

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION TOWNSVILLE

BY LAWS



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1 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1.1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1.1 The Baseball Association Townsville (BAT) baseball competition is administered and managed by the BAT Committee.
- 1.1.2 The objectives of the BAT Committee are: -
 - 1.1.2.1 To ensure that BAT competitions are conducted with the highest degree of integrity, fairness, transparency, and common sense.
 - 1.1.2.2 To provide a fair and balanced competition structure for all Grades of baseball within the BAT Competition
 - 1.1.2.3 To provide suitable competition pathways for all players to reach their playing goals
 - 1.1.2.4 To provide an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all participants
 - 1.1.2.5 To maintain a safe playing environment for all participants.
- 1.1.3 All affiliated BAT clubs are bound by these Bylaws, BQ Policies and Codes of Conduct and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.
- 1.1.4 The BAT Winter Competition shall incorporate baseball played in both Junior and Senior Competitions in the Greater Townsville Area during the Winter Season. Any matter of any kind whatsoever not dealt with or provided for in these Bylaws may be dealt with in such manner as the BAT Committee may deem fit

1.2 COMMUNICATION

- 1.2.1 All communications to the BAT Committee regarding or required by this document are to be forwarded to the Competition Administrator at the address shown in the following:

Communication method	Address etc.
Address:	Jabiru Avenue Condon QLD 4815
Mail:	BAT President 18 Travertine Street* Condon QLD 4815
Phone:	0447 574 600
Facsimile:	N/A
Email:	baseball.townsville@gmail.com
*will be updated in due course	

- 1.2.2 Any notification forwarded by email shall be deemed to have been received by the addressee: a) on the date of transmission (if sent by 5.00 pm AEST); or b) the following business day (if sent after 5.00 pm AEST).
- 1.2.3 All payments to BAT and/or BQ must be deposited electronically into BAT and/or BQ's account.
- 1.2.4 Where these Bylaws require communication from a Club Secretary, the Club President, Vice President or Treasurer (as listed on the Form TN) may send the communication on their behalf. Clubs must advise the Competition Administrator of any person temporarily filling any of these positions if they are not listed on the Form TN.

1.3 INTERPRETATIONS

1.3.1 In these Bylaws, unless contrary intention appears:

"ABL" means the Australian Baseball League.

"BQ" means Baseball Queensland Incorporated.

"BQ Player" means any player in a BQ Team.

"BQ Team" means a team nominated by BQ under Bylaw 1.5.1.

"Calendar of Events" means the schedule set out in Section 1.7.

"Charter" means a Regional Body of BQ.

"Club" means an incorporated club affiliated in accordance with these Bylaws.

"Club President" means the individual nominated as President of a Club on the Form N submitted to the BAT under Bylaw 1.4.3

"Club Secretary" means the individual nominated as Secretary of a Club on the Form N submitted to the BAT under Bylaw 1.4.3.

"Competition Administrator" means the person or committee, appointed by the BAT Committee, responsible for the management of the BAT Competition via the implementation and enforcement of these Bylaws.

"Finals Series" means post-Regular Season games played to determine the winner of the season.

"BAT" means Baseball Association Townsville.

"BAT Competition" is defined in Bylaw 1.1.4

"BAT Committee" means the Committee appointed by the Clubs responsible for the development of these Bylaws.

"BAT Disputes Panel" means the Panel described in Section 1.8.

"Grand Final" means the final game in the Finals Series.

"Inclement Weather Contact" means the individual nominated in accordance with Bylaw 3.4.2

"Junior Competition" means Little League, Junior League and U20 competitions comprising both the Junior Spring Competition and Junior Summer Competition.

"Junior League" means the competition run for the age-group specified in Section 5.

"Junior Player" means any player eligible to play in Junior Competition in accordance with Section 5.

"League" means a competition in the BAT Senior Competition, Junior Competition or Masters Competition comprising Regular Season games and Finals Series games.

"Little League" means the competition run for the age-group specified in Section 5.

"Little League®" means a competition structure run in accordance with the rules of Little League Baseball® (aka the "Green Book").

"NCAS" means Baseball Australia's National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

"Preliminary Final" means the second-round final (where applicable), as per Bylaw 3.8.3.1

"QBS" means Queensland Baseball Scorers

"QBUA" means Queensland Baseball Umpires Association Incorporated.

"QBUA Appointments Officer" means the individual named as the Appointments Officer on the QBUA website.

"Regular Season" means games played to determine if a team qualifies for the Finals Series.

"Semi Final" means the first-round final, as per Bylaw 3.8.3.1

"Senior Competition" means all Leagues included in Section 4

"Senior League" means the competition run for the age-group specified in Bylaw 3.1.3.3

"Senior Player" means any player in the BAT Senior Competition NOT eligible to play in the BAT Junior Competition.

"Substitute Player" is defined in Bylaw 7.3.7.3

"Winter Season" means the period of time approximately comprising Term 2 and Term 3 of the Queensland school term.

"Women's Competition" means all Leagues included in Part 4.

"Women's Player" means any player participating in the Women's Competition.

1.3.2 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.

1.4 AFFILIATION

1.4.1 Applications from Clubs affiliating with BQ for the first time must include:

- 1.4.1.1 Covering letter signed by the Club President or nominated head of the proposed organisation;
- 1.4.1.2 A budget projection for the Club;
- 1.4.1.3 a certified copy of the Certificate of Incorporation;
- 1.4.1.4 a submission for approval of the Club's uniform colours, design and sponsorship logos; and
- 1.4.1.5 a three (3) year Operation Plan.

1.4.2 Before Clubs can present players in any approved competition, they must obtain approval of the Club's uniform colours and design. Applications from Clubs renewing their affiliation must include the Club uniforms if they propose to change their authorised uniform colours, design or sponsorship logos. Club must also submit this if they wish to change their uniform or introduce new logos during the season. All Uniforms must have the BAT Logo present on their Left Sleeve.

1.4.3 Clubs wishing to re-affiliate for the coming season must meet the criteria listed below:

- 1.4.3.1 the Club must submit a current Form TN: Affiliation & Team entry form requesting affiliation with the BAT signed by the Club President at the time of entering teams into the BAT competition;
 - 1.4.3.2 the Club must submit their current Strategic Plan that is a living document and is updated on a regular basis;
 - 1.4.3.3 the Club must submit their Club Constitution or show their Governance Policies and Procedures are in place;
 - 1.4.3.4 the Club must incorporate strategies for junior recruitment and development into their Strategic Plan and assist in BQ recruitment and schools programs;
 - 1.4.3.5 the Club facilities must comply with the Field Construction documents available on the BQ website and adhere to any directions given by BQ/BAT officials following any on-site check;
 - 1.4.3.6 the Club must ensure that all players and volunteers (including scorers, umpires and coaches) are correctly registered on the approved database, meaning they are active and financial;
 - 1.4.3.7 the Club must ensure that all relevant volunteers hold a current Blue Card in accordance with the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld);
 - 1.4.3.8 all teams in the BAT Competition must have a coach with a minimum current Level B USA Baseball coaching accreditation; and
 - 1.4.3.9 the Club must have a sufficient number of QBUA accredited umpires appropriate to each level of competition with the appropriate uniforms. The Association and Clubs will work together in the development of umpires and recruitment strategies and provide basic umpire equipment. More information on accreditation can be found <https://qbu.org/umpire-accreditation/>
- 1.4.4 The Competition Administrator shall review all affiliations, which shall be valid for the ensuing twelve (12) months.
- 1.4.5 The Competition Administrator may accept or reject any application for affiliation based on the criteria listed in Bylaws 1.4.1, 1.4.2 & 1.4.3 above. The Competition Administrator 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.
- 1.4.6 The Competition Administrator may use its discretion to cancel or suspend the affiliation of any Club at any time.

1.5 TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 1.5.1 Clubs, BAT and/or BQ may nominate teams in any competition, subject to Sections 4.2 and 5.2.
- 1.5.2 Nominations must be sent to the Competition Administrator in writing on the prescribed form – Form TN (available on the BQ website) - by the date stipulated in the Calendar of Events in Section 1.7.
- 1.5.3 The BAT Committee may use its discretion to reject team nominations where a Club has insufficient registered players on the approved database to field the relevant team. A team is considered a roster of at least nine (9) players with at eight (8) of those being able to play 90% of games. A Preliminary Team Roster (PTR) is to be provided to BAT as per the Calendar of Events in Section 1.7
- 1.5.4 The BAT Committee shall determine the number of divisions and teams in each competition based on Club nominations.
- 1.5.5 The BAT Committee may use its discretion to promote or relegate any team before or during the season where it is appropriate to do so having regard to the competitiveness or structure of the relevant competition.
- 1.5.6 If teams are withdrawn within two (2) weeks of the commencement of the relevant competition, the Club will be penalised in accordance with Bylaw 1.11.2.
- 1.5.7 The BAT Committee may use its discretion to accept or reject team nominations made after the date for Final Team Nominations stipulated in Section 1.7.

1.6 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.6.1 All Clubs are to pay invoices issued by BAT, BQ and/or the QBUA within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice, or they shall be deemed unfinancial.
- 1.6.2 Any Club that is unfinancial under this Section shall not continue to play in the competitions. Games scheduled during the unfinancial period shall be deemed to be a forfeit in favour of the opposing team.
- 1.6.3 Any Club that is unfinancial under this Section shall not receive trophies or awards until the Club becomes financial.
- 1.6.4 Any players taking the field during regular season competition must have paid at least BAT/BQ Insurance prior to week one of gameplay otherwise they are deemed ineligible until paid. This is a clubs responsibility to mandate within clubs, communicate to BAT and it is BAT's responsibility to track payments in online system.

1.7 CALENDAR OF EVENTS – ADMINISTRATION

- 1.7.1 The following Calendar of Events nominates the key requirements for the administration of the League competitions. Timely completion and/or submission of these requirements by Clubs shall allow the BAT administration 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 season.

Requirement	Date Required
New Club Affiliation documents (Bylaw 1.4.1)	15 th January / BAT AGM
Availability of grounds (Expression of Interest Google Form Issued out by BAT)	Form to be issued out 15 th December Responses close 28 th December to be finalised and issued to clubs by 1 st January
Senior Division A & B team nominations (By-Law 1.5)	1 st February
Form TN: Affiliation & Team entry form (Bylaw 1.4.3)	15 th February/First game of preseason
Ground light audits (if applicable) (By-Law 4.3.1)	1 st March
Senior (All Divisions) Preliminary Team Roster (PTR)(By-Law 1.5)	3 rd Game of Preseason
Final Junior team nominations (By-Law 1.5)	One months prior to first game of the season as determined by BAT Committee
Hosting BAT finals games – Junior	End August
Hosting BAT finals games – Senior	Early September
Hosting BAT Awards night	One Month Pos Grand Finals

1.8 BAT DISPUTES PANEL

- 1.8.1 The BAT Disputes Panel is established and administered by the BAT Committee.
- 1.8.2 The roles of the BAT Disputes Panel include:
- 1.8.2.1 hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the BAT Bylaws;
 - 1.8.2.2 making recommendations to the BAT Committee for determination of administrative disputes and
 - 1.8.2.3 game protests arising under the BAT Bylaws; and
 - 1.8.2.4 providing advisory opinions on the BAT Bylaws.
- 1.8.3 The BAT Disputes Panel and the BAT Committee will abide by the BAT Disputes Procedures set out in

1.8.4 APPENDIX B – BAT DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

1.8.5 There is no right of appeal from a decision of the BAT Disputes Panel.

1.9 DISPUTES (DISAGREEMENT WITH COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION)

1.9.1 A Club Secretary or President may refer a dispute relating to the administration of the competition and these Bylaws to the BAT Disputes Panel by completing and forwarding a BAT Dispute Form to the Competition Administrator.

1.9.2 The Club must pay a deposit of \$250.00 which will be refunded if the dispute is upheld or otherwise at the discretion of the BAT Disputes Panel if it is not considered frivolous or vexatious. The protest will not be heard until after a confirmation of transfer has been forwarded to the Competition Administrator.

1.10 PROTESTS (DISAGREEMENT WITH TECHNICAL GAME RULES)

1.10.1 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 Official Baseball Rules and/or these Bylaws. At no time can a judgment decision be protested.

1.10.2 At the time the protest arises, the protesting head coach must advise the umpire-in-chief of the nature of the protest and:

1.10.2.1 the umpire-in-chief must inform the scorers that the game is being played under protest;

1.10.2.2 the umpire-in-chief must inform the head coach of the opposing team of the nature of the protest;

1.10.2.3 and the scorers must record the time of the protest and the details of the protest on the game card and in the appropriate section of the scorebooks.

1.10.3 After the game, the protesting Club Secretary or President must email a BAT Dispute Form to the Competition Administrator no later than 4 pm on the next business day.

1.10.4 The Club must pay a deposit of \$250.00 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld or otherwise at the discretion of the BAT 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 Competition Administrator.

1.10.5 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.

1.10.6 Protests relating to game-ending plays or breaches which arise after completion of the game that are not recorded on the game card must be reported in accordance with Bylaw 1.10.3.

1.10.7 The Competition Administrator shall refer the protest to the BAT Disputes Panel to be resolved as soon as practicable. If the above protest format is not followed, then the protest may be dismissed.

NOTE: Official Baseball Rule 7.04 Protesting Games

Even if it is held that the protested decision violated the rules, no replay of the game will be ordered unless in the opinion of the [BAT] the violation adversely affected the protesting team's chances of winning the game.

1.11 BREACHES OF BYLAWS

1.11.1 The Competition Administrator shall forward to the relevant Club Secretary an invoice, or notification of penalty, for each breach incurred. The notification shall detail all breaches applicable.

1.11.2 Minimum penalties for breaches of these Bylaws are as follows (repeated or deliberate breaches of the Bylaws may be penalised at the discretion of the BAT Committee):

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Forfeiture of a game (Section 3.5)	1 st offence – loss of game*; 2 nd offence – loss of game* and \$50 per defaulting team plus umpiring fees; 3 rd offence – loss of game* and \$100 per defaulting team plus umpiring fees and the club must show cause why the team should not be removed from the competition.
Forfeiture of a game without two (2) business days' notice (Bylaw 3.5.1)	\$50.

