



***GOLD COAST
BASEBALL***
ASSOCIATION INC

GCBA By-Laws 2024-2025

1. Document Control

1.1 Release Date

Ref	Date Released	Location
Final	20 th September 2024	https://www.gcba.basbeall.com.au

Table 1 – Release Date

1.2 Related Documents

Ref	Document Name	Location
RD-01	GCBA - Website	Play Baseball on The Gold Coast
RD-02	GCBA - By Laws	
RD-03	GCBA - PONAG – Playing Up Consent Form	GCBA PONAG - Playing Up Consent Form
RD-04	GCBA - PONAG – Playing Down Application Form	GCBA PONAG - Playing Down Application Form
RD-05	GCBA Incident Report Form	GCBA Incident Forms
RD-06	BQ - Website	BQ Baseball Queensland
RD-07	BQ - By Laws	BQ GBL By-Laws
RD-08	BQ - Age Matrix	BQ Age Matrix - Baseball Queensland
RD-09	BQ - Rep Player Transfer Policy	BQ Little League Australia (Page 4)
RD-10	BQ - Policies	BQ Resources
RD-11	BA - Website	BA Baseball.com.au
RD-12	BA - Policies	BA Resources
RD-13	BA - Official Baseball Rules (OBR - Current)	BA 2019 Official Baseball Rules
RD-14	BA - Little League Rules	BA Little League
RD-15	BA - Little League Bat Rules	LLI Bat Information
RD-16	BA Coaching Education	BA Coaching Resources

Table 2 – Related Documents

1.3 Glossary

Ref	Terms
ABL	means the Australian Baseball League.
GCBA	means the Gold Coast Baseball Association Inc.
GCBACA	means the GCBA Competitions Administrator – the role tasked with administering the competition.
GCBOA	means the Gold Coast Baseball and Officials Association Inc.
Grand Final	means the final round in the Finals Series.
Home Team	means the team designated as such in the relevant Division schedule.
Host Club	means the Club hosting a particular game.
Incident Report Form	means the form prescribed by the GCBA Committee for the purpose of reporting incidents relating to the GCBA Competition to the GCBA Judiciary.
Inclement Weather Contact	means the individual nominated in accordance with (Section 3.1.8)

Ref	Terms
Intermediate League	means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Intermediate League" age-group specified in the BQ Age Matrix. (RD-04)
Junior Competition	means any player eligible to play in the Junior Competition in accordance with (Section 5.4.2)
Junior League	means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Junior League" age-group specified in the BQ Age Matrix. (RD-04)
Junior Player	means any player eligible to play in the Junior Competition in accordance with (Section 5.4.2)
Little League	means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Little League" age-group specified in the BQ Age Matrix. (RD-04)
LLR	means the rules of Little League® rulebook, as updated from time to time.
Major Semi Final	means a Semi Final involving the two highest ranked teams
Masters Competition	means all Divisions included (Section 5)
Masters Player	means any player participating in the Masters Competition in accordance with (Section 5.2.1)
Official Baseball Rules (OBR)	means the "Official Baseball Rules" published by the "Office of the Commissioner of Baseball" from time to time.
Parent Club	has the meaning given to it in (Section 5.4.2)
PONAG	means "Playing Outside Natural Age Group", the requirements of which are set out in (Appendix A)
Preliminary Final	means any second round in the Finals Series which is not otherwise a Grand Final.
QBS	means Queensland Baseball Scorers
QBUA	means the individual nominated as such by the QBUA.
Regular Season	means games played in the Summer Season to determine if a team qualifies for the Finals Series
Regulation Game	means a game meeting the minimum inning and/or time requirements for the relevant Division pursuant to (Section 5)
Semi Final	means the first round in the Finals Series.
Senior Competition	means all Divisions included in (Section 5)
Senior League	means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Senior League" age-group specified in the BQ Age Matrix. (RD-08) .
Senior Player	means any player participating in the Senior Competition that is not otherwise a Junior Player.
Substitute Player	has the meaning given to it in (Section 5.4.7 (c))
Summer Season	means the period of time approximately comprising term 4 and term 1 of the Queensland school term.
Under 20's	means the Division run in the Junior Competition for the "Under 20's" age-group specified in the BQ Age Matrix (RD-08) .
Winter Competition	means the period of time approximately between April and August.
Women's Competition	means all Divisions included in (Section 5.3)
Women's Player	means any player participating in the Women's Competition.

Table 3 – Glossary

NB: Terms and rules not defined within this document shall take the same meaning as in the Official Baseball Rules or otherwise in the Macquarie Dictionary.

Table of Contents

1. DOCUMENT CONTROL	2
1.1 Release Date	2
1.2 Related Documents	2
1.3 Glossary	2
2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	10
2.1 Functions of the GCBA	10
2.1.1 The Board of Management	10
2.2 Committee and Personnel	10
2.2.1 GCBA Committees	10
2.3 Communications	10
2.3.1 Official Communications	10
2.3.2 GCBA notifications to members	10
2.3.3 Email Address for correspondence relating to these By-Laws	10
2.4 Finance	10
2.4.1 Requirements	10
2.4.2 Expenses	10
2.4.3 Coaches and Team Officials	10
2.4.4 Financial Assistance	11
2.4.5 Representative Players	11
2.4.6 Hardship	11
2.4.7 Umpires	11
2.4.8 Annual Club Membership Fees	11
2.4.9 Player Fees	11
2.4.10 Events	11
2.4.11 Fines and Penalties	11
2.4.12 Payments to the GCBA	11
2.5 Club Affiliation	12
2.5.1 Annual Affiliation Review	12
2.5.2 Application acceptance or rejection	12
2.5.3 Team nominations	12
2.5.4 Geographic Region	12
2.5.5 Governance Requirements of Existing Members	12
2.5.6 Governance Requirements of New Members	12
2.5.7 Club Uniform Requirements	12
2.5.8 Fields	12
2.6 Calendar of Events - Administration	13
2.7 GCBA Disputes Panel	13
2.7.1 General	13
2.8 Disputes (Disagreement with Competition Administration)	13
2.8.1 General	13
2.9 Protests (Disagreement with the Technical Game Rules)	13
2.9.1 General	13
2.10 Breaches of Competition Rules	14
2.10.1 General	14
2.10.2 Table of Breaches and Penalties	14
2.10.3 Junior Competition Breaches	16
2.11 Players	17

2.11.1	Participation Eligibility	17
2.11.2	Registration of players	17
2.11.3	Player Health and Safety	17
2.12	Player Transfer and Clearance Requirements.....	17
2.12.1	Requirements.....	17
2.13	Juniors Playing in Senior Competition and Womens Competition	18
2.13.1	Requirements.....	18
2.14	Players Playing for more than one Club.....	18
2.14.1	Requirements.....	18
2.15	Junior Players – Age Matrix.....	18
2.16	Officials	19
2.16.1	Requirements.....	19
2.16.2	Coaches Accreditation	19
2.16.3	Scorers Accreditation	20
2.16.4	Umpire Accreditation.....	21
2.16.5	Prohibited Substances	21
3.	COMPETITION STRUCTURE	22
3.1	Administration	22
3.1.1	Responsibilities	22
3.1.2	Grading Procedures	22
3.1.3	Competition Scheduling.....	22
3.1.4	Rescheduling Regular Season Games	23
3.1.5	Finals Series games	25
3.1.6	Rescheduling Finals Series games	25
3.1.7	Ground Curfews	26
3.1.8	Inclement Weather Procedures.....	26
3.1.9	Wet Weather & Thunderstorms	27
3.1.10	Extreme Heat	27
3.1.11	Recommendations	27
3.1.12	Suspensions in play	28
3.1.13	Forfeits and Late Starts	28
3.1.14	Competition Records.....	28
3.1.15	Percentage Ladders	29
3.1.16	Official Game Start Time	29
3.1.17	Tie Breaker (International) Rule.....	29
3.1.18	Speed Up Policy	29
3.1.19	Injuries and Disable List	30
3.1.20	Electronic System, Game Reports and Results	30
3.1.21	Trophies and Awards	31
3.1.22	Pitching Restrictions	32
4.	GROUPS AND EQUIPMENT.....	33
4.1.1	Club Responsibilities	33
4.1.2	The Playing Field	33
4.1.3	Night Games - Lights	33
4.1.4	Uniforms	34
4.1.5	Protective Equipment	34
4.1.6	Bats	34
4.1.7	Game Balls	37

5. PLAYING CONDITIONS RULES BY-LAWS	38
5.1 Senior Division Competitions	38
5.1.1 Player Qualification	38
5.1.2 Game Duration	38
5.1.3 Run Limitations	39
5.1.4 Regulation Game	39
5.1.5 Ten (10) Run Rule	39
5.1.6 Players	40
5.1.7 Designated Hitter	40
5.1.8 Courtesy Runner	40
5.1.9 Playing in other Divisions	40
5.1.10 Umpires	41
5.1.11 Defensive Visits	41
5.1.12 Eligibility for Finals	41
5.2 Masters Division Competition	42
5.2.1 Player Qualification	42
5.2.2 Game Duration	42
5.2.3 Run Limitation	42
5.2.4 Regulation Game	43
5.2.5 Ten (10) Run Rule	43
5.2.6 Players	43
5.2.7 Designated Hitter	43
5.2.8 Courtesy Runner	43
5.2.9 Continuous Batting Order	44
5.2.10 Umpires	44
5.2.11 Defensive Visits	44
5.2.12 Eligibility for Finals	44
5.3 Womens Division Competition	46
5.3.1 Team Nominations	46
5.3.2 Game Duration	46
5.3.3 Run Limitations	46
5.3.4 Regulation Game	47
5.3.5 Ten (10) Run Rule	48
5.3.6 Players	48
5.3.7 Designated Hitter	48
5.3.8 Courtesy Runner	48
5.3.9 Continuous Batting Order	48
5.3.10 Umpires	48
5.3.11 Defensive Visits	49
5.3.12 Eligibility for Finals	49
5.4 Junior Division Competitions (BL,SL,JL,IL,LL)	50
5.4.1 Governance	50
5.4.2 Team Nominations	50
5.4.3 Game Duration	50
5.4.4 Run Limitations	51
5.4.5 Regulation Game	51
5.4.6 One-Sided Games	52
5.4.7 Players	52
5.4.8 Batting Rules	53
5.4.9 Continuous Batting Order	53

5.4.10	Replacing a Batter	53
5.4.11	Throwing a Bat	53
5.4.12	Little League Minors	53
5.4.13	Courtesy Runner	53
5.4.14	Umpires.....	54
5.4.15	Defensive Visits	54
5.4.16	Eligibility for Finals	54
5.4.17	Pitching and Catching Restrictions.....	54
5.4.18	Base Running	55
5.5	Junior Division Competitions (Rookie Ball).....	56
5.5.1	Introduction	56
5.5.2	Game Duration.....	56
5.5.3	Run Limitations	56
5.5.4	Field Size	56
5.5.5	Teams and Players	56
5.5.6	Batting Rules	57
5.5.7	Equipment.....	57
5.5.8	Throwing a Bat	57
5.6	Junior Division Competitions (Tee- Ball).....	58
5.6.1	Introduction	58
5.6.2	Game Duration.....	58
5.6.3	Run Limitations	58
5.6.4	Field Size	58
5.6.5	Teams and Players	58
5.6.6	Batting Rules	59
5.6.7	Equipment.....	59
5.6.8	Throwing a Bat	59
6.	BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT	60
6.1	Conduct of Members, Officials and Spectators.....	60
6.1.1	Members, officials and spectators of the GCBA Competition must comply with:	60
6.1.2	Members, officials and spectators of the GCBA Competition must, at all times, refrain from:	60
6.1.3	Behaviour Towards Umpires.....	60
6.1.4	Behaviour Towards Scorers	60
6.1.5	Meelee Rule	60
6.1.6	GCBA Judiciary Procedures.	61
6.1.7	GCBA Judiciary References	61
6.1.8	GCBA Judiciary Suspensions.....	61
APPENDIX A - PONAG PERMISSION (A).....		62
1.	Introduction.....	62
2.	Background.....	62
3.	Age Requirements	62
4.	Playing Outside Natural Age Groups ("PONAG").....	62
5.	Playing Up Consent.....	62
6.	Playing Down Consent.....	63
7.	Playing Down Consent Restrictions/Allowances	63
8.	Special Consideration	63
9.	Appeals and Reviews Process	63

APPENDIX B - PONAG PERMISSION (B)	64
1. Introduction	64
2. Background	64
3. Age Requirements	64
4. Playing Outside Natural Age Groups ("PONAG")	64
5. Playing Up Consent	65
6. Playing Down Consent	65
7. Playing Down Consent Restrictions/Allowances	65
8. Special Considerations	65
9. Appeals and Review Process	65
APPENDIX C - GCBA COMPETITION DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES	66
1. General	66
2. GCBA Competition Administrator	66
3. GCBA Disputes Panel	66
4. Powers and Decision Making	66
5. Appeals	66
APPENDIX D - GCBA JUDICIARY PROCEDURE	67
1. General	67
2. GCBA Competition Administrator	67
3. GBCBA Judiciary	67
4. Reporting Procedure	68
5. Pre-Hearing Procedure	68
6. Temporary Sanction	69
7. Judiciary Hearings	70
8. Powers	72
9. Re-Opening a Hearing	72
10. Appeals	72
11. Table of Charges	74
12. Recommended Table of Penalties	76

List of Tables

TABLE 1 – RELEASE DATE	2
TABLE 2 – RELEATED DOCUMENTS	2
TABLE 3 – GLOSSASRY	3
TABLE 4 – GCBA BANK DETAILS	11
TABLE 5 – CALENDAR OF EVENTS (ADMINISTRATION)	13
TABLE 6 – GCBA INFRINGEMENTS AND BREACHES	15
TABLE 7 – GCBA JUNIOR BREACHES	16
TABLE 8 – BQ AGE MATRIX.....	18
TABLE 9 – SCORING ACCREDITATION	20
TABLE 10 – UMPIRE ACCREDITATION	21
TABLE 11 – FINALS FORMAT	25
TABLE 12 – HEAT RECOMMENDATIONS	27
TABLE 13 – TROPHIES AND AWARDS	31
TABLE 14 – CLUB OF THE YEAR (GAINS).....	31
TABLE 15 – CLUB OF THE YEAR (LOSSES).....	31
TABLE 16 – GCBA JUNIOR PITCHING RESTRICTIONS	32
TABLE 17 – USA PITCH SMART GUIDELINES	32
TABLE 18 – PITCHING RESTRICTION AGE 23+	32
TABLE 19 – PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS.....	33
TABLE 20 – JUNIOR BAT REQUIREMENTS	37
TABLE 21 – GAME DURATION (SENIORS)	38
TABLE 22 – REGULATION GAME (SENIORS)	39
TABLE 23 – TEN (10) RUN RULE (SENIORS).....	39
TABLE 24 – GAME DURATION (MASTERS)	42
TABLE 25 – REGULATION GAME (MASTERS).....	43
TABLE 26 – TEN (10) RUN RULE (MASTERS)	43
TABLE 27 – GAME DURATION (WOMENS DIVISIONS)	46
TABLE 28 – TEN (10) RUN RULE (MASTERS)	48
TABLE 29 –GAME DURATION (JUNIOR DIVISIONS)	50
TABLE 30 – REGULATION GAME (JUNIOR DIVISIONS).....	51
TABLE 31 – ONE-SIDED GAMES (JUNIOR DIVISIONS)	52
TABLE 32 –GAME DURATION (ROOKIE BALL DIVISION)	56
TABLE 33 –RUN LIMITATIONS (ROOKIE BALL DIVISION)	56
TABLE 34 –FIELD SIZE (ROOKIE BALL DIVISION)	56
TABLE 35 –GAME DURATION (TEE-BALL DIVISION)	58
TABLE 36 –RUN LIMITATIONS (TEE-BALL DIVISION)	58
TABLE 37 –FIELD SIZE (TEE-BALL DIVISION)	58
TABLE 38 –JUDICIARY TABLE OF CHARGES.....	75
TABLE 39 –JUDICIARY TABLE OF PENALTIES	76

Table of Figures

FIGURE 1 – USA COACHING ACCREDITATIONS	19
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2. General Administration

2.1 Functions of the GCBA

2.1.1 The Board of Management

- a) Baseball Queensland (BQ) empowers the Gold Coast Baseball Association Inc (GCBA) to administer all baseball activities in the Gold Coast region. GCBA officials meet regularly with the BQ Board of Management to ensure compliance with BQ's requirements.

2.2 Committee and Personnel

2.2.1 GCBA Committees

- a) The GCBA shall put in place appropriate Committees and personnel to assist in the running of the competition.
- b) The GCBA shall put in place a Judiciary Chairman and Judiciary Committee for all age levels (Tee Ball to Adult).
- c) Other committees and relevant personnel as required to meet specific needs.

2.3 Communications

2.3.1 Official Communications

- a) The official method of communication to and from GCBA is written notification, sent by e-mail.

2.3.2 GCBA notifications to members

- a) GCBA shall deem any notification sent or received on the date of transmission (if sent by 4.00pm)
- b) And the following business day (if sent after 4.00pm)

2.3.3 Email Address for correspondence relating to these By-Laws

- a) All official correspondence relating to these by-laws must be sent to: competitions@goldcoast-baseball.com
- b) Other contact details of respective Committee positions are listed on the GCBA website.

2.4 Finance

2.4.1 Requirements

- a) All Clubs are to pay invoices issued by the BQ, GCBA, and GCBOA within the prescribed time period on receipt of invoice, or they shall be deemed unfinancial.
- b) Any Club that is unfinancial under this Section shall not continue to play in the GCBA Competition. Games scheduled during the unfinancial period shall be deemed to be a forfeit in favour of the opposing team.
- c) Any Club that is unfinancial under this Section shall not receive trophies or awards until the Club becomes financial.

2.4.2 Expenses

- a) All expenses incurred by a GCBA Committee member or person acting on behalf of GCBA shall be refunded in full the total amount of expenses incurred upon presentation of all relevant receipts to the Treasurer.
- b) All expenditure is to be approved by GCBA Management Committee.

2.4.3 Coaches and Team Officials

- a) The GCBA shall pay \$100 per day for all GCBA appointed accredited officials for approved tournaments.
- b) The GCBA shall pay \$100 per day for each teams Executive Officer.

2.4.4 Financial Assistance

- a) All requests for financial assistance must be in writing and forwarded to the Secretary. The GCBA Management Committee shall consider said requests on a case-by-case basis.
- b) All requests for financial assistance must be in writing and forwarded to the GCBACA (**Section 2.3.3**).
- c) The GCBA Management Committee shall consider said requests on a case-by-case basis.

2.4.5 Representative Players

- a) All representative players are required to purchase the remaining components of the representative uniform.
- b) Any representative player selected for representative duties at State or National level may apply for financial assistance. The GCBA Management Committee shall consider said requests on a case-by-case basis up to a maximum of \$200 per player.

2.4.6 Hardship

- a) The GCBA reserves the right to allocate funds to persons based on individual financial hardship.

