or player or member thereof, failing to carry out any direction of the Committee (which is within its powers) shall be liable to suspension or disqualification at the pleasure of the Committee or to such other penalty as the Committee may determine.

15.2. Endorsement of Suspensions.

The Committee shall have power to endorse any suspension, disqualification or penalty imposed by anybody controlling baseball, either within or outside Victoria provided that the Association shall have received notification in writing of such suspension, disqualification or penalty.

15.3. Forfeiture of Rights and Privileges.

Any club, team or affiliate or associate Association which is under suspension or disqualification by the Committee in accordance with By-Law 15.1 or 15.2 of this Rule shall forfeit all rights and privileges held under or in the Association or in its property. Its delegates shall cease to act and shall not be entitled to attend any meetings for the Association. Its members shall be debarred at the pleasure of the Committee from taking part in any match played under the control of the Committee or Association.

15.4. Persons Under Suspension Debarred from Taking Part in Matches.

Any person under suspension or disqualification by the Committee in accordance with By-Law 15.1 or 15.2 of this Rule shall be debarred from playing or taking part in any match under the control of the Association and any member of any Club, team or association knowingly playing or taking part in any match in which such suspended or disqualified person plays or takes part shall be liable to suspension or disqualification or such other penalty as the Committee may determine.



15.5. Misconduct on or off the field.

Should any registered player, Club member or official conduct himself or herself in a disorderly manner either on or off the playing field, the Committee may suspend or otherwise deal with the offender, parent/guardian in such manner as it may deem appropriate.

15.6. General Powers of Association.

The Committee shall have power to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with a registered player. Club member or official for any act or misdemeanour not provided for in these By-Laws or Rules of Association.

15.7 Failure to field a team/Forfeit. –

A team conceding a forfeit in either a Competition match or final Round shall be deemed to have lost the game. Refer By-Law 2.0 – Forfeit. The opposing team shall be awarded maximum points. The score in a defaulted game shall be 0-9 to the team in default and 3-0 to their opponent.

15.8 Right of Appeal.

Any Club, team or affiliate or associate Association or players or members thereof suspended, disqualified or penalised shall have the right of appeal to the Committee.

- 15.8.1** The appeal must be lodged in writing with the Secretary of the BBA within 21 days of the said suspension.
- 15.8.2** This being subject to any right of appeal which may exist, to any authority for the time being controlling baseball in Victoria or, any part thereof ; the decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.
- 15.8.3** The Committee shall have the right on any such appeal to increase or reduce any penalty previously imposed.
- 15.8.4** There shall be no appeal against the decision or penalty imposed by the Independent tribunal of the BBA

15.9 Disputes

- 15.9.1.** If a Club, team, affiliate or associate Association or player or member thereof be in dispute with a Club, team, affiliated or associate Association, player or member, any party to the dispute shall have the right of appeal to the Committee.
 - 15.9.2.** The notice of dispute shall be lodged in writing with the Secretary detailing the circumstance of the dispute.
 - 15.9.3.** The Secretary shall notify parties of the time and place for hearing the dispute, which must take place within fourteen days of the lodgement



- 15.9.4.** The decision of the Committee on the dispute shall be forthwith notified to the parties. Subject to any right of appeal which may exist to Baseball Victoria or any authority for the time being controlling baseball in Victoria or any part thereof, the decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.
- 15.9.5.** This By-Law applies to matters other than suspensions disqualifications or penalties as described in By-Law 15.1 and 15.2.

16 PROTESTS

In the event of any dispute or protest (other than judgment decisions, which cannot be disputed) clubs may appeal to the Executive who shall hear the dispute/protest within 14 days after receipt in writing provided the conditions of the By-Laws 15.9.2 and 15.9.3 are adhered to.

