



Bendigo Baseball Association

Governing Document #10

Junior Playing Rules

BENDIGO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INC

JUNIOR PLAYING RULES - INDEX

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JUNIOR PLAYING RULES

Adopted - March 2023

Preamble

The Junior Playing competition rules are to be read in conjunction with the Governing Documents of the BBA and the Official Rules of Baseball.

1. Manager's Responsibility

1.1 To complete a line-up in quadruplicate.

1.2 To provide the scorers with his team's batting order and defence.

1.3 To meet the Umpire in Chief at home plate when he arrives to start the game.

1.4 To present the Umpire in Chief and the opposing manager their line-up.

1.5 To advise the Umpire in Chief and the opposing manager any ground rules unique to their venue. If these ground rules are acceptable to the opposing manager, they shall be legal. If these ground rules are unacceptable to the opposing manager, the decision lies with the Umpire in Chief. This ruling cannot conflict with the ABF playing rules.

1.6. The Home Team must provide an Umpire in the event of the non-attendance of an umpire.

1.7 The Home manager is to provide the umpire with appropriate match balls.

1.8 The manager is the only team person, during the game, to approach the umpire to seek a ruling or a decision.

1.9 In the event of a protest during a match, to ensure that the scorebook is "ruled" as per baseball scorers recommendations to reflect the position of all players and game situation. On issuing the initial response to protest to the umpire, allowing the umpire an opportunity to consider the objection and then deciding whether to continue the protest.

1.10 On completion of the match ensure that the Match Report Sheet, and if required the BBA Report Card Form (BBA Form#7) is sighted and signed.

1.11 On the completion of a match, involving a protest, inform the Umpire in Chief, whether the protest is to proceed and endorse the Match Report Sheet appropriately.

1.12 Where required, the winning manager will be responsible for ensuring that the Media Report is filled in and forwarded to the BBA Media representative, either by email or other approved format within 24 hours.

2. Scorers' Responsibilities

2.1 The home and away teams must both supply a scorer who must sit together, during the entirety of the match, in a designated area that is isolated away from players, officials and spectators.

2.1.1 Scorers are permitted to use electronic scoring system applications, however there must still be at least one physical scorebook completed.

2.1.2 Any reference to 'scorebook' in BBA Governing Documents is inclusive of both electronic and physical scorebook options.

2.2 The scorers will transfer the line-ups of both teams onto their respective scorebooks and/or scoring application. The information contained on the "pink" line-up sheet given to them by the managers must be accurately transposed to the score book prior to the commencement of the match. Scorers must ensure that the Surname and First names are recorded in full and are identical to the registered name of the player as far as can be determined.

2.3 To record their own teams line-up onto the Match Report Sheet. This information to be accurately transposed from the "pink" line-up sheet supplied by their manager. The Surname and First name put on the Match Report Sheet should be the player's registered name as far as can be determined.

2.4 To score the match according to the "Official Scoring Rules of Baseball". The scorers' shall have the authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules but only by consensus. Both score books must be identical.

2.5 If the teams change sides before three players are out, the scorer shall immediately inform the umpire of the mistake.

2.6 If the game is protested or suspended, the scorer shall make note of the exact situation at the time of the protest or suspension. The information noted is usually done by "ruling" the scorers' books indicating the score, the number of outs, the position of any runners as well as the ball and strike count on the batter.

2.7 The scorer shall not make any decision conflicting with the Official Playing Rules or with the umpires decision.

2.8 The scorer shall not call the attention of the umpires, or any member of either team, to the fact that a player is batting out of turn.

2.9 At the completion of a match the scorers must:

2.9.1 Note the pitchers on the Match Report Card;

2.9.2 Must record the pitch count of any pitcher who has not attained the age of 18 years on both a pitch count sheet and Match Report Sheet;

2.10 The scorer, in conjunction with their manager, complete an injury form for any injury incurred by one of their players in the course of the match. This form is to be forwarded to the BBA Secretary.

3. Umpires

No umpire is to umpire a junior match from behind the catcher, without using full protective equipment.

4. Starting Matches

4.1 Games shall commence at times stated in fixtures, and these Governing Documents, unless other arrangements have been made via the mutual agreement of both clubs, and with the approval of the BBA Committee.

4.2 No games shall commence unless there are two scorers present.

4.3 The ground manager of the home club can declare the ground unsuitable for play, up to 15 minutes prior to game time. The ground manager should do this if:

4.3.1 There are pools of water on the playing surface, and it is

raining.