2.4.7 Umpires

- a) The GCBOA may apply for funding from GCBA for the development and training of umpires every 12 months. All applications for funding must be in writing and forwarded to the GCBA Secretary by the GCBOA President.

2.4.8 Annual Club Membership Fees

- a) All clubs affiliated with the GCBA are required to pay an annual membership fee of \$300.00. The GCBA Treasurer will invoice clubs before the 31st of September each year. Clubs that fail to pay the fee by the due date will be deemed to be unfinancial.

2.4.9 Player Fees

- a) All player fees are to be forwarded to the GCBA Treasurer by the nominated date as specified by the GCBA Management Committee.

2.4.10 Events

- a) Any club hosting an event on behalf of the GCBA (finals and tournaments) may be required to make a maximum contribution of \$200.00 to host each event.

2.4.11 Fines and Penalties

- a) The GCBA Management Committee has the right to impose a fine and/or a penalty as per the Schedule of Penalties for any breach of the bylaws or general playing rules.

2.4.12 Payments to the GCBA

GCBA Bank details	
Account Name:	Gold Coast Baseball Association Inc
BSB	484-799 (Suncorp)
Account Number	169 888 900

Table 4 – GCBA Bank Details

2.5 Club Affiliation

2.5.1 Annual Affiliation Review

- a) Any Club wishing to affiliate into the GCBA Competition must affiliate in accordance with the GCBA Constitution.
- b) GCBA will review all affiliations which shall be valid for the ensuing 12 months.

2.5.2 Application acceptance or rejection

- a) GCBA may accept or reject any application for affiliation based on the defined criteria.
- b) GCBA may use its discretion to impose certain conditions in respect of a club's application. These conditions may include the rejection of any club officer or member.

2.5.3 Team nominations

- a) All GCBA affiliated clubs are to nominate their teams in the respective GCBA managed competitions.
- b) Competitions conducted by the GCBA must be the priority of entry for all affiliated clubs and this is most relevant to Junior competitions.
- c) The GCBA will consider sanctioning clubs who wish to participate in other competitions only if there is no competition conducted by the GCBA in the same division/league.
- d) Clubs need to apply to the GCBA for approval before nominating to participate in other competitions.

2.5.4 Geographic Region

- a) The GCBA operates within the City of Gold Coast boundaries and all clubs must be based in this region to be affiliated with the GCBA on a permanent or temporary basis.
- b) Clubs outside the Region must apply to participate in the GCBA competitions on a seasonal basis and this application will need to be approved by the existing clubs.

2.5.5 Governance Requirements of Existing Members

- a) Clubs wishing to remain affiliated with GCBA must complete a Club Information (**Form N**) prior to the Summer season as communicated to from the GCBA.
- b) Provide a copy of the Office of Fair-Trading annual submission form that is no longer than 2 years of age.
- c) A covering letter (on official club letterhead) signed by the club President.
- d) Clubs must forward the forms, and the covering letter accompanied by the relevant fee (**Section 2.3.3**) to the GCBACA by September 31st each year.

2.5.6 Governance Requirements of New Members

- a) a covering letter signed by the club President or nominated head of the proposed organization.
- b) a budget projection for the club.
- c) a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation.
- d) a submission for approval of the club's uniform colours, design and sponsorship.
- e) a three (3) year Operation Plan

2.5.7 Club Uniform Requirements

- a) Before clubs can present players in any approved GCBA competition, they must obtain GCBA approval of their club's uniform colours and design.
- b) Applications from clubs renewing their affiliation, therefore, must include a Club Uniforms Form if they propose to change their authorised uniform colours, design or sponsorship logos.
- c) Clubs must also submit this form if they wish to change their uniform or introduce new logos during the season.

2.5.8 Fields

- a) GCBA will evaluate all fields for the suitability of competition games.
- b) Failure to meet requirements set out for each division shall result in fixtures not being assigned to the member club.

2.6 Calendar of Events - Administration

The following Calendar of Events nominates the dates for submission of information to the GCBA Committee and may be updated by the GCBA Committee from time to time. Timely completion of these requirements by Clubs allows the GCBA Committee to develop and communicate specific details regarding the upcoming season in sufficient time for Clubs to recruit, register and nominate players and teams for the Summer Season.

Requirement	Date Required
Availability of Grounds	3 Weeks prior to the published start of the Summer/Winter season
Ground Light Audit (if Applicable) (Section 4.1.3)	3 Weeks prior to the published start of the Summer/Winter season
Team Nominations (Form N)	3 Weeks prior to the published start of the Summer/Winter season 1 st September

Table 5 – Calendar of Events (Administration)

2.7 GCBA Disputes Panel

2.7.1 General

- The GCBA Disputes Panel is established and administered by the GCBA Committee.
- The roles of the GCBA Disputes Panel include:
 - hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the Competition Rules;
 - making recommendations to the GCBA Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests arising under the Competition Rules; and
 - providing advisory opinions on the Competition Rules.
- The GCBA Disputes Panel and the GCBA Committee will abide by the GCBA Disputes Procedures set out in Appendix B.
- A decision of the GCBA Disputes Panel can be appealed through the BQ Appeals Process. Please refer to the BQ website under Integrity and contact BQ for any further information.

2.8 Disputes (Disagreement with Competition Administration)

2.8.1 General

- A Club may refer a dispute relating to the administration of the competition and these Competition Rules to the GCBA Disputes Panel by completing and forwarding a GCBA Dispute Form to the GCBACA.
- The Club must pay a deposit of \$200.00 which will be refunded if the dispute is upheld or otherwise at the discretion of the GCBA Disputes Panel if the dispute is not considered frivolous or vexatious. The protest will not be heard until after a confirmation of transfer has been forwarded to the GCBA Secretary.

2.9 Protests (Disagreement with the Technical Game Rules)

2.9.1 General

- During a game, any team head coach may protest a ruling associated with a game on the grounds that the ruling is contrary to the OBR, LLR and/or these Competition Rules. At no time can a judgment decision be protested.
- At the time the protest arises, the protesting head coach must advise the umpire-in-chief of the nature of the protest and:
 - the umpire-in-chief must inform the scorers that the game is being played under protest;
 - the umpire-in-chief must inform the head coach of the opposing team of the nature of the protest; and
 - the scorers must record the time of the protest and the details of the protest on the electronic system, note on the game card (if using) and in the appropriate section of their scorebooks.
- After the game, the protesting Club must email a GCBA Dispute Form to the GCBACA no later than 5 pm on the next business day. Protests relating to game-ending plays or breaches which arise after completion of the game that are not recorded on the electronic system must also be reported in this way.

- d) The Club must pay a deposit of \$200.00 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld or otherwise at the discretion of the GCBA Disputes Panel if the dispute is not considered frivolous or vexatious. The protest will not be heard until after a confirmation of transfer has been forwarded to the GCBA Committee.
- e) No protest pertaining to an umpire's technical game ruling (excluding game-ending plays) can be made after the game has been completed. All protests must be made at the time the play occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play.
- f) The GCBA Competition Administrator shall refer the protest to the GCBA Disputes Panel to be resolved as soon as practicable. If the above protest format is not followed then the protest may be dismissed.

2.10 Breaches of Competition Rules

2.10.1 General

- a) The GCBA Administrator or GCBA Secretary shall forward to the relevant Club Secretary an invoice, or notification of penalty, for each breach incurred. The notification shall detail all breaches applicable.
- b) Minimum penalties for breaches of these Competition Rules (cumulative per team) are as follows:

2.10.2 Table of Breaches and Penalties – (DRAFT for review)

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
a) Failure to provide notice of curfew (Section 3.1.6 (a))	GCBA discretion
b) Forfeiture of a game (Section 3.1.13)	<p>1st offence – loss of game and \$50 per defaulting team plus QBUA umpiring fees;</p> <p>2nd offence – loss of game and \$100 per defaulting team plus QBUA umpiring fees;</p> <p>3rd and further offences – loss of game, \$200 per defaulting team plus QBUA umpiring fees and possible removal from the Division (the Club must show cause as to why the team should not be removed).</p> <p>NB: Any forfeiture for games forfeited during the last four (4) weeks of the season will incur a fine of an additional \$300</p>
c) Forfeiture of a game without 48 hours notice (Rule 3.1.13 (a))	\$100 (in addition to the penalty for forfeiture of a game generally).
d) Illegal player, including breach of player eligibility, registration and suspended players.	
e) Example Sections (2.1), (5.1.1), (5.16), (5.2.1), (5.2.6), (5.3.1), (5.3.6), (5.4.2), (5.4.7)	\$50 per illegal player and loss of game.
f)	
g) Prohibited substances (Section 2.16.5)	\$100 per person and ejection.
h) Participant out of uniform (Section 4.1.4)	\$20 per person or GCBA discretion
i) Non-submission of electronic results and required information as required (Section 3.1.20)	1st offence – warning; 2nd offence – \$50; 3rd and further offences – loss of game and \$50.
j) Unauthorised alteration of submitted electronic results after the required timeframe (Section 3.1.20)	Loss of game for defaulting team.

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
k) Incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate electronic results submission (Section 3.1.20)	1st offence – warning; 2nd offence – \$50; 3rd and further offences – \$100.
l) Failure to supply an appropriately accredited coach (Section 2.16.2)	1st offence - \$75; 2nd offence - \$100; 3rd offence - \$200 and game forfeit, or loss of game.
m) Failure to supply any umpire: Sections (5.1.10), (5.2.10), (5.3.10), (5.4.14)	\$120 per umpire.
n) Failure to supply an appropriately accredited umpire (Section 2.16.4)	\$50 per umpire.
o) Breach of scoring requirements (Section 2.6.13)	1st offence – warning; 2nd offence – \$25; 3rd and further offences – \$50.
p) Failure to supply a scorer (Section 2.6.13)	\$50 per scorer.
q) Breach of Blue Card requirements (Section 2.16.1 (d))	1st offence – \$50 2nd and further offences by the club - \$500 or at discretion of GCBACC
r) Breach of safety, grounds, field and equipment requirements (Section 4)	1st offence – \$50; 2nd and further offences – \$100
s) Withdrawal of a team within two weeks of commencement of season or thereafter (Section 2.5.3)	\$100 per junior team; \$200 per senior team.
t) Team melees (Section 6.1.5)	1st offence – \$500; 2nd and further offences – \$500 and loss of game
u) Knowingly failing to comply with a GCBA Judiciary order (GCBA Judiciary Procedures, Appendix D)	\$500. Reported person suspension 20 weeks
v) Breach of Pitching Restrictions (Section 3.1.22) or breach of junior pitching catching rules (Section 5.4.17) NB - The GCBA RDC shall be notified of all breaches of pitching and/or catching rules for Junior Players	1st offence - \$100 and loss of game; Coach suspended for one week 2nd offence - \$200 and loss of game; Coach suspended for two weeks 3rd and further offences – \$200 and loss of game; Coach suspended for four weeks

Table 6 – GCBA Infringements and Breaches

- Repeated or deliberate breaches of the Competition Rules may be penalised at the discretion of the GCBA Committee.
- Penalties for breaches of Competition Rules relating to the Junior Competition (and rules applicable to Junior Players participating in the Senior Competition or Women's Competition) are as follows:

2.10.3 Junior Competition Breaches

JUNIORS COMPETITION	
Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
a) Participation breaches (including a failure to adopt a continuous batting order) (Section 5.4.9)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals; 2 nd and further offences - \$200 and loss of game.
b) Breach of PONAG rules (Appendix A), (Appendix B)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game 2 nd and further offences - \$200 and loss of game.

Table 7 – GCBA Junior Breaches

- a) Where a penalty under this section is for loss of game, the score recorded shall be, in favour of the non-infringing team:
- i. 9-0 for U20's, 7-0 for JL, IL & SL, 6-0 for LL. or;
 - ii. the actual final score if the infringing team scores no runs and the non-infringing team scores more than nine (9) runs.

2.11 Players

2.11.1 Participation Eligibility

- a) To be eligible to participate in any game, Clubs and players must meet the conditions listed in the following sections.

2.11.2 Registration of players

- a) Each player, coach and official that takes the field must have completed a registration through Gameday Management System.
- b) Clubs must register all Players through the Gameday database and then export the copy and email to the GCBA Committee no less than one (1) week prior to the commencement of the season.
- c) All queries relating to the Gameday database must be directed to the GCBA Committee.
- d) On payment to the club of the affiliation component of the club fee, players are deemed to be affiliated for the purposes of GCBA competition and BA/BQ insurances. For this reason, players cannot enter the field for game purposes until they have paid the affiliation component.
- e) Players who register after the commencement of the competition must fill out a GCBA Registration Form and forward it to their Club Registrar who must then enter details into the Game database and notify the GCBA Committee no later than 8:00pm on the Thursday prior to their first game.
- f) Only registered players competing in a sanctioned competition are eligible for representative selection.
- g) An import player must register and comply with clearance requirements (if necessary) in the same manner as all players.

2.11.3 Player Health and Safety

- a) Concussion in any sport can be a serious problem. The GCBA Competition Committee strongly recommends Clubs follow the advice from the following references
 - i. Sport Australia - <https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/athlete>
 - ii. Sport Medicine Australia - <https://sma.org.au/resources-advice/sport-fact-sheets/baseball-fact-sheet/>

2.12 Player Transfer and Clearance Requirements

2.12.1 Requirements

- a) Player transfers between Clubs shall be initiated through the Gameday player Transfer software system.
- b) Clubs should advise by email the Club that the player wishes to transfer from that they have received a transfer request.
- c) Unfinancial players shall not be eligible to transfer between Clubs and should not be granted a clearance by the losing club.
- d) Clubs receiving a transfer request must process that request within two weeks of date of receipt during the competition season. Clubs receiving a transfer request must process that request within four weeks of date of receipt during the competition off season.
- e) All transfer and clearance requirements must be fulfilled before a player can take the field.

NB: Regional Transfers – The BQ Player Transfer Policy governs player eligibility and transfer requirements for regional teams. **(See RD-09)**

- f) No club or its representative is permitted to approach a junior player without the consent of the parents.
- g) No club or its representative is permitted to approach a player on the grounds that they have better coaching, facilities etc.
- h) No club or its representative is permitted to approach a junior player on the grounds that the move will ensure or assist them in being selected to representative honors.

2.13 Juniors Playing in Senior Competition and Womens Competition

2.13.1 Requirements

- a) A Junior Player shall be eligible to play in the Senior Competition once they have reached the age of fifteen (15) years. The Club shall be responsible for ensuring a fifteen (15) year old is selected in a Division commensurate with the player's physical and technical abilities.
- b) A Junior Female Player shall be eligible to play in the Women's Competition once they have reached the age of fourteen (14) for divisions 2 and 3, and fifteen (15) for division 1.
- c) For 14YO female players playing in the ladies competition, either in a full time or part time situation, this will be treated as a PONAG and appropriate PONAG paperwork is to be completed (as per a junior playing into a higher age junior competition).
- d) If a 14YO female player chooses to start the season in the women's competition only, and then wishes to exit the women's competition to return to their natural junior age group competition, they can do so at any time throughout the season and any games played in the women's competition will be counted as games played for finals qualification purposes in their natural junior age group.
- e) A Junior Player playing in the Senior Competition or Women's Competition shall participate under the rules of that competition with the exception that junior pitching and catching restrictions prescribed in **(Section 5.4.17)** continue to apply.

2.14 Players Playing for more than one Club

2.14.1 Requirements

- a) A Junior Player playing in a Senior Competition must do so with the Club with which that player is registered.
- b) For a junior player, if both clubs agree, the secondary club must initiate a 'Local Interchange' clearance through the BQ Database to dual register a player in a second club in another division. Process as per BQ's guidelines.
- c) For a Senior, Masters or Women's player, if both clubs agree, the secondary club must initiate a 'Local Interchange' clearance through the BQ Database to dual register a player in a second club in another division. Process as per BQ's guidelines.

Eg, A senior player playing masters for another club as their registered club either doesn't play masters or doesn't have a team in the appropriate division. Dual club registration is required in this instance.

2.15 Junior Players – Age Matrix

BQ Age Matrix

Age Matrix - Baseball Queensland

Table 8 – BQ Age Matrix

2.16 Officials

2.16.1 Requirements

- a) The Gold Coast Baseball Officials Association (GCBOA) is responsible for the recruitment and training of all umpires and scorers.
- b) Official scorers and umpires must be entitled to the respect and dignity due to all game officials and shall be accorded full protection by the GCBA.
- c) Clubs must provide the GCBA Competition Administrator with accreditation details of all coaches, umpires and scorers. These details must be recorded in Gameday prior to the season commencing.
- d) All Coaches, Scorers and Umpires (see below), are to have:
 - i. appropriate, current accreditations (see relevant sections for minimum accreditation requirements) and;
 - ii. a current Blue Card

2.16.2 Coaches Accreditation

- a) Baseball Australia has adopted the USA Baseball Coaches Certification Program.

NEW USA BASEBALL CERTIFICATION	CERTIFICATION LEVEL	COACHING ENVIRONMENT
SPORT AUSTRALIA COACHING PRINCIPLES	Working with children check	All levels of coaching
CERTIFICATION A	Sport Australia General Principles	All levels of coaching
CERTIFICATION B	Certification A	All entry level coaching positions (T-Ball, Little League minors, modified versions of the game)
CERTIFICATION C	Certification B	Charter assistant coaches, club team coaches, club assistant coaches
CERTIFICATION C	Certification C (coursework from Jan 2021)	Charter head coaches, club head coaches, Australian, championship assistant coaches
CERTIFICATION C	Certification C (practical assessment from Jan 2022)	Charter head coaches, club head coaches, Australian, championship assistant coaches
PERFORMANCE STREAM	Advanced Modules (as set by Baseball Australia from Jan 2022)	Australian championship head coaches, all national team coaches

Figure 1 – USA Coaching Accreditations

- b) Every team must have at least one coach with an applicable Baseball Australia coaching accreditation during game play. If the coach is ejected or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game, they must be substituted by another coach with an applicable Baseball Australia coaching accreditation and who is also named on the electronic system.

2.16.3 Scorers Accreditation

Division	Accreditation
Senior Competition - Division 1	Level 2 + E-Scoring
Senior Competition - Division 2	Level 1
Senior Competition - Division 3 & below, Masters Competition, Women's Competition & Junior Competition	Level 0

Table 9 – Scoring Accreditation

- a) For every game in the GCBA Competition, each team shall have its own competent scorer using the official baseball scorebook or electronic version through the approved application.

NB: Scorers may score above their level if they are undergoing training/assessment for that level. (e.g., A Level 1 scorer is doing assessment for Level 2 can score a Div 1 game without penalty)

- b) Scorers of both teams must observe the game together from a position as set aside by the Host Club.
- c) At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
- an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - a blank Game Card for notes (if using);
 - access to the electronic results system (or a process within the club for all results to be submitted electronically within the required timeframe. (**Ssection 3.1.20**))
 - a copy of these Competition Rules;
 - a scorebook; and
 - appropriate stationery.
- d) In Senior Competition – Division 1, both teams must complete a scorebook.
- e) In Senior Competition – the Division 1 Home Team must provide a scorer to score electronically online using the approved electronic scoring software.
- f) In all other Divisions (excluding Senior Competition – Division 1), an electronic scoring device may be used as an alternative to a scorebook, provided at least one scorer completes a scorebook. If both scorers want to use an electronic scoring device, the Home Team scorer must ensure a scorebook is also completed.