Illegal player, including breach of player eligibility, registration and suspended player (Sections 2.1, 2.2,2.3,2.4,2.5,2.6,2.7,5.8, 5.21, 6.8)	\$50 per player and loss of game*.
Prohibited substances (Section 2.9)	\$200 per person and ejection.
Player out of uniform (Bylaw 3.12)	\$50 per player.
Non-return of game card within timeframe as required (Sections 2.8,4.15, 5.16, 6.4)	1st offence – A warning issued to the club; 2nd offence – \$50.00 fine issued to the club; 3rd and further offences – Home team forfeiture of game and \$50.00 fine to the club.
Game Card altered after completion and signature and without the knowledge of the signatories (Section 2.8)	Loss of game for Home team
Failure to supply an umpire (Section 2.7, 4.14, 5.15)	\$120 per umpire.*
Supplying an umpire without the appropriate accreditation (Section 2.7, 4.14, 5.15)	\$75 per umpire. (enforcing in 2024) *
Breach of scoring requirements (Sections 2.8,4.15, 5.16, 6.4)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$25; 3 rd or offences – \$50.
Failure to supply a coach with the appropriate accreditation (Bylaw 2.7.2)	\$75. (enforcing in 2024)
Breach of Blue Card requirements (Bylaw 2.7.1)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence - \$25; 3 rd offence - \$50.
Withdrawal of a team after date for Final Team Nominations – within two weeks of commencement of season or thereafter (Section 1.7)	\$100 per junior team; \$200 per senior team.
Incomplete, incorrect or inaccurate game card (Sections 2.8,4.15, 5.16, 6.4)	1 st offence – warning; 2 nd offence – \$50; 3 rd and further offences – \$100

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Knowingly failing to comply with a BAT Judiciary order (BAT Judiciary Procedures, Section 0)	\$500.

* In the instance a monetary value is not achievable, loss of points or community volunteering at BAT's discretion will be applied

1.11.3 Penalties for breaches of Junior Competition specific Bylaws are as follows:

Infringement / Breach	Fine / Penalty
Participation (including failure to adopt a continuous batting order) (Section 5.9)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game* if finals; 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game*.

Breach of PONAG requirements (Section 7)	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game* if finals; 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game*.
Pitching and/or catching rules (Section 5.21) The BQ Development Manager shall be notified of all breaches of pitching and/or catching rules	1 st offence - \$100 and loss of game if finals*; 2 nd offence - \$200 and loss of game*. 3 rd and further offences – \$200 and loss of game

1.11.4 *Where a penalty under this section is for loss of game, the score recorded shall be, in favour of the non infringing team:

1.11.4.1 9-0; or

1.11.4.2 the actual final score if the infringing team scores no runs and the non-infringing team scores more than nine (9) runs.

2 PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

2.1 PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1.1 To be eligible to participate in any game, Clubs and players must meet the conditions listed in Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8

2.2 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 2.2.1 Each player must enter his or her details into the approved database. Clubs must ensure all players are registered on the approved database, and they are to be approved and financial before taking the field to train or play.
- 2.2.2 Players not registered in accordance with this Section are deemed to be an illegal player (Refer 1.11.2).
- 2.2.3 Clubs must ensure and check that players register as follows:
- 2.2.3.1 all Clubs must ensure that all players are registered with payment on the approved registration portal. Once the player registration is submitted and paid for online, players are deemed to be affiliated. No player can take part in any sanctioned BAT game until they are properly registered with the Club they intend to play for.
- 2.2.3.2 Clubs are to regularly review their active player list to ensure that it is accurate.

2.3 TRANSFERS AND CLEARANCES

- 2.3.1 Player transfers between Clubs shall be initiated through the Sports Club HQ/SportsLomo or related player Transfer software system.
- 2.3.2 Unfinancial players shall not be eligible to transfer between Clubs and should not be granted a clearance by the losing club.
- 2.3.3 All transfer and clearance requirements must be fulfilled before a player can take the field.
- 2.3.4 Refer to the 2019 Baseball Queensland Player Transfer Policy which has implications and restrictions for transferring player eligibility for Regional teams.

2.4 JUNIORS PLAYING IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS

- 2.4.1 A Junior Player shall be eligible to play in Senior Competitions 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 any grade commensurate with the player's physical and technical abilities as well as safety considerations related to gameplay. BAT reserves the right to require further explanation from clubs prior to a Junior Player competing in Senior competitions or deny any Junior players from playing in Senior A Grade competition where they believe the above physical, technical or safety requirements are not met.
- 2.4.2 A Junior Player playing in Senior 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.

2.5 JUNIORS PLAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE CLUB

- 2.5.1 A Junior Player playing in a Senior Competition must do so with the Club with which that player is registered.
- 2.5.2 A Junior Player may make an application in writing to the Competition Administrator to play for a different Club if their registered Club does not have an appropriate Junior Team or Senior Team. The application must be accompanied by letters of support from both Clubs involved.

2.6 BASEBALL QUEENSLAND - STATE DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

- 2.6.1 BQ Teams may comprise any players registered in accordance with Section 2.2.
- 2.6.2 Where these Bylaws refer to Clubs, BQ has the same powers and obligations with respect to BQ Teams.
- 2.6.3 For finals eligibility calculation purposes, a game played for a BQ Team will be equivalent to, a game played for the Club with which that player is registered, in the same or next highest division in which the Club competes.

2.7 COACHES, UMPIRES AND SCORERS

- 2.7.1 Clubs must, on request, provide the Competition Administrator with contact details of all coaches, umpires and scorers. All coaches, umpires, scorers and other Club officials are to have the appropriate current accreditation and be in possession of a current Blue Card if they have minors in their teams, in accordance with the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld)*.
- 2.7.2 Every team must have at least one coach with a current Level B USA Baseball 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 a current Level B USA Baseball who is also named on the game card.

2.8 SCORERS AND SCORING POLICY

- 2.8.1 The official scorer is an official representative who is entitled to the respect and dignity of his/her office and shall be accorded full protection by BAT and BQ. The official scorer shall report to the appropriate league official any indignity

expressed by any manager, player, club employee or club officer in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of their official scorer duties. The official scorer shall observe the game from a position as set aside by the host Club. The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions concerning the application of Rule 9 that involves judgment, such as whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error. Club officials and players are prohibited from communicating with the official scorer regarding any such decisions. The scorers should not be approached by any person other than a team official or a game umpire without invitation, from the start of the game until the score card is completed. Scorers must ensure the Game Card or online scorecard is signed or verified to ensure both scorers agree with the information on the card. **NOTE** - altering a score card without the knowledge of the signatories will be considered a breach of scoring requirements (1.11.2)

- Game cards signed by both scorers (home and away teams) are required for **ALL BAT games – senior and junior**.
- Game cards must be submitted to the BAT Competition Administrator by 6.00 pm the following business day after the conclusion of the game. Game Cards should be scanned or photographed (please ensure photographed Game cards are clear and legible) and emailed within the required time frame.
- It is the responsibility of the Home team to submit the signed Game Card.
- Failure to submit Games Cards within the required time frame will result:
 - 1st Instance – A warning issued to the club
 - 2nd Instance - \$50.00 fine issued to the club
 - 3rd Instance – Home team forfeiture of game and \$50.00 fine to the club.
- **All Division Senior and Junior games** must be scored using Game Changer scoring App going live.
- Scorers must agree on the score
- Complete the Game Card in full
- Sign to ensure both scorers agree with the information on the card
- It is the responsibility of the home team scorer to have sufficient blank Game Cards to record the game.

2.8.2 Requirements for the appropriate accreditation or competence of umpires and scorers for each of the individual Leagues are contained within the relevant Sections.

2.8.3 The scorers should not be approached by any person other than a team Coach or a game umpire without invitation, from the start of game until the score card is completed.

2.9 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

2.9.1 All tobacco and alcohol products are prohibited within the on-field confines of any baseball facility. BAT will provide designated smoking and drinking areas and make these known to players, members, volunteers, coaches, spectators and others present at the park

2.9.2 A person shall be ejected from a game and fined for smoking, consuming an alcoholic beverage or chewing/dipping of tobacco.

TOBACCO LAWS IN QUEENSLAND

From 1 September 2016, 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, the viewing area for a water sport, 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.

An organised under-18 sporting event is one that is arranged in advance and is conducted by a professional or amateur sporting body or education institution according to established rules.

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

3 COMPETITIONS

3.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 3.1.1 The Competition Administrator shall conduct competitions in the BAT Winter Competition. These shall consist of Senior and Junior Competitions.
- 3.1.2 The BAT Committee shall determine the number of divisions in the Senior Competition.
- 3.1.3 The Junior Competition may include the following leagues with any number of divisions:
 - 3.1.3.1 Little League (U13) including T-ball & Rookie Ball
 - 3.1.3.2 Junior League (U15)
 - 3.1.3.3 Senior League (U17)
- 3.1.4 Further divisions may be added at the BAT Committee's discretion.
- 3.1.5 Clubs must nominate teams for each level in which they wish to compete no later than the date advised in the Calendar of Events (1.7)
- 3.1.6 The BAT Committee may review the grading of teams throughout the season.

3.2 COMPETITION SCHEDULING

- 3.2.1 For the purpose of these Bylaws, scheduling and/or rescheduling fixtures includes determining or changing the time, date and/or location a game is played.
- 3.2.2 The Competition Administrator shall schedule fixtures for all BAT Competitions which shall be published on various online websites and social media accounts and also communicated to the clubs via club representatives and committees.
- 3.2.3 The Competition Administrator may reschedule fixtures as needed at any time for any reason.
- 3.2.4 If the Competition Administrator reschedules a fixture, the amended fixture shall be published on the BAT Facebook Page and the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of the affected Clubs will be notified as soon as possible.
- 3.2.5 Where, under these Bylaws, a game must be rescheduled if it cannot be completed, the Competition Administrator may schedule a fixture at an alternative time, date and/or location pending the occurrence of some event (e.g., inclement weather).

3.3 RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- 3.3.1 Games that are incomplete or not played due to inclement weather or double forfeit shall, subject to Bylaws 3.3.3-3.3.4, only be rescheduled if agreed between both teams involved.
- 3.3.2 The time and location of the game shall be agreed by both teams and details confirmed and sent to the Competition Administrator as follows:
 - 3.3.2.1 if rescheduled to a time on the same weekend as the scheduled game, the game card shall be sufficient notice; or if rescheduled to a time following the weekend of the scheduled game, written notice by the Club Secretary from both Clubs must be provided within seven (7) days of the game not being played. If written notice is not received within the stipulated timeframe, the game cannot be replayed for a competition result. Once the details are agreed by both teams, all other Bylaws shall apply to the rescheduled game (including forfeit procedures - see Section 3.5).
- 3.3.3 Division A games that are incomplete or not played shall be rescheduled and played as a suspended game or new game (respectively) as a double header on the following Sunday or as determined by the Competition Administrator. Once rescheduled, all other Bylaws shall apply to the rescheduled game.
- 3.3.4 Any Club wishing to reschedule a game in advance must apply in writing to the Competition Administrator via the Club Secretary at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled game. The application should include the reasons for rescheduling and if the opposing team has agreed to the change. The Competition Administrator may reschedule the game at their discretion and may refer the matter to the BAT Committee. Once rescheduled, all other Bylaws shall apply to the rescheduled game.

3.4 INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 3.4.1 Inclement weather refers to wet weather, extreme heat, lightning or any other similar event that renders the playing facilities unsafe for play.
- 3.4.2 All Clubs must nominate an Inclement Weather Contact and their contact numbers shall distributed to the Clubs.
- 3.4.3 If there is inclement weather on, or forecast for, the scheduled playing day:
 - 3.4.3.1 **in advance**, the Competition Administrator may choose to cancel or reschedule some or all games. Should this occur, the Competition Administrator shall publish an update on the BAT Facebook Page and notify the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of the affected Clubs as soon as possible.
 - 3.4.3.2 **on game day**, if the Competition Administrator has not made a decision in advance, decisions regarding play shall be made by the host Club's Secretary (or their nominee) in accordance with
 - 3.4.3.3 Bylaws 3.4.4, 3.4.5. **during a game**, decisions regarding play shall be made by the umpires, subject to Bylaw 3.4.5.
- 3.4.4 In the case of wet weather, the host Club must inspect the grounds and if unplayable must abide by the following:

- 3.4.4.1 notify the visiting Club's Inclement Weather Contact and the QBUA Appointments Officer (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) km from the affected field); and
- 3.4.4.2 call off games one grade at a time, unless it is obvious that the ground is unplayable for the entire day. 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 immediately.
- 3.4.5 **In the case of heat-affected weather, the home Club Secretary (or their nominee) must monitor, on a half-hourly basis, current temperatures at the field's location via the Bureau of Meteorology website (or phone app). The following will apply:**
 - 3.4.5.1 a) Should the current temperature reach the following, play shall be suspended immediately:
 - 3.4.5.2 i. 40° Celsius for Senior and Masters Competitions; or ii. 38° Celsius for Junior Competitions.
 - 3.4.5.3 b) During play suspension, the temperature shall be monitored every 10 minutes. Play shall not resume until the temperature reaches the following:
 - 3.4.5.4 i. 38° Celsius for Senior and Masters Competitions; or
 - 3.4.5.5 ii. 36° Celsius for Junior Competitions.
- 3.4.6 **A game shall be called off if there is a temporary suspension in play due to inclement weather for a continuous thirty (30) minute period unless the following applies:**
 - 3.4.6.1 a) where, after consultation with the grounds crew and team coaches, the umpire determines the ground will not be playable within the remaining time allowed, the game may be called off immediately; or
 - 3.4.6.2 b) where the umpire determines there is a possibility of completing a regulation game within the remaining time allowed, the temporary suspension may be continued beyond thirty (30) minutes.
- 3.4.7 **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.**
- 3.4.8 **Any game halted due to inclement weather before becoming a regulation game shall be a suspended game if it is replayed.**
- 3.4.9 **Home team scorers must notify the Competition Administrator of games called off due to inclement weather by recording it on the game card or sending an email notification. Where a game commences but is halted due to inclement weather before it becomes a regulation game, scorers must still complete game cards and forward them to the Competition Administrator (for player eligibility and/or rescheduling purposes).**
- 3.4.10 **Clubs are encouraged to use social media to advise players from both teams of the relocation, cancellation or otherwise of any game.**
- 3.4.11 **If a Club fails to comply with this Section, the opposing team may submit a protest in accordance with Section 1.8**