- 16.1 A notice of the protest must be lodged at the time of the objection with the Umpire. The Umpire shall be given the opportunity to consider the point of protest raised by the Manager.
- 16.2 Should the manager decide to continue the protest, the Umpire must be advised and the scorers shall endorse both score books with the precise game situation at the time.
- 16.3 The Manager of the protesting team shall, at the conclusion of the match, advise the Umpire whether the protest is to proceed and the Match Report Card shall be appropriately endorsed.
- 16.4 Details of the protest must be lodged in writing and be in the hands of the BBA Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of the game, accompanied by a fifty (\$50.00) fee, which will be returned if the Committee does not deem the protest frivolous. The protest shall include reference to the Rules of Baseball/By-Laws/Competition Rules etc., and the reason why the protest is being entered.
- 16.5 The executive ruling including any arrangements for a re-completion of the game, shall be final, with not right of appeal.

17 AUTHORITY FOR MATCH PLAY

- 17.1** No match or matches shall be undertaken by any club in the Bendigo Baseball Association without the permission of the Committee first being obtained, and no combination of players shall undertake any match or matches without the sanction of the Committee. Any club or player infringing this Rule shall be fined as the Committee may determine, and in the case of the club, may be liable to expulsion from the Association.

17.2 Inter-Association Games

- 17.2.1.** Players for all such matches shall comply with the requirements of the Committee as to transport to and from such matches, accommodation and behaviour.
- 17.2.2.** The expenses of any player of official selected to play in or officiate at such matches shall not be the responsibility of the Association unless the Committee otherwise determines.

18 DEFUNCT CLUBS

The Committee may declare defunct any Club which has not affiliated with the Association for a period of two (2) successive years, or which makes application to the Association to be so declared. The players of the teams of such clubs shall, on the Club being declared defunct make application in writing for a clearance, and must receive a permit from the Committee before transferring to another Club.



19 FINANCE SHOULD ASSOCIATION CEASE TO FUNCTION

If upon winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities of the Association, any money or property whatsoever, the same shall be given or transferred to some other Association institution or body having objects similar to the objects of the Association, such Association at or before the time of dissolution and in default thereof by the Supreme Court of Victoria or a Judge thereof, and so far as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provisions then to some charitable object to be determined by the aforesaid.

20 TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

20.1 The Report

The following procedures shall be adopted in respect of the lodgement of reports against players, coaches and officials by umpires for a breach of the Baseball Rules, By-Laws etc.

- 20.1.1. All persons removed from a game shall be reported by the umpire or umpires except for a smoking offence.
- 20.1.2. Sufficient details to the report to indicate the nature of the ejection or report shall be endorsed by the Umpire or Umpires upon the match Card which must be signed by the captain or manager of each team at the conclusion of the game.
- 20.1.3. **Exception One:** Abusive/indecent/threatening language will incur an automatic two-week suspension, **Two weeks refers to the next two scheduled games in the grade which the offence occurs. A suspended player may not take place in any grade whilst on suspension.** If the player pleads guilty to the Secretary of the BBA. If the player pleads not guilty then the reported person will appear before the Tribunal as per requirements of the BBA.
Automatic two week suspension may only be taken provided the umpire does not deem the offence to be serious enough to warrant a Tribunal appearance.
- 20.1.4. **Exception Two:** Smoking or alcoholic beverage offence, (unless the Umpire makes a specific report in relation to these offences). Ejection from the game plus the fine shall be deemed sufficient penalty. Refer By-Law 2.0.
- 20.1.5. The reported person must appear before the Tribunal before he can participate in a further Competition match. Should the Tribunal be unable to meet to hear report prior to the next match, and either the Umpire or reported person having an explanation for not being available to attend a Tribunal meeting and this is acceptable to the Secretary of the Association, the Secretary may upon such request grant the person permission to participate in a match pending the hearing.
- 20.1.6. The Umpires shall notify the Association Secretary no later than 24 hours following the match to advise the complete working of the report. The Umpire passes the Report Card to the Secretary who shall present it to the Tribunal at the night of the hearing.