2.16.4 Umpire Accreditation

UMPIRE LEVEL	ACCREDITATION
Community Umpire	All Junior Baseball
Community Umpire + Online Association Course	Masters Womens Ladies Seniors Divisions 2 and lower (Base only) for Div 1
Association Umpire	All levels of baseball
NOTE: (Junior aged Umpires, both Community, and Association level, can umpire grades up to one level below their natural age group.) Approval can be sought from the QBUA for Juniors to umpire teams at or above their natural age group.	

Table 10 – Umpire Accreditation

- a) The plate umpire must call the game from behind home plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- b) Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- c) Umpires must be suitably dressed, including:
 - i. QBUA approved shirts reflective of the umpire's current accreditation;
 - ii. enclosed footwear; and
 - iii. in the case of the plate umpire, necessary protective equipment.
- d) At the end of each game, the umpire-in-chief shall check with the scorers that nothing needs to be noted about the game – if something arises, the umpire-in-chief must make written records for their own use if called upon later.
- e) All participating umpires must complete an Incident Report Form for any ejection or other incident they wish to report (refer to the GCBA Judiciary Procedures).
- f) If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach shall be ejected from the game with the player.
- g) Ejected individuals must complete an Incident Report Form and submit it via the Club to the GCBA Secretary by 5 pm the business day following notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the GCBA Competition Administrator.
- h) Where two junior umpires are officiating a game, the home club must appoint an adult as game co-ordinator and must be present at all times during the game. The adult game co-ordinator must not be the coach or manager of either team. The game co-ordinator has the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager or adult spectator for unsportsmanlike conduct from the game location.

2.16.5 Prohibited Substances

- a) All tobacco, e-cigarettes and alcohol products are prohibited within the on-field confines of any baseball facility (i.e. the playing field and within the boundaries of the spectator area). For Junior Competition, smoking is banned within 10 metres of the viewing and playing areas.
- b) A player, coach or match official in a baseball uniform shall be ejected from a game and fined if seen smoking (including e-cigarettes) or consuming an alcoholic beverage during a game.
- c) A player, coach, or match official, including umpires and scorers, seen chewing/dipping tobacco shall be ejected from a game and fined.

NOTE: TOBACCO LAWS IN QUEENSLAND

Smoking (including e-cigarettes): Smoking is banned within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at organised under-18 sporting events. The ban also applies during training and at any intervals or breaks in play.

The coverage of the ban includes the sporting ground or playing area... public seating at the grounds and any other area reserved for use by the competitors and the officials. This also includes a 10 metre non-smoking buffer zone from all of these locations.

The smoking ban includes the use of all smoking products, including electronic cigarettes.

3. Competition Structure

3.1 Administration

3.1.1 Responsibilities

- a) The GCBA Committee shall conduct the GCBA Competition, consisting of Senior Competition, Masters Competition, Women's Competition and Junior Competition.
- b) The GCBA Committee shall determine the number of Divisions in the GCBA Competition. Further Divisions may be added at the GCBA Committee's discretion.
- c) Clubs must nominate teams for each Division in which they wish to compete no later than the date advised in the Calendar of Events.
- d) Clubs must nominate teams in all the competitions based on their player Registrations and numbers available for the related competitions.
- e) If clubs wish to nominate more than Two teams in the same competition, they need to supply actual team lists to the GCBA at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the season.
- f) Clubs must finalize their players for the respective levels of competition prior to the commencement of the third round of competition fixtures.
- g) Clubs must forward to the GCBA Committee a list of at least nine (9) active players for each team. On and from that date, the team in which those players are nominated becomes their "registered team".
- h) Players cannot be nominated for more than one (1) team at the same time unless they are a registered master's player.
- i) If a club has two or more teams in the same division, players may only play across until the end of the 3rd round of competition games. This does not apply in the master's competitions.
- j)

3.1.2 Grading Procedures

- a) In any competition other than Division 1 Seniors, the GCBA Committee may review the grading of teams. Any changes to teams will occur at the latest by the conclusion of Round 5 of that competition. Teams who are
 - (i) regraded will start in the new competition without any results. Their previous results will remain in the competition that they were in.
- b) The GCBA reserves the right to instruct a club to regrade a team or player.
- c) The GCBA will review all game results after round 5 in all the competitions and regrade teams & players to ensure that the competitions remain balanced and consistent.
- d) Clubs must apply to the GCBA Competition Administrator to regrade a player. If permission for regrading is given all teams must maintain at least nine (9) players.

3.1.3 Competition Scheduling

- a) For the purpose of these Competition Rules, scheduling and/or rescheduling fixtures includes determining or changing the time, date and/or location a game is played.
- b) The GCBA Competition Administrator shall schedule fixtures for all GCBA Competitions which shall be published on the GCBA Website.
- c) The GCBA Competition Administrator may reschedule fixtures as needed at any time for any reason.
- d) If the GCBA Competition Administrator reschedules a fixture, the amended fixture shall be published on the GCBA Website, GCBA Facebook (Where possible) and the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of the affected Clubs will be notified as soon as possible.
- e) Where, under these Competition Rules, a game must be rescheduled if it cannot be completed, the GCBA Competition Administrator may schedule a fixture at an alternative time, date and/or location pending the occurrence of some event (e.g. inclement weather).

3.1.4 Rescheduling Regular Season Games

- a) Any Club wishing to reschedule a game in advance must apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled game time. The application should include the reasons for rescheduling and if the opposing team has agreed to the change. The GCBA Competition Administrator may reschedule the game at their discretion and may refer the matter to the GCBA Committee.
- b) If a team has at least three (3) COVID Positive Cases/Players in isolation, a club can apply to the GCBA Competition Administrator in writing via email for the game to be rescheduled to a later date.
 - (i) Clubs need to provide evidence of players in isolation/testing positive for the application to be approved. (Evidence to be provided is either a Medical Certificate/Statutory Declaration/Positive Test Results and provided within 7 days of the application)
 - (ii) The 48 hours notice in **(Section 3.1.4)** will not be enforced if due to COVID 19 /Isolations.
 - (iii) The decision to reschedule the game will be made by the GCBA Competition Administrator, not by the clubs involved.
 - (iv) **Section 3.1.4 (e)** is not relevant to this ruling.
- c) Regular Season games that are not played due to inclement weather or double forfeit shall, subject to **Section 3.1.4 (e) to 3.1.4 (i)** only be rescheduled if:
 - (i) agreed by both Clubs involved;
 - (ii) the Club of the Home Team advises the GCBA Competition Administrator in writing within seven (7) days of the original scheduled game that the teams wish to replay the game. This advice is to include a completed and signed reschedule form nominating the details for the rescheduled game, ie date, time and location of the game.
- d) If the above requirements are not met, the outcome of the game shall not be included in the records of the Division.
- e) Games may be rescheduled by the agreement of both Clubs without prior notice to the GCBA Competition Administrator if completed on the same weekend as the original scheduled game.
- f) **Suspended games during the Regular Season shall be treated as follows:**
 - i. for Senior Competition – Division 1: as per **Section 3.1.4 (h)**; or
 - ii. if, in the view of the GCBA Competition Administrator, there is a reason that the suspended game cannot be rescheduled;
 - iii. if the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning; or
 - iv. if the game did not constitute a Regulation Game, the game shall be declared a tie; and
- g) for all other Divisions in the GCBA Competition:
 - i. if the teams involved are scheduled to meet again in the Regular Season, the suspended game shall be rescheduled and played as a suspended game immediately before that scheduled game; or
 - ii. if the teams involved are not scheduled to meet again in the Regular Season or if, in the view of the GCBA Competition Administrator, there is another reason that the suspended game cannot be rescheduled;
 - iii. if the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning; or
 - iv. if the game did not constitute a Regulation Game, the game shall be declared a tie.
- h) Subject to **Section 3.1.4 (f)** all Senior Competition – Division 1 incomplete or unplayed games must be rescheduled and played as a suspended game or new game (respectively) as follows:
 - i. for Friday night games, as a double header on the following Sunday;
 - ii. for Sunday games, the following Tuesday night; or
 - iii. otherwise, as determined by the GCBA Competition Administrator or the GCBA Committee.

NB: In the case of a double header, a period of 30 minutes is to be allocated between games to allow time for match officials to close off game 1 and prepare for game 2. If all official parties along with competing teams agree to reducing this time, game 2 may commence earlier.

- i) Senior Competition – Division 1 Clubs involved in a Regular Season game rescheduled by **Section 3.1.4 (h)** may, by agreement:
 - i. further reschedule that game to be played within two weeks of the original scheduled game (provided it is still within the Regular Season) by advising the GCBA Competition Administrator in writing at least one (1) day prior to the date the game was automatically rescheduled under **Section 3.1.4 (h)** (i.e. without requiring the GCBA Competition Administrator consent to do so);

- ii. apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator at least one (1) day prior to the date the game was automatically rescheduled under **Section 3.1.4 (h)** to further reschedule that game to be played on a date more than two
 - iii. (2) weeks after the original scheduled game (to be determined by the GCBA Chair at their discretion); or
 - iv. apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator at least three (3) days following the original scheduled game to have the game cancelled and designated no result if the result of the game will have no bearing on the Division ladder at the commencement of the Finals Series.
- j) Once any game is rescheduled in accordance with this section, all Competition Rules shall apply (including forfeit procedures).
- k) In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for the day the game has been rescheduled. Please refer to the pitching restrictions in **Section 3.1.22** for max limits and mandatory rest periods for pitch counts to be reset ahead of the completion of the suspended game being played.

3.1.5 Finals Series games

- a) Shall be scheduled as determined by the GCBA Competition Administrator and published in the schedule of fixtures, or elsewhere.
- b) All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games but played to a result.
- c) All Competitions – The team designated as the Home Team for the Finals Series shall be:
 - i. for the team finishing higher on the table at the end of the Regular Season.
- d) For all Finals Series games, the Home Team shall occupy:
 - i. if from the Host Club, the dugout ordinarily used by the Home Team during the Regular Season; or
 - ii. otherwise, the 3rd base dugout.
- e) The Final Series will be conducted over 2 rounds. (Semi- Finals & Grand Finals)

All GCBA Divisions	Week 1 (Semi-Final)	Result
Semi Finals	Team 1 v Team 4	Winner to GF, Loser Eliminated
Semi Final	Team 2 v Team 3	Winner to GF, Loser Eliminated

Table 11 – Finals Format

NB: Section 3.1.5 (c) will apply to determine who is the Home and Away team. The above table is an example of what the Finals series may look like.

- f) The GCBA Committee shall meet the costs for Grand Finals (i.e. baseballs, umpires and lights) and shall notify the Clubs involved of the arrangements for other finals.

3.1.6 Rescheduling Finals Series games

- a) Finals Series games that are suspended or not played due to any reason other than forfeit shall, where possible, be rescheduled by the GCBA Competition Administrator pursuant to **Section 3.1.6**. Where limited field availability impacts the ability of the GCBA Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their Division and age group.
- b) The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
 - i. for any Semi Final or Preliminary Final:
 - a. in the Masters Competition, Friday night following the original scheduled game; or
 - b. all other Divisions, Wednesday night following the original scheduled game; and
 - c. for any Grand Final, Thursday night preceding Easter, except for a Senior Competition – Division 1 Grand Final, which may be rescheduled to any date.
- c) Once any game is rescheduled in accordance with this section, all Competition Rules shall apply (including forfeit procedures).
- d) Subject to **Section 3.1.6 (e)**, in the event a suspended or unplayed Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under **Section 3.1.6 (b)**, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
 - i. for Divisions split into northside and southside competitions:
 - ii. highest competition standing when the competition ladders are combined; or,
 - iii. if equal, the premiership shall be shared;

otherwise:

 - iv. head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
 - v. highest competition standing; then
 - vi. head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).
- e) Where a suspended Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under **Section 3.1.6**, but the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning.

3.1.7 Ground Curfews

- a) Prior to the start of the Regular Season, each Club shall notify the GCBA Competition Administrator of any mandated Curfew Times applicable to venues that will be hosting GCBA Competition games by the time nominated in the Calendar of Events. The GCBA Competition Administrator shall then approve all Curfew Times in accordance with the finalised GCBA Competition schedule and circulate a list to the Clubs.
- b) At the plate meeting prior to the commencement of the game, the coach from the Host Club shall notify the opposition and the umpires of any Curfew Time and the Cut-Off Time (1 hour before Curfew Time).
- c) A game impacted by a Curfew Time shall end at the earliest of:
 - i. the completion of the game;
 - ii. the completion of two (2) additional innings after the Cut-Off Time; or
 - iii. the completion of an at-bat occurring at the time five (5) minutes before the Curfew Time.
- d) The umpire-in-chief shall notify the coaches at the commencement of an inning after the Cut-Off Time of the above Rule.

Example: Curfew Time is 10pm (so the Cut-Off Time is 9.00pm). At 9.00pm, the game is in the bottom of the 6th inning. The game will therefore conclude, at the latest, at the end of the 8th inning.

- e) Where a game ends pursuant to **Section 3.1.7 (c)(ii)** and the game otherwise constituted a Regulation Game, the result of the game shall be as per the last completed inning.
- f) Where a game ends pursuant to **Section 3.1.6(c)(iii)**:
 - i. the game shall be declared a suspended game if it ends:
 - ii. during the top of an inning;
 - iii. during the bottom of an inning if the Home Team is trailing or the game is tied; or
 - iv. prior to constituting a Regulation Game; and
 - Otherwise, the result of the game shall be as at the time the game ends.
- g) GCBA Competition games may not:
 - i. commence after 6.30pm for (9 innings games - no time limit e.g. Sunday games) if the ground is subject to a Curfew Time.
 - ii. commence less than two (2) hours prior to any Curfew Time applicable at the Host Club; and recommence after a temporary suspension if the time remaining before the Curfew Time is less than the time needed to complete a Regulation Game, assuming each half inning will take 10 minutes.

3.1.8 Inclement Weather Procedures

- a) Inclement weather refers to wet weather, extreme heat, lightning, poor air quality or any other similar event that renders the playing facilities unsafe for play.
- b) All Clubs must nominate an Inclement Weather Contact and their contact number shall be distributed to the Clubs and/or placed on the GCBA Website. For inclement weather updates, contact between Clubs should be through the Inclement Weather Contacts (i.e. coaches and players should liaise with their own Inclement Weather Contact and not contact other Clubs).
- c) Decisions regarding play where there is inclement weather on, or forecast for, the scheduled playing day will be made by:
 - i. in advance, the GCBA Competition Administrator (who may choose to cancel or reschedule some or all games by publishing an update on the GCBA Website and notifying the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of the affected Clubs as soon as possible).
 - ii. on game day, the Host Club Secretary (or their nominee) in accordance with this Section
 - iii. during a game, the umpire-in-chief.
- d) Home Team scorers must record any cancellation or suspension of games due to inclement weather in the electronic system or by otherwise advising the GCBA Competition Administrator. Electronic reports for suspended games must still be submitted (for player eligibility and/or rescheduling purposes).
- e) For Finals games that are subject to Inclement Weather; both Clubs involved must make their best efforts to have the game played including playing the game at the other team's field.

3.1.9 Wet Weather & Thunderstorms

- a) In the case of wet weather, the Host Club must inspect the grounds in advance of any game and, if unplayable, abide by the following:
 - i. notify the visiting Club's Inclement Weather Contact (via phone or text only) and the GCBA Competition Administrator (if applicable), not less than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled game start time where possible (or three (3) hours if the visiting Club is located more than seventy (70) kilometres from the affected field). Clubs are also encouraged to use social media to advise players from both teams of the relocation, cancellation or otherwise of any game; and
 - ii. call off games one game at a time, unless it is obvious that the ground will be unplayable for the entire day.
- b) Once a game has commenced, if the umpires consider that play is unsafe due to the field condition or lightning, play shall be temporarily suspended.

3.1.10 Extreme Heat

- a) As per the Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) Guidelines (as seen in the below table) in the case of extreme heat, if predicted temperatures are above 30 degrees and 30% humidity, the Club Secretary of the Home Team (or their nominee) must monitor, on a half-hourly basis, current temperature and humidity at the field's location via a temperature measuring device that reads both temperature and humidity.
- b) For ALL Competitions, play shall be suspended immediately if the temperature and humidity reaches or exceeds:
 - i. 36° Celsius and 30% Humidity
 - ii. For ALL Competitions during play suspension, the temperature and humidity shall be monitored every ten (10) minutes; and
- c) Game play shall not resume until the temperature falls below:
 - i. 36° Celsius and 30% Humidity

3.1.11 Recommendations

- a) As per the below recommendations from SMA, in the case of extreme heat, additional temporary breaks in play for any reasonable period is permitted where:
 - i. the umpire-in-chief is aware or is made aware of the temperature and humidity exceeding the below recommendations for additional drinks breaks; or
 - ii. they consider that the conditions could be injurious to the participants' health (including the officials'); or
 - iii. by agreement of the coaches.

Ambient Temperature	Relative Humidity	Risk of Heat Illness	Possible management for sustained physical activity
15-20		Low	Heat illness can occur in distance running. Exceeds 70%
21-25	Exceeds 70%	Low -Moderate	Increase vigilance. Caution over motivation
26-30	Exceeds 60%	Moderate	Moderate early pre-season training. Reduce intensity and duration of play/training. Take more breaks.
31-35	Exceeds 50%	High – Very High	Uncomfortable for most people. Limit intensity, take more breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 mins per session.
36 and above	Exceeds 30%	Extreme	Very stressful for most people. Postpone to a cooler conditions (or cooler part of the day) or cancellation.

Table 12 – Heat Recommendations

NB: Through the hotter months, clubs are encouraged to monitor the weather ahead of time and discuss any necessary adjustments that may be required to game scheduling with the opposition. The above is subject to any further health and safety directive from a recognised government body.

3.1.12 Suspensions in play

- a) Any time in which there is a temporary suspension in play due to inclement weather is included in the overall time allowed for that game.
- b) The umpire-in-chief may end a game due to inclement weather in the following circumstances:
 - i. where there is a temporary suspension in play due to inclement weather for a continuous thirty (30) minute period and the umpire-in-chief does not otherwise consider that a Regulation Game could be completed within the remaining time; and
 - ii. where, after consultation with the grounds crew and team coaches, the umpire-in-chief determines that the playing conditions will not permit the completion of a Regulation Game within the remaining time.