3.5 FORFEITS AND LATE STARTS

- 3.5.1 **A Club that is unable to field a team in a scheduled game must notify the opposing Club – Club Secretary, the QBUA Appointments Officer (if applicable) and the Competition Administrator at least two (2) business days prior to the commencement of the scheduled game. This notification needs to be done by both email and via a telephone call to ensure the opposing Club is fully aware of the forfeit. The opposing Club needs to confirm receipt of this advice by return email. Games forfeited with less than two (2) days' notice will be subject to a fine (see 1.11.2)**
- 3.5.2 **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 umpire shall record the late start and the offending team on the game card. Any time in which play is delayed under this rule is included in the overall time allowed for that game.**
- 3.5.3 **If, at fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time or any time during the game, a team is unable to field the minimum number of players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win by forfeit. The umpire shall record the win as a forfeit on the game card awarding a score of 9-0.**
- 3.5.4 **If, at fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time or any time during the game, 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 Bylaw 3.3.1). The umpire shall record the losses on the game card.**
- 3.5.5 **When a game is forfeited on game day but before commencement, the names of the players in attendance from the non-forfeiting team must be recorded in the game card. These players shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes. Where a game card is not completed (i.e. 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 Competition Administrator who will have that game counted towards their eligibility.**
- 3.5.6 **When a game is forfeited after commencement, all players named on the game card shall be deemed to have played that game for finals eligibility calculation purposes.**
- 3.5.7 **Where a game starts late due to lack of player numbers or due to inclement weather or any other unforeseeable reason, if it is a Time limited game, the scheduled finish time does not change.**

3.6 COMPETITION RECORDS

- 3.6.1 **The Competition Administrator shall keep accurate records of the following:**

- 3.6.1.1 results and participation of all games in the competitions;
- 3.6.1.2 all protests and reports recorded on game cards;
- 3.6.1.3 all cautions and ejections, as recorded on game cards by umpires;
- 3.6.1.4 all points/percentages allocated to each team according to the provisions of these Bylaws; and other information as required.

3.7 PERCENTAGE LADDERS

- 3.7.1 The Competition Administrator shall maintain a percentage ladder for each grade, in competition management on the BAT Facebook Page stating:
 - 3.7.1.1 the name of every team in that grade;
 - 3.7.1.2 the number of games played by each team; and
 - 3.7.1.3 the number of wins, losses and draws for each team.
- 3.7.2 Clubs wishing to contest any content in the percentage tables must forward written objections to the Competition Administrator via the Club Secretary. The objection must contain grounds for dispute and include relevant evidence (e.g. copy of scorebooks, game cards etc.).
- 3.7.3 All competition ladder and finals positions shall be ranked by WIN percentage, as follows:
 - 3.7.3.1 $WIN\ Percentage = \frac{Total\ Wins + Draws\ (Half)}{Total\ Games\ Played}$
- 3.7.4 Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.
- 3.7.5 Where two or more teams are equally ranked with the same WIN percentage, the Competition Administrator shall allocate places using the following criteria:
 - 3.7.5.1 "Head-to-Head" for the teams for the season; then
 - 3.7.5.2 runs against, head-to-head, for the season; then
 - 3.7.5.3 runs against overall for the season; then
 - 3.7.5.4 at the BAT Committee's discretion, giving reasons.
- 3.7.6 Where it is not possible to maintain a percentage ladder, a ladder based on points will be maintained.

3.8 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 3.8.1 Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals shall be scheduled as determined by the Competition Administrator and published in the schedule of fixtures, or elsewhere.
- 3.8.2 Clubs shall be asked for expressions of interest to host the finals games and host venues shall be subsequently decided by the BAT Committee.
- 3.8.3 The team designated as the home team for the Finals Series shall be:
 - 3.8.3.1 a) for the Semi Final and Preliminary Final, the team finishing higher on the table at the end of the Regular Season; and
 - 3.8.3.2 b) for the Grand Final: i. where a Major Semi Final is played, the winner of the Major Semi Final; ii. otherwise the team finishing higher on the table at the end of the Regular Season.
 - 3.8.3.3 c) For all BAT Finals baseball games - the home team occupies the 3rd base dugout. However if the home team is playing at their usual home field, then they occupy the dugout they use during the regular season.
- 3.8.4 Where possible and as time permits, the preferable Finals Series is:

Division A:

Standard Competitions	Away Team v Home Team	Result
Preliminary Final (PF)	Seed 3 v Seed 2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
Grand Final (GF) (Best of 3 Games)	Winner PF v Regular Season Premiers	BAT Champions

Division B:

Standard Competitions	Away Team v Home Team	Result
Semi Finals Game 1 (SF1)	Seed 4 v Seed 1	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
Semi Finals Game 2 (SF2)	Seed 3 v Seed 2	Winner to GF, Loser eliminated
Grand Final (GF)	Winner SF1 v SF2	BAT Champions

- 3.8.5 BAT shall meet the costs for Grand Finals (i.e., baseballs, umpires) and shall notify the Clubs involved of the arrangements for other finals.

3.9 TROPHIES & AWARDS

- 3.9.1 The BAT shall present the following trophies/awards at the conclusion of the BAT Winter Season:
- 3.9.2 Senior Club of the Year Award Criteria

- 3.9.2.1 a) based on the number of wins (points on ladder) for every senior team including Men’s, Women’s teams.
 - 3.9.2.2 b) Recognises those Clubs that work hard to field the most number of Senior teams
 - 3.9.2.3 c) Extra 5 points for minor premiers and 5 points for winners of the grand final.
 - 3.9.2.4 d) 1 point deduction for every fine incurred during the season.
 - 3.9.2.5 e) 5 points deduction for every ejection that results in a judiciary sentence. 3 points for every ejection resulting in a penalty being served.
 - 3.9.2.6 f) 1 point for every 5 percent growth in registered BAT PLAYER numbers at the club from the previous season registered number of players.
- 3.9.3 Junior Club of the Year Award Criteria**
- 3.9.3.1 a) based on number of wins (points on ladder) for every junior team including Little League through to Under 20’s
 - 3.9.3.2 b) Recognises those Clubs that work hard to field the most number of Junior teams
 - 3.9.3.3 c) Extra 5 points for minor premiers and 5 points for winners of the grand final.
 - 3.9.3.4 d) 1 point deduction for every fine incurred during the season.
 - 3.9.3.5 e) 5 points deduction for every ejection that results in a judiciary hearing and penalty, 3 points for every ejection resulting in a penalty being served.
 - 3.9.3.6 f) 1 point for every 5 percent growth in registered PLAYER numbers at the club from the previous season registered number of players.

Trophy / Award	Eligible Teams / Grades / Individuals
CLUB AWARDS	
Club Champions Award	All BAT Clubs
TEAM AWARDS	
Championship Trophy	All Grades in all Leagues
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS	
MVP Award	All Divisions
Heart and Hustle Award	Division A
Most Improved	Division B
Troy Tucker Batting Title/ Batting Title	Division A & B
Shiori Hoshino Women’s Player of the Year	Nominated by Clubs
Silver Slugger	Division B
Gold Glove	All Divisions
Best Pitcher Awards	All Divisions
Bill Doyle Medal -MVP (Final Series)	Division A
BAT Volunteer of the Year	Nominated by Clubs

3.10 GROUNDS/FIELDS

- 3.10.1 All nominated fields must be available for the commencement of the competition unless BAT grants an exemption.
- 3.10.2 Clubs must fully and accurately mark fields for every game to the satisfaction of the umpire. Marking must be to the correct dimensions as per the Official Baseball Rules. Markings must include at least base paths, foul lines, and batting boxes. Home Team is to Mark Field for play. Cones are to be set up and taken in by away team.
- 3.10.3 Clubs must keep all grounds/fields in a clean and tidy condition at all times. Grounds must be free from dangerous objects and all other obstacles likely to cause injury to players, officials and visitors. Ground Marshals shall carry out inspections prior to the commencement of games for the day.
- 3.10.4 Clubs must maintain all fields to BAT approved standards. A BAT 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 with the rectification.
- 3.10.5 The host Club must provide adequate toilet facilities at their ground. The Club must open these facilities during all games at that ground. Clubs must keep these facilities in a clean and hygienic condition in compliance with local government regulations.
- 3.10.6 All grounds must have a properly enclosed playing field and home run fence. In the absence of a physical fence, large fluorescent cones will suit so long as they are adequate in total number and spacing to alert players.

- 3.10.7 All benches/dugouts constructed within a permanent baseball field require protection or screening to protect players from the field of play and weather.
- 3.10.8 The host Club must provide an umpires' change room for the sole use of the umpires for the periods sixty (60) minutes before any game and thirty (30) minutes after any game.
- 3.10.9 The host Club should open a canteen during all games played at their ground. The canteen should provide hot and cold drinks and a variety of food items available for purchase during all games played at the ground. If a canteen cannot be open during games, the host Club should advise the visiting Clubs and allow them to bring their own food and drinks. Consistent failure to provide adequate canteen facilities may result in no future home games for that Club.
- 3.10.10 Visiting teams and supporters must not bring alcohol to a host Club's ground.
- 3.10.11 The host Club shall provide a clearly defined dugout, seating and shade cover for both teams, and seating and shade cover for scorers.
- 3.10.12 Clubs hosting finals are required to have a groundsman on site to maintain the field throughout the day.
- 3.10.13 Host Clubs are required to provide wet weather ground covers for the pitcher's mound and the home plate area.
- 3.10.14 Host Clubs are to provide a telephone for emergency contacts, an adequate first aid kit and ice for injuries. These items must be in close proximity to the playing field.

3.11 THE PLAYING FIELD

3.11.1 Playing fields for the various age groups shall comply with the following minimum requirements;

Age Group	Base paths	Pitch distance	Centre field distance	Bases
Little League	60 ft.	46 ft.	225 ft.	Removable or Breakaway Hollywood
Junior League	80 ft.	54 ft.	300 ft.	Permanent
Senior League	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent
Under 20	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent

Age Group	Base paths	Pitch distance	Centre field distance	Bases
Senior	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in	Open	Permanent
Women	90 ft.	54 ft.	Open	Permanent

- 3.11.2 All Little League and Junior League games must have an age specific outfield perimeter of some description. Even where fields are fully enclosed but the existing fence line exceeds age specific requirements, temporary age specific perimeters must be deployed (e.g., cones or markers that are clearly seen from home plate).
- 3.11.3 Any batted ball, declared fair, that bounces prior to leaving the field of play, will be ruled a ground rule double. If markers are used to identify the perimeter, the base of the markers forms the limit of the field of play.
- 3.11.4 Should a base be pegged to the ground (i.e., removable), it is to be done with safety as the prime concern. Pegs must be driven entirely into the ground with the buckles under the centre of the base.

3.12 UNIFORMS

- 3.12.1 All players, senior coaches and Junior League, Senior League and Under 20 coaches must wear full Club playing uniform as per the Official Baseball Rules. Newly registered players have a maximum of three (3) weeks to obtain the correct uniform. However, Division A players must present in full uniform at all times.
- 3.12.2 Coaches of other junior teams must wear at least a Club shirt, Club cap and enclosed shoes.
- 3.12.3 Each coach and at least the umpire-in-chief officiating in a game shall enforce the uniforms rules by making a note of any infringements on the game card.
- 3.12.4 Sponsorship signage on uniforms is permitted. Anything resembling a baseball on the front chest or front facing part of sleeves is prohibited. All sponsors names, size and placement of the signage must be endorsed by the Competition Administrator.

4 SENIOR COMPETITION

4.1 PREAMBLE

4.1.1 This Part outlines the Bylaws applicable to the Senior Competition.

4.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS: DIVISIONS A & B

To play in Divisions A and B, Clubs and/or BQ must enter teams into both divisions, either as a single Club or by combining with one other Club (“Combined Club Entry”).

4.2.1 Teams from a Combined Club Entry may consist of players from both Clubs. Players and coaching staff in each team must wear the same uniform throughout the season (but each team’s uniform may be different).

4.2.2 Where an odd number of teams nominate for Divisions A and B, the BAT Committee may allow a single Division A or Division B team nomination in order to avoid a bye in either division.

4.3 GAME DURATION

4.3.1 Game lengths for Senior Competition games shall be:

Grade	Length
Division A – single game	7 innings – 3 Hour Time Limit. (7 innings for Seniors*)
Division B	7 innings or 2 hours

Note 1: No new innings to commence within 15 mins of time limit.
Note 2: Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first. An extra inning is to be played with the last out from previous inning starting on Second. If there is no result after this inning, a tie will be scored.
Note 3: The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.
*See Bylaws 5.3.2– 5.3.3

4.3.2 For Division A games, the umpire shall call the game when the game length is reached, so long as a regulation game (Section 4.3.1) has been played and a result has been reached (subject to Bylaw 4.5.1).

4.3.3 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning after the time limit has expired. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.

4.3.4 The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

4.4 RUN LIMITATION

4.4.1 In Divisions B and lower, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first three (3) innings, unless agreed upon by both managers prior to first pitch.

4.5 TEN (10) RUN RULE

4.5.1 For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after the 5th Inning, then the game shall be called as a complete game

4.6 SPEED UP POLICY

4.6.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.

4.6.2 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.