20.1.7. The following offences may constitute a report and must be interpreted in conjunction with the Rules of Baseball:

Audible Obscene Language (AOL)	Abusive Language
Abusive Language directed at an umpire	Threatening language or behaviour
Threatening language or behaviour towards an umpire	
Dissent	Arguing balls and strikes
Unsportsmanlike conduct	Equipment Abuse
Attempting to strike	Striking
Intentionally throwing at a batter	Charging the mound
Fighting/Melee/Wrestling	Disobeying umpires direction
Failing to leave the field	Rough Play

Any other action deemed by the umpire to be in contravention of the rules of baseball and likely to Bring the game into disrepute.

20.2 Tribunal Meeting Procedure

20.2.1 The following procedure shall be adopted in respect of the lodgement of charges against players by Umpires and the conduct of Tribunal Meetings. The Association Secretary shall convene the Tribunal Meeting as necessary in consultation with the Tribunal members.

20.2.2. The Association Secretary shall advise the following persons of the arrangements of the meeting:

- Members of the Tribunal
- Umpire who made the report
- Any other Umpire appointed to the match who may be required to appear at the Tribunal meeting upon the direction of the Association Secretary.
- Reported person's Club who in turn shall advise their reported member.
- Any other person associated with the report and that person or persons shall attend the meeting if so directed by the Secretary.

20.2.3. Tribunal Hearings are open and any interested person may attend and remain whilst evidence is taken. The continued presence of visitors is at the absolute discretion of the Chariman and any attempt to disrupt or interrupt the proceedings may result in the offender's expulsion from the hearing. Intended witnesses will not be admitted whilst other evidence is being given.



- 20.2.4.** All the Meetings shall be conducted by independent Tribunal of at least three (3) members appointed in accordance with these Rules. Should members not be available for any reason the president of the Committee may appoint an independent person or persons to fill the vacancy. Should the necessary quorum not be present the hearing shall be adjourned to a date to be arranged by the Association Secretary. Upon assembly and after Tribunal have been selected a Chairman, the Umpire and his advocate, (if any), the players and their advocate, (if any), shall be summoned before the Tribunal. Advocates may be delegates or officials of clubs, but shall not be members of the legal profession.
- 20.2.5.** The Umpire's written report is read by the Chairman, who shall be in possession of team sheets and any other relevant correspondence including match cards and score books.
- 20.2.6.** After the player pleads, the Umpire is asked to amplify his report and their may be questioned by his Advocate and the player and the player's advocate. The Charirman and members of the Tribunal may also ask questions as they desire at any time. The Umpire then calls his witnesses, if any.
- 20.2.7.** The charged player is then asked to give their version and may be questioned by their advocate and the player and umpires advocate.
- 20.2.8.** If another player is mentioned in the report they are then asked to give their version and may be questioned by their advocate, the umpire and their advocate, the charged player and their advocate.
- 20.2.9.** The players may then call witnesses; the charged player or their advocate calls their first. Once a witness is called to give evidence they must remain in the room until the case is finished. Each witness is asked to give their version of the incident and may be questioned by the advocates and the Tribunal as desired.
- 20.2.10.** After all evidence is given, the advocates are given the opportunity of summing up their cases. When the Tribunal is satisfied that it has all the evidence it needs to enable it to come to a decision the Tribunal will consider the case in private and record a finding based on what it believes to be the facts.
- 20.2.11.** When this is done, all reassemble and the Chairman announces the findings which is recorded and signed by all members of the Tribunal.
- 20.2.12.** If the reported player has not attained the age of 18 years the player must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or a person over the age of 18 years who will act as their Advocate and speak on their behalf.
- 20.2.13.** **NOTE:** In the absence of an advocate, the player and/or Umpire as the case may be, takes the place of the advocate.



20.3 Non Appearance of Umpire

20.3.1. If it is not possible for the umpire to be present at the hearing, the following Rules shall apply:

20.3.2. The Umpire shall forward to the Secretary of the Association, in addition to the brief written report of the incident a detailed statement setting out the particulars of the incident in full, together with other such relevant information as in the opinion of the Umpire would be of benefit to the Tribunal in enabling it to reach a decision.