3.1.13 Forfeits and Late Starts

- a) A Club that is unable to field a team in a scheduled game must notify the opposing Club Secretary and President, the GCBOA (if applicable) and the GCBA Competition Administrator at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the scheduled game by both email and telephone call. The opposing Club needs to confirm receipt of this advice by return email.
- b) Where a team has less than the minimum number of players present at the scheduled start time for a game, the commencement of the game shall be deferred for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes. The home team scorer shall record the late start and the offending team on the Electronic system.
- c) Any time in which play is delayed under this section is included in the overall time allowed for that game.
- d) If, at fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time or any time during the game:
 - i. For all Senior Competitions, as well as U20's; a team that is unable to field the minimum number of players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win by forfeit. The win will be recorded as a forfeit in the electronic system and the opposing team is to be awarded a score of 9-0 ; or
 - ii. Neither team is able to field the minimum number of players, both teams shall be awarded a loss and the score of 0-9 (unless the game is rescheduled under **Section 3.1.3 (a)**).
 - iii. For Junior Competitions; a team that is unable to field the minimum number of players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win by forfeit. The win will be recorded as a forfeit in the electronic system and the opposing team is to be awarded a score of 6-0 for all Little League games, 7-0 for all Intermediate League / Junior League / Senior League games; or
 - iv. Neither team is able to field the minimum number of players, both teams shall be awarded a loss and the score of 0-6 for all Little League games, 0-7 for all Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League games (unless the game is rescheduled under **Section 3.1.4 (a)**).
- e) When a game is forfeited before its commencement, the names of the players in attendance from the non-forfeiting team must be recorded in the Electronic system within the required timeframe. These players shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes. Where the team is advised of the forfeit before game day, the non-forfeiting team may submit a team roster of twelve (12) players to the GCBA Competition Administrator to approve BEFORE the non-forfeiting teams scorer enters this roster into the Electronic system. This must be done by 5 pm the day after the date of the scheduled game.
- f) When a game is forfeited after its commencement, all players named on the Electronic system within the required timeframe shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes.

3.1.14 Competition Records

- a) The GCBA Competition Administrator shall keep accurate records of the following:
 - i. results and participation of all games in the competitions;
 - ii. all protests and reports recorded on the Electronic system;
 - iii. all cautions and ejections, as recorded on the Electronic system by umpires or Home team scorers on the umpires request;
- b) all points/percentages allocated to each team according to the provisions of these Competition Rules; and
- c) other information as required.

3.1.15 Percentage Ladders

- a) The GCBA Competition Administrator shall maintain a percentage ladder for each Division on the GCBA Website stating:
 - i. the number of games played by each team; and
 - ii. the number of wins, losses and draws for each team.
- b) Clubs wishing to contest any content in the percentage ladders must forward written objections to the GCBA Competition Administrator. The objection must contain grounds for dispute and include relevant evidence (e.g. copy of scorebooks, screenshots of the Electronic system, notes from games, game cards (if using) etc.).
- c) All percentage ladders shall be ranked in descending order by win percentage, as follows:

Win percentage = total wins + draws (half) / total games played

- d) Where two or more teams are equally ranked with the same win percentage, the GCBA Committee shall allocate places using the following criteria:
 - i. “Head-to-Head” for the teams for the season; then
 - ii. runs against, head-to-head, for the season; then
 - iii. runs against overall / games played for the season; then
 - iv. at the GCBA Committee's discretion, giving reasons.
- e) Where it is not possible to maintain a percentage ladder, a ladder based on points will be maintained.

3.1.16 Official Game Start Time

- a) For all competitions, the official game time shall start when the umpire in chief calls play, for the first pitch to then be delivered. The Umpire in Chief is encouraged to conduct their plate meeting at a suitable time prior to the scheduled game start time to ensure that “Play” is called on, or as close to the scheduled game start time as possible. The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

E.g. If the Umpire in Chief calls “Play” in a regular season 2hr game at 8:33, there would be no new inning started on or after 10:20. Likewise, if the official game start time was 8:28, there would be no new inning on or after 10:20

3.1.17 Tie Breaker (International) Rule

- a) Extra innings shall be played in all GCBA Finals Competition games only:
 - i. must be played to a result and remain tied at the completion of the stipulated game duration; or
 - ii. remain tied after the expiry of the maximum number of innings for that Division but before the expiry of any time limit.
- b) For each extra inning, the offensive team for every half-inning shall commence with:
 - i. a runner on 2nd base, being the batter immediately preceding the batter leading off the half-inning in the batting order; and
- c) No pitcher shall be charged with an earned run if scored by the runner on second base, as described at **Section 3.1.17 (b)**. Please refer to **OBR Rule 7.01(b)(2)(c)** for the tie-break rule, and the OBR scoring **Rule 9.16** for guidance on earned runs.

3.1.18 Speed Up Policy

- a) Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.
- b) Should either team take longer than ninety (90) seconds from the third out to the pitcher being told to “play”, then penalties may apply. If the batting team is at fault, a strike shall be called and if the fielding team is at fault then a ball shall be called. This should happen only after a warning is given in the first instance.

3.1.19 Injuries and Disable List

- a) If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to less than nine (9) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.
- b) Scorers must record details of players injured in a game on the Electronic system. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a statutory declaration to the GCBA Competition Administrator within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred via the Club. The player shall then be recorded on the disabled list.
- c) Players who are injured outside the field of play (e.g. work injuries, training etc.) or have extended time away from the game due to covid or other illness must forward a suitable medical certificate via the Club to the GCBA Committee within fourteen (14) days of when the injury or illness occurred to be eligible for the disabled list.
- d) Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals (within the Division in which they played the majority of games at the time of injury, or the lower Division if it is even).
- e) The GCBA Chair may accept medical certificates or statutory declarations forwarded after the time limits stipulated in this section where deemed fair and appropriate to do so.

3.1.20 Electronic System, Game Reports and Results

- a) The Home Team scorer shall ensure that:
 - i. game reports are fully completed, accurate and legible, with all names spelt correctly and relevant accreditation levels recorded. If using paper Game Cards at the game, these details must be recorded in the Electronic system within the required timeframe.
 - ii. the required timeframe for Submitting the Electronic Game Record is 7pm on the Tuesday following the conclusion of the game.
- b) It is impermissible for anyone to alter the Electronic system game results without the knowledge and consent of the umpires, coaches and scorers from both teams present at the game.

3.1.21 Trophies and Awards

- a) The head coach of each team participating in a Grand Final will award, by agreement, a "Most Valuable Player", immediately after the Grand Final game.
- b) The GCBA Committee shall present the following trophies and awards at the conclusion of the Summer Season:

TROPHY / AWARD	ELIGIBLE TEAMS / GRADES / INDIVIDUALS
CLUB AWARDS	
Club of the Year	All Clubs
TEAM AWARDS	
Championship Trophy	All Divisions
Runner Up Trophy	All Divisions
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS	
Division MVP for the season	All Divisions
MVP (Grand Final)	All Divisions
GCBA Volunteer of the Year	Nominated by Clubs

Table 13 – Trophies and Awards

- c) The GCBA Committee will award the "Club of the Year" with reference to the following considerations (applicable to the Senior Competition, Masters Competition, Women's Competition and Junior Competition):

Season Gains - Each Club will start with 1000 points for the season.	
i.	1 point per % of all team wins verse games played for the season
ii.	200 points for going the whole season with no club fines
iii.	100 points (per team) for finishing premiers.
iv.	50 points (per team) for finishing minor premiers.
v.	20 points for finishing in 2nd, 3rd or 4th.
vi.	3 points (per%) growth in registered players compared to prior season.

Table 14 – Club of the Year (Gains)

Season Losses	
vii.	- 20 points (per game) not supplying an accredited official
viii.	- 50 points for not opening canteen on game days.
ix.	- 50 points for a forfeit
x.	- 100 points per ejection

Table 15 – Club of the Year (Losses)

3.1.22 Pitching Restrictions

- The following pitching restrictions apply to all Junior players:
- In all instances, so long as the plate appearance began before a pitcher reached any given rest day threshold or maximum daily pitch limit, they may continue pitching to that batter until the completion of the batter's plate appearance and still be considered to be under that threshold.
- Once a pitcher is removed from the mound in a game, they may not return to the position of pitcher for the remainder of that game.

Junior Competitions	Pre-Christmas	Post- Christmas
Little League Minors	35 per day	50 per day
Little League Majors	35 per day	50 per day
Intermediate League	50 per day	50 per day
Junior League	50 per day	50 per day
Senior League	50 per day	50 per day
Big League	50 per day	75 per day

Table 16 – GCBA Junior Pitching Restrictions

- Pitch Smart USA guidelines will be applied for pitchers in all Competitions as per the following chart that are not defined in the GCBA Junior Pitching Restrictions table above. (this includes rest requirements)

Age	Daily Max Pitches in Game	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

Table 17 – USA Pitch Smart Guidelines

Age	Daily Max Pitches in Game)	Max Pitches Multiple Teams (Fri - Thu)	Rest Period
23+	120	140	Refer USA Pitch Smart Guidelines (Table 15)

Table 18 – Pitching Restriction Age 23+

- Eg. "The Player Pitches Multiple Teams" A player throws 30 pitches in ladies on Saturday, 40 pitches in Div 2 on a Sunday, and comes back to pitch in Master's on Monday night. This player can only throw 70 pitches in the Master's game before being removed due to reaching the 140 pitch threshold.
- This is likewise for a player in Division 1 pitching across a two or three game (finals) series. A player over the age of 23 must adhere to the appropriate series limit across the multiple games pitched.
- For a player 23+ years of age, in the case of a drawn out Div 1 series or any other suspended or rescheduled game due to weather etc, if three or more complete rest days are observed, the pitch limits will be reset.

4. Grounds and Equipment

4.1.1 Club Responsibilities

- a) All nominated fields must be available for the commencement of the GCBA competition.
- b) Clubs must fully and accurately mark fields for every game to the satisfaction of the umpire. Markings must be to the correct dimensions as per the Rules of Baseball. Markings must include at least foul lines and should include batters' boxes.
- c) Clubs must always keep all grounds/fields in a clean and tidy condition. Grounds must be free from dangerous objects e.g., rocks and glass, likely to cause injury to players, officials, and visitors.
- d) Clubs must maintain all fields to GCBA standards. A GCBA official may inspect a club's fields at any time. The official may direct the club to rectify its fields and may prohibit games on those grounds until satisfied.
- e) Clubs must provide adequate toilet facilities at their grounds. The club must open these facilities during all games and training sessions at that ground. Clubs must keep these facilities in a clean and hygienic condition in compliance with local government regulations.
- f) All grounds are to have a home run fence, i.e., properly enclosed, or a minimum of a clearly defined line marked with witches' hats. Tape or rope is not acceptable.
- g) The host club must open a canteen during all games played at their ground. The canteen must make hot and cold drinks and a variety of food items available for purchase during all games played at the venue. Failure to provide adequate canteen facilities may result in no future home games for that club.
- h) Clubs must not sell beverages of any type in glass containers.
- i) Visiting teams and supporters must not bring alcohol to a host club's ground.
- j) The host club shall provide a clearly defined dugout, seating, and shade cover for both teams, and seating and shade cover for scorers.
- k) Clubs hosting finals are required to have a ground crew on site to maintain the field throughout the day.
- l) The canteen must make available for perusal copies of the Official Australian Rules of Baseball, and the current GCBA By-Laws.

4.1.2 The Playing Field

Age Group	Base Paths	Pitch Distance
Tee Ball	40 ft	N/A
Rookie Ball	50 ft	38 ft
LL Majors and Minors	60 ft	46 ft
Intermediate League	70 ft	50 ft
Junior League	80 ft	54 ft
Womens	90 ft	54 ft
Senior League	90 ft	60 ft 6 in
Seniors and Masters	90 ft	60 ft 6 in

Table 19 – Playing Field Requirements

4.1.3 Night Games - Lights

- a) All Clubs intending to host night games must:
 - i. arrange a ground light audit to ensure compliance with Standards Australia (1994) Guide to sports lighting Part 2.6: Specific recommendations — Baseball and softball (AS 2560.2.6:1994); and
 - ii. submit to the GCBA Competition Administrator by the time nominated in the Calendar of Events:
 - the light audit referred to in (i) above;
 - the costs of the lights to conduct Competitions –for a minimum period of three (2) hours;
 - the Curfew Time, if one exists see **Section 3.1.7**.
- b) If an umpire deems play in any GCBA Competition game to be unsafe due to a lack of natural light, and suitable lights are available at the field, the game shall be completed under lights.

4.1.4 Uniforms

- a) All players and coaches must wear full club playing uniforms. Open faced shoes of any type are prohibited.
- b) Coaches in junior competitions are permitted to wear Club, Cap, Club Polo and enclosed shoes as per LL Green Book.
- c) Open faced shoes of any type are prohibited.
- d) Newly registered players have a maximum of three (3) weeks to obtain the correct uniform.
- e) Each coach and at least the Umpire-in-Chief officiating in a game shall enforce the uniforms bylaw by making a note of any infringements on the back of the game card.

4.1.5 Protective Equipment

- a) Any bat boy or girl under the age of eighteen (18) must be a minimum of eight (8) years old and must wear a two-eared helmet at all times. Bat boys and girls are not permitted in Junior Competition games. Protective cups are recommended for all players. All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged, two-eared helmets.
- b) For warning up a pitcher (including before games and prior to pitching):
 - i. coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher in Junior baseball during regular season games (Little League Rule 3.09). Adults squatting to warm up pitchers must wear a mask as a minimum. It is encouraged that adults warming up pitchers wear full protective equipment.
 - ii. Participants under the age of eighteen (18) must wear full protective equipment at all times (including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup); and
- c) For base coaching:
 - i. participants under the age of eighteen (18) must wear a two-eared baseball helmet; and
 - ii. adult participants may opt to use either a two-eared baseball helmet or skull-cap style helmet.
- d) All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

4.1.6 Bats

- a) All baseball bats must conform to the **OBR, Rule 3.02.**
- b) Senior Competition – Divisions 1 shall use wood, wood composite or wood laminate bats only.
- c) Bats used in all other Divisions of the Senior Competition, as well as the Masters Competition, Women's Competition, Senior League and Under 20's shall comply with the following:
 - i. neither longer than thirty-six (36) inches nor wider than two and five-eighths (25/8) inches in diameter;
 - ii. if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) of an inch in diameter (or seven-eighths (7/8) of an inch for bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part;
 - iii. not heavier, numerically, than three (3) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g. a thirty-three (33) inch-long bat cannot weigh less than thirty (30) ounces);
- d) Players participating in the Women's competition may use a bat that is a -5 bat (i.e. a 33inch, 28ounce bat)
- e) if not made of a single piece of wood, compliant with the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (**BBCOR**) performance standard (with such bats so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark that is rectangular, a minimum of a half (1/2) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour);
 - i. Players participating in a Women's Competition may use bats marked with the USSSA logo with a BPF1.15 marking
- f) if aluminium/alloy or composite, marked as to their material makeup in silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one & a half inch (1 1/2) on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour; and
- g) not cracked, dented, damaged or deformed.
- h) Bats used in Little League, Intermediate League and Junior League must meet Little League® rulebook specifications:
 - i. **NB** The use of Pine Tar or any similar adhesive substance is prohibited at all levels of Little League Baseball, this includes Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League (LLR Rule 1.10)

Age Group	Season 2024 - 2025
Rule 1.10 – Little League Baseball Regular Season and Tournaments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and colour tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat). Beginning with the 2019/20 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League divisions, and Challenger division shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball’s Youth Bat Performance Standard. <u>All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2019/20 season.</u> Additionally, starting in 2019/20, the bat diameter shall not exceed 2$\frac{5}{8}$ inches for these divisions of play. Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard may also be used in the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League divisions. Additional information is available at LittleLeague.org/batinfo.
Minor/Major Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2$\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end. NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.
Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It shall not be more than 34" inches in length; nor more than 2$\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. NOTE 1: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo. NOTE 2: Also, permitted for the Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League Division are bats meeting the BBCOR performance standard, and so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. Aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour
Senior League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2$\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. Aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

Age Group	Season 2024 - 2025
Little League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end. Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.
Junior League & Intermediate League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR stamp It shall not be more than 34" inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo. Also permitted are bats meeting the BBCOR performance standard, and so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. Aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

Age Group	Season 2024 - 2025
Little League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end. Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.
Junior League & Intermediate League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Baseball marking - 2 5/8" barrel maximum 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR stamp It shall not be more than 34" inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo. Also permitted are bats meeting the BBCOR performance standard, and so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour. Aluminium/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminium/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

Table 20 – Junior Bat Requirements

4.1.7 Game Balls

- a) The Home Team shall be responsible for the supply of new balls which meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, **Rule 3.01**, for each game as follows:
 - i. For GCBA Winter Div 1, 3 (three) new balls.
 - ii. All other Junior, Senior and Masters divisions, two (2) new balls.
 - iii. With additional balls in good condition available if required.
- b) The umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the start of, and during, the game.
- c) In Little League Majors and Minors Division, regulation baseballs will be used all season.
- d) In Rookie Ball and Tee Ball Division, safety balls (RIF – Reduced Injury Factor) are to be used all season.

5. Playing Conditions | Rules | By-Laws

5.1 Senior Division Competitions

5.1.1 Player Qualification

- a) To play in Adult Competitions players must have reached the age of fifteen (15) years.
- b) The Club shall be responsible for ensuring a fifteen (15) year old is selected in any grade commensurate with the player's physical and technical abilities.
- c) A Junior Player playing in Adult Competitions shall participate under the rules of that competition with the exception that junior pitching and catching restrictions prescribed under Junior Competitions continue to apply.
 - i. Refer to **Section 3.1.21** – Pitching Restrictions).
 - ii. Any player 15-18 years who pitches 41 pitches in a game is not eligible to catch in that game or on that day.
 - iii. Any player 15-18 years who catches more than 3 innings (including a single pitch in the 4th Inning) is not eligible to pitch in that game or on that day.

5.1.2 Game Duration

- a) Game lengths for Senior Competition games shall be:

Division	Game duration
Division 1 (Winter Only)	9 innings or 2.5 hours (which ever comes first)
Division 1	9 innings or 2.0 hours (which ever comes first)
Division 2	9 innings or 2.0 hours (which ever comes first)
Division 3 and below	9 innings or 2.0 hours (which ever comes first)
NB:: Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 21 – Game Duration (Seniors)

- b) The ten-minute rule will apply in all games. Therefore, no new inning may be commenced with less than 10 minutes of scheduled time remaining. An inning started before 10 minutes to the scheduled finish time shall be completed unless the home team is in the lead during their turn at bat. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- c) The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see **Sections 3.6.10 and 3.7.3**).
- d) A team will have 20 minutes after the scheduled game start time to place a team on the field or supply the required umpire. If a team is unable to do this, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.
- e) In all games, four (4) innings or 65 minutes shall constitute a regulation game. Three and a half (3 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is winning.
- f) In the event of wet weather, a game of fewer than the required minimum number of innings or minimum time shall be declared a washout.
- g) A regulation game that is called with an inning in progress shall revert to the previous completed inning score only if the visiting team has tied or taken the lead in the incomplete inning.
- h) In the absence of a BA/BQ/GCBOA accredited umpire, the scorers will be the official timekeepers.
- i) In all game double header games, if either team is leading by 10 runs or more after Five (5) equal innings, or four and a half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is leading, then the game will be called a complete game. For recording stats and the final score, the game will end as soon as the winning run crosses the plate (i.e. the 10th run ahead in mercy rule games) unless it is scored by an 'out of the park' home run, at which time all runs shall count.
- j) A hard cut off will be enforced at (20) twenty minutes passed the official end of game time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed inning.