4.7 PLAYERS

- 4.7.1 All teams shall field nine (9) players, subject to Bylaw 4.7.2, 4.7.4, 4.7.5
- 4.7.2 In all grades games may commence and continue with a minimum of Seven (7) players, however, the vacant batting position shall not be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with eight 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, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.
- 4.7.3 If any team has less than the minimum required number of players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.
- 4.7.4 **DORMANT RULE DURING 6 WEEK TRIAL PERIOD COMMENCING 17/03/2024** Division A defensive starting teams shall consist of seven (7) players from their registered team, with the remaining players being fielded from a Lower Division for no more than a minimum of 6 games, excluding female players and B grade registered Junior players. Any exception to this must be approved by the opposing manager and noted on the Game Card. **Proposed RULE for Period:** Proposal is that Team submissions by each club due by the 03/03/2024; Integrity check by BAT on 6 guaranteed A graders; then provide BAT with proposed 3 "B grade" floaters who will be able to play B and A freely; additional waiver can be obtained for FIFO/Defence periods of absence through integrity check with BAT – Final qualification limits will apply and fines will be applicable if found to be in breach of proposal.
- 4.7.5 In Division B a defensive starting team shall consist of seven (7) players from their registered team, with the remaining players being fielded by players from the same Division. Any exception to this must be approved by the opposing manager and noted on the Game Card.
- 4.7.6 A pitcher cannot pitch in two separate grades on the same day.
- 4.7.7 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game (including as a designated hitter or extra hitter). Players listed on the game card shall have that game count as a game played for Finals Series and other eligibility purposes.
- 4.7.8 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may play for both teams in a weekend, with opposing manager approval. If the player plays in both teams during the season, then for Finals eligibility, By-Law 4.19 applies. If the participation is the same for both teams, the player will play and be eligible for Finals games for the first team they played with at the start of the season.
- 4.7.9 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 4.19 outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be approved in writing by the BAT Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

4.8 DESIGNATED HITTER/10 BATTER RULE

- 4.8.1 Any Senior Division may use the Designated Batter Rule ([Refer OBR Rule 5.11](#))
- 4.8.2 A player may participate as a fielder in any division and participate as a designated hitter in a higher division on the same day.
- 4.8.3 A player may not participate as a designated hitter in a division and participate as a fielder in a higher division on the same day.
- 4.8.4 The designated hitter shall not be counted as a starting defensive player.
- 4.8.5 Divisions A and lower 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) player batting 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 10 batter batting order is reduced to 9 batters due to injury or ejection, the injured or ejected player batting slot is not used from the time of the injury or ejection.

4.9 COURTESY RUNNER

- 4.9.1 All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time. For all competitions and divisions the runner shall be:
- 4.9.1.1 Any eligible player not in the game, or if no eligible player;
- 4.9.1.2 the last player out
- 4.9.2 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.
- 4.9.3 Only a courtesy runner who has played in the field or batted in the line-up shall be considered a player in relation to Bylaw 4.9.1 above. No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

4.10 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 4.10.1 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.
- 4.10.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.
- 4.10.3 Junior Players must wear full protective equipment at all times when catching or warming up a pitcher including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup. Senior Players and coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask and protective cup.
- 4.10.4 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two-eared helmets.

- 4.10.5 Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under eighteen (18) years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches eighteen (18) years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.
- 4.10.6 All Clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 50+ sunscreen.

4.11 INJURIES & DISABLED LIST

- 4.11.1 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.
- 4.11.2 Scorers must record on the official game card details of players injured in a game. To prove eligibility for the disabled list, players must forward a medical certificate or a Statutory Declaration to the Competition Administrator within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred via the Club Secretary.
- 4.11.3 The player shall then be recorded on the disabled list.
- 4.11.4 Players who are injured outside the field of play (e.g. work injuries, training etc.) must forward a suitable medical certificate via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator to be eligible for the disabled list within fourteen (14) days of when the injury occurred.
- 4.11.5 Players on the disabled list shall continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals (within the grade in which they played the majority of games at the time of injury, or the lower grade if it is even).
- 4.11.6 The Competition Administrator may accept medical certificates or Statutory Declarations forwarded after the time limits stipulated in this section where deemed fair and appropriate to do so.

4.12 BATS

- 4.12.1 All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.02.
- 4.12.2 Divisions A & B/Senior Grades shall use wood, wood composite or wood laminate bats only. Where an U18 player is playing in senior grades, that player can use a metal bat, female players are permitted metal bats at any level
- 4.12.3 All other Divisions shall comply with the following:
 - 4.12.3.1 it shall not be more than thirty-six (36) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths ($2\frac{5}{8}$) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch or bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part.
 - 4.12.3.2 the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more 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).
 - 4.12.3.3 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 ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - 4.12.3.4 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 & a half inch ($1\frac{1}{2}$) on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.
 - 4.12.3.5 cracked, dented or otherwise damaged or deformed bats are not permitted. Any metal/alloy bat that does not clearly have the barrel composition marked on it by the manufacturer is not permitted.
- 4.12.4 Female players shall use bats as described in Bylaw 5.13 except the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than five (5) ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than twenty-eight (28) ounces).

4.13 GAME BALLS

- 4.13.1 BAT shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.
- 4.13.2 BAT must supply only those balls approved by the Competition Administrator and meet the specifications defined in Official Baseball Rules, Rule 3.01.
- 4.13.3 In Division A and B, the home team shall provide Two (2) balls in reserve (suitable for game play).
- 4.13.4 In all grades, the umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

4.14 UMPIRES

- 4.14.1 Each club shall assist in the provision of either plate and or base umpires, at BAT's discretion, who must have a minimum QBUA qualification as follows:
 - 4.14.1.1 For all Senior BAT games the appointed umpire must have attained a minimum Association Level Umpire Accreditation (previously known as a yellow shirt umpire).
- 4.14.2 Junior Umpires who have a minimum Association Level Umpire Accreditation are able to umpire any division as long as approval has been granted by a Parent or Guardian .
- 4.14.3 For all grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate. The base umpire must remain standing at all times.
- 4.14.4 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 4.14.5 Umpires must be suitably dressed, in the QBUA approved shirt. Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and, in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective equipment.

- 4.14.6 At the end of each game, the umpire-in-chief shall complete and sign the official game cards and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.
- 4.14.7 All participating umpires must complete a BAT Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the BAT Judiciary Procedures, Section 9).
- 4.14.8 The umpire shall eject any player or official found using any tobacco or alcohol products, or any illicit drugs during a game. This includes any player or official in uniform anywhere within the boundaries of the playing facility.
- 4.14.9 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. The coach shall be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game.
- 4.14.10 Ejected players must complete an Incident Report and submit it via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the business day following notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the Administrator.
- 4.14.11 Limitation on the Number of Mound Visits per Game: - For Divisions C and below - a coach may visit the same pitcher no more than once per inning. 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.
- 4.14.12 Limitation on the Number of Mound Visits per Game: - For Divisions A & B only, [OBR Rule 5.10\(m\)](#) applies - except that where a coach attempts to make a further visit in the same innings, the player must be removed from the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- 4.14.13 The A Grade Team with the Bye must provide two plate umpires for A grade games that week. If the Team is having difficulty finding umpires within their Team, they can contact their Club to assist. Penalty for failure to provide umpires will result in a 9-0 loss for that week. If the Team can not supply an umpire, relevant arrangements must be made within their club to provide on their behalf

4.15 SCORERS (SEE SECTION 2.8)

Each team shall have its own competent scorer using the Game Changer Scoring System.

- 4.15.1 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in the scorebook or Gamechanger.
- 4.15.2 At the completion of the game, each home team scorer shall present the official game card to the umpire in chief for checking, signing and return to the scorer. All injuries must be annotated on the card with all sections and columns completed. This includes juniors playing up, MVP, fielding position, time in/out, pitches, innings caught.
- 4.15.3 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
 - 4.15.3.1 an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - 4.15.3.2 a blank game card for the relevant division;
 - 4.15.3.3 a copy of these BAT By Laws;
 - 4.15.3.4 a device with enough battery to use to score; and
 - 4.15.3.5 appropriate stationery.

4.16 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 4.16.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card via paper or electronic.
- 4.16.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
 - 4.16.2.1 a) game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - 4.16.2.2 b) team coaches' names are printed in the appropriate place on the card;
 - 4.16.2.3 c) all accreditation levels are recorded;
 - 4.16.2.4 d) umpires-in-chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card; and
 - 4.16.2.5 e) all names are spelt correctly.
- 4.16.3 The home Club shall ensure that they forward the game cards to the Competition Administrator no later than the business day following the game by email (ensure the scanned card is legible – use black pen and print in block letters).

4.17 POINTS & MVP VOTES

- 4.17.1 Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:
 - 4.17.1.1 a) if a game is played, percentages shall be awarded even where some or all of the other games in that grade in that round are washed out; and
 - 4.17.1.2 b) all competitions are by winning percentage, with half the points of a win given for a tie.
- 4.17.2 MVP votes are allocated for all Divisions and will be awarded by agreement between the Chief Umpire and scorers immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card. Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, and 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.

4.18 SENIOR PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

- 4.18.1 This Section applies to all Senior Divisions
- 4.18.2 The Competition Administrator shall determine where and when Finals Series games are played.

- 4.18.3 Generally, games will be played at the same day and time as Regular Season games, with the weeknights following available for games that require rescheduling.
- 4.18.4 Where time permits, the preferred Finals system is the Page system
- 4.18.5 Division A Preliminary finals – Seed 3 v Seed 2, Minor Premiers direct to Grand Final; Grand Final – Best of 3 Games – Winner Preliminary Finals v Minor Premiers; Division B – Semi Finals Game 1 Seed 4 v Seed 1, Semi Finals Game 2 Seed 3 v Seed 2; Grand Final – winner SF Game 1 v winner SF Game 2
- 4.18.6 The home team for all finals games will be the team that finished higher on the ladder.
- 4.18.6.1 For all BAT Finals baseball games - the home team occupies the 3rd base dugout.
- 4.18.6.2 However if the home team is playing at their usual home field, then they occupy the dugout they use during the regular season.
- 4.18.7 All Finals Series games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (Section 4.3) but played to a result.
- 4.18.8 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Section 3.4. Games once rescheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section 3.5).
- 4.18.9 The latest possible time for rescheduling any Finals Series games shall be:
 - 4.18.9.1 Within 2 weeks of Scheduled Final.
- 4.18.10 Where limited field availability impacts the ability for the Competition Administrator to reschedule Finals Series games, games will be prioritised according to their division.
- 4.18.11 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted under Bylaw 4.18.9.1, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:
 - 4.18.11.1 head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then
 - 4.18.11.2 highest competition standing; then
 - 4.18.11.3 head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).

4.19 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- 4.19.1 Subject to Bylaws 4.19.2, 4.19.3, 4.19.4, 4.19.5, Senior Players are eligible for participation in a particular division for
- 4.19.2 Finals Series where they have either:
 - 4.19.2.1 a) participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games played by that team; or
 - 4.19.2.2 b) participated in at least 33% of Regular Season games in a team at the same Club but in a higher division.
- 4.19.3 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 4.19.1 if an exemption under Bylaw 4.7.8 has already been granted. Any such exemption must be obtained prior to the player taking the field to play in a Finals Series game.
- 4.19.4 A player must participate in a Finals Series in the division in which they have 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. 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 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.

EXAMPLE: A player who plays 20 games in Division 1 when the team has played 40 games has a participation percentage of 50%. The same player who plays 15 games in Division 2 when the team has played 20 games has a participation percentage of 75%. Therefore this player would be eligible for Division 2 and Division 1 because, in this case, the majority of games as a percentage have been played in Division 2.

- 4.19.5 Junior Players eligible to play under Section 2.6 are permitted to play in any division for Finals Series games (without meeting minimum participation) provided they have qualified as per Section 2 & 5. However, where a player under this Bylaw has not met the minimum participation stipulated in Bylaw 4.19.2 they may not be played ahead of a player who has met the minimum participation requirements and remains on the bench except in the case of injury. They may not participate as a designated hitter or extra hitter.

EXAMPLE 1: A Junior Player plays four games in Division 1 (the team has played 20 – 20%) and two games in Division 2 (the team has played 20 – 10%) throughout the season. While they do not qualify under 4.19.2, they can play under this rule, but only Division 1 or higher and only where the team is unable to field nine players who have qualified under 4.19.1.

- 4.19.6 Washouts (before the game commences) shall not count as games played in determining a player's eligibility for finals.
- 4.19.7 In respect of forfeits, refer to Section 3.5.

5 JUNIOR COMPETITION

5.1 PREAMBLE

- 5.1.1 This Part outlines the Bylaws applicable to the Junior Competition.
- 5.1.2 Little League, Junior League and Senior League will be governed by these Bylaws and the Little League Baseball® Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies (“Green Book”) as currently endorsed by Little League International. Where these Bylaws are silent, the rules in the Green Book will apply. Where these Bylaws and the Green Book are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency. The relevant sections of the Green Book will be referred to where applicable.
- 5.1.3 The Under 20 Competition will be governed by these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules. Where these Bylaws and the Official Baseball Rules are inconsistent, the Bylaws will apply to the extent of any inconsistency.

5.2 TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 5.2.1 Junior teams may consist of players from one Club or, with written BAT Committee approval, multiple Clubs. The combined team will be affiliated with a single or “parent” BAT Club and players not registered with the “parent” club are only permitted to play for the combined team or the Club team with which the player is registered. Teams and members may also be registered under the Association.
- 5.2.2 If a team consists of players from other Clubs, the team will be named as per the “parent” Club and the “parent” club will be responsible for all responsibilities and liabilities for the team.
- 5.2.3 Where teams consist of players from multiple Clubs, players and coaching staff may wear their own Club uniform throughout the season.
- 5.2.4 Teams must consist of players conforming to the Little League® Age Matrix, as updated on the BQ website. All registered players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a Club.

5.3 JUNIOR GAME DURATION

- 5.3.1 Game lengths for all Junior Competition games shall be:

Grade	Length
Senior League / U20	7 innings or 2 hours
Junior League	7 innings or 2 hours
Little League	6 innings or 2 hours
Tee Ball	4 Innings or 45min

Note 1: Where two time measures are stipulated, the game length shall be whichever comes first.

Note 2: Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first.

Note 3: The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.

*See **Green Book** Reg. X(c), Rules 4.10-4.11.

- 5.3.2 An inning started within the time allowed shall be completed, unless the home team is ahead in the bottom of the inning after the time limit has expired. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- 5.3.3 The plate umpire shall be the official timekeeper. The plate umpire may delegate this duty to another umpire or the scorers.

5.4 RUN LIMITATION

- 5.4.1 In all divisions, the maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning.

