



BENDIGO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INC

SENIOR PLAYING RULES – INDEX

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SENIOR PLAYING RULES

The SENIOR competition rules are to be read in conjunction with the By Laws of the Bendigo Baseball Association and the Official Australian Baseball Rules, published by the Australian Baseball Federation

a) MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) To complete line-up book in quadruplicate.
- b) To provide the scorers with his batting order and defense.
- c) Shall present to the Umpire-in-Chief and the opposing manager, any ground rules unique to his venue. If these rules are acceptable to the opposing manager they shall be legal. If these rules are unacceptable to the opposing manager, the umpire-in-chief shall make and enforce any special ground rules he thinks are made necessary by ground conditions, which shall not conflict with the official playing rules.
- d) Home manager to provide an umpire in the event of the non-attendance of an umpire.
- e) To meet the umpire-in-chief at home plate when he arrives to start the game
- f) Will present the umpire-in-chief, and the opposing manager with his line-up.
- g) Home manager will provide the umpire-in-chief with appropriate match balls.
- h) During the course of the game, will be the only member of his team to approach an umpire, for a ruling or decision
- i) In the event of a protest during a match, ensure that the score book is noted with the exact time and game situation, if wishing to continue with the report, after the umpire is given the opportunity to consider it.
- j) Will ensure that the umpires receive payment for the match.
- k) Will ensure that his team and spectators comply with the Rules of Baseball, and the BBA governing discipline and behaviour.
- l) At the completion of the game, will check and sign the Match Report Card, and, or Reported Person's Notices.
- m) At the conclusion of a match involving a protest, inform the Umpire-in-Chief, whether the protest is to proceed, and endorse the Match Report Card appropriately.
- n) If his team wins the game, will be responsible for ensuring that the Media Report is filled in and forwarded to the BBA Media Representative, either by email or other approved format within 24 hours.

2. SCORERS RESPONSIBILITIES

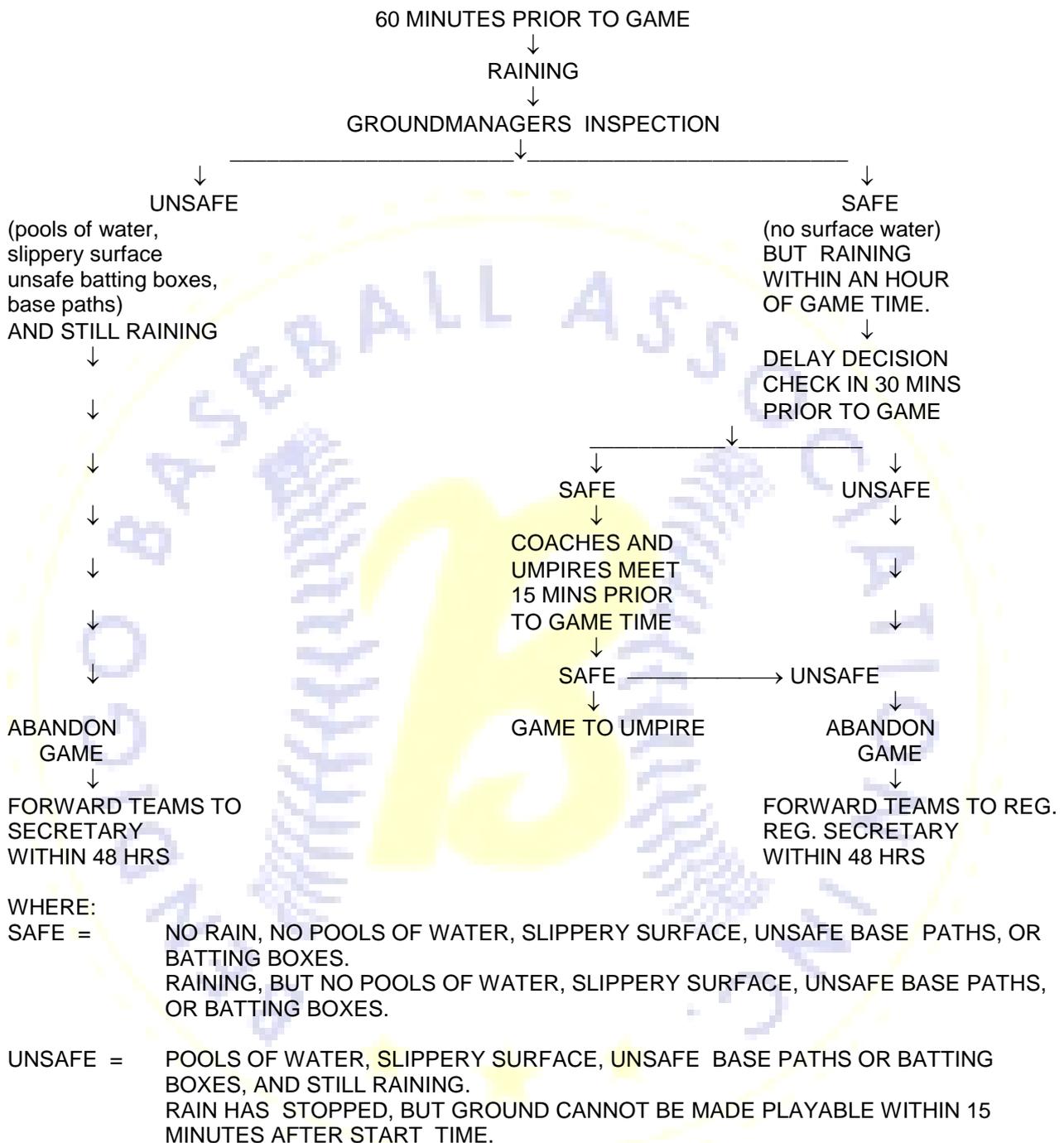
- a) Both scorers must sit together during the course of any match.
- b) To transfer the line-ups of both teams into the score book, from the pink line-up sheet, prior to the commencement of the game, ensuring that Christian and Surnames are recorded in full, and are accurate.
- c) To record their own teams' line-up only, onto the Match Report Card, from the pink line-up sheet, ensuring that Christian and Surnames are recorded in full, and are accurate.
- d) To score the match according to the "Official Scoring Rules of Baseball". The scorer shall have authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules.
- e) If the teams change sides before three players are out, the scorer shall immediately inform the umpire of the mistake.
- f) If the game is protested or suspended, the scorer shall make note of the exact situation at the time of the protest or suspension, including the score, the number of outs, the position of any runners, and the ball and strike count on the batter.
- g) The scorer shall not make any decision conflicting with the Official Playing Rules, or with the umpire's decision.
- h) The scorer shall not call the attention of the umpire or of any member of either team to the fact that a player is batting out of turn.
- i) Must make all decisions regarding judgment calls within 24 hours after a game has been concluded.
- j) No judgment decisions shall be changed thereafter except, upon immediate application to the League President, the scorer may request a change, citing the reasons for such.