4.3.2 The surface is too slippery to be safe.

4.3.3 The batting boxes, and / or the base paths are unsafe.

4.3.4 The ground does not pass a ground assessment.

4.4 Unless the home club shall have given previous notice that the game has been postponed, or will be delayed in starting, the umpire, or umpires, and the managers of both teams shall enter the playing field fifteen minutes before the time set for the game to begin and proceed directly to home base. They will then decide whether the game is to be abandoned due to adverse weather.

4.5 Unfit Playing Conditions

4.5.1 For any game, up to 15 minutes grace can be allowed to correct ground markings to a reasonable standard before the game needs to be forfeited.

4.5.2 Umpires shall give at least 10 minutes notice before the scheduled starting time, for any ground items requiring attention.

4.5.3 If, and when, a diamond is declared unfit to play by the umpire, the home team will be allowed time to rectify any issues subject to them being completed no later than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled game finish time.

4.5.4 This time limit allows enough time for a legal game to be completed following pre-match warmups and plate meeting.

4.5.5 Where a game is abandoned due to unfit playing conditions which have arisen for reasons other than something outside their control, then the game shall be forfeited by the home team.

A win will be awarded to the away team and the game score shall be 0-9 to the team in default and 3-0 to its opponent.

4.6 To "call" a game due to the fitness of the playing conditions, the umpire must be in attendance at the ground at the scheduled time of commencement. This ruling does not prevent the association abandoning a round due to weather etc.

4.7 No Game

4.7.1 Matches which are washed out (abandoned), will be

declared a 'No Game' with no scores recorded and no match points awarded.

4.7.2 Matches which are abandoned prior to being declared a legal game due to unfit playing conditions as a result of weather related impacts will be declared a 'No Game' with no scores recorded and no match points awarded.

4.8 If the umpire/umpires and the managers of both teams declare the ground suitable, then control of the game goes to the umpire.

4.9 No game should commence if it is raining.

4.10 Once a game is started, the umpire has sole control of decisions regarding the weather, but shall be guided as follows:

4.10.1 If the rain increases acutely, and affects visibility, the game should be halted.

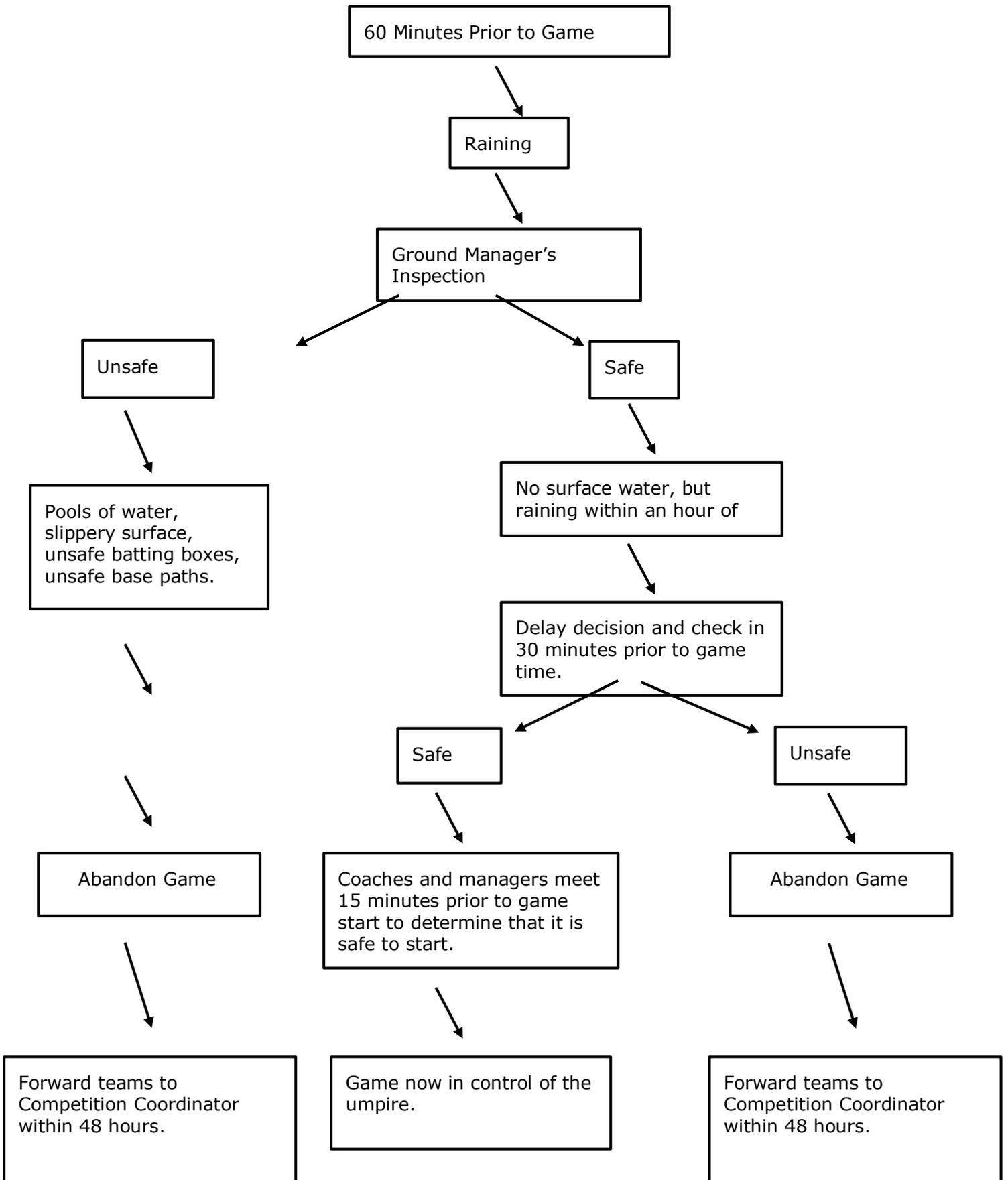
4.10.2 If the rain continues and becomes hard enough to cause pools of water on the ground, the game should be halted.