5.5 REGULATION GAME

5.5.1 In the event of inclement weather or light curfew affecting game duration, the following shall constitute a regulation game:

Grade	Length
Under 20	5 innings or 40 minutes
Senior League	5 innings or 40 minutes
Junior League	5 innings or 40 minutes
Little League – D1	4 innings or 40 minutes
Little League – D2	3 innings or 30 minutes
Note 1: Where two time measures are stipulated, a regulation game shall be whichever comes first.	
Note 2: The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.	

5.5.2 A game of fewer than the respective minimum number of innings shall be declared "no game", except where it is suspended and rescheduled in accordance with **Section 3.3**.

5.6 ONE SIDED GAMES

Little League, Junior League and Senior League

Grade	Runs and inning	Runs and inning
Senior League –	15 or more runs after 4 innings	10 or more runs after 5 innings
Junior League –	15 or more runs after 4 innings	10 or more runs after 5 innings

Note: Where the home team is ahead as above in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

*See **Green Book** Rule 4.10(e).

Where a team is leading as per the table above, the game shall be called as a complete game:

5.6.1 **Under 20** - For all Regular Season games, where a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings then the game shall be called as a complete game. Where the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more in the bottom of the inning, the inning need not be completed.

5.7 SPEED UP POLICY

5.7.1 Teams should aim to make an inning change over within ninety (90) seconds. Players and coaches are encouraged to run to positions.

5.7.2 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. A warning shall be given with each time at fault.

5.7.3 Temporarily substituting a player from the field to warm up as a pitcher is encouraged, but is at the discretion of the umpire. Coaches are encouraged to warm up players for possible pitching changes during the offensive half of the inning.

5.8 PLAYERS

5.8.1 Games may commence and continue with a minimum of Seven (7) players, however the vacant batting position shall not be considered an automatic out. Where a game commences with seven 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, ejection or otherwise) and is not replaced, their position in the batting order shall be vacant.

5.8.2 If any team has less than seven (7) players at any time, then the game shall be called a forfeit.

5.8.3 A player shall be listed on the game card when that player enters the game in defence, as part of the continuous batting order, or as a designated hitter in Senior League or Under 20.

5.8.4 Teams may use the following players during the Regular Season (Substitute Players):

- 5.8.4.1 a) players from the age-group immediately below (with Playing Up (Type 1) Consent, see Appendix A); and/or
- 5.8.4.2 b) for higher division teams, players in the same age-group who have played the majority of their Regular Season games (after Round 3) in a lower division team.
- 5.8.5 Players who have played the majority of their Regular Season games (after Round 3) in a higher division team may not play in a lower division team. Players who have played an equal number of games (after Round 3) in two divisions may only play in the higher division.
- 5.8.6 Where two (2) or more teams compete at the same level within a Club, a player may only play for one team in a weekend. If the player plays in both teams during the course of the season, then for Finals eligibility, By-Law 5.20 applies. If the participation is the same for both teams, the player will play and be eligible for Finals games for the first team they played with at the start of the season
- 5.8.7 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaw 7.8.6 outlining the extenuating circumstances. Any such exemption must be obtained by the BAT Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.
- 5.8.8 Any player (excluding Substitute Players under Bylaw 7.8.4) not in the starting defensive line-up must be entered into the game at the half-way mark of the time allowed for that game unless players require substitution because of injury, ejection or needing to leave the game site early (Note: A five (5) minute leeway either side of the time is permitted). Players who arrive at the game after the half-way mark must be entered into the defensive line-up immediately.
- 5.8.9 A player in the starting line-up who has been substituted may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order, provided the player they substitute has:
 - 5.8.9.1 a) completed at least one at bat; and
 - 5.8.9.2 b) played defensively for at least six (6) consecutive outs.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.03

5.9 BATTING RULES

- 5.9.1 **Designated Hitter** - Teams in Under 20 may use a designated hitter.
- 5.9.2 **Designated Hitter** - Teams in Senior League may use a designated hitter to bat throughout the game for a designated player in the defensive lineup. There is no designated hitter in Little League or Junior League.

Note: For Senior League, this rule is subject to Bylaw **7.9.3** below (i.e., a designated hitter may only be used if a team has more than twelve (12) players available).

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.03

CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER

- 5.9.3 If teams in Little League, Junior League or Senior League have more than nine (9) players present for the game, teams must use a continuous batting order whereby all players (up to twelve (12) players) must bat. Where players arrive to the game late, they must be added to the batting order immediately (unless there are already twelve (12) players present). This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players, however a Substitute Player may be included in a team's continuous batting order at the discretion of that team's coach.

*See **Green Book** Rule 4.04

- 5.9.4 If teams in Under 20 have more than nine (9) players present for the game, teams may use a continuous batting order of up to twelve (12) players (at the discretion of each team's coach). If a coach elects to use a continuous batting 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. The continuous batting order is for player development only and participation will only be counted once players appear defensively in a game.
- 5.9.5 Players in the batting order who are not designated a defensive position:
 - 5.9.5.1 a) may appear in any batting position;
 - 5.9.5.2 b) must stay in the same batting position for the complete game; and
 - 5.9.5.3 c) must enter the game in defence at the half way point (see Bylaw **7.8.7**);
 - 5.9.5.4 This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players.
- 5.9.6 When a player is injured, ejected or must leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no players available to replace them, the team will skip over their batting position without penalty providing nine or more players remain.

Replacing a Batter

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

Throwing the Bat

- 5.9.8 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.

5.10 COURTESY RUNNER

- 5.10.1 Courtesy runners are not permitted in Junior Competition.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.04

5.11 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

5.11.1 Bat boys/girls, if utilised must wear a full batting helmet, remain in the dugout at all times and only run out on the field in between batters when the ball is not live. Teams must ensure that bat boys/girls are suitably skills and fit for duty and have adequate supervision during the game.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.17

5.11.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.17

5.11.3 Players must wear full protective equipment at all times when catching or warming up a pitcher including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup.

5.11.4 Managers and coaches shall not warm up pitchers.

*See **Green Book** Regulation XIV (f)

5.11.5 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets.

5.11.6 Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under eighteen (18) years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches eighteen (18) years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.

5.11.7 All clubs must make available a generous supply of SPF 50+ sunscreen.

5.12 INJURIES

5.12.1 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.

5.13 BATS

5.13.1 All Junior Competition baseball bats must meet Little League® specifications.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.10

USABAT IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME:

1) Little League: September 1, 2019

2) Junior League: September 1, 2019

3) Senior League: No Change (BBCORR)

Little League Division	Season 2023
Little League Major and Minor	USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum
Junior League	USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum 2 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR stamp
Senior League	ALL bats must be BBCOR

5.13.2 Under 20:

5.13.2.1 bats shall not be more than thirty-six (36) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths ($2\frac{5}{8}$) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen sixteenths ($\frac{15}{16}$) of an inch in (seven eighths ($\frac{7}{8}$) of an inch for bats less than thirty (30) inches) at its smallest part.

5.13.2.2 the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g. a thirty-three (33) inch long bat cannot weigh less than thirty (30) ounces).

5.13.2.3 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.

5.13.2.4 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 and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) of an inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting colour.

5.14 GAME BALLS

5.14.1 BAT shall be responsible for the supply of new balls for each game.

5.14.2 BAT must supply balls meeting Little League® specifications.

*See **Green Book** Rule 1.09.

5.14.3 BAT shall provide two (2) new balls and make available additional balls in good condition.

5.14.4 The umpire-in-chief shall check and approve all game balls before the commencement of and during the game.

5.15 UMPIRES

- 5.15.1 Home team shall provide the plate umpire. All umpires must be QBUA accredited and hold at least Community Level (green shirt) qualification.
- 5.15.2 For all grades, the plate umpire must call from behind the plate.
- 5.15.3 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill, or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 5.15.4 Umpires must be suitably dressed, in the QBUA approved shirt. Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and, in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective equipment.
- 5.15.5 At the end of each game, the umpire-in-chief shall complete and sign the official game cards and scorebooks and print their name on the game card.
- 5.15.6 All umpires must complete an Incident Report for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report (refer to the *BAT Judiciary Procedures*).
- 5.15.7 The umpire shall eject any player or official found using any tobacco or alcohol products, or any illicit drugs during a game. This includes any player or official in uniform anywhere within the boundaries of the playing facility.
- 5.15.8 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. He shall be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game.
- 5.15.9 Ejected players must complete an Incident Report and submit it via the Club Secretary to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the business day following notification of the ejection to the Club Secretary by the Administrator.
- 5.15.10 No member of either coaching staff is permitted to umpire unless agreed upon by both teams.
- 5.15.11 Junior players aged 13 years and above may umpire games, but only below their own age level. If they are the home plate umpire they must wear at least a mask (with dangling throat protector), chest protector, leggings and protective cup.
- 5.15.12 A coach may visit the same pitcher no more than:
 - 5.15.12.1 a) three times in one game; and
 - 5.15.12.2 b) twice in one inning.
- 5.15.13 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.

*See **Green Book** Rule 8.06.

5.16 SCORERS – (SEE SECTION 2.8)

- 5.16.1 Each team shall have its own competent scorer using the Official Baseball scorebook or electronic application. It is recommended every scorer holds a CABS Level 0 accreditation or higher from Baseball Australia.
- 5.16.2 Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist the accurate recording of details in scorebook.
- 5.16.3 The Electronic scoring device may be used as an alternative to a scorebook
- 5.16.4 At the completion of the game, each home team scorer shall present the official game card to the umpire in-chief for checking, signing and return to the scorer. All injuries must be annotated on the card with all sections and columns completed. This includes players subject to PONAG Clearances, MVP, fielding position, time in/out, pitches, innings caught.
- 5.16.5 At all times during a game, scorers must have in their possession the following items:
 - 5.16.5.1 an adequate supply of blank Incident Report Forms;
 - 5.16.5.2 a blank game card for the relevant division;
 - 5.16.5.3 a copy of these BAT Bylaws;
 - 5.16.5.4 a device to scorebook on Gamechanger; and
 - 5.16.5.5 appropriate stationery.

5.17 GAME CARDS/RESULTS

- 5.17.1 The home team scorer is responsible for forwarding results to the Competition Administrator. Both scorers are responsible for the accuracy of the score card.
- 5.17.2 Home team scorer shall ensure that:
 - 5.17.2.1 game cards are fully completed, accurate and legible;
 - 5.17.2.2 team coach's names are printed in the appropriate place on the card;
 - 5.17.2.3 all accreditation levels are recorded;
 - 5.17.2.4 umpires-in-chief and each scorer must sign and print their name in the appropriate place on the card; and
 - 5.17.2.5 all names are spelt correctly.
- 5.17.3 The home Club shall ensure that they forward the game cards to the Competition Administrator no later than the next business day following the game by email (ensure the scanned card is legible – use black pen and print in block letters).

5.18 POINTS & MVP VOTES

5.18.1 Premiership win/loss percentages shall be awarded as follows:

5.18.1.1 if a game is played, percentages shall be awarded even where some or all of the other games in that grade in that round are washed out; and b) all competitions are by winning percentage, with half the points of a win given for a tie.

5.18.2 MVP votes are allocated for all Divisions and will be awarded by agreement between the scorers immediately after the game and noted on the Game Card. Votes are awarded on a 3 votes, 2 votes, and 1 vote basis for the best players between each of the two participating teams.

5.19 PREMIERSHIPS & FINALS

5.19.1 The Competition Administrator shall determine where and when Finals Series games are played. Generally, games will be played at the same day and time as Regular Season games, with the following weeknights available for games that require rescheduling.

5.19.2 All Junior Competition finals games shall be the same duration as Regular Season games (**Bylaws 5.3,5.5**) but played to a result.

5.19.3 In the event of inclement weather affecting Finals Series games, the Competition Administrator shall attempt to reschedule the games subject to Section 3.4. Games once rescheduled are subject to these Bylaws (including forfeit procedures - see Section 3.5).

5.19.4 In the event a Finals Series game cannot be rescheduled or played within the time permitted, teams will progress (or be awarded the premiership) as follows:

5.19.4.1 head-to-head throughout the Finals Series; then

5.19.4.2 highest competition standing; then

5.19.4.3 head-to-head throughout the season (including any Finals Series games).

5.20 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

5.20.1 All Little League, Junior League and Senior League players are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series games if they have played the minimum of five (5) games of their Regular Season games with that team. Players who have played an equal number of games in two divisions may only play in the higher division.

5.20.2 Players in Under 20 are eligible for participation in a particular team for Finals Series games where they have participated in 33% of Regular Season games played by that team.

5.20.3 Clubs may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator for an exemption from Bylaws 5.20.1 or 5.20.2 outlining the extenuating circumstances including whether a previous exemption has been granted under Bylaw 5.8.6. Any such exemption must be obtained by the BAT Committee prior to the player taking the field to play in the other team.

5.20.4 Teams may use the following players if they are unable to field nine players from their Regular Season team:

5.20.4.1 players from the age-group immediately below (with PONAG Type 1 Consent, see Appendix A);
and/or

5.20.4.2 b) for higher division teams, players in the same age-group who played the majority of their Regular Season games in a lower division team. Players who are not eligible under Bylaw 5.20.1 may not be played ahead of a player that is 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.

5.21 PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS

5.21.1 In Junior League, Senior League and Under 20, a pitcher who is substituted to another position but remains in the game may return to pitch any time in the remainder of the game, but may only return once per game. In Little League, pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers.

*See **Green Book** Rule 3.03

5.21.2 In Little League, a player cannot pitch more than one game a day. In Junior League and Senior League, a player may pitch in up to two games in a day (but must adhere to mandatory rest period).

NOTE: Under no circumstance shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

*See **Green Book** Reg. VI (k)

5.21.3 For daily pitching restrictions, the following table will apply for all BAT junior games

League Age (as of 31 st August 2019)	Daily Pitch Limit (per day)
Little League Minor registered players playing up in Little League games	35 pitches per day
Little League Major	65 pitches per day
Junior League	75 pitches per day
Senior League	85 pitches per day
Under 18/20	95 pitches per day

- 5.21.4 If a pitcher reaches their daily pitching limit or the mandatory rest period threshold for their league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch (without penalty) until any one of the following occur:
- 5.21.4.1 a) that batter reaches base;
 - 5.21.4.2 b) that batter is put out; or
 - 5.21.4.3 c) the third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- *See **Green Book** Reg. VI (d)
- 5.21.5 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.
- 5.21.6 A catcher who plays the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of that day. A single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning caught.
- 5.21.7 Pitches delivered in suspended games shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
- 5.21.8 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 that day, provided said pitcher has observed any mandatory rest periods applicable on the day of the rescheduled game.
- 5.21.9 It is strongly recommended that pitchers at the junior levels throw at least 75% fastballs throughout the season and that pitchers not pitch in excess of 1/3 of their game maximum in any single inning.
- 5.21.10 There are no balks in Little League.