20.3.3. After the brief report has been read as before, and the player has pleaded, the detailed statement of the Umpire is read.

20.3.4. The Tribunal then hears any witnesses called on behalf of and at the request of the Umpire. These witnesses may be questioned in turn as provided herein. The player then gives his version of the incident and may be questioned as set out in clause 20.2.7. The other player is heard as in clause 20.2.8. The players may then call witnesses and these in turn may be questioned. The hearing proceeds as set out herein.

20.4 Non Appearance of a Reported Person.

If the reported person is not in attendance at the appointed time the Chairman shall allow sufficient grace then hear the evidence submitted by the Umpire(s) and/or witnesses. The Tribunal shall consider the information submitted and should the case be thus far proven the person shall be suspended at the pleasure of the Tribunal. The Secretary of the reported person's Club shall be so advised by the Secretary of the Bendigo Baseball Association and the person shall remain under the suspension until he appears before the Tribunal to give explanation for his actions. The Tribunal shall then decide what penalty shall be imposed. Any arrangements for appearance before the Tribunal shall be made through the Bendigo Baseball Association Secretary.

20.5 Effect of Suspension

20.5.1. Suspended persons may not play, act as a coach or assist in the conduct upon the field of any baseball match.

20.5.2. Any breach of suspension may be reported to the Association Secretary who shall arrange for a further appearance before the Tribunal of the suspended person if a contravention of penalty is apparent. The Tribunal shall impose any further penalty as it may determine.

20.6 Matters referred other than by way of Umpire's Report.

Where a matter is referred to the Tribunal by the Executive of the Association, the Secretary of the Association, or his appointed nominee, shall in accordance with the procedures herein, follow these rules as they apply to Umpires, where applicable.

20.7 Minutes

Minutes of all Tribunal Meetings shall be compiled by the Association Secretary or his appointed representative.



21 UMPIRES

21.1. Bendigo Baseball Umpires Association Incorporated.

Umpires for all matches under the management of the Association shall be appointed from members of the Bendigo Baseball Umpires Association. Whose names appear on the register of this Association, provided the membership and number available be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Association.

21.2. Approval to Umpire.

Before being appointed to matches, an Umpire shall be approved by the Committee for listing on the register.

21.3. Fees.

The fees payable to umpires shall be decided by the Committee.

21.4. Non Attendance at Match.

In the event of an Umpire not being in attendance at the time scheduled for the commencement of the match, the managers shall have the power to appoint a substitute, but if the manager fail to agree, the home manager shall appoint a substitute, and the Secretary of the home club shall at the completion of the match forward to reach the Secretary of the Association within 72 hours, or such other person as may be appointed from time to time, a list showing the names of all players taking part in such match together with details of the score. Failure to comply with this By-Law renders the Club concerned a fine as specified in these By-Laws for each and every offence. Should the appointed Umpire arrive within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled commencement time, he may, only with the approval of the manager of the home team, umpire the remainder of the game. The Umpire is then responsible for recording on the match card his late arrival for which a fine as specified as per By-Law 2.0 is liable to be imposed.

21.5 Washout Matches

In the case of a washout, the BBA will pay the umpire's fees.

22 CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAN

A four member Selection Panel will be appointed (in accordance with the State Winter Championship document) to recommend to the Committee the appointment of Coaches and Managers for Bendigo State Winter Championship Teams.

23 ALTERATIONS TO BY-LAWS

Provided the appropriate notice is given as per Rule 26, the adoption of or the rescinding or alteration of these By-Laws may be considered and acted upon by the Committee at any Committee meeting as is its right under Rule 31.7, that is, to consider motions and items of business distributed to members with the agenda and notice of the holding of the meetings and such other business as the meeting resolves to accept for consideration.