5.1.3 Run Limitations

- a) In Summer Division two (2) and lower and Winter Division 3 (three) and lower;
 - i. the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first two (2) innings.
 - ii. the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of six (6) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

NB: This does not include an in the park homerun.

- b) Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

5.1.4 Regulation Game

- a) In the event of inclement weather or a curfew time affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a Regulation Game:

Division	Game duration
Division 1	4 innings or 65 mins
Division 2	4 innings or 65 mins
Division 3 and below	4 innings or 65 mins
Note: Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 22 – Regulation Game (Seniors)

- b) A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with [Section 3.3](#).

5.1.5 Ten (10) Run Rule

- a) For all games including finals, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after the number of innings outlined below, then the game shall be called as a complete game:

Division	Innings
Division 1 – single game	7 innings
Division 1 – double header	5 innings
Division 2	7 innings
Division 2 – prior to Division 1 double header	5 innings
Division 3 and lower	5 innings
NB Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 23 – Ten (10) Run Rule (Seniors)

5.1.6 Players

- a) All teams may start a game with a minimum of eight (8) players and must play an automatic out in the number nine (9) position in the batting line up in all Senior Divisions.
- b) A player shall be listed on the Electronic system Game Results when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the electronic system within the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- c) Eligible players may participate in a game even if they are not listed on the team lineup sheet prior to the commencement of the game. If this occurs, the Umpires and Scorers must be notified as soon as that player enters the game.
- d) If a player leaving the game due to injury or illness reduces the team to eight (8) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available and shall not take a place in the battery.
- e) A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate Divisions on the same day.
- f) BQ - TWO GAMES IN THE ONE DAY RULE - No player may start more than two (2) games in the same day;
 - i. A player can play in more than 2 games as long as they only start in 2.

5.1.7 Designated Hitter

- a) The designated hitter rule will apply for all Senior Division games as per the Official Australian Rules of Baseball.

5.1.8 Courtesy Runner

- b) A courtesy runner **MAY** replace the offensive team catcher as a base runner at any time but **MUST** replace the catcher after two (2) outs.
- c) If no further players are available:
 - i. the last player out will become the courtesy runner.
 - ii. If there are no outs, then the last player home will be the courtesy runner.
- d) A courtesy runner shall be any eligible player not in the game, or a replaced player.
- e) A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury or illness.
- f) Only a courtesy runner who has played in the field or batted in the lineup shall be deemed to have played in the game for finals or other eligibility purposes.
- g) No running stats will be credited to the courtesy runner; they will be credited to the catcher.

5.1.9 Playing in other Divisions

- a) A player may play down not more than one (1) division per round unless the Club does not have consecutively graded teams.
- b) A player may only play down three (3) times per season.
- c) Playing down more than three (3) times shall result in a forfeit being registered against the team in which the player played.
- d) Players who meet the age eligibility to be registered in the Masters Division are eligible to play in Senior Division Competitions without affecting their playing status in their respective Masters competition.
- e) Only two (2) players from Division One are permitted to play in Division Two per team per game. Players playing down from Division One to Division Two can **ONLY** field in centre field or right field and bat eight (8) or nine (9) in the lineup.
- f) Players playing in a higher Division than their registered Division can play anywhere in the field and bat in any position.
- g) A lower Divisional player shall not take the field if there are nine (9) higher Divisional players available for that game. All appearances in higher Division will be classed as games played and will count towards grading for finals eligibility.
- h) If a club has two (2) teams in the same Division, players may play across until the end of the third round of competition games.
 - i. After the third-round players must play in their registered teams.
- i) If a club has two (2) teams in the Masters competition, players may play across to ensure that a minimum of 9 players are participating in the Game. Individual players can only play across in the Masters competition on three (3) occasions during the season.

5.1.10 Umpires

- a) Unless QBUA or GCBOA umpires have been appointed to a game, the Home Team shall provide both plate and base umpires for all Senior Competition games. Refer to (Section 2.16.4) for required accreditation.
- b) Where a QBUA/GCBOA umpire is appointed the Home team shall provide the second umpire.
- c) Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Senior Competition games with the prior written approval of the QBUA and notification to the GCBA Competition Administrator and, where they are the home plate umpire, must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.

5.1.11 Defensive Visits

- a) A coach may make one visit to the same pitcher in any one (1) inning. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game, but the player may otherwise remain in the game.
- b) Maximum number of four (4) non-pitching change defensive mound visits per 9 innings (or (7) in a double header), including by catcher or defensive player, manager, coach or the like. If games go further than 9 innings (or (7) in a double header), an additional non-pitching change visit is allowed for each extra innings.

5.1.12 Eligibility for Finals

- a) Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games:
 - i. played by that team; or
 - ii. played by a team at the same Club, but in a lower ranked Division.

NB: Juniors / Seniors / Masters / Women's are all separate competitions. To be eligible to play in finals, you must have played the required qualification games in that competition and adhere to 5.12.1.

- a) Where a player who is registered with a GCBA Club prior to the ABL Season commencing, and is unable to participate in a Regular Season GCBA game due to participation as a player in the ABL, other ABL level showcase or informal fixtured game/s or an international baseball tournament, the Club may apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator with relevant evidence (e.g. team roster) to have that game discounted from the number of Regular Season games played by that player's team for the purpose of calculating eligibility under Section 5.12.1. This application must be submitted at least 14 days before the Finals Series commence.
- b) The lowest Division that a player can participate in a Finals Series is the Division in which the player has played the majority of their Regular Season games as a percentage of games played by that team. Where a player has played an equal percentage, they qualify for the higher of the two Divisions.
- c) Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division of the Senior Competition from the same Club:
 - i. players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:
 - the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or
 - the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and
 - ii. Clubs may apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator for an exemption from Section 5.12.1, noting the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- d) Where a Club's lowest ranked Senior team does not have sufficient qualified players for a Final's game: that team may use a Masters player, or if the Club does not have Masters players; a junior player who qualifies to play Senior baseball, to ensure the team can continue to play the Finals game.
- e) The Masters or junior player so used, cannot pitch or catch in the game and cannot have played any games in a higher senior division team throughout the season.
- f) Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.

Note: For forfeits, see section 3.7.

5.2 Masters Division Competition

5.2.1 Player Qualification

- a) Teams must consist of players aged forty (40) years and older.
- b) Masters Players will qualify to play provided they turn forty (40) years of age prior to playing their first game.

5.2.2 Game Duration

- a) Game lengths for Masters Competition games shall be:

Division	Game duration
Masters	9 innings or 2.0 hours (which ever comes first)
NB: Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 24 – Game Duration (Masters)

- a) The ten-minute rule will apply in all games. Therefore, no new inning may be commenced with less than 10 minutes of scheduled time remaining. An inning started before 10 minutes to the scheduled finish time shall be completed unless the home team is in the lead during their turn at bat. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- b) The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see [Sections 3.6.10 and 3.7.3](#)).
- c) A team will have 20 minutes after the scheduled game start time to place a team on the field or supply the required umpire. If a team is unable to do this, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.
- d) In all games, four (4) innings or 65 minutes shall constitute a regulation game. Three and a half (3 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is winning.
- e) In the event of wet weather, a game of fewer than the required minimum number of innings or minimum time shall be declared a washout.
- f) A regulation game that is called with an inning in progress shall revert to the previous completed inning score only if the visiting team has tied or taken the lead in the incomplete inning.
- g) In the absence of a BA/BQ/GCBOA accredited umpire, the scorers will be the official timekeepers.
- h) In all game double header games, if either team is leading by 10 runs or more after Five (5) equal innings, or four and a half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is leading, then the game will be called a complete game. For recording stats and the final score, the game will end as soon as the winning run crosses the plate (i.e. the 10th run ahead in mercy rule games) unless it is scored by an 'out of the park' home run, at which time all runs shall count.
- i) A hard cut off will be enforced at (20) twenty minutes passed the official end of game time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed inning.

5.2.3 Run Limitation

- a) In Masters Division competitions;
 - i. the maximum number of runs that can be scored in single games is six (6) per inning for the first two (2) innings.
 - ii. In the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of six (6) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

NB: This does not include an in the park homerun.

- b) Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

5.2.4 Regulation Game

- a) In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, four (4) innings or one (1) hour shall constitute a Regulation Game.

Division	Game duration
Masters	4 innings or 65 mins
NB: Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 25 – Regulation Game (Masters)

- b) A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with [Section 3.3](#).

5.2.5 Ten (10) Run Rule

- b) For all games including finals, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after the number of innings outlined below, then the game shall be called as a complete game:

Division	Innings
Masters – single game	5 innings
NB Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 26 – Ten (10) Run Rule (Masters)

5.2.6 Players

- a) A player shall be counted when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the Electronic system Game Results within the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- b) Games may commence and continue with a minimum of eight (8) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with eight (8) players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player.
- Where a player leaves a game (for injury only) and is not able to be replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant and not constitute an automatic out.
- c) If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- d) Master's defensive starting teams (i.e. not including any designated hitter) must:
- consist of seven (7) players who have not taken part in any Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of a player who has participated in an earlier, higher ranked Division game as a designated hitter only ([see Section 5.8.2\(a\)](#)); and
 - Can't be replaced by a player who has taken part in any fixture on that day until after three complete innings have been played except in the case of pitchers or injured players.
- e) A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate Divisions on the same day.

5.2.7 Designated Hitter

- a) The designated hitter rule will apply for all Masters games as per the Official Australian Rules of Baseball.

5.2.8 Courtesy Runner

- b) A courtesy runner **MAY** replace the offensive team catcher as a base runner at any time but **MUST** replace the catcher after two (2) outs.
- c) If no further players are available:
- the last player out will become the courtesy runner.
 - If there are no outs, then the last player home will be the courtesy runner.

- d) A courtesy runner shall be any eligible player not in the game, or a replaced player.
- e) A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury or illness.
- f) Only a courtesy runner who has played in the field or batted in the lineup shall be deemed to have played in the game for finals or other eligibility purposes.
- g) No running stats will be credited to the courtesy runner; they will be credited to the catcher.
- h) **Masters Only** - A courtesy runner may substitute as a designated runner for one other player who is disabled and playing in the game.

5.2.9 Continuous Batting Order

- a) If teams have more than 9 players present for the game, teams may use a continuous batting order whereby up to 12 players may bat.
- b) Players in the batting order who are not designated a defensive position:
- c) may appear in any batting position,
- d) must stay in the same batting position for the complete game.
- e) The position of the Extra Hitters in the scorebook will be designated as "EH" (Extra Hitter) and may appear in any batting position.
- f) An Extra Hitter may be interchanged with a defensive position and can return to the position of Extra Hitter during the same game.

5.2.10 Umpires

- a) Where a QBUA/GCBOA umpire is not appointed, the Home Team shall provide BOTH the plate and base umpire for all Masters Competition games. Refer to (Section 2.16.4) for required accreditation.
- b) Where a QBUA/GCBOA umpire is appointed the Home team shall provide the second umpire.
- c) Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Masters Competition games with the prior written approval of the QBUA and notification to the GCBA Committee and, where they are the home plate umpire, must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.

5.2.11 Defensive Visits

- a) A coach may make one visit to the same pitcher in any one (1) inning. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game, but that player may otherwise remain in the game.

NB: There is no maximum on the number of mound visits in Masters.

5.2.12 Eligibility for Finals

- a) Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- b) Where two (2) or more teams compete in the Masters Competition from the same Club:
 - i. players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:
 - a. the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or
 - b. the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and
 - ii. Clubs may apply in writing to the GCBA Chair for an exemption from Section 6.11.1, noting the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.

NB: Seniors / Masters / Women's are all separate competitions. To be eligible to play in finals, you must have played the required qualification games in that competition and adhere to Finals Eligibility rules for each competition. (See Sections 5.1.12, 5.2.12 and 5.3.12)

- a) In the case that a club's lowest ranked Masters side is unable to field a team in the finals, the team may draw from the equivalent grade Masters team if the club has two sides in the competition. If this is a standalone Masters side, the club may apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator to get approval for a nominated player to be used in the finals. If agreed, this player will be ineligible to pitch or catch.

- b) Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.

5.3 Womens Division Competition

5.3.1 Team Nominations

- Teams must consist of female players aged fourteen (14) years and older for divisions 2 and 3, and fifteen (15) years and older for division 1. All female players are permitted to play in this League upon reaching their age eligible birthday.
- All female players must be registered as a Women's Player or age registered appropriately on the approved database. This rule is in conjunction with Section 2.8.2.
- For 14YO female players playing in the ladies competition, either in a full time or part time situation, this will be treated as a ponag and appropriate ponag paperwork is to be completed (as per a junior playing into a higher age junior competition).

5.3.2 Game Duration

Division	Game Duration (whichever comes first)
Womens	7 innings or 2 hours

Table 27 – Game Duration (Womens Divisions)

- The ten-minute rule will apply in all games. Therefore, no new inning may be commenced with less than 10 minutes of scheduled time remaining. An inning started before 10 minutes to the scheduled finish time shall be completed unless the home team is in the lead during their turn at bat. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see Sections 3.6.10 and 3.7.3).
- A team will have 20 minutes after the scheduled game start time to place a team on the field or supply the required umpire. If a team is unable to do this, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.
- In all games, four (4) innings or 65 minutes shall constitute a regulation game. Three and a half (3 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is winning.
- In the event of wet weather, a game of fewer than the required minimum number of innings or minimum time shall be declared a washout.
- A regulation game that is called with an inning in progress shall revert to the previous completed inning score only if the visiting team has tied or taken the lead in the incomplete inning.
- In the absence of a BA/BQ/GCBOA accredited umpire, the scorers will be the official timekeepers.
- In all game double header games, if either team is leading by 10 runs or more after Five (5) equal innings, or four and a half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is leading, then the game will be called a complete game. For recording stats and the final score, the game will end as soon as the winning run crosses the plate (i.e. the 10th run ahead in mercy rule games) unless it is scored by an 'out of the park' home run, at which time all runs shall count.
- A hard cut off will be enforced at (20) twenty minutes passed the official end of game time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed inning.

5.3.3 Run Limitations

- The maximum number of runs that can be scored in Women's Division is six (6) per inning for the first two (2) innings.
- In the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of four (6) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.
- Note: This does not include an in the park homerun.

NB: Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

5.3.4 Regulation Game

- a) In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, four (4) innings or one (1) hour shall constitute a Regulation Game.
- b) A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with [Section 3.3.](#)

5.3.5 Ten (10) Run Rule

- c) For all games including finals, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after the number of innings outlined below, then the game shall be called as a complete game:

Division	Innings
Womens – single game	5 innings
NB Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 28 – Ten (10) Run Rule (Masters)

5.3.6 Players

- a) A player shall be counted when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the Electronic system Game Results within the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes
- Games may commence and continue with a minimum of eight (8) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with eight (8) players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player.
 - Where a player leaves a game (for injury only) and is not able to be replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant and not constitute an automatic out.
- b) If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- c) Women's defensive starting teams (i.e. not including any designated hitter) must:
- consist of seven (7) players who have not taken part in any Senior Competition fixture for that day, except in the case of a player who has participated in an earlier, higher ranked Division game as a designated hitter only (see Section 5.8.2(a); and
 - Can't be replaced by a player who has taken part in any fixture on that day until after three complete innings have been played, except in the case of pitchers or injured players.
- d) A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate Divisions on the same day.

5.3.7 Designated Hitter

- a) Teams in the Women's Competition may use a designated hitter as per the Official Australian Rules of Baseball.

5.3.8 Courtesy Runner

- a) All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time subject to the following:
- the courtesy runner shall be any eligible player.
 - courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
 - no running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

5.3.9 Continuous Batting Order

- a) Teams may use a ten (10) player batting order if they have ten (10) or more players available at the discretion of each team's coach. If a coach elects to use a ten (10) batter order at the beginning of the game, it may only be reduced where a player is ejected, injured or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no other players available to replace them. When a ten (10) batter batting order is so reduced, the unused batting slot will be treated as if it no longer exists from the time of the batter's exit from the game.
- b) The position of tenth batter in the scorebook will be designated as "EH" (Extra Hitter) and may appear in any batting position. An Extra Hitter may be interchanged with a defensive position and can return to the position of Extra Hitter during the same game.

5.3.10 Umpires

- a) The Home Team shall provide BOTH the plate and base umpire for all Women's Competition games. Refer to (Section 2.16.4) for the required accreditation.

- b) Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Women's Competition games with the prior written approval of the QBUA or GCBOA and notification to the GCBA Competition Administrator and, where they are the home plate umpire, must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.

5.3.11 Defensive Visits

- a) A coach may make one visit to the same pitcher in any one inning. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the position of pitcher, but the player may remain in the game.
- b) There is no maximum on the number of visits in a women's game.

5.3.12 Eligibility for Finals

- a) Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- b) Where a player cannot participate in a Regular Season game due to participation as a player in the ABL, AWBL or an international baseball tournament, the Club may apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator with relevant evidence (e.g. team roster) to have that game discounted from the number of Regular Season games played by that player's team for the purpose of calculating eligibility under **Section 8.11.1**. This application must be submitted at least 14 days before the Finals Series commence.
- c) Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division of the Women's Competition from the same Club, players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:
 - i. the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or
 - ii. the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and
 - iii. Clubs may apply in writing to the GCBA Chair for an exemption from **Section 8.11.1**, noting the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.

NB: Seniors / Masters / Women's are all separate competitions. To be eligible to play in finals, you must have played the required qualification games in that competition and adhere to section **8.11**.

- d) In the case that a club's lowest ranked women's side is unable to field a team in the finals, the team may draw from the equivalent grade women's team if the club has two sides in the competition. If this is a standalone women's side, the club may apply in writing to the GCBA Committee to get approval for a nominated female player to be used in the finals. If agreed, this player will be ineligible to pitch or catch.
- e) Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.

5.4 Junior Division Competitions (BL,SL,JL,IL,LL)

5.4.1 Governance

- a) Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League will be governed by these Competition Rules and the LLR. Where these Competition Rules are silent, the rules in the LLR will apply. Where these Competition Rules and the LLR are inconsistent, the Competition Rules will apply to the extent of any inconsistency. The relevant sections of the LLR will be referred to where applicable.
- b) Big League (U20) will be governed by the OBR's.

5.4.2 Team Nominations

- a) A Club (Parent Club) may apply to the GCBA Committee to nominate a team as a Combined Club Entry in any Division of the Junior Competition, provided written consent is supplied by all Clubs with which the players in the team are registered. The Parent Club will be responsible for the administration of the team in accordance with these Competition Rules.
- b) Players participating in a Combined Club Entry:
 - i. may only play for the team the subject of the Combined Club Entry or other teams nominated by the Club with which they have registered (provided they are otherwise eligible to play in those teams); and
 - ii. if not registered with the Parent Club, must be registered as a "dual member" of their Club and the Parent Club on the player registration database.
- c) Players and coaching staff participating in a Combined Club Entry may wear the uniform of the Club with which they are registered throughout the season.
- d) Teams nominated in the Junior Competition must consist of players conforming to the Age Matrix. All registered players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a Club.