5.22 "MUST SLIDE" RULE

- 5.22.1 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.

*See **Green Book** Rule 7.08

- 5.22.2 At home plate, the runner should be encouraged to slide feet first.

*See **Green Book** Rule 7.08

- 5.22.3 In Little League, players who slide head first while advancing shall be called out.

*See **Green Book** Rule 7.08

5.23 BASE RUNNING (LITTLE LEAGUE – ALL DIVISIONS)

- 5.23.1 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:

- 5.23.1.1 a) if the batter does not hit the ball and the runner is out, the out stands;
- 5.23.1.2 b) 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;
- 5.23.1.3 c) if the batter hits the ball and the runner (or runners) are put out, the out(s) will stand;
- 5.23.1.4 d) if the batter hits the ball and the runner advances, the runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made or the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left; or
- 5.23.1.5 e) if the batter bunts, hits a ball within the infield or advances on an uncaught third strike, no run shall be allowed to score (i.e., the runners must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made or the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left. If loaded bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied except the runner who occupied third base who is removed without a run being scored or an out being charged). *See **Green Book** Rule 7.13

- 5.23.2 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 could result in the runner(s) involved being called out, the coach being ejected, or both.

- 5.23.3 In the event that the count upon a batter in the Little League Competition (upon coaches' agreement) reaches ball four (4), the batter shall utilise a batting tee to hit the ball in play. When the tee is used the following shall apply:

- 5.23.3.1 a) the batter cannot bunt. Any ball that fails to travel at least fifteen (15) feet from home plate shall be
- 5.23.3.2 called foul.
- 5.23.3.3 b) the catcher must take up position in the catcher's box.
- 5.23.3.4 c) the pitcher must stand behind the pitcher's plate.
- 5.23.3.5 d) the coach shall place the ball on a tee.
- 5.23.3.6 e) the batted ball shall remain in play with all regular rules in effect.
- 5.23.3.7 f) when the tee is in use, the runners are not permitted to advance until the ball has been batted.
- 5.23.3.8 g) the batter continues their turn at bat until they hit the ball in play – the batter cannot be struck out.

6 BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

6.1 BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS OFFICIALS

UMPIRES – TAKE THE PLEDGE - NO RESPECT – NO UMPIRES – NO GAME

- 6.1.1 The role of umpires must be recognised and respected by the coaches, the players, the scorers, spectators and the parents. In the context of adjudicating a Baseball Queensland game, the umpire has complete authority over players and coaches from the moment that he or she walks onto the field until the game is over. It is an umpire's job to officiate the game within the rules and keep our players safe.
- 6.1.2 We need to remind everyone involved of the consequences if you abuse an umpire. These actions can have a much greater impact than what you think. We need to reiterate the need to treat umpires with respect both as a coach, player and a spectator.
- 6.1.3 Umpires need to be accountable, just as players and coaches are on game day. They need to present themselves in a professional manner, know and understand the rules, position themselves on field in the best place to make good decisions and show respect to the players and coaches involved in the game they are officiating. There is an expectation that paid umpires perform, just as paid players do. However, one thing to remember is that umpires, just like players, will make mistakes during a game. We should not hold the umpires to account for the result because of one perceived bad decision. It's important to remember players and coaches also make mistakes.
- 6.1.4 Many sports have instituted a zero-tolerance policy for players, spectators, and parents, which results in ejection from the game if umpires are taunted or verbally jeered. Junior umpires and especially volunteer club umpires must be given the same respect as paid umpires.
- 6.1.5 Parents can help ensure the health and safety of umpires by starting to educate their kids on how to treat umpires with respect. Coaches, players, parents, and spectators should never argue or dispute the decision of an umpire, make negative or derogatory remarks or gestures towards an umpire, or otherwise behave inappropriately to disturb the normal course of play in the game. Not only is this behaviour setting a bad example for players, it distracts and takes away from their enjoyment of the game. Remember, it's only a game, and it's important to set a good example of respecting the umpire for our young players.
- 6.1.6 Baseball Queensland and the BAT Competition Committee support the "Take the Pledge – Respecting Umpires initiative and will continue to monitor the competition By-Laws to ensure clubs, players and officials show respect to all baseball officials. And where this respect is not provided, ensure appropriate penalties

6.2 ZERO TOLERANCE

- 6.2.1 The BAT Competition and the QBUA will enforce the concept of 'zero tolerance' in order to ensure that Coaches and Managers take a proactive role in eliminating Umpire abuse.
 - 6.2.1.1 If, in the Umpire's opinion, a player:
 - 6.2.1.2 Abuses an Umpire; or
 - 6.2.1.3 Displays dissent towards an Umpire; or
 - 6.2.1.4 Argues judgement decisions (e.g. balls and strikes, Out/safe or fair/foul etc.) or
 - 6.2.1.5 Shows disrespect to the umpire in any way
- 6.2.2 The Umpire must immediately **eject the player** from the game. Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any type of umpiring judgement calls.
- 6.2.3 In all Junior games; Umpires are encouraged to use each Team Coach as appropriate to resolve
- 6.2.4 behaviour issues as the first option prior to any player ejection.

NOTE: This is a recommendation only and Umpires need to use their best judgement when dealing with game management and player behaviour issues

WARNING: If a player is ejected for any reason and the head coach does not attempt to placate the situation, then the head coach will be ejected from the game with the player. He will be required to leave the field of play and take no further part in the game. The BAT Judiciary takes a dim view of players and coaches that continue to make comments from outside the field of play.

- 6.2.5 The ejected player and the Head Coach/Manager shall adhere to the BQ Reported Persons Procedures. The ejected Head Coach/Manager shall be imposed with no further penalty.
- 6.2.6 Any player, coach, official or individual that makes disparaging remarks on social networks that are brought to the attention of the judiciary, may be charged with Bringing the Game into Disrepute, as defined as follows: -
- 6.2.7 DEFINITION OF BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE

- 6.2.7.1 Disrepute means literally bad reputation. When the word disrepute is used in the sporting context, it is normally in relation to bringing the game or the sport or members of the sport into disrepute.
- 6.2.7.2 Definitions:
- 6.2.7.3 (a) To bring something into disrepute is to damage the reputation which is equivalent to reducing their standing
- 6.2.7.4 (b) The lack or decline of good reputation; a state of being held in low esteem
- 6.2.7.5 (c) To diminish public confidence in something or to cause the public to lose confidence in the integrity of something

6.3 MELEE RULE

- 6.3.1 The BAT Competition Committee will not tolerate the clearing of players and coaches from a bench to engage in a melee under any circumstances. As such, the Competition Manager will apply an automatic one (1) game suspension on any **reported player**, coach or other person that leaves their bench or designated area to engage in a melee.

6.4 SCORERS

- 6.4.1 The official scorer is an official representative who is entitled to the respect and dignity of his/her office and shall be accorded full protection by Baseball Queensland and the BAT Competition Committee for all games scored within the BAT competition. The official scorer shall report to the appropriate league official any indignity expressed by any manager, player, club employee or club officer in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of official scorer duties.
- 6.4.2 Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any decision by a scorer in relation to the interpretation of the Official Baseball Rules regarding scoring and statistics.
- 6.4.3 The official scorer shall observe the game from a position in the scorer's box. The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions concerning application of Rule 9 (Rule 10) that involve judgment, such as whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error.
- 6.4.4 In all cases, the official scorer shall not make a scoring decision that is in conflict with Rule 9 (Rule 10) or any other Official Baseball Rule. The official scorer shall conform strictly to the rules of scoring set forth in this Rule 9. The official scorer shall not make any decision that conflicts with an umpire's decision.
- 6.4.5 The official scorer shall report any indignity expressed by any manager, player, club employee or club officer in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of official scorer duties.
- 6.4.6 Players are expressly directed to not enter the scorer's box or area. The only person authorised to ask a question of the scorers is the team Coach/Manager. Players entering the scorer's box/area may be subject to a report and if deemed guilty, subject to appropriate penalty.
- 6.4.7 Any report from an official scorer will be submitted to the BAT Judiciary by the Competition Administrator. The report must be submitted on the official BAT incident Report form available from the BQ website. The BAT Judiciary will deal with any complaints from the official scorer in the same way as any other report of misbehaviour.

6.5 CONDUCT OF MEMBERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

- 6.5.1 Members, officials and spectators of the BAT must comply with:
 - 6.5.1.1 this Section;
 - 6.5.1.2 all BQ and Baseball Australia Codes of Conduct;
 - 6.5.1.3 the Baseball Australia Member Protection Policy; and
 - 6.5.1.4 any other policy document that BA or BQ may publish from time to time.
- 6.5.2 Members, officials and spectators of the BAT must, at all times, refrain from:
 - 6.5.2.1 conduct which may harm a BAT Club member or official;
 - 6.5.2.2 conduct that is unbecoming of a BAT Club member or official; and
 - 6.5.2.3 conduct that may bring the sport of baseball into disrepute.
- 6.5.3 Conduct on social media may constitute a breach of this Section.

6.6 BAT JUDICIARY

- 6.6.1 The BAT Judiciary is established and administered by the BAT Committee to hear and determine disciplinary proceedings against any person under this Part.
- 6.6.2 The BAT Judiciary will abide by the BAT Judiciary Procedures set out in Appendix C.
- 6.6.3 The BAT Judiciary may refer matters at their discretion to the BQ Judiciary.
- 6.6.4 Decisions of the BAT Judiciary may be appealed to the BQ Appeals Tribunal in accordance with the
- 6.6.5 BAT Judiciary Procedures and the Baseball Queensland Dispute Resolution Rules.

6.7 JUDICIARY REFERENCES

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

6.8 JUDICIARY SUSPENSIONS

- 6.8.1 Any player who plays in breach of a judiciary order is an illegal player for the purpose of these Bylaws.

7 APPENDIX A – PONAG PERMISSION

7.1 AGE REQUIREMENTS

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

7.2 PLAYING OUTSIDE NATURAL AGE GROUPS (“PONAG”)

- 7.2.1 There are two (2) types of PONAG Permission – available from the Baseball Queensland website:
 - 7.2.1.1 a) Playing Up Consent (Type 1 and Type 2); and
 - 7.2.1.2 b) Playing Down Application.
- 7.2.2 In each case the appropriate paperwork must be completed and submitted in accordance with the following rules. The relevant Forms are available on the BQ Website.
- 7.2.3 Any approval to play outside of natural age groups may be reviewed and/or revoked at any time by the issuing authority or BQ.

7.3 PLAYING UP CONSENT

- 7.3.1 Players seeking to play up an age level must have a parent/guardian and an accredited club coach (not immediately related to the player) complete and submit a Playing Up Consent Form to the BAT Competition Administrator.
- 7.3.2 The Playing Up Consent Form must be completed prior to the player participating in a game up an age level and submitted to the BAT Competition Administrator no later than 3 pm the next business day following the game.
- 7.3.3 Players must indicate on the Playing Up Consent Form whether they have:
 - 7.3.3.1 a) Type 1 (Casual) Playing Up Consent (whereby the player is still eligible to play in their natural age group); or
 - 7.3.3.2 b) Type 2 (Permanent) Playing Up Consent (whereby the player cannot play in their natural age group).
- 7.3.4 A Playing Up Consent is valid for an entire season. Where a player has a Type 1 Consent and subsequently provides a Type 2 Consent, the Type 2 Consent will supersede the Type 1 Consent for the remainder of the season.
- 7.3.5 Although a declaration of parent/guardian and an accredited club coach will immediately validate a Playing Up Consent, the BAT Committee may, in its discretion, subsequently revoke or otherwise place any restrictions on a Playing Up Consent it deems appropriate.

Type 1 (Casual) Playing Up Consent

- 7.3.6 Type 1 Consent may be provided at any time during the season and applies for the remainder of the season.
- 7.3.7 A player with Type 1 Consent:
 - 7.3.7.1 a) may only play up for a maximum of five (5) games in any one season
 - 7.3.7.2 b) may continue playing in their natural age group;
 - 7.3.7.3 c) is regarded as a 'Substitute Player' for the purpose of BAT Bylaw 5.8.4 while playing up an age level; and
 - 7.3.7.4 d) cannot pitch or catch in the higher age level.

Type 2 (Permanent) Playing Up Consent

- 7.3.8 Type 2 Consent must be provided before the first scheduled fixture each season and applies for the remainder of the season.
- 7.3.9 A player with Type 2 Consent:
 - 7.3.9.1 a) may not continue playing in their natural age group;
 - 7.3.9.2 b) is not regarded as a 'Substitute Player' for the purpose of BAT Bylaw 5.8.4; and
 - 7.3.9.3 c) may pitch or catch in the higher age level provided he or she adheres to the pitching/catching restrictions relevant to his or her actual age.

7.4 PLAYING DOWN APPLICATION

- 7.4.1 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 and submit a Playing Down Application to the BAT Competition Administrator for the BAT Committee's consideration.
- 7.4.2 A Playing Down Application must be submitted and approved prior to the game in which the player intends to play.
- 7.4.3 An administration fee must be paid into the Baseball Queensland bank account at the time of the Playing Down Application submission. The administration fee will be set each season by the BAT Competition Committee.
- 7.4.4 The Playing Down Application must outline the reasons for which the PONAG Permission is sought.
- 7.4.5 The applying Club must arrange for the player subject to the Playing Down Application to be assessed by a minimum Level 4 Coach who is not a member of the applying Club and is approved to assess PONAG applications by BQ.
- 7.4.6 A list of approved assessors will be provided and it is the responsibility of the Club to contact the most appropriate assessor and arrange for the player to be assessed.
- 7.4.7 The cost of the player assessment (payable to the assessor) will be taken from the upfront administration charge. The assessment fee will be set each season by the BAT Competition Committee.