- k) In all cases, a scorer is not permitted to make a scoring decision which is in conflict with the scoring rules.
- l) At the completion of a match, the scorer must note pitchers on the Match Report Card.
- m) At the completion of a match, the scorer must record the pitch counts of any pitcher who has not attained the age of 18 years, on both a pitch count sheet, and the Match Report Card.
- n) At the completion of each match, the scorer must complete a statistics sheet for the BBA Awards and forward to the Registration Secretary within 14 days.
- o) The scorer must complete an injury form for any injuries recorded during the match. This form is to be forwarded to the BBA Secretary.

3. COMMENCEMENT OF MATCHES

- a) Games shall commence at times stated in fixtures, and these Rules, unless other arrangements have been made via the mutual agreement of both clubs, and the approval of the BBA Registration Secretary.
- b) **No games shall commence unless there are two scorers present.**
- c) The ground manager of the home club, can declare the ground unsuitable for play, up until 15 minutes prior to game time. He should do this if:
 - There are pools of water on the playing surface, and it is raining.
 - The surface is too slippery to be safe.
 - The batting boxes, and or the base paths are unsafe.
 - The ground does not pass a ground assessment.
- d) Unless the home club shall have given previous notice that the game has been postponed, or will be delayed in starting, the umpire, or umpires, and the Coaches of both teams shall enter the playing field fifteen minutes before the time set for the game to begin and proceed directly to home base. They will then decide whether or not the game is to be abandoned due to adverse weather.
- e) For any game, up to 15 minutes grace can be allowed to correct ground markings to a reasonable standard before the game need be forfeited. If, and when, a diamond is declared unfit to play, 15 minutes can be allowed for the home team to complete a new diamond, or a "No Game" results. Umpires shall give at least 10 minutes notice before the scheduled starting time, for any ground items requiring attention.
- f) To "call" a game due to the fitness of the playing conditions, the umpire must be in attendance at the ground at the scheduled time of commencement. This ruling does not prevent the association abandoning a round due to weather etc.
- g) Matches which are washed out (abandoned), will result in a draw, equal match points, and a score of 0-0 being recorded.
- h) If the umpire/umpires and the coaches of both teams declare the ground suitable, then control of the game goes to the umpire.
- i) No game should commence if it is raining.
- j) Once a game is started, the umpire has sole control of decisions regarding the weather, but shall be guided as follows:
 - If the rain increases acutely, and affects visibility, the game should be halted.
 - If the rain continues, and becomes hard enough to cause pools of water on the ground, the game should be halted.
- k) No attempt should be made to clear water from the ground while it is raining.
- l) If the rain stops, the home team is to be instructed to remove all the water from the playing surface.
- m) If they are able to accomplish this within 15 minutes, the game can resume.