4.11 Any attempt made to clear water from the ground while it is still raining should only be made after consideration of the current and forecast weather conditions.

4.12 If the rain stops, the home team is to be instructed to remove all the water from the playing surface.

4.13 If this can be accomplished within a timeframe which allows for a legal game to be completed, the game can resume. If a legal game is not possible then the game will be abandoned.

RAIN DELAY FLOWCHART



Safe = No rain, no pools of water, no slippery surface or unsafe base paths and batting boxes. Raining but no pools of water, slippery surface or unsafe base paths or batting boxes.

Unsafe = Pools of water, slippery surface, unsafe base paths or batting boxes and it is still raining. Rain has stopped but ground cannot be made playable within 15 minutes of playing

5. Pre — Match Diamond Warmup

5.1 Fifteen minutes (15) prior to the scheduled start time, the visiting team may use the diamond for a maximum of 5 minutes.

5.2 Ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the home team may use the diamond for a maximum of five (5) minutes.

6. Pre – Match Start: Plate Meeting

6.1 Five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the diamond is to be vacated. Managers from both teams are to meet with the umpires at the home plate to determine ground rules etc.

6.2 The home manager shall give their batting order to the umpire-in-chief, in duplicate.

6.3 Next the visiting manager shall give his batting order to the umpire-in-chief, in duplicate.

6.4 The umpire-in-chief shall make certain that the original and copies of the respective batting orders are identical, and then tender a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The copy retained by the umpire shall be the official batting order. The tender of the batting order by the umpire shall establish the batting orders.

Thereafter, no substitutions shall be made by either manager, except as provided by the Official Rules of Baseball, and the BBA Bylaws.

6.5 A copy of the batting orders are given to each scorer, by the managers.

6.6 As soon as the home team's batting order is handed to the umpire-in-chief, the umpires are in charge of the playing field, and from that

moment they shall have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, suspended or resumed on account of weather or the condition of the playing field.

7. Regulation Game

7.1 A match will become a regulation game when the umpire terminates play due to adverse weather or unsuitable or dangerous ground condition, after 3 innings or 45 minutes for all junior age groups including TBall.

7.2 If stoppages during the game determine that these requirements are not met, due to insufficient time being left, then the game should be declared a NO GAME.

7.3 Games shall commence at times stated in fixtures and these Rules. Once the umpire has taken control of the playing field, the umpire shall be the sole judge of the fitness of the playing field, for the playing of the game, and for the resumption of play after any suspension.

7.4 Where a team has less than the required number of players to commence a game, up to 10 minutes grace will be allowed. Play shall commence immediately seven players are in attendance and may continue whenever there are at least seven players.

7.5 An Umpire must be in attendance at the ground at the scheduled time of commencement. This ruling does not prevent the BBA abandoning a round due to weather, etc.

8. Pitching Rules

8.1 On any given day or same round of matches a junior shall only pitch:

- Under 12/13 - 60 pitches maximum.
- Under 14/15 - 75 pitches maximum
- Under 16/17 - 85 pitches maximum
- Under 18 - no pitcher can pitch more than 100 pitches until they have attained their 18th birthday.

8.1.1 In each grouping mentioned above, a pitcher will be allowed to reach their maximum number of pitches, but be allowed to finish pitching to the batter they are facing. A pitcher reaching his/her maximum number

of pitches is immediately removed from the mound after they have completed the batter.