- 7.4.8 The assessor will complete a detailed PONAG player skills assessment report on the relevant BQ form and submit the completed report to the BAT Committee for administrative endorsement and communicated to the Club by the BAT Committee or BAT Competition Administrator.
- 7.4.9 If the assessor and BAT Competition Committee deem that the PONAG application has not been frivolous, a refund will be provided to the applying Club, less the cost of the assessment. If the application is deemed to be frivolous, no refund will be provided.
- 7.4.10 The BAT Committee may use its discretion to accept or reject a Playing Down Application, informing itself in any way it considers appropriate including, but not limited to:
- 7.4.10.1 a) requiring further information from the Club;
 - 7.4.10.2 b) seeking an opinion from a Club Director of Coaching, Regional Director of Coaching, BQ Development Officer, or any other person it deems appropriate; or
 - 7.4.10.3 c) organising a Club Director of Coaching, Regional Director of Coaching, BQ Development Officer, or any other person it deems appropriate, to review or otherwise conduct a skills assessment on
 - 7.4.10.4 the applicant.
 - 7.4.10.5
 - 7.4.10.6
- 7.4.11 A player may not play down an age level until the BAT Committee has provided written notice approving the Playing Down Application (***Playing Down Clearance***).
- 7.4.12 The BAT Committee may place any restrictions it deems appropriate on a Playing Down Clearance.
- 7.4.13 Playing Down Clearances are valid for an entire season. A Playing Down Clearance may be revoked by the BAT Committee.
- 7.4.14 A player may not pitch or catch in the lower age level.
- 7.4.15 Players subject to a Playing Down Clearance are excluded from playing in their natural age group.

7.5 APPEALS AND REVIEWS PROCESS

- 7.5.1 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:

**The Development Manager
Baseball Queensland
Office 1.11 Sportshouse
150 Caxton Street
MILTON QLD 4064**

- 7.5.2 Any approval for a player to play outside their natural age group can be reviewed and withdrawn by the issuing organisation or BQ at any time.

8 APPENDIX B – BAT DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

8.1 PREAMBLE

8.1.1 Terms defined in the Section 1.3 of the *BAT Bylaws* apply to these Procedures.

8.2 COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

8.2.1 The Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The Competition Administrator shall:

- 8.2.1.1 abide by the these Procedures;
- 8.2.1.2 be the point of contact for all Dispute Forms;
- 8.2.1.3 allocate a dispute number for each matter;
- 8.2.1.4 refer the dispute to the BAT Disputes Panel;
- 8.2.1.5 keep a register of decisions;
- 8.2.1.6 issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
- 8.2.1.7 enforce the penalties where appropriate.

8.3 BAT DISPUTES PANEL

8.3.1 The BAT Disputes Panel shall be appointed by the BAT Committee and shall consist of a minimum of two (2) BAT Committee members.

8.3.2 The roles of the BAT Disputes Panel include:

- 8.3.2.1 hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the BAT Bylaws;
- 8.3.2.2 making recommendations to the BAT Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests; and
- 8.3.2.3 providing advisory opinions on the BAT Bylaws.

8.3.3 The BAT Disputes Panel must:

- 8.3.3.1 identify the parties to the dispute or protest;
- 8.3.3.2 provide reasonable opportunity for all interested parties to present their written arguments and evidence;
- 8.3.3.3 determine whether interviewing parties is necessary and, if so, communicate the date and time to the parties;
- 8.3.3.4 review the arguments and evidence; and
- 8.3.3.5 make a recommendation to the BAT Committee for determination of the dispute or protest.

8.3.4 The BAT Disputes Panel shall appoint a Chairperson from one of its own for conducting any interviews and communicating with parties in accordance with these Procedures.

8.3.5 The BAT Disputes Panel may seek guidance from the BAT Committee and/or external sources where it deems appropriate.

8.4 POWERS & DECISION MAKING

8.4.1 The BAT Disputes Panel may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.

8.4.2 After receiving a recommendation from the BAT Disputes Panel, the BAT Committee shall make a determination.

8.4.3 The BAT Committee may make any order or impose any penalty as may be required and as it sees fit.

8.4.4 If agreement by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a BAT 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.

8.4.5 Where a decision under dispute was made by the BAT Committee as a whole, an independent adjudicator (acting as Chairperson) shall definitively determine the dispute.

8.4.6 The Chairperson of the BAT Disputes Panel shall communicate the decision of the Committee to all interested parties, together with notice of any order made or penalty imposed and reasons for the determination.

8.5 APPEALS

8.5.1 There is no right of appeal from a decision of the BAT Committee relating to administrative disputes or game protests.

9 APPENDIX C – BAT JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

9.1 PREAMBLE

9.1.1 Terms defined in the Section 1.3 of the BAT Bylaws apply to these Procedures.

9.2 COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

9.2.1 The Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The Competition Administrator shall:

- i. abide by the these Procedures;
- ii. be the point of contact for all References or Incident Reports;
- iii. allocate a Referral number for each matter;
- iv. refer any judiciary references to the BAT Judiciary;
- v. keep a register of decisions;
- vi. issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
- vii. enforce the penalties where appropriate.

9.3 BAT JUDICIARY

9.3.1 The BAT Committee shall appoint a pool of judiciary members available to hear breaches of Section 8.1 of the BAT Bylaws arising from the BAT Competition as the BAT Judiciary.

9.3.2 The BAT Committee shall appoint a Chairperson who is responsible for conducting any hearings set down in accordance with these Procedures.

9.3.3 The Judiciary shall be selected by the Chairperson to consist of any three (3) of the pool of members appointed by the BAT Committee (inclusive of the Chairperson). At least one member shall be independent of the BAT Committee.

9.3.4 Where the Chairperson is unavailable, an acting Chairperson shall be appointed by the Chairperson or by the BAT 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.

9.3.5 The jurisdiction of the BAT Judiciary shall be that where conduct described in a Referral occurs at or in the vicinity of a game within the BAT Competition, or otherwise relates to the BAT Competition and is not referred to the BQ Judiciary under subsection (G).

9.3.6 The Judiciary may refer a Referral to the BQ Judiciary in the following instances:

- 9.3.6.1 i. the reported conduct is not within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary;
- 9.3.6.2 ii. the reported conduct amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern BQ;
- 9.3.6.3 iii. the reported conduct may impact qualifications or accreditations of the Reported Person that are administered by BQ; or
- 9.3.6.4 iv. the Judiciary otherwise deems it appropriate.

9.3.7 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 BAT, the Complainant or the Club) may be taken into account in determining:

- 9.3.7.1 i. whether a Referral should be dismissed;
- 9.3.7.2 ii. whether a Temporary Sanction should be imposed; and/or
- 9.3.7.3 iii. whether the penalty should be increased or decreased, as the case may be.

9.4 REPORTING PROCEDURE

9.4.1 Any person may be reported (**Reported Person**) to the BAT Judiciary for breaching the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8 or Section 9 of the BAT *Bylaws* in the following ways:

- 9.4.1.1 i. By an umpire in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 (*Umpires Referral*).
- 9.4.1.2 ii. By any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring at or in the vicinity of a BAT game, through an Incident Report ("**Witness Referral**");
- 9.4.1.3 iii. By any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring outside a BAT game, through a written referral ("**Other Referral**"); or
- 9.4.1.4 iv. By the BAT Committee, upon its own investigation through a written referral ("**BAT Referral**").

9.4.2 A person who submits a Referral shall be referred to as a "**Complainant**".

9.4.3 Incident Reports must be submitted to the Competition Administrator as follows:

- 9.4.3.1 for an Umpire's Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following the game;
- 9.4.3.2 for a Witness Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following the game;
- 9.4.3.3 for Other Referrals, as soon as practicable; and
- 9.4.3.4 for a BAT Referral, at any time.

9.4.4 **UMPIRE'S REFERRAL** - Following a game involving an ejection, the umpire responsible for the ejection (Reporting Umpire) must ensure:

- 9.4.4.1 the scorers have recorded the ejection on the Official Game Card;
- 9.4.4.2 an Incident Report is submitted to the QBUA no later than 10 am the next business day following the game for review;
- 9.4.4.3 they, or a representative from the QBUA, inform the BAT Competition Administrator the name and Club of the ejected player as soon as practicable;
- 9.4.5 The QBUA or the Reporting Umpire shall forward the BAT Competition Administrator the Incident Report by 3 pm the next business day following the game.
- 9.4.6 **URGENT REFERRALS** - Any of the Referrals made under subsection (A) may, if sufficiently serious, be made urgently to the Competition Administrator to be dealt with as soon as practicable.
- 9.4.7 Where an Urgent Referral is made, the Competition Administrator shall contact the Chairperson for the purpose of determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6. If the Chairperson is unable to be contacted within a reasonable time, the Competition Administrator may, at their discretion, contact an alternative judiciary member or, failing that, the BAT Committee Chairperson, for determination.
- 9.4.8 In determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction for an Urgent Referral, the Chairperson (or other judiciary member) may treat the Referral as prima facie evidence of the Reported Person's conduct and otherwise inform themselves in any way they consider appropriate.

9.5 PRE-HEARING PROCEDURE

- 9.5.1 As soon as practicable after receiving a Referral, the Competition Administrator shall forward all relevant material to the Chairperson and then notify the Reported Person's Club Secretary by email:
 - 9.5.1.1 i. that a Referral has been made against the Reported Person;
 - 9.5.1.2 ii. the nature of the complaint/allegations; and
 - 9.5.1.3 iii. that the Chairperson may dismiss the Referral, refer it directly to a judiciary hearing or lay a charge against the Reported Person and propose a penalty.
 - 9.5.1.4 The email shall attach any Incident Reports provided to the Competition Administrator.

9.6 REPORTED PERSON INCIDENT REPORT

- 9.6.1 The Reported Person must complete and submit an Incident Report through their Club Secretary as follows:
 - 9.6.1.1 for an Umpire's Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary; or
 - 9.6.1.2 for a Witness Referral, Other Referral or BAT Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary.
 - 9.6.1.3 If the Reported Person fails to submit an Incident Report and contests the charge and/or penalty, that person will be suspended from participating in any form in the BAT Competition until the judiciary hearing unless otherwise directed by the Chairperson.

9.7 CHAIRPERSON DETERMINATION

- 9.7.1 Where the Chairperson is satisfied with the information provided, within one business day following the receipt of both the Referral and the Reported Person's Incident Report (if provided), the Chairperson shall consider the Referral, Incident Reports and any other material submitted as prima facie evidence and shall:
 - 9.7.1.1 i. identify the relevant charge(s) to which the conduct relates;
 - 9.7.1.2 ii. dismiss the Referral where there is insufficient evidence to sustain a charge;
 - 9.7.1.3 iii. determine the severity of any charge;
 - 9.7.1.4 iv. propose a penalty based on, **but not limited to**, the Recommended Table of Penalties listed in section 0 or require the Reported Person to attend a judiciary hearing;
 - 9.7.1.5 v. determine whether a Temporary Sanction is necessary (see section 6); and
 - 9.7.1.6 vi. communicate the above information with the Competition Administrator.
 - 9.7.1.7 vii. The Chairperson may delay making a Determination under this section where he or she determines further investigation is necessary.
- 9.7.2 The Chairperson may, at any time, form the Judiciary pursuant to section 3C and consult other members of the Judiciary in their decision making under this section.

9.8 PENALTY OFFER

- 9.8.1 The Competition Administrator shall notify the relevant Club Secretary as soon as practicable by email of the 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.

9.9 PLEA

- 9.9.1 If charges are laid and a penalty offer is made, the Club must notify the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day after receiving the penalty offer whether the Reported Person:
 - 9.9.1.1 pleads guilty to the charges and accepts the penalty offer;
 - 9.9.1.2 pleads guilty to the charges but contests the penalty offer; or
 - 9.9.1.3 pleads not guilty to the charges.
- 9.9.2 If the Club fails to notify the Competition Administrator under this subsection, the Reported Person is deemed to have pleaded guilty to the charges and accepted the penalty offer.

- 9.9.3 If the Reported Person accepts the penalty offer or fails to notify the 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”.
- 9.9.4 If the Reported Person rejects the penalty offer or pleads not guilty, a hearing shall be set down in accordance with section 7.

9.10 OTHER MATTERS

- 9.10.1 In all cases, the Club shall be responsible for notifying the Reported Person of any correspondence it receives related to the conduct and the duties the Reported Person has under these Procedures.

9.11 TEMPORARY SANCTION

- 9.11.1 Where the Chairperson has laid charges against a Reported Person under section 5, or otherwise received an Urgent Referral, a Temporary Sanction may be imposed pending notification of a plea and accepting a penalty offer, attending a judiciary hearing or as otherwise ordered by the Chairperson.
- 9.11.2 A Temporary Sanction can include, but is not limited to, the following orders:
- 9.11.2.1 Suspension – to stop a person from participating in the BAT Competition in all or specified capacities;
- 9.11.2.2 Exclusion – to stop a person from entering any BAT Club facility;
- 9.11.2.3 Non-Contact – to stop a person from contacting specified persons; or
- 9.11.2.4 A combination of the above.
- 9.11.3 On direction from the Chairperson, the Competition Administrator shall notify the Reported Person’s Club Secretary of the imposition of a Temporary Sanction and reasons for its imposition.
- 9.11.4 A Temporary Sanction shall be effective from the date of notification until such time as there is another order made by the Chairperson or the BAT Judiciary.
- 9.11.5 A person the subject of a Temporary Sanction may appeal to the BQ Appeal Tribunal for a stay of the Temporary Sanction.

9.12 JUDICIARY HEARINGS

- 9.12.1 This section applies if a hearing is required under section 5.

Date & Time

- 9.12.2 The Chairperson shall form the Judiciary pursuant to section 3C and determine a date and time for the judiciary hearing, ordinarily within four (4) business days of receiving the Referral.
- 9.12.3 The judiciary hearing is fixed and cannot be changed, except at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Attendance

- 9.12.4 The Competition Administrator shall confirm the details of the judiciary hearing to the Report Person’s Club Secretary, the Complainant and the Judiciary members.
- 9.12.5 The Complainant is not required to, but may, attend the judiciary hearing.
- 9.12.6 If the Reported Person is unable to attend the judiciary hearing, their Club Secretary must notify the Competition Administrator and state the reason. The Judiciary shall:
- 9.12.7.1 reschedule the hearing and determine the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6; or
- 9.12.7.2 in the absence of a reasonable excuse, proceed with the hearing notwithstanding the absence of the Reported Person (if there are witnesses) or determine the matter based on the written evidence.
- 9.12.8 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.