5.4.3 Game Duration

Game lengths for all Junior Competition games shall be:

Division	Game Duration (whichever comes first)
Big League (Under 20's) – (single game)	7 innings or 2.0 hours
Senior League – (single game)	7 innings or 2.0 hours
Junior League – (single game)	7 innings or 1.45 hours
Intermediate League – (single game)	7 innings or 1.45 hours
Little League – Majors (single game)	7 innings or 1.45 hours
Little League –Minors (single game)	7 innings or 1.45 hours

Table 29 –Game Duration (Junior Divisions)

- a) The ten-minute rule will apply in all games. Therefore, no new inning may be commenced with less than 10 minutes of scheduled time remaining. An inning started before 10 minutes to the scheduled finish time shall be completed unless the home team is in the lead during their turn at bat. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- b) The game duration shall include any delays caused by team arrivals, inclement weather, player injuries or other unforeseen circumstances (see [Sections 3.6.10 and 3.7.3](#)).
- c) A team will have 20 minutes after the scheduled game start time to place a team on the field or supply the required umpire. If a team is unable to do this, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.
- d) In all games, four (4) innings or 65 minutes shall constitute a regulation game. Three and a half (3 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is winning.
- e) In the event of wet weather, a game of fewer than the required minimum number of innings or minimum time shall be declared a washout.

- f) A regulation game that is called with an inning in progress shall revert to the previous completed inning score only if the visiting team has tied or taken the lead in the incomplete inning.
- g) In the absence of a BA/BQ/GCBOA accredited umpire, the scorers will be the official timekeepers.
- h) In all game double header games, if either team is leading by 10 runs or more after Five (5) equal innings, or four and a half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is leading, then the game will be called a complete game. For recording stats and the final score, the game will end as soon as the winning run crosses the plate (i.e. the 10th run ahead in mercy rule games) unless it is scored by an 'out of the park' home run, at which time all runs shall count.
- i) A hard cut off will be enforced at (20) twenty minutes passed the official end of game time. If an innings is incomplete, the score will revert to the previous completed inning.

5.4.4 Run Limitations

- a) For all Junior games, the maximum runs allowed per inning in the Pre- Christmas Restriction period is four (4) runs.
- b) In the Post-Christmas Restriction period, the maximum runs allowed per inning is six (6) runs.

NB: Should a team choose to not take their turn at bat in the bottom of the last innings, this will be taken as conceding the innings and 0 runs scored. Any runs scored by the away team in the top of the last innings will still count.

- c) In the event that the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives in excess of four (4) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

NB: This does not include an in the park homerun.

5.4.5 Regulation Game

- a) In the event of inclement weather or a Curfew Time affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a Regulation Game.
- b) A game which does not constitute a Regulation Games shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with Section 3.3.

Age group / Division(s)	Game Duration (whichever comes first)
Under 20's	4 innings or 65 minutes
Senior League	4 innings or 65 minutes
Junior League	4 innings or 65 minutes
Intermediate League	4 innings or 65 minutes
Little League – Majors	4 innings or 65 minutes
Little League – Minors	4 innings or 65 minutes
Rookie Ball	Not applicable
Tee-Ball	Not applicable
NB: Where the Home Team is ahead in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.	

Table 30 – Regulation Game (Junior Divisions)

5.4.6 One-Sided Games

- a) For all Junior Competition games, where a team is leading by at least the following runs after the stipulated number of innings outlined below, then the game shall be called as a complete game:

Age group / Division(s)	Runs and inning	Runs and inning
Under 20's	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Senior League	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Junior League	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Intermediate League	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Little League	15 runs after 3 innings	10 runs after 4 innings

Table 31 – One-Sided Games (Junior Divisions)

NB: Where the Home Team is ahead as above in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

5.4.7 Players

- a) A player shall be counted when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter, but not as a courtesy runner). Players listed on the Electronic system Game Results within the required timeframe shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- b) Games may commence and continue with a minimum of eight (8) players, however the vacant batting position shall be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with eight (8) players, the ninth batting position shall be vacant, but may be filled at any time by a ninth player.
 - i. Where a player leaves a game (for injury only) and is not able to be replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant and not constitute an automatic out.
- a) If any team has less than eight (8) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- b) If a player leaving the game due to illness or injury reduces the team to less than nine (9) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available. The re-entered player cannot pitch.
- c) Teams may use players from the age-group immediately below (with a "Casual Playing Up Consent", see Appendix A) during the Regular Season (Substitute Players).
- d) Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division within a Club, a player may only play for one team in a weekend (in that age group).
- e) Players may freely interchange between Divisions throughout the season in the same age group, except that:
 - i. once a player has played five (5) games at the Division 1 or Majors level, that player must continue to play at the Division 1 or Majors level for the balance of the season.
- a) Clubs may apply in writing to the GCBACA for an exemption from Section 7.7.7 outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the GCBA Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.
- b) Mandatory Play in divisions of Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League requires that each player in the line-up record six (6) consecutive defensive outs per game. If the halfway mark of the time allowed for that game is reached before 6 consecutive defensive outs can be played for any player in a starting defensive position, any player not in the defensive line up will be entered into the game at this point to affect mandatory play. Exemption to mandatory play being achieved will be given to players that are required to be removed from the line-up because of illness, injury, ejection or needing to leave the game site early.

NB: An innings declared due to reaching the run limitation or by the coach will be classified as 3 defensive outs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is also encouraged that coaches rotate their players through the key fielding positions during a game and on a weekly basis to allow all players the opportunity to develop their skills.

NB: A substitute may not be removed from the game prior to completion of his/her mandatory play requirements, unless in the case of a player being injured and unable to continue playing.

5.4.8 Batting Rules

- a) Teams in the following Junior Divisions may use a designated hitter:
 - i. U20's;

5.4.9 Continuous Batting Order

- a) Teams in Divisions of Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League & Senior League which have more than nine (9) players present at any game must use a continuous batting order whereby all players must bat.
- b) Where players arrive to the game late, they must be added to the end of the batting order immediately.
- c) Under 20's teams which have more than nine (9) players present at any game may use a continuous batting order, at the discretion of each team's coach, whereby up to twelve (12) players may bat.
- d) In regards to the continuous batting order in Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League, Senior League and if a coach elects to use a continuous batting order up to twelve (12) at the beginning of the game in U20's, it may only be reduced where a player is ejected, injured or needs to leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no other players available to replace them. When a continuous batting order is so reduced, the unused batting slot will be treated as if it no longer exists from the time of the batter's exit from the game.
- e) The position of any additional batter on the lineup card and in the scorebook will be designated as "EH" (Extra Hitter) and may appear in any batting position. An Extra Hitter may be interchanged with a defensive position but once interchanged, that player cannot return to the Extra Hitter position until the players mandatory play requirements have been completed. See Section 7.7.9 for mandatory play requirements.

5.4.10 Replacing a Batter

- a) In Junior Competition, a batter cannot be substituted during their at-bat, except in the case of an injury to the batter.

5.4.11 Throwing a Bat

- a) Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied.

NB: Throwing the bat is a malicious act, and not an accidental release of the bat on follow through. Where batters do not control the bat during follow through coaches or managers should be advised of the incident in order to coach the player on proper technique.

5.4.12 Little League Minors

- a) there is no "dropped third strike rule"; and
- b) where a pitcher throws four (4) "balls" on a single batter, the batter shall hit from a tee.

NB:: In order to speed the game up and limit impact on catchers in hot conditions, the defensive teams coach may position themselves at the back net off to one side to retrieve pass balls. Particularly when there is no one on base, but also considering that base runners in LL Minors are only able to advance 1 base on a pass ball (and LL Minors can't score from 3rd base on a pass ball), the coach can assist to return the ball once this base has been secured. The coach must be wearing a skull cap at all times in this situation.

5.4.13 Courtesy Runner

- a) Courtesy runners are permitted for the catcher and pitcher after two (2) outs in Junior Competition. The courtesy runner will be the player who is the 2nd out in the inning. If the second out is either the pitcher or catcher, the courtesy runner will be the first available player preceding them in the line-up.

5.4.14 Umpires

- a) Unless QBUA or GCBOA umpires have been appointed to a game, the Home Team shall provide both plate and base umpires in Junior Competition games from Little League to Big League. Refer to (Section 2.16.4) for required accreditation.
- b) Umpires under the age of eighteen (18) may only umpire Junior Competition games:
 - i. up to the age group directly below their natural age group in which they are eligible to participate as a player, or
 - ii. otherwise, with the prior written approval of the QBUA or GCBOA Committee,
 - iii. and, where they are the home plate umpire, provided they wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.
- c) No member of either coaching staff is permitted to umpire unless agreed by both teams.
- d) Where two junior umpires are officiating a game, the home club must appoint an adult as game co-ordinator and must be present at all times during the game. The adult game co-ordinator must not be the coach or manager of either team. The game co-ordinator has the authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager or adult spectator for unsportsmanlike conduct from the game location.

5.4.15 Defensive Visits

- a) A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than:
 - i. two (2) times in one (1) game; and
 - ii. once (1) in one (1) inning.
 - iii. Where a coach attempts to make a further visit, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game, but the player may otherwise remain in the game. Checking on a pitcher injury is to be approved by the plate umpire and will not constitute a visit.

5.4.16 Eligibility for Finals

- a) Subject to the remainder of this Section, players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series where they have:
 - i. for Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League, a player must have participated in at least five (5) of the Regular Season games played by that team; and
 - ii. for Under 20's, participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.
- b) Where two (2) or more teams compete in the same Division and age group of the Junior Competition from the same Club:
 - b) players who have participated in both teams shall only be eligible for Finals Series for:
 - i. the team in which they have played the majority of their Regular Season games; or
 - ii. the team in which they first participated at the beginning of the Summer Season, if the player's Regular Season participation is the same for both teams; and
 - iii. Clubs may apply in writing to the GCBA Competition Administrator for an exemption from **Section 7.12.1** above if an exemption under **Section 7.7.8** has already been granted (any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game).
- c) Teams may use the following players in Finals Series games if they are unable to field nine (9) eligible players:
 - i. players from the age group immediately below (with a "Casual Playing Up Consent", see Appendix A); and/or
 - ii. players in the same age group who played the majority of their Regular Season games in a lower ranked Division.
- d) Players participating pursuant to **Section 7.12.3** may not be played ahead of a player that is eligible under **Section 7.12.1** and who remains on the bench, except in the case of injury or ejection. They may not participate as a designated hitter or take part in the continuous batting order.

5.4.17 Pitching and Catching Restrictions

- a) For pitchers playing multiple games in one (1) day:
 - i. in Little League, a player cannot pitch more than one (1) game a day; and
 - ii. in Intermediate League, Junior League, Senior League and Under 20's, a player may pitch in up to two (2) games in a day (but must adhere to mandatory rest periods).
- b) Penalties apply for breaching pitch limits including loss of game and suspension of Coach. See Breach Table for details.

- c) For Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League - A pitcher who delivers forty- one (41) or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- d) For Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League - A catcher who plays the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day. Catching to a single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning caught.
- e) There are no balks in the Little League age group.

5.4.18 Base Running

- a) Runners who do not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag shall be called out.
- b) Coaches must not encourage their players to take extra bases in a 'suicide' manner with the intention of enticing an overthrow. This is a breach of the Coaches' Code of Conduct and at the umpire's discretion the runner(s) involved may be returned to the previously occupied base as well as the potential of the coach being ejected for repeat offences.
- c) In Little League Minors, players are only able to advance one base on a passed ball or overthrow.
- d) In Little League Minors, players are only able to advance home on a batted ball.
- e) In the Little League Divisions Majors and Minors, the following rules apply:
 - i. players who slide head first while advancing shall be called out; and
 - ii. runners may not leave their bases until the pitch has been delivered and has reached the batter.

Violation by one base runner shall affect all other base runners as follows:

- iii. if any of the runners are put out, the out(s) will stand;
- iv. if the batter does not hit the ball and the runner advances, the runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made;
- v. if the batter puts the ball into play or advances on a dropped third strike and all runners are safe, the runners must return to their nearest unoccupied base. On a forced play, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they previously occupied except if a runner occupied third base. That runner shall be removed without a run being scored or an out being charged.

5.5 Junior Division Competitions (Rookie Ball)

5.5.1 Introduction

The GCBA Rookie Ball division players play a modified form of baseball where the coach pitches to their own team. There are no strikes or balls and after three unsuccessful pitches the batter can hit the ball off a tee.

In the second half of the season some children will be able to pitch to their own team as preparation for moving to Little League in the following season.

The emphasis is on skill development while introducing baseball concepts such as “Force Play” and “Tag Up”.

A modified ball is used that is softer and slightly smaller than a normal baseball to reduce the risk of injury and build confidence. Team size is aimed at a max of 8 to 9 players to increase participation and skill development with players being rotated through different fielding positions in each innings.

5.5.2 Game Duration

- a) Games will be 6 innings or 1 hour & 15 Minutes whichever comes first in duration.
- b) No new inning may commence with less than 10 minutes of the scheduled time remaining.
- c) No scores are recorded for Rookie Ball baseball games.

Division	Game Duration
Rookie Ball	1.15 hours

Table 32 –Game Duration (Rookie Ball Division)

5.5.3 Run Limitations

- a) The maximum runs allowed per inning in the Pre-Christmas Restriction period is four (4) runs.
- b) In the Post-Christmas Restriction period, the maximum runs allowed per inning is six (6) runs.

Division	Pre -Christmas	Post Christmas
Rookie Ball	4	6

Table 33 –Run Limitations (Rookie Ball Division)

5.5.4 Field Size

- a) 50 ft Bases with a safety base placed at 1st Base
- b) 38 ft for Pitching machine or plate.

Age Group	Base Paths	Pitch Distance
Rookie Ball	50 ft	38 ft

Table 34 –Field Size (Rookie Ball Division)

5.5.5 Teams and Players

- a) Teams will consist of a minimum of 8 players for a game to be played. All teams agree to undertake whatever lengths necessary to ensure every scheduled game is played.
- b) Generally, a team of nine (9) is preferred and players are to occupy all positions
- c) Players must alternate positions every inning. (Mandatory)
- d) A team coach will act as the umpire/Machine feeder/or pitcher for their team.

5.5.6 Batting Rules

- a) Players will receive up to 3 attempts to put the ball into play from the coach pitcher/machine.
- b) On the 3rd attempt if they miss or hit the ball into foul territory they will move to the tee and have a maximum of three (3) attempts to put the ball in play. If they are not able to put the ball in play, they will take their position at first base to develop their base running skills.
- c) Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied base.
- f) mandatory play requirements have been completed. See [Section 7.7.9](#) for mandatory play requirements.

5.5.7 Equipment

- a) 9-inch RBI baseballs are to be used for all Rookie Ball games
- b) Any bat with a maximum barrel diameter of 2 ¼ inches.
- c) All batters must wear two (2) eared batting helmets

5.5.8 Throwing a Bat

- a) Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Coaches should work with their players to ensure a safety first approach.
- b) A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied base.

5.6 Junior Division Competitions (Tee- Ball)

5.6.1 Introduction

The GCBA Tee-Ball division is a modified version of baseball for boys and girls.

The game is all about being active and having FUN. The batting team hits the ball of a stationary tee and cannot get out on strikes. A modified ball is used that is softer and slightly smaller than a normal baseball to reduce the risk of injury and build confidence. This format teaches basic motor skills such as hitting, fielding, catching and throwing, and also introduces the concepts of teamwork, inclusion and fair play.

In order to increase participation and skill development team sizes are usually limited to a maximum of 6 to 7 players.

5.6.2 Game Duration

- d) Games will be 6 innings or 1 hour Minutes whichever comes first in duration.
- e) No new inning may commence with less than 10 minutes of the scheduled time remaining.
- f) No scores are recorded for Tee-Ball baseball games.

Division	Game Duration
Tee-Ball	1.0 hours

Table 35 –Game Duration (Tee-Ball Division)

5.6.3 Run Limitations

- c) The maximum runs allowed per inning in the Pre-Christmas Restriction period is four (4) runs.
- d) In the Post-Christmas Restriction period, the maximum runs allowed per inning is six (6) runs.

Division	Pre -Christmas	Post Christmas
Tee-Ball	4	6

Table 36 –Run Limitations (Tee-Ball Division)

5.6.4 Field Size

- c) 40 ft Bases with a safety base placed at 1st Base
- d) 38 ft for Pitching machine or plate.

Age Group	Base Paths	Pitch Distance
Tee-Ball	50 ft	38 ft

Table 37 –Field Size (Tee-Ball Division)

5.6.5 Teams and Players

- e) Teams will consist of a minimum of 8 players for a game to be played. All teams agree to undertake whatever lengths necessary to ensure every scheduled game is played.
- f) Generally, a team of nine (9) is preferred and players are to occupy all positions
- g) Players must alternate positions every inning. (Mandatory)
- h) A team coach will act as the umpire/Machine feeder/or pitcher for their team.

5.6.6 Batting Rules

- a) Players will receive up to 3 attempts to put the ball into play from the coach pitcher/machine.
- b) On the 3rd attempt if they miss or hit the ball into foul territory, they are encouraged to still run to first base while the fielding team attempts to make the play.
- c) Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied base.

5.6.7 Equipment

- a) 9-inch RBI baseballs are to be used for all Rookie Ball games
- b) Any bat with a maximum barrel diameter of 2 ¼ inches.
- c) All batters must wear two (2) eared batting helmets

5.6.8 Throwing a Bat

- a) Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Coaches should work with their players to ensure a safety first approach.
- b) A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied base.

6. Behaviour Management

6.1 Conduct of Members, Officials and Spectators

6.1.1 Members, officials and spectators of the GCBA Competition must comply with:

- a) this Section;
- b) all BQ and Baseball Australia Codes of Conduct;
- c) the Baseball Australia Member Protection Policy; and
- d) any other policy document that BA or BQ may publish from time to time (including the BQ Social Networking Policy).

6.1.2 Members, officials and spectators of the GCBA Competition must, at all times, refrain from:

- a) conduct which may harm a Club member or official;
- b) conduct that is unbecoming of a Club member or official; and
- c) conduct that may bring the sport of baseball into disrepute.
- d) conduct on social media may constitute a breach of this Section.

6.1.3 Behaviour Towards Umpires

- a) The GCBA Competition endorses the concept of 'zero tolerance' towards umpire abuse and team coaches are responsible for ensuring their players and spectators abide by this approach.
- b) Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any type of umpiring judgement calls.

RECOMMENDATION

If, in the umpire's opinion, a player or team official:

- (a) abuses an umpire;*
- (b) displays dissent towards an umpire;*
- (c) argues judgement decisions (e.g. balls/strikes, out/safe, fair/foul etc.); or*
- (d) otherwise shows disrespect towards any of the umpires,*

that individual should be ejected from the game. This is a recommendation only and umpires need to use their best judgement when dealing with game management and player behaviour issues. In all Junior Competition games, umpires are encouraged to first attempt to use team coaches to resolve behaviour issues prior to ejecting any player.