3. COMMENCEMENT OF MATCHES (Cont.)



4. PRE – MATCH DIAMOND WARM UP

- a) Fifteen minutes (15) prior to the scheduled start time, the visiting team may use the diamond for a maximum of 5 minutes.
- b) Ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the home team may use the diamond for a maximum of five (5) minutes.
- c) Five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the diamond is to be vacated. Managers from both teams are to meet with the umpires at the home plate to determine ground rules etc.

5. PRE-GAME LINE-UPS

- a) The home manager shall give their batting order to the umpire-in-chief, in duplicate.
- b) Next the visiting manager shall give his batting order to the umpire-in-chief, in duplicate.
- c) The umpire-in-chief shall make certain that the original and copies of the respective batting orders are identical, and then tender a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The copy retained by the umpire shall be the official batting order. The tender of the batting order by the umpire shall establish the batting orders.
- d) Thereafter, no substitutions shall be made by either manager, except as provided by the Official Rules of Baseball, and the BBA playing rules.
- e) A copy of the batting orders are given to each scorer, by the managers.
- f) As soon as the home team's batting order is handed to the umpire-in-chief, the umpires are in charge of the playing field, and from that moment they shall have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, suspended or resumed on account of weather or the condition of the playing field.

6. DESIGNATED HITTER RULE

- a) A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game, without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher/s in the game. A Designated Hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game, and must be included on the line up cards presented to the Umpire-in-Chief.
- b) It is not mandatory that a club designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game, precludes the use of the Designated Hitter for that game.
- c) Pinch hitters for the Designated Hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a Designated Hitter, becomes the Designated Hitter. A replaced Designated Hitter shall not re-enter the game in any capacity.
- d) The Designated Hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made, and the manager must then designate their spots in the batting order.
- e) A runner may be substituted for the Designated Hitter, and the runner assumes the role of the Designated Hitter. A Designated Hitter may not pinch run.
- f) A Designated Hitter is "locked" into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the Designated Hitter.
- g) Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to a defensive position, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the rest of the game.
- h) Once a pinch hitter bats for any player in the batting order, and then re-enters the game to pitch, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game. (The game pitcher may only pinch hit for the Designated Hitter).
- i) Once a Designated Hitter assumes a defensive position, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game. A substitute for the Designated Hitter need not be announced until it is the Designated Hitter's turn to bat.

7. LEGAL GAME OR REGULATION GAME.

- a) A regulation game consists of 2 hours (A, B and C grade), or 90 minutes (Women's) unless extended due to finals, or shortened:
 - Because the home team needs none of its half of the inning, or only a fraction of it, or
 - In the case of an A Grade game, the time has reached 5.00pm, or
 - Because the umpire calls the game.
- b) A Legal Game shall be a minimum of 65 minutes for men's competition and 50 minutes for women's competition or a regulation game as per "Official Baseball Rules", Rule 4.10c. : If a game is called, it is a regulation game:
 - If five innings have been completed.
 - If the home team has scored more runs in four, or four and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in 5 complete half-innings.
 - If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the 5th to tie the score.
- c) If each team has the same number of runs when the game ends, the umpire shall declare it a "Tie Game."
- d) If a game is called before it becomes a regulation game, the umpire shall declare it a "No Game."

8. SUBSTITUTE RUNNER

A Substitute Runner - SR - shall be used for the catcher when there are 2 outs, i.e. when the game catcher reaches base, a runner shall substitute immediately. The SR shall be a bench player, however if there is no bench player, then the last player out must be the SR.