9.13 ADVOCATES

- 9.13.1 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 Competition Administrator must be notified by 3 pm the day before the judiciary hearing of any advocates.

9.14 EVIDENCE

- 9.14.1 The Judiciary may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- 9.14.2 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:
- 9.14.2.1 the Reported Person;
- 9.14.2.2 any victim;
- 9.14.2.3 any witness;
- 9.14.2.4 a child; or
- 9.14.2.5 the proper administration of the Referral.
- 9.14.3 It is the sole responsibility of the parties to provide any evidence they wish to rely on to the Competition Administrator within the time allowed under this section.

- 9.14.4 All evidence the Reported Person wishes to adduce at the judiciary hearing must be sent to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day before to the judiciary hearing.
- 9.14.5 All evidence provided to the Competition Administrator shall be provided to the Reported Person and the Complainant at least 24 hours prior to the judiciary hearing.
- 9.14.6 Evidence adduced later than the times stipulated in this section may be taken into account by the Judiciary at its discretion. The Judiciary shall provide sufficient time for all parties who attend the judiciary hearing to read or see any evidence not provided beforehand.
- 9.14.7 The Reported Person or the Judiciary may call any witness they desire, however no person has any obligation to provide a statement or give evidence to the Judiciary. Notification of all witnesses attending the judiciary hearing must be sent to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day before the judiciary hearing.
- 9.14.8 The Reported Person, the Complainant and any witnesses detailed in subsection (O) shall be given reasonable opportunity to provide evidence at the judiciary hearing.
- 9.14.9 All evidence given at a judiciary hearing is on a confidential and “without prejudice” basis.
- 9.14.10 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 Judiciary who may then ask that question on their behalf.
- 9.14.11 The Chairperson has the sole discretion to request any person to remove themselves from the judiciary hearing at any time.
- 9.14.12 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.

9.15 ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 9.15.1 Unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson, the order of proceedings shall be:
 - 9.15.1.1 Introduction - The Chairperson shall introduce the Judiciary and inform all parties of the order of proceedings.
 - 9.15.1.2 Complainant - 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.
 - 9.15.1.3 Reported Person - The Reported Person and/or their advocate shall provide their evidence.
 - 9.15.1.4 Witnesses - Witnesses shall provide their evidence. Witnesses may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
 - 9.15.1.5 Consideration - The Judiciary shall consider the evidence in private and determine the Reported Person’s guilt or innocence and/or penalty if applicable.
 - 9.15.1.6 Judgment - The Chairperson shall either inform the Reported Person of the outcome of the Judiciary’s deliberations or reserve its decision. 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. A copy of the completed form shall also be forwarded to the Club, the Competition Administrator and the QBUA (in the case of Umpire’s Referrals). Should a decision be reserved, the Reported Person will not be subject to any immediate penalty unless a Temporary Sanction has been imposed.

9.16 POWERS

- 9.16.1 The BAT 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:
 - 9.16.1.1 Reprimand – with the offence being recorded;
 - 9.16.1.2 Suspension – may be applied as a complete or partial suspension from participation in the BAT
 - 9.16.1.3 Competition in all or specified capacities for a definite period of time or until a definite pre-set goal is reached;
 - 9.16.1.4 Expulsion – from participation in any capacity in the BAT Competition as a response to a very serious offence;
 - 9.16.1.5 Fines – imposed in such amounts as the Judiciary deems fit; or
 - 9.16.1.7 A combination of the above penalties.
- 9.16.2 The BAT Judiciary may order a BAT Club to refuse entry to a Reported Person to give effect to a penalty under these Procedures. The BAT Judiciary may refer any failure to comply with an order under this rule to the BAT Committee.
- 9.16.3 The BAT 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).
- 9.16.4 In determining the penalty, the following may be taken into account:

- 9.16.4.1 The Recommended Table of Penalties listed in section 0;
- 9.16.4.2 Whether the person pleaded guilty or not guilty (and whether a hearing took place);
- 9.16.4.3 The nature and circumstances of the conduct;
- 9.16.4.4 Any harm done to another person;
- 9.16.4.5 The extent to which the person is to blame for the conduct;
- 9.16.4.6 Any damage caused;
- 9.16.4.7 The person's age and previous character, including previous offending history;
- 9.16.4.8 Previous penalties imposed on the person;
- 9.16.4.9 Any disciplinary action taken by the person's Club relating to the same conduct;
- 9.16.4.10 Any time served under a Temporary Sanction;
- 9.16.4.11 Any remorse or lack of remorse;
- 9.16.4.12 Any cultural or other specific circumstance relevant to the person;
- 9.16.4.13 Any comparative penalties imposed for similar offending; and
- 9.16.4.14 Any other matter the Judiciary considers relevant. Voluntary intoxication by alcohol or other drugs is not a mitigating factor.
- 9.16.5 **The 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 BAT Committee or the BQ Appeals Tribunal within a reasonable time after the hearing.**
- 9.16.6 **Suspended players, the Club they play for and the date for the last day of the suspension penalty will be listed on the Baseball Queensland website for the duration of the suspension penalty to allow. This allows all members of the baseball community to check to ensure that a suspended and therefore an illegal player is not listed to play for a Club. The penalty for playing an illegal player is loss of game.**

9.17 RE-OPENING A HEARING

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

9.18 APPEALS

- 9.18.1 Reported Person or the Complainant may appeal to the BQ Appeals Tribunal against a decision of the Judiciary.
- 9.18.2 An appeal must be made to the Competition Administrator no later than 28 days after the original decision was communicated to the parties.
- 9.18.3 If the appeal is not lodged with the Competition Administrator within 28 days, an explanation for the delay must accompany the appeal.
- 9.18.4 An appeal lodged after 28 days may only be heard with the leave of the BQ Appeals Tribunal Chairperson and only if the BQ Appeals Tribunal Chairperson is of the view that the appeal has reasonable prospects of success.
- 9.18.6 **An appeal must be based on at least one of the following grounds:**
 - 9.18.6.1 A denial of natural justice;
 - 9.18.6.2 A denial of procedural fairness;
 - 9.18.6.3 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
 - 9.18.6.4 The penalty imposed was manifestly excessive or manifestly inadequate.
- 9.18.7 **The BQ Appeals Tribunal will abide by the Baseball Queensland Dispute Resolution Rules.**
- 9.18.8 **If the BQ Appeals Tribunal determines that one of the grounds in subsection (E) has been established, it must proceed to reconsider the matter afresh and may:**
 - 9.18.8.1 Confirm the decision of the Judiciary;
 - 9.18.8.2 Set aside the decision of the Judiciary and make its own decision; or
 - 9.18.8.3 Make any other order that it deems appropriate.
- 9.18.9 **The BQ Appeals Tribunal must give reasons for its decision.**

9.19 CHARGES AND RECOMMENDED TABLE OF PENALTIES

9.19.1 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 BAT 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 ● Deliberately distracting or provoking another person ● Insulting or otherwise deliberately offending another person ● Unreasonably refusing to cooperate with a coach, player or official ● Failing to display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat ● Disrespecting the rights, dignity and worth of any participants ● Encouraging others to act in an unsportsmanlike manner ● Otherwise bringing the game into disrepute
Consuming alcohol or tobacco	<p>Where a person either consumes alcohol, 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.</p>
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. 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.</p>
Equipment Abuse	<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).</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) ● A player (who is not also the team's coach) disputing an umpire's technical game ruling ● Disobeying an umpire's direction (unless constituting a "failing to leave" charge) <p>Discourteous or disrespectful behaviour directed at the umpire</p>
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. Taunting, baiting or ridiculing an opponent or official verbally</p>
Racial Abuse	<p>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.</p>
Class B – Intimidation	

Touching an umpire	Any intentional, unwanted physical contact with an umpire or physical contact incidental to a confrontation.
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.
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. Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent,
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 could cause injury to an opposing player or official (e.g. intentionally throwing at a batter, intentionally sliding into a player).
Attempting to strike	An intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike another person. This includes engaging in a melee.
Striking	Intentionally striking another person in any way.
Equipment abuse	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) whereby a player is hit or injured as a result of the equipment abuse
Spitting	Spitting on or at an Umpire or on another Person
Breach of Judiciary Order	
Breach of Judiciary order	Where a person breaches an order previously given by the Judiciary.

- 9.19.2 Conduct which, in the opinion of the Judiciary, amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern BQ, may be referred directly to the BQ Judiciary.
- 9.19.3 Where the same conduct constitutes more than one offence, the more serious offence (based on the Class) shall be laid.

9.20 RECOMMENDED TABLE OF PENALTIES

- 9.20.1 The following table sets out recommended penalties for the charges defined in this section. These penalties represent a recommendation only and the 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

Class of Charge	Recommended suspension range (weeks)
Class E – Misconduct	1 - 2
Class D – Dissent	2 - 4
Class C – Offensive Behaviour	3 - 6
Class B – Intimidation	4 - 8
Class A – Dangerous Act	10 - 20
Breach of Judiciary order	20

10 TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

- 10.1.1 Voted by the committee & Implemented in document 25/03/2023 - **Addition** of Section 4.14.13 The A Grade Team with the Bye must provide two umpires, one plate and one base umpire for A grade games that week. If the Team is having difficulty finding umpires within their Team, they can contact their Club to assist. Penalty for failure to provide umpires will result in a 9-0 loss for that week. If the Team can not supply an umpire, relevant arrangements must be made within their club to provide on their behalf
- 10.1.2 Voted by the Committee 03/04/2023 – Implemented in document 21/04/2023 – **Amendment** to Section 4.7.4 – changed number of games from 4 games to 6 games;
- 10.1.2.1 **Additions** to Section 4.7.4 - now includes *B grade registered Junior players* (as having no game limit) and added *and noted on the Game Card*;
- 10.1.2.2 **Addition** Section 4.7.3 – added *and noted on the Game Card*;
- 10.1.2.3 **Amendment** to 4.14.12 From: Junior Umpires can only umpire games up to the age group below their natural playing age: - e.g. a person aged 17 whose natural playing age group would be Under 20’s can umpire up to Senior League only, even if that player plays senior baseball. TO Junior Umpires who have a minimum Association Level Umpire Accreditation are able to umpire any division as long as approval has been granted by a Parent or Guardian;
- 10.1.2.4 **Amendment** to 5.15.1 Changed from *BAT* to *Home Team*
- 10.1.2.5 Voted by the Committee 08/05/2023 – Implemented in document 15/05/2023 – Amendments to Section 5.15:
- 10.1.2.5.1 **Amendment** to 5.15.1 removal of “away team shall provide the base umpire”
- 10.1.2.5.2 **Amendment** to 5.15.2 removal of “The base umpire must remain standing at all times.”
- 10.1.2.6 Voted by the Committee 14/05/2023 – Implemented in document 15/05/2023 – **Amendment** of Section 4.14.13 from “one plate and one base umpire” to “two plate umpires”
- 10.1.2.7 Issued out to Committee 21/11/2023 for feedback and approval by 30/11/2023 Confirmed 13/12/2023 and Clubs notified of changes 13/12/2023
- 10.1.2.7.1 **Amendments** to Section 1.7 as per changes in Red below

1.7 CALENDAR OF EVENTS – ADMINISTRATION

Requirement	Date Required
New Club Affiliation documents (Bylaw 1.4.1)	1st February 15th January/BAT AGM
Availability of grounds (EOI Google form issued out by BAT)	Late January or February as determined by BAT Committee issued out 15th December Responses close 28th December to be finalised and issued to clubs by 1st January
Senior Division A & B team nominations (By-Law 1.5)	February as determined by BAT Committee 1st February
Form TN: Affiliation & Team entry form (Bylaw 1.4.3)	1st March 15th February/First game of preseason
Ground light audits (if applicable) (By-Law 4.3.1) - delete row	1st March
Final Senior (All Divisions) team nominations (By Law 1.5) Senior (All Divisions) Preliminary Team Roster (PTR)(By-Law 1.5)	1st February 3rd Game of Preseason
Final Junior team nominations (By-Law 1.5)	One month prior to first game of the season as determined by BAT Committee TBD as per below timing? or leave as is
*Hosting BAT finals games – Junior	End August
Hosting BAT finals games – Senior	Early September
Hosting BAT Awards night	Grand Final Day One Month Post Grand Finals

*This section split into two lines

- 10.1.2.7.2 **Addition** Section 1.5.3 “A Preliminary Team Roster (PTR) is to be provided to BAT as per the Calendar of Events in Section 1.7 “
- 10.1.2.7.3 **Addition** Section 4.18.5 “Best of 3 Games”
- 10.1.2.7.4 **Amendments** to Section 3.8.4 Addition of wording “Division A”, Addition of “(Best of 3 Games) in Division A Table” Addition of Table “Division B”

- 10.1.2.7.5 Voted by the Committee 05/02/2024 and implemented in document 04/03/2024 – **Amendment** Section 1.5.3 “roster is of at least twelve (12) players with nine (9) of those being able to play 90% of games” to “Roster of at least nine (9) players with eight (8) of those being able to play 90% of games”
- 10.1.2.7.6 **Proposal Rule to be made Dormant during 6 week trial period commencing 17/03/2024** – “4.7.4 Division A defensive starting teams shall consist of seven (7) players from their registered team, with the remaining players being fielded from a Lower Division for no more than a minimum of 6 games, excluding female players and B grade registered Junior players. Any exception to this must be approved by the opposing manager and noted on the Game Card.”
- 10.1.2.7.7 **Trial Period:** Proposal is that Team submissions by each club due by the 03/03/2024; Integrity check by BAT on 6 guaranteed A graders; then provide BAT with proposed 3 “B grade” floaters who will be able to play B and A freely; additional waiver can be obtained for FIFO/Defence periods of absence through integrity check with BAT – Final qualification limits will apply and fines will be applicable if found to be in breach of proposal.