6.1.4 Behaviour Towards Scorers

- a) Scorers should not be approached by any person without invitation other than a team official or umpire, from the start of game until they have completed their official duties and left the scoreboard area.
- b) Scorers are official representatives entitled to the respect and dignity of their office and should report to the GCBA Judiciary any incidents impacting the discharge of their official scorer duties.
- c) Scorers have sole authority to make all judgment decisions concerning the scoring of GCBA Competition games (e.g. whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error).
- d) Club officials and players are prohibited from communicating with the official scorer regarding any such decisions.

6.1.5 Meelee Rule

- a) Players and coaches must not engage in a melee under any circumstances.
- b) If a melee occurs in (or within the proximity of) any GCBA Competition game, the umpire-in-chief must report
- c) that occurrence to the GCBA Chair by 5pm the next business day after the game for referral to the GCBA
- d) Committee.
- e) If the GCBA Committee finds that a team has been involved in a melee, then that team's Club:

- i. on the first occasion, will be fined \$500;
 - ii. on any further occasion within the same Summer Season, will be fined \$500 and will forfeit the game in which that melee occurred (if applicable).
- f) Players and coaches involved in a melee may still be reported for their individual action pursuant to the

6.1.6 GCBA Judiciary Procedures.

- a) The GCBA Judiciary is established and administered by the GCBA Committee to hear and determine disciplinary proceedings against any person under this Part.
- b) The GCBA Judiciary will abide by the GCBA Judiciary Procedures set out in Appendix C.

6.1.7 GCBA Judiciary References

- a) Any person may report the conduct of another person they believe has breached **Section 9.1 to** the GCBA Judiciary. A report must be in the form stipulated in the GCBA Judiciary Procedures set out in Appendix C.

6.1.8 GCBA Judiciary Suspensions

- a) Any person who participates in baseball activities in breach of a judiciary order is an illegal player for the purpose of these Competition Rules.
- b) Any person who is suspended is unable to participate in all gameday baseball activities.

Appendix A - PONAG Permission (A)

NB: This relates to All Junior Players (Excluding League Age 12 Players, See Appendix B below)

1. Introduction

The GCBA Competition Committee strongly recommends that wherever possible, junior players play in their natural age group. There is a great deal of evidence documenting the benefits of junior players playing and excelling in games for their natural age group.

2. Background

PONAG – Playing Outside Natural Age Group - has been devised for two reasons:

- a) Where a player does not have the physical skills to cope with games in their natural age group and thus requests to play at a lower age group for the course of the season.
- b) Where a player has skills which allow them to play and cope playing games at a higher age group and that player wishes to play at the higher age group for a game when a higher age team requires additional player/s.

Where players wish to play outside of their natural age group, it is important to ensure that the player is not overwhelmed by the higher or lower age group playing standard or the player's skills represent an unfair advantage when they play in the higher or lower age group.

The GCBA Competition Committee has decided that PONAG will only be granted to players as follows: -

- a) **Playing Up** – must only be the age group immediately above their natural age group.
- b) **Playing Up** - permitted for single games (maximum 5 games including Finals games) or for the full season.
- c) A player playing up for the full season is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- d) **Playing Down** – must be in the first year of their natural age group. Players playing in the second year of their natural age group are not permitted to play down under any circumstances.
- e) **Playing Down** – permitted only for the season, not available for single games.
- f) A player playing down is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- g) Any team in a GCBA baseball competition will not be permitted to play more than three PONAG players per game.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.

3. Age Requirements

- a) See Little League® rulebook Age Matrix, as updated on the BQ website.
- b) All registered players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a club.

4. Playing Outside Natural Age Groups (“PONAG”)

There are two (2) types of PONAG Permission – forms available from the Baseball Queensland website:

- a) Playing Up Consent Form; and
- b) Playing Down Consent Form.
- c) The appropriate paperwork must be completed and a copy sent to the GCBA Secretary for sign off, and the original copy retained by the Club in accordance with the following rules.
- d) The paperwork must be retained for the season and provided to the GCBA Competition Committee, if requested, within 24 hours of the request.
- e) Any approval to play outside of natural age groups may be reviewed and/or revoked at any time by the GCBA Competition Committee or BQ.

5. Playing Up Consent

- a) Players seeking to play up an age level for the (full season / or full time from a particular time in the season) must have a parent/guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player) complete a Playing Up Consent Form; either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their

natural age group. This form is to be sent to the GCBA Secretary and the player shall not be eligible to participate in a GCBA fixture until this form has been signed and returned to the club from the GCBA.

- b) Permission to play up (casually / as a fill in) is automatically given once the PONAG Playing Up Consent Form is completed and signed by a parent / guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player). A player can only apply for a maximum of up to 5 Playing Up opportunities per season including Finals games or can apply for the full season. The completed form is to be retained and held by the Club.
- c) A breach of 5 (a) or (b) rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- d) The paperwork must be retained for the season and provided to the GCBA Competition Committee, if requested, within 24 hours of the request.
- e) The GCBA Competition Committee may, in its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Up Consent it deems appropriate.
- f) Playing Up Consent Restrictions/Allowances
 - i. A player playing up is permitted to pitch or catch in the higher age level – pitch limits for the player's natural age group apply.
 - ii. Players subject to a Playing Up Clearance for the full season are excluded from playing in their natural age group.

6. Playing Down Consent

- a) Players seeking to play down an age level must have a parent/guardian and an accredited Club Coach (not immediately related to the player) complete a Playing Down Consent Form either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their natural age group. The completed form is to be retained and held by the Club.
- b) A copy of the completed Playing Down Consent Form must be emailed to the GCBA Secretary prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- c) Permission to play down for the season will be given once the PONAG Playing Down Consent Form is completed and approved by the GCBA.
- d) The GCBA Competition Committee may, in its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Down Consent it deems appropriate.

7. Playing Down Consent Restrictions/Allowances

- a) A player may pitch a maximum of 20 pitches per game (can finish the batter) in the lower age level.
- b) Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance cannot pitch in any GCBA Finals games.
- c) Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance are excluded from playing in their natural age group.

8. Special Consideration

- a) Where special circumstances exist, Clubs and players may write to the GCBA Competition Committee requesting special consideration for PONAG approval, explaining in full the relevant special circumstances. Requests will be considered by the GCBA Competition Committee a decision made based on the evidence presented.
- b) No player may participate under PONAG conditions subject to special consideration until the decision of the GCBA Competition Committee is provided. The decision will be provided to the Club and/or player in writing. Requests for Special Consideration will be dealt and communicated back to the club as quickly as possible.

9. Appeals and Reviews Process

- a) Appeals against any decision to play outside natural age group must be referred to BQ. Any appeal must be made in writing to BQ and be accompanied by a detailed account of the situation to date. Please address appeals to:
 - i. The Development Manager
 - ii. Baseball Queensland Office 2.02 Sports House, 150 Caxton Street MILTON QLD, 4064

Note: Any approval for a player to play outside their natural age group can be reviewed and withdrawn by the GCBA Competition Committee or BQ at any time.

Appendix B - PONAG Permission (B)

NB: This relates to League Age 12 Players only (1st Sept 2012 – 31st Aug 2013)

1. Introduction

The GCBA Competition Committee strongly recommends that wherever possible, junior players play in their natural age group. There is a great deal of evidence documenting the benefits of junior players playing and excelling in games for their natural age group.

2. Background

PONAG – Playing Outside Natural Age Group - has been devised for two reasons:

- a) Where a player does not have the physical skills to cope with games in their natural age group and thus requests to play at a lower age group for the course of the season.
- b) Where a player has skills which allow them to play and cope playing games at a higher age group and that player wishes to play at the higher age group for a game when a higher age team requires additional player/s.

Where players wish to play outside of their natural age group, it is important to ensure that the player is not overwhelmed by the higher or lower age group playing standard or the player's skills represent an unfair advantage when they play in the higher or lower age group. Parents must sign a Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form.

The GCBA Competition Committee has decided that PONAG will only be granted to players as follows: -

- a) **Playing Up** – must only be the age group immediately above their natural age group.
- b) **Playing Up** - permitted for single games (maximum 5 games including Finals games) or for the full season.
- c) A player playing up for the full season who has signed the Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form is excluded from playing in any other age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- d) **Playing Down** – permitted only for the season, not available for single games.
- e) A player playing down is excluded from playing in their natural age group for that season.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.
- f) Any team in a GCBA baseball competition will not be permitted to play more than three (3) PONAG players per game.
 - i. A breach of this rule results in an illegal player and loss of game.

3. Age Requirements

- a) 1st Sept 2012 – 31st August 2013.
- b) All registered players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a club.

4. Playing Outside Natural Age Groups ("PONAG")

There are two (2) types of PONAG Permission for league age 12 players – forms available from the Baseball Queensland website:

- a) Little League – League Age 12 playing in Intermediate League Waiver (Playing Up).
- b) Little League – League Age 12 playing in Minors Regulation V (a) Waiver (Playing Down).
- c) The appropriate paperwork must be completed and a copy sent via email to qldlittleleague@baseballqld.asn.au and the original copy retained by the Club in accordance with the following rules.
- d) The paperwork must be retained for the season and provided to the GCBA Competition Committee, if requested, within 24 hours of the request.
- e) Any approval to play outside of natural age groups may be reviewed and/or revoked at any time by the GCBA Competition Committee or BQ.

5. Playing Up Consent

- a) League age 12 players seeking to play up into Intermediate League must have completed the “Little League Age 12 playing in Intermediate League Waiver Request Form; either at the start of the season or prior to the first game played outside of their natural age group.
- b) A copy of the completed League Age 12 playing in Intermediate League Waiver Request Form must be emailed to qldlittleleague@baseballqld.asn.au and a copy retained by the club
- c) Approval must be confirmed by return email from Baseball Qld prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- d) The GCBA Competition Committee may, at its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Up Consent it deems appropriate.
- e) Playing Up Consent Restrictions/Allowances
- f) A player playing up is permitted to pitch or catch in the higher age level – pitch limits for the player’s natural age group apply.
- g) Players subject to a Playing Up Clearance for the full season are excluded from playing in their natural age group.

6. Playing Down Consent

- a) League age 12 players seeking to play down into Little League Minors must have a parent/guardian complete and return a Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form prior to the season commencing.
- b) A copy of the completed Little League Regulation V (a) Waiver Request Form must be emailed to qldlittleleague@baseballqld.asn.au and a copy retained by the club.
- c) Approval must be confirmed by return email from Baseball Qld prior to the first game the applicant participates in.
- d) The GCBA Competition Committee may, at its discretion, revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Down Consent it deems appropriate.

7. Playing Down Consent Restrictions/Allowances

- a) A League age 12 player CANNOT play the position of pitcher in any Little League Minor regular season or finals games.
- b) Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance are excluded from playing in their natural age group.

8. Special Considerations

- a) Where special circumstances exist, Clubs and players may write to the GCBA Competition Committee requesting special consideration for PONAG approval, explaining in full the relevant special circumstances. Requests will be considered by the GCBA Competition Committee with a decision made based on the evidence presented.
- b) No player may participate under PONAG conditions subject to special consideration until the decision of the GCBA Competition Committee is provided. The decision will be provided to the Club and/or player in writing. Requests for Special Consideration will be dealt and communicated back to the club as quickly as possible.

9. Appeals and Review Process

- a) Appeals against any decision to play outside natural age group must be referred to BQ. Any appeal must be made in writing to BQ and be accompanied by a detailed account of the situation to date. Please address appeals to:
 - i. The Development Manager
 - ii. Baseball Queensland Office 2.02 Sports House, 150 Caxton Street MILTON QLD, 4064

Note: Any approval for a player to play outside their natural age group can be reviewed and withdrawn by the GCBA Competition Committee or BQ at any time.

Appendix C - GCBA Competition Disputes Panel Procedures

1. General

- a) Terms defined in the **Section 1.3 of** the GCBA Competition Rules apply to these Procedures.

2. GCBA Competition Administrator

- a) **The GCBA Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that** has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The GCBA Competition Administrator shall:
 - i. abide by these Procedures;
 - ii. be the point of contact for all GCBA Dispute Forms;
 - iii. allocate a dispute number for each matter;
 - iv. refer the dispute to the GCBA Disputes Panel;
 - v. keep a register of decisions;
 - vi. issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
 - vii. enforce the penalties where appropriate.

3. GCBA Disputes Panel

- a) The GCBA Disputes Panel shall be appointed by the GCBA Committee and shall consist of a minimum of two GCBA Committee members.
- b) The roles of the GCBA Disputes Panel include:
 - i. hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the Competition Rules;
 - ii. making recommendations to the GCBA Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests; and
 - iii. providing advisory opinions on the Competition Rules.
- c) The GCBA Disputes Panel must:
 - i. identify the parties to the dispute or protest;
 - ii. provide reasonable opportunity for all interested parties to present their written arguments and evidence;
 - iii. determine whether interviewing parties is necessary and, if so, communicate the date and time to the parties;
 - iv. review the arguments and evidence; and
 - v. make a recommendation to the GCBA Committee for determination of the dispute or protest.
- d) The GCBA Disputes Panel shall appoint a chairperson from one of its own for conducting any interviews and communicating with parties in accordance with these Procedures (Chairperson).
- e) The GCBA Disputes Panel may seek guidance from the GCBA Committee and/or external sources where it deems appropriate.

4. Powers and Decision Making

- a) The GCBA Disputes Panel may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- b) After receiving a recommendation from the GCBA Disputes Panel, the GCBA Committee shall make a determination.
- c) The GCBA Committee may make any order or impose any penalty as may be required and as it sees fit.
- d) If agreement by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a GCBA Committee meeting (or, in the absence of a meeting, a two-thirds majority of the membership with voting rights at the time) cannot agree to a determination, the matter may be referred to an independent adjudicator for determination.
- e) Where a decision under dispute was made by the GCBA Committee as a whole, an independent adjudicator (acting as Chairperson) shall definitively determine the dispute.
- f) The Chairperson of the GCBA Disputes Panel shall communicate the decision of the GCBA Committee to all interested parties, together with notice of any order made or penalty imposed and reasons for the determination.

5. Appeals

- a) There is no right of appeal from a decision of the GCBA Committee relating to administrative disputes or game protests.

Appendix D - GCBA Judiciary Procedure

1. General

- b) Terms defined in **Section 1.3** of the GCBA Competition Rules apply to these Procedures.

2. GCBA Competition Administrator

- a) The GCBA Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The GCBA Competition Administrator shall:
 - b) abide by these Procedures;
 - c) be the point of contact for all Referrals or Incident Report Forms;
 - d) allocate a Referral number for each matter;
 - e) refer any judiciary references to the GCBA Judiciary;
 - f) keep a register of decisions;
 - g) issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
 - h) enforce the penalties where appropriate.

3. GBCBA Judiciary

To recognise and enforce disqualifications and suspensions imposed on Players, Coaches, Officials and Spectators in the GCBA Competition, Related Competitions, and the Other Competitions, as per the BQ Suspension Policy.

- a) The GCBA Committee shall appoint:
 - i. An "Incident Review Panel" to review reports and issue penalty offers, or direct referrals to the GCBA Judiciary panel where appropriate;
 - ii. a pool of judiciary members available to hear breaches of **Section 8.1** of the GCBA Competition Rules arising from the GCBA Competition (Referrals); and
 - iii. a chairperson who is responsible for conducting any hearings set down in accordance with these Procedures (Chairperson or Acting Chairperson)
- a) The GCBA Judiciary for any given Referral shall be selected by the Chairperson to consist of any three (3) of the pool of members appointed by the GCBA Committee (inclusive of the Chairperson). At least one member shall be independent of the GCBA Committee.
- b) Where the Chairperson is unavailable, an acting Chairperson shall be appointed by the Chairperson or by the GCBA Committee where the Chairperson is unable to do so. The acting Chairperson shall have all the same authority and obligations of the Chairperson under these Procedures.
- c) The jurisdiction of the GCBA Judiciary shall be that where conduct described in a Referral by a player, coach, official or spectator occurs at or in the vicinity of a game within the GCBA Competition, or otherwise relates to the GCBA Competition and is not referred to the BQ Judiciary under subsection (E).
- d) The GCBA Judiciary may refer a Referral to the BQ Judiciary in the following instances:
 - i. the reported conduct is not within the jurisdiction of the GCBA Judiciary;
 - ii. the reported conduct amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern BQ;
 - iii. the reported conduct may impact qualifications or accreditations of the Reported Person that are administered by BQ; or
 - iv. the GCBA Judiciary otherwise deems it appropriate.
- e) Failure to abide by any time limits stipulated in these Procedures will not necessarily invalidate a Referral. The fault of any delay (be that of the GCBA Judiciary, the Complainant or the Club) may be taken into account in determining:
 - i. whether a Referral should be dismissed;
 - ii. whether a Temporary Sanction should be imposed; and/or
 - iii. whether the penalty should be increased or decreased, as the case may be.

4. Reporting Procedure

- a) Any person may be reported (Reported Person) to the Incident Review Panel for breaching the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 or Section 9 of the GCBA Competition Rules by each of the following persons (Complainant):
 - i. by an umpire in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 (Umpires Referral);
 - ii. by any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring at or in the vicinity of a GCBA Competition game, through an Incident Report Form (Witness Referral);
 - iii. by any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring outside a GCBA Competition game, through a written referral (Other Referral); or
 - iv. by the GCBA Committee, upon its own investigation through a written referral (GCBA Referral).
- b) Incident Report Forms should be submitted to the GCBA Competition Administrator as follows:
 - i. for an Umpire's Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following the game;
 - ii. for a Witness Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following the game;
 - iii. for Other Referrals, by 5 pm the next business day following the game and
 - iv. for a GCBA Referral, at any time.
- c) **Umpire's Referral** - Following a game involving an ejection, the umpire responsible for the ejection (Reporting Umpire) must ensure:
 - i. ensure the scorers have recorded details of the ejection on the Electronic System Game Results and their scorebooks;
 - ii. record the "Class of Charge" refer section 11.A on the game card
 - iii. The QBUA or the Reporting Umpire shall forward the GCBA Competition Administrator the Incident Report Form by 5 pm the next business day following the game.
- d) **Ejected Player:**
 - i. If a person is ejected as a result of behaviour deemed Class A, B or C, they are deemed an ineligible player until their matter has been considered by the Incident Review Panel and/or the GCBA Judiciary.

5. Pre-Hearing Procedure

- a) As soon as practicable after receiving a Referral, the GCBA Competition Administrator shall forward all relevant material to the Incident Review Panel and then notify the Reported Person's Club Secretary by email:
 - i. that a Referral has been made against the Reported Person;
 - ii. the nature of the complaint/allegations; and
 - iii. that the Incident Review Panel may dismiss the Referral, refer it directly to the GCBA Judiciary or lay a charge against the Reported Person and propose a penalty.

NB: The email shall attach any Incident Report Forms provided to the GCBA Competition Administrator.

- b) **Reported Person Incident Report Form** - The Reported Person must complete and submit an Incident Report Form through their Club as follows:
 - i. for an Umpire's Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary; or
 - ii. for a Witness Referral, Other Referral or GCBA Referral, by 5 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary.