9. FIVE MINUTE RULE

- a) The Five Minute Rule shall apply to all senior matches.
- b) If the game has more than 5 minutes before the scheduled finish time from the call of "side away", and even innings have been played, a further complete innings shall be played.
- c) If the game has 5 minutes or less remaining to the scheduled finishing time, and completed innings have been played, the game will stop immediately.
- d) If the game has 5 minutes or less to the scheduled finishing time and if the inning has not been completed with the home team ahead, then the game will stop immediately.
- e) If the home team is tied or behind, then the game will continue until either the winning run is scored, or until the home side has been retired.

Note: The rule will be applied with a maximum of 10 minutes added to the scheduled finishing time. If the game fails to be completed within the 10 minutes added on to the scheduled finishing time, scores revert back to the last completed innings.

10. ONE – SIDED GAMES (10 RUN RULE)

- a) Any A or B Grade game which has a team leading by ten (10) or more runs after 7 completed innings will be concluded at that point, except if the home team is leading by ten runs or more, the bottom half of that innings will not be played. This rule also applies in the 8th inning and in all finals matches.
- b) Any C Grade or Women's game which has a team leading by ten (10) or more runs after 5 completed innings will be concluded at that point, except if the home team is leading by ten runs or more, the bottom half of that innings will not be played. This rule also applies in the 6th inning and all finals matches.

11. MATCH REPORT CARDS

- a) It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that a Match Report Card is available at senior matches. The following information is to appear on each Match Report Card:

Front.

- The name and signature of the Umpire-in-chief, and other umpires if present.
- If the Home Club provides the umpire, the name of the club is to be indicated next to their name.
- The names of the Home Team and the Visiting Team in the appropriate place.
- The Division of competition.
- The date, the time, and the venue of the match.
- Box scores for both teams
- The "Game won by" section, and the score, **MUST BE ACCURATE.**
- Any reason for an early finish.
- Start and finish time for the game.
- The signatures of both the Home Team, and the Visiting Team Managers, or their authorized representatives.

Back

- The teams are to be listed under correct headings of Home Team, or Visiting Team
 - The full Christian and Surnames of all players who appeared in the game, listed under their team name.
 - Any players who enter the game after it starts must also appear on their team list.
 - Each pitcher must be noted on the card, by the letter "P" followed by a number denoting the order in which they came to the mound.
 - The use of the Designated Hitter, and, or the Designated Pitcher, must be noted as either "DP", or "DH", in red.
 - Any under-age pitchers who have a pitch count restriction, must have the number of pitches recorded against their name, in red.
 - Any under-age catchers who have caught to be noted as "C" in red.
- b) The Match Report Card must be written in ink, no pencil.
- c) The Match Report Card must not be altered after it is signed by the Umpire/s and managers.
- d) The winning team must ensure the Match Report Card is delivered to the Registration Secretary, within 48 hours of the finish of the match.
- e) Scorers are not to sign the Match Report Card.

12. MATCH REPORTS FOR THE MEDIA

- a) The winning team of every senior match, is to complete a media report, detailing the following:
- The box scores of the match
 - Pitcher's statistics for both teams.
 - Batting statistics for both teams.
 - A summary of the game.
- b) The winning team is then responsible for getting it to the BBA Media Representative within 24 hours.

13. REPORTED PERSONS

- a) Ejected persons cannot re-enter the playing field while the umpire is still on the ground. Ejected persons are not to approach the umpire after being ejected.
- b) Team manager or his substitute must come to the Scorer's area and sign the Match Report Card, and any Reported Person's Notice upon their completion by the Umpire. Signing of the Card/Notice is compulsory, and thereby endorses that the Manager and his/her club is aware of what is included on the Card/Notice. The Card/Notice shall not then be amended or added to. A reported person's manager will receive a duplicate of the Reported Person's Notice. No other official notice of a report shall be forwarded to a Club or ejected person.

14. MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

- a) Three, two and one votes (no shared votes) are to be recorded by the Plate Umpire, in consultation with the base umpire(s), by clear endorsement on the vote paper provided.
- b) Votes should reflect the contribution made to the game by the players receiving votes.

15. YELLOW CARD RULE

- a) The principle of this rule is to allow an umpire to issue a formal warning to persons committing minor offenses without the necessity for ejection from the game and subsequent tribunal appearances.
- b) Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include, but not be limited to: Dangerous play, Dissent, Equipment abuse, minor obscenities, misconduct.
- c) If, in the opinion of the umpire, an offence has occurred as provided for by this rule, a Yellow card must be shown to the offender and both that person and the team manager informed of the nature of the offence.
- d) The umpire shall complete the details required on the Yellow Card and place it with the Match Report Card, to be forwarded on to the Registration Secretary.
- e) A register of Yellow Card offences shall be maintained by the Registration Secretary.
- f) The first and second Yellow Cards issued to a person will occur no penalty. However, the third and any subsequent Yellow card offence by that player during the currency of a season shall result in him being suspended from participation in the next game for which he is eligible to play. The player is also suspended from coaching any match within 7 days of the third and any subsequent yellow card offence.
- g) The Registration Secretary shall notify the relevant club when a player receives a yellow card.
- h) A person who receives two Yellow cards in the same game, shall be ejected from the game after the second offence, but will not be required to attend a tribunal hearing.
- i) A person suspended under this clause will be notified by the Registration Secretary via their club.
- j) When a person incurs a Yellow Card suspension in the last game of the season or a finals game, the matter will be referred to the Tribunal to determine the timing of the suspension.
- k) A person may appeal to the Tribunal Chairman against the issue of a Yellow Card. Such appeals are to be lodged in writing, stating reasons for the appeal to the Secretary of the BBA, within 48 hours of the game in which the offence occurred, and shall be accompanied by a \$20.00 deposit, which will be returned only if the Tribunal Chairman deems the appeal not to be frivolous. Mere denial of the offence does not constitute grounds for referral to the Tribunal, and will result in the loss of the deposit.
- l) Upon receiving an appeal in accordance with clause (k), the Tribunal Chairman shall decide if the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for resolution, such decision being final.
- m) The Tribunal will hear an appeal referred to it under clause (L) by convening a hearing with the offender and the umpire. The Tribunal may determine to;
 - Uphold the appeal, cancel the yellow card and advise the umpire, or
 - Dismiss the appeal and confirm the yellow card, or
 - Consider the offence warranted an ejection and impose a penalty, and
 - Decide to return or retain the deposit.
- n) Such decisions of the Tribunal are final, and not subject to further appeal.

16. GROUND EQUIPMENT

- a) To be provided by the host club
- b) Playing area: the playing area shall be enclosed if possible, but on all grounds not enclosed a net or distinguishing mark and a line shall be placed a maximum of 60 feet from the home plate. When the distance beyond the first or third base line exceeds 90 feet, a white line shall be marked at 60 feet parallel with the respective base line. Limits and conditions are to be established by the Managers with the Umpire, before the game.
- c) Back Net. A securely erected continuous back net at least 30 feet by 10 feet.
- d) Bases: to be whitened and fixed.
- e) Home Plate: to be whitened, fixed and flush to the surface. On constructed baseball fields, the plate shall be permanently fixed.
- f) Pitching Mound: Mounds are compulsory for all senior divisions.
- g) Pitching mats: to be pegged on mound.
- h) Foul flags: In the absence of fence markers, flags of cloth at least 450mm square on single poles at least 1.0m high. No discs or metal plates permitted.
- i) Players Benches: Must be provided for all games. Scorers and/or statisticians are not permitted on the bench.
- j) Home Run Fence: For all divisions is compulsory. Where there is no permanent Home Run Fence, Clubs shall provide a temporary Home Run Fence 98 metres from the home plate to the nearest fence, stand or other obstruction on the right and left field foul lines, 114 metres to centrefield unless other distances are approved by the Association.
- k) Any home run limits without a fence shall be defined by locating witches hats or flags of cloth, at least 450mm square, on single wooden poles. No discs or metal plates permitted. A white line is to be marked on the ground joining each marker, and is considered the top of the "fence."
- l) The umpire may ask for two responsible persons at the Home Run "Fence." To assist him to judge decisions. Use of a temporary Home Run Fence is optional.
- m) Match balls: In all senior games, two new approved leather water-proof baseballs of the same brand are to be provided by the Club nominated as the Home Team. Vinyl baseballs are not permitted in senior games. Match baseballs shall not be available for pre-inning warm-ups, except for use by the pitcher.
- n) Teams who are designated as the Home Team at neutral venues will incur a fine if they do not remove all equipment from the ground, and replace it to storage, and clean up the field, and benches, and smooth base paths and base areas.

17. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- a) Uniforms shall be as registered. All players shall wear a club cap or helmet.
- b) All A grade players who take the field shall be in full club uniform. Players who have been granted match permits as per By Law No. 6.7.5 (General Playing conditions), must play in either the full uniform of their host club or the full uniform of their parent club.
- c) Seven players at least in B and C grade shall be in full uniform, and remaining members shall be as near as possible to team uniform.
- d) **Coach's uniforms** are not compulsory provided a club jacket or shirt, plus cap are worn.
- e) **Undershirts** (if worn) must conform with the official uniform registered with the BBA.
- f) **Jackets:** A pitcher may bat wearing a jacket. A batting pitcher who reaches base may remove or put on their jacket, provided it is readily available with the base coach. No other player may wear a jacket whilst playing.
Exception: If at the discretion of the umpire (due to inclement weather) outfielders may wear a jacket.
- g) **Helmets:** The wearing of helmets, whilst batting, base running, base coaching and for batboys is compulsory. Catchers shall wear helmet protection.
- h) **Warm-up catchers** shall wear a mask.

- i) **Jewellery:**
 - Exposed jewellery such as wrist watches, bracelets and types of earrings, neck chains or any other items judged dangerous by the umpire, must not be worn during the game.
 - Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewellery, but if worn, must be taped to the body.
- j) Players must be asked to remove jewellery and in failing to do so, will be ejected from the game.
- k) **Gloves:** No circle marking shall be different in color to the glove.
- l) **Sweatbands** of minimal size for wearing at the wrist to be in club colors, but white not permitted.
- m) **Bats:** Wood or composite bats only may be used in A grade matches. Wood, composite, ceramic or aluminium bats may be used in B or C grade matches.

18. OFFENSIVE VISITS TO THE PITCHER BY COACH OR MANAGER

Rule 8.06 in the "Official Australian Baseball Rules" indicates that there is a limitation to the number of trips a coach/manager is allowed to make to the pitcher during an inning.

Rule 8.06 does not apply to BBA competitions.

19. TIME WASTING

- a) It is contrary to the spirit of senior baseball for teams to engage in the practice of time wasting, particularly in the closing minutes of a time limit game.
- b) Umpires are hereby instructed to take all necessary steps to prevent such malpractice and team managers are warned that the BBA will not tolerate such tactics.

20. PLAYING FIELD DIMENSIONS

Senior and Under 18		Women	
Pitching Distance	60'6" (27.4m)	Pitching Distance	60'6" (27.4m)
Base Paths	90' (18.m)	Base Paths	90' (18.m)
Diagonal	127' 31/2" (38.7m)	Diagonal	127' 31/2" (38.7m)
Pass Ball Line	60' (18.3m)	Pass Ball Line	60' (18.3m)
Bases	Full Size	Bases	Full Size
Home Plate	Full Size	Home Plate	Full Size
Pitching Plate	Full Size	Pitching Plate	Full Size
Coach's Box	20' x 10'	Coach's Box	20' x 10'
Batting Box	6' x 4' (1.83m x 1.22m)	Batting Box	6' x 4' (1.83m x 1.22m)

Junior	TBall	Under 12	Under 13	Under 14	Under 15	Under 16 +
Pitching Distance	35' (10.675m)	43' (13.11m)	46' (14.03m)	50' (15.24m)	54' (16.46m)	57' (17.37m)
Base Paths	60' (18.3m)	60' (18,3m)	60' (18.3m)	80' (24.38m)	80' (24.38m)	90' (27.43m)
Diagonal	84'.5" (25.88m)	84'10" (25.87m)	84'10" (25.87m)	113'3" (34.52m)	113'3" (34.52m)	127'33/8 " (38.79m)
Pass Ball Line	25' (7.63m)	25' (7.63m)	25' (7.63m)	40' (12.2m)	40' (12.2m)	40' (12.2m)
Bases	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size
Home Plate	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size
Pitching Plate	Full Size	46"	46"	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size
Left & Right Field		200' (61m)	200' (61m)	225'(68.58m)	225' (68.58m)	250'(76.25m)
Centre Field		200' (61m)	200' (61m)	275'(83.82m)	275' (83.82m)	300' (90m)
Coaches Box	8' x 4' (2.44m x 1.22m)	8' x 4' (2.44m x 1.22m)	8' x 4' (2.44m x 1.22m)	16' x 8' (4.88m x 2.44m)	16' x 8' (4.88m x 2.44m)	16' x 8' (4.88m x 2.44m)
Batting Box	6' x 3' (1.83m x 0.92m)	6' x 3' (1.83m x 0.92m)	6' x 3' (1.83m x 0.92m)	6' x 4' (1.83m x 1.22m)	6' x 4' (1.83m x 1.22m)	6' x 4' (1.83m x 1.22m)