NB: If the Reported Person fails to submit an Incident Report Form and contests the charge and/or penalty, that person will be suspended from participating in any form in the GCBA or other competition (See BQ Suspension Policy), until the judiciary hearing unless otherwise directed by the GCBA Judiciary Chairperson.

- c) **Incident Review Panel determination** - Where the Incident Review Panel is satisfied with the information provided, within two (2) business days following the receipt of both the Referral and the Reported Person's Incident Report Form (if provided), the Incident Review Panel shall consider the Referral, Incident Report Forms and any other material submitted as prima facie evidence and shall:
 - i. identify the relevant charge(s) to which the conduct relates;
 - ii. dismiss the Referral where there is insufficient evidence to sustain a charge;
 - iii. determine the severity of any charge;
 - iv. propose a penalty based on, but not limited to, the Recommended Table of Penalties listed in section 11A or require the Reported Person to attend a judiciary hearing;
 - v. determine whether a Temporary Sanction is necessary (see section 6); and
 - vi. communicate the above information with the GCBA Competition Administrator.

NB:The Incident Review Panel may delay making a determination under this section where they determine further investigation is necessary.

- d) **Penalty offer** - The GCBA Competition Administrator shall notify the relevant Club Secretary and/or Club President and the reported person as soon as practicable by email of any charge(s) laid against the Reported Person, the proposed penalty ("penalty offer") and/or any requirement for the Reported Person to attend a judiciary hearing as advised by the Incident Review Panel.
- e) **Plea** - If charges are laid and a penalty offer is made, the Club and/or the reported person must notify the GCBA Competition Administrator by 5 pm the day after receiving the penalty offer whether the Reported Person:
 - i. pleads guilty to the charges and accepts the penalty offer;
 - ii. pleads guilty to the charges but contests the penalty offer; or
 - iii. pleads not guilty to the charges.
 - iv. If the Club and/or Reported person fails to notify the GCBA Competition Administrator under this subsection, the Reported Person is deemed to have pleaded guilty to the charges and accepted the penalty offer.
 - v. If the Reported Person accepts the penalty offer or fails to notify the GCBA Competition Administrator before the stated deadline, the penalty shall stand, and the suspension shall be served from the date provided in the "Notice Form for Reported Person".
 - vi. If the Reported Person rejects the penalty offer or pleads not guilty, the matter will be referred to the GCBA Judiciary Panel and a hearing shall be set down in accordance with section 7.

6. Temporary Sanction

- a) Where the Incident Review Panel has laid charges against a Reported Person under section 5, a temporary penalty may be imposed pending notification of a plea and accepting a penalty offer, attending a judiciary hearing or as otherwise ordered by the Incident Review Panel, GCBA Judiciary Chair and/or the GCBA Chair (Temporary Sanction).
- b) A Temporary Sanction can include, but is not limited to, the following orders:
 - i. suspension – to stop a person from participating in the GCBA or other Competitions (Refer to BQ Suspension Policy) in all or specified capacities;
 - ii. exclusion – to stop a person from entering any Club facility;
 - iii. non-contact – to stop a person from contacting specified persons; or
 - iv. a combination of the above.
- c) On direction from the Incident Review Panel, GCBA Judiciary Chair and/or the GCBA Chair, the GCBA Competition Administrator shall notify the Reported Person's Club Secretary of the imposition of a Temporary Sanction and reasons for its imposition.
- d) A Temporary Sanction shall be effective from the date of notification until such time as there is another order made by the Incident Review Panel and/or the GCBA Chair, or the GCBA Judiciary
- e) A person the subject of a Temporary Sanction may appeal to the GCBA Judiciary Chair for a stay of the Temporary Sanction.

7. Judiciary Hearings

- a) This section applies if a hearing is required under **section 5.**
- b) Date & Time:
 - i. The GCBA Judiciary Chair shall form the GCBA Judiciary panel members pursuant to section 3B and determine a date and time for the judiciary hearing, ordinarily within four (4) business days of receiving the Referral.
 - ii. The judiciary hearing is fixed and cannot be changed, except at the discretion of the GCBA Judiciary Chairperson.
- c) Attendance:
 - i. The GCBA Competition Administrator shall confirm the details of the judiciary hearing to the Reported Person's Club Secretary, the Complainant and the GCBA Judiciary members.
 - ii. The Complainant is not required to, but may, attend the judiciary hearing.
 - iii. If the Reported Person is unable to attend the judiciary hearing, their Club must notify the GCBA Competition Administrator and state the reason. The GCBA Judiciary shall:
 - (a) reschedule the hearing and determine the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6; or
 - (b) in the absence of a reasonable excuse, proceed with the hearing notwithstanding the absence of the Reported Person (if there are witnesses)
 - (c) or determine the matter based on the written evidence.
 - iv. If the Reported Person does not appear at the scheduled time nor after a reasonable period of grace, the hearing shall go ahead in their absence with their written evidence taken into account.
- d) Advocates:
 - i. The Reported Person, or the Complainant if they are under 18 years of age (e.g. a junior umpire), may have an advocate speak on their behalf at the judiciary hearing. The advocate shall assume control of the Reported Person's defence and the Reported Person will not be permitted to speak unless to give evidence on their own behalf. The GCBA Competition Administrator must be notified by 5 pm the day before the judiciary hearing of any advocates.
 - ii. Legal practitioners are not permitted to appear before, or represent a party at, the GCBA Judiciary, unless in their personal capacity as a Complainant or Reported Person or otherwise with the agreement of all parties to the dispute.
- e) Evidence:
 - i. The GCBA Judiciary may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
 - ii. The Chairperson may, in their discretion, anonymise names of witnesses or the Complainant if they are satisfied it is necessary to prevent undue prejudice to:
 - (d) the Reported Person;
 - (e) any victim;
 - (f) any witness;
 - (g) a child; or
 - (h) the proper administration of the Referral.
 - iii. It is the sole responsibility of the parties to provide any evidence they wish to rely on to the GCBA Competition Administrator within the time allowed under this section.
 - iv. All evidence the Reported Person wishes to adduce at the judiciary hearing must be sent to the GCBA Competition Administrator by 5 pm the day before to the judiciary hearing.
 - v. All evidence provided to the GCBA Competition Administrator shall be provided to the Reported Person and the Complainant at least 24 hours prior to the judiciary hearing.
 - vi. Evidence adduced later than the times stipulated in this section may be taken into account by the GCBA Judiciary at its discretion. The GCBA Judiciary shall provide sufficient time for all parties who attend the judiciary hearing to read or see any evidence not provided beforehand.
 - vii. The Reported Person or the GCBA Judiciary may call any witness they desire, however no person has any obligation to provide a statement or give evidence to the GCBA Judiciary. Notification of all witnesses attending the judiciary hearing must be sent to the GCBA Competition Administrator by 5 pm the day before the judiciary hearing and the Chairperson may limit the number of witnesses who may be called at their discretion.
 - viii. The Reported Person, the Complainant and any witnesses detailed in subsection (P) shall be given reasonable opportunity to provide evidence at the judiciary hearing.
 - ix. All evidence given at a judiciary hearing is on a confidential and "without prejudice" basis.

- x. Judiciary members may ask questions of any party or witness at the judiciary hearing. In the event that a party wishes to ask a question of another party or witness in the hearing, they must submit that question to the GCBA Judiciary who may then ask that question on their behalf.
- xi. The Chairperson has the sole discretion to request any person to remove themselves from the judiciary hearing at any time.
- xii. The hearing may be recorded using a recording device at the discretion of the Chairperson or at the request of the Reported Person. If a recording device is used, all attending parties will be notified. That recording must be made available to the BQ Appeals Tribunal on request if an appeal is lodged.

f) Order of Proceedings

Unless otherwise determined by the GCBA Judiciary Chairperson, the order of proceedings shall be:

- i. Introduction:
 - (a) The Chairperson shall introduce the GCBA Judiciary panel members and inform all parties of the order of proceedings.
- ii. Procedure
 - (a) The Chairperson shall then ask all parties to leave the hearing room. The hearing shall continue with each party providing their evidence with none of the other parties being in the same room while the evidence is provided.
- iii. Complainant
 - (a) The Complainant or their advocate, if they choose to attend, shall provide their evidence. That person may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
- iv. Reported Person
 - (a) The Reported Person and/or their advocate shall provide their evidence.
- v. Witnesses
 - (a) Witnesses shall provide their evidence. Witnesses may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
- vi. Consideration
 - (a) The GCBA Judiciary shall consider the evidence in private and determine the Reported Person's guilt or innocence and/or penalty if applicable.
- vii. Judgment
 - (a) The Chairperson shall either inform the Reported Person of the outcome of the GCBA Judiciary's deliberations or reserve its decision.
 - (b) Once advised, the Chairperson shall provide a completed "Notice Form for Reported Person" to the Reported Person to confirm their penalty and its effective date.
 - (c) A copy of the completed form shall also be forwarded to the Club, the GCBA Competition Administrator and the QBUA (in the case of Umpire's Referrals).
 - (d) Should a decision be reserved, the Reported Person will not be subject to any immediate penalty unless a Temporary Sanction has been imposed.

8. Powers

- a) The GCBA Judiciary may make any order or impose any penalty against the Reported Person as may be required and as it sees fit, including but not limited to:
 - i. reprimand – with the offence being recorded;
 - ii. suspension – may be applied as a complete or partial suspension from participation in the GCBA Competition and or other Competitions (See BQ Suspension Policy) in all or specified capacities for a definite period of time or until a definite pre-set goal is reached;
 - iii. expulsion – from participation in any capacity in the GCBA Competition and or other Competitions (See BQ Suspension Policy) as a response to a very serious offence;
 - iv. fines – imposed in such amounts as the GCBA Judiciary deems fit; or
 - v. a combination of the above penalties.
- b) The GCBA Judiciary may order a Club to refuse entry to a Reported Person to give effect to a penalty under these Procedures. The GCBA Judiciary may refer any failure to comply with an order under this rule to the GCBA Committee.
- c) The GCBA Judiciary may, at its discretion, suspend all or a component of an order for a specified operational period (i.e. if a Reported Person is charged with a further offence during the operational period, the suspended order will come into effect in addition to any other orders made for the further offending).
- d) In determining the penalty, the following may be taken into account:
 - vi. the Recommended Table of Penalties listed **in section 0;**
 - vii. whether the person pleaded guilty or not guilty (and whether a hearing took place);
 - viii. the nature and circumstances of the conduct;
 - ix. (any harm done to another person;
 - x. the extent to which the person is to blame for the conduct;
 - xi. any damage caused;
 - xii. the person's age and previous character, including previous offending history;
 - xiii. previous penalties imposed on the person;
 - xiv. any disciplinary action taken by the person's Club relating to the same conduct;
 - xv. any time served under a Temporary Sanction;
 - xvi. any remorse or lack of remorse;
 - xvii. any cultural or other specific circumstance relevant to the person;
 - xviii. any comparative penalties imposed for similar offending; and
 - xix. any other matter the GCBA Judiciary considers relevant.

NB: Voluntary intoxication by alcohol or other drugs/substances is not a mitigating factor.

- e) The GCBA Judiciary must give reasons for the penalty it imposes. If these are given orally, they must also be given in writing on request of the Reported Person, the GCBA Committee or the BQ Appeals Tribunal within a reasonable time after the hearing.
- f) Suspended players, the Club they play for and the date for the last day of the suspension will be listed on the GCBA Website for the duration of the suspension. Suspended players are illegal players for the purpose of the GCBA Competition Rules.

9. Re-Opening a Hearing

- a) A party may make an application to the GCBA Judiciary to re-open a Referral after a determination only on the basis that there has been an error of fact that led to a substantial error having been made.
- b) The GCBA Judiciary may, in its discretion, re-open the Referral, correct the error, and amend its decision if necessary.

10. Appeals

- a) An appeal of a GCBA Judiciary decision is to be made to the GCBA Competition Administrator. The GCBA Competition Administrator will then inform the GCBA Committee to elect an Appeals Panel
- b) The Appeals Panel will be elected by the GCBA Committee from those Judiciary members who did not partake in the initial determination, or other person as decided by the GCBA Committee.
- c) An appeal must be made to the GCBA Competition Administrator no later than 28 days after the original determination was communicated to the parties
- d) If the appeal is not lodged with the GCBA Competition Administrator within 28 days, an explanation for the delay must accompany the appeal

- e) An appeal must be based on at least one of the following grounds:
 - i. a denial of natural justice;
 - ii. a denial of procedural fairness;
 - iii. an error in the exercise of a discretion (including acting on a wrong principle, relying on extraneous or irrelevant matters, mistake of fact, failing to take a material consideration into account or the decision was otherwise unreasonable or plainly unjust); or
 - iv. the penalty imposed was manifestly excessive or manifestly inadequate.

11. Table of Charges

The following charges may be laid against a Reported Person:

Class E – General Misconduct	
Unsportsmanlike conduct	<p>Any conduct not otherwise covered in this section that is not in the spirit of the game or is otherwise unbecoming of a Club member or official, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliberately breaching rules or taking unfair advantage of a situation – Grade 1 deliberately distracting or provoking another person – Grade 1 insulting or otherwise deliberately offending another person – Grade 1 unreasonably refusing to cooperate with a coach, player or official; - Grade 1 failing to display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat; - Grade 2 disrespecting the rights, dignity and worth of any participants; Grade 2 encouraging others to act in an unsportsmanlike manner; or – Grade 3 otherwise bringing the game into disrepute. – Grade 3 breach code of conduct – Grade 3 bullying – Grade 3 sexism – Grade 3
Consuming alcohol or tobacco (Grade 2)	<p>Where a person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consumes alcohol while participating in a game; consumes tobacco or any illicit substance (including, but not limited to, smoking, chewing or dipping) within the on-field confines of any baseball facility; or smokes tobacco within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at any Junior Competition game.
Audible obscenity	<p>Any obscene language or swearing in a game that is loud enough to carry to the spectators but not directed at any person. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)</p> <p>Language that cannot be heard by the spectators, or otherwise constitutes verbal abuse, is not conduct covered by this charge. A coach may be charged under this section if an audible obscenity comes from an unidentifiable person in that coach's dugout. (Grade 1)</p>
Equipment abuse (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)	<p>An act of aggression directed at, or utilising, playing equipment or facilities (e.g. throwing a helmet or bat, damaging the dugout, or kicking dirt in anger) unless otherwise constituting an "aggravated equipment abuse" charge.</p>
Class D - Dissent	
Dissent	<p>Any conduct that undermines the umpire's ability to officiate and control a game, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arguing an umpire's judgment calls (e.g. balls and strikes); (Grade 1) a player (who is not also the team's coach) disputing an umpire's technical game ruling; (Grade 2) disobeying an umpire's direction (unless constituting a "failing to leave" charge). (Grade 3) discourteous or disrespectful behaviour directed at the umpire. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)
Class C – Offensive Behaviour	
Verbal abuse	<p>Any comments directed to another person that could reasonably be construed as abusive or harassing. Comments need only be audible to the Complainant. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)</p> <p>Taunting or baiting another individual. (Grade 1)</p> <p>Verbally abusing or ridiculing another individual (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)</p>

Racial abuse	Any comments based on racial issues directed to another person that could reasonably be construed as abusive, insulting and/or harassing. Comments need only be audible to the Complainant. Racial discrimination involves any act where a person is treated unfavourably because of their race, nationality, colour, descent or ethnic origin. (Grade 3)
Class B – Intimidation	
Touching an umpire	Any intentional, unwanted physical contact with an umpire or physical contact incidental to a confrontation. (Grade 2-3 depending on severity)
Failing to leave	Where, after being ejected, a person does not leave the playing field (including the dugout) within a reasonable time, returns to the playing field (including the dugout), attempts to manage or influence the game from outside the field, or can be heard by an umpire from the playing field. (Grade 1-2)
Intimidation	Physical or verbal conduct that could reasonably be construed as intimidating including, but not limited to, circumstances where a person leaves their designated position (e.g. as a fielder, batter, coach or from the dugout) to confront another person in an aggressive manner. (Grade 3) Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent, (Grade 1)
Class A – Dangerous Act	
Intentional or reckless dangerous play	Where, outside the rules of the game, a person engages in intentional or reckless conduct that is likely to cause injury to an opposing player or official (e.g. intentionally throwing at a batter, intentionally sliding into a player). (Grade 3)
Attempting to strike	An intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike another person. This may include engaging in a melee. (Grade 1-2 depending on severity)
Striking	Intentionally striking another person in any way. (Grade 3)
Aggravated equipment abuse	Conduct amounting to equipment abuse whereby a player is hit or injured as a result of the equipment abuse. (Grade 3)
Spitting	Spitting on or at any individual. (Grade 3)
Breach of Judiciary Order	
Breach of GCBA Judiciary order	Where a person or a Club breaches an order previously given by the GCBA Judiciary.

Table 38 –Judiciary Table of Charges

NB: Conduct which, in the opinion of the Incident Review Panel and/or GCBA Judiciary, amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern the GCBA and/or BQ, may be referred directly to the BQ Judiciary. (See Baseball Australia Member Protection Policy)

Where the same conduct constitutes more than one offence, the more serious offence (based on the Class) shall be laid. This in no way inhibits or prevents the GCBA Judiciary from accepting a plea of guilty or making a determination of guilt in respect of the less serious offence should it be appropriate in the circumstances.

12. Recommended Table of Penalties

- The following table sets out recommended penalties for the charges defined in this section. These penalties represent a recommendation only and the GCBA Judiciary shall take into account all factors included in section 8D and retain the power to penalise the Reported Person in any of the ways outlined in section 8A

	1 st Offence (early plea in brackets)	2 nd Offence (early plea in brackets)	3 rd Offence (early plea in brackets)
Class E – Misconduct			
Grade 1	1 week (NFA)	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)
Grade 2	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)
Grade 3	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)
Class D – Dissent			
Grade 1	1 week (NFA)	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)
Grade 2	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)
Grade 3	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)
Class C – Offensive Behaviour			
Grade 1	2 weeks (1 week)	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)
Grade 2	3 weeks (2 weeks)	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)
Grade 3	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)	6 weeks (5 weeks)
Class B – Intimidation			
Grade 1	4 weeks (3 weeks)	5 weeks (4 weeks)	6 weeks (5 weeks)
Grade 2	5 weeks (4 weeks)	6 weeks (5 weeks)	7 Weeks (6 weeks)
Grade 3	6 weeks (5 weeks)	7 weeks (6 weeks)	8 weeks (7 weeks)
Class A – Dangerous Act			
Grade 1	7 weeks (6 weeks)	9 weeks (8 weeks)	12 weeks (11 weeks)
Grade 2	10 weeks (11 weeks)	13 weeks (12 weeks)	14 weeks (13 weeks)
Grade 3	15 weeks (14 weeks)	16 weeks (15 weeks)	17 weeks (16 weeks)
Breach of GCBA Judiciary order		Reported Person – minimum 20 weeks	
Breach of GCBA Judiciary order		Club – minimum \$500	
*NFA – No Further Action			

Table 39 –Judiciary Table of Penalties