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

8.2 In age divisions where curveballs and sliders are prohibited, the umpire will determine if either of these have been thrown. If a player's natural throwing action causes the ball to move this will be accepted. If a pitcher has a variation of throwing actions and is found to be throwing breaking pitches, a warning to the coach will be issued. If there is a failure to adhere to this warning the Umpire of the match will make note of the situation and this will be submitted along with the match card. After 2 warnings the pitcher will be removed from the mound. Repeat offences over subsequent games will be referred to the Committee for determination of sanction.

8.3 There is no limit to the number of trips a coach/manager is allowed to make to the pitcher during an inning of a junior game.

8.4 Actual pitch counts and pitcher number (P1, P2, P3, etc) must be recorded on the Match Report Sheet.

8.5 Pitchers are permitted to pitch in two games in one day provided that they pitch less than half their pitch count in the first game and do not exceed their normal pitch count for the day.

9. Pitching/Catching

Under no circumstances will any underage player be allowed to pitch and catch in the same match or on the same day.

10. Base Running

10.1 If there is an attempt to make a tag play on a runner advancing to home plate, the runner must slide OR make an attempt to slide or the runner will be called out. This is a judgement call made by the umpire.

10.2 The baserunner is not allowed to deviate from his direct path to initiate contact with the catcher (or any player covering the plate). Runners are considered to be in violation of this rule if they collide with the catcher in cases where a slide could have been used to avoid the collision.

10.3 However, at any base, any runner is out when not making a physical attempt to avoid a collision while a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.

11. Designated Hitter

Under no circumstances will any player be allowed to act as a designated hitter in any Junior BBA division.

12. Specific Playing Rules for Juniors

12.1 UNDER 10 (T-BALL)

12.1.1 Duration of match - 60 minutes or at the discretion of the coaches by agreement.

12.1.2 A runner must not leave a base until either the ball is hit or passes home plate. If this rule is violated, the umpire shall declare "no play", the ball is dead, the base runners return to their bases held before the play.

12.1.3 Balls – 9inch Reduced Injury Balls (RIB) OR 8.5inch Reduced Injury Balls

12.1.4 There is a limit of 6 missed swings a player can have when attempting to hit the ball off the Tee.

12.1.5 The end of a play occurs when the ball is returned to the pitcher or catcher.

12.1.6 If there are 9 players on the field one of them must be a catcher.

12.1.7 The catcher is not required to wear a full set of catching gear, but must wear a catcher's helmet, mask and chest guard.

12.1.8 Players are only allowed to run a maximum of 2 bases on any one play.

12.1.9 There are no restrictions regarding the interchange of players into and from the game.

12.1.10 No ladder will be kept for this division.

12.1.11 A fair ball hit off the tee must pass an arc fifteen feet from the back of home plate.

12.1.12 A maximum of 12 players per team and all players may bat.

12.1.13 When 3 outs have been made the half inning is completed. Once a team has batted through its line up the half inning is completed. Any runners left on base at the end of an inning will score.

12.2 UNDER 12 / UNDER 13 (Coach Pitch)

12.2.1 Duration of match will be 90 minutes or 6 innings.

12.2.2 No pitcher will be moved closer than the set pitching distance.

12.2.3 At the call of ball 4, Coach Pitch will apply. The **coach of the fielding side** or his representative will come to the mound. They will pitch from a distance between full and one-half size of the official Under 12 distance. The batter will receive a new pitch count and normal rules of baseball apply.

Note: Coach Pitch only applies in games up to the half way mark of the season. From the commencement of the second half of the season Coach Pitch no longer applies.

12.2.4 When a ball is hit into play, runners have a two-base maximum.

12.2.5 No player may steal on a coach pitch ball.

12.2.6 No leads on base allowed and a runner on any base must wait until the ball passes the plate before being allowed to steal.

12.2.7 Base stealing is limited to 1 base per play.

12.2.8 No penalty for balks. Play is stopped and instruction given by the coach/umpire.

12.2.9 No curves or sliders are to be thrown in this division.

12.2.10 The 5 run rule applies to regular season and final series games. The half inning is complete once 5 runs are scored or there are 3 outs, whichever occurs first. Runners left on base do not score.

12.2.11 Balls as approved by the BBA – 9inch Reduced Injury Ball (RIB)

12.2.12 A maximum of 12 players per team and all players may bat.

12.3 UNDER 14 / UNDER 15

12.3.1 Duration of match will be 90 minutes or 7 innings.

12.3.2 No pitcher will be moved closer than the set pitching distance

12.3.3 A dropped third strike is played out

- 12.3.4 Leads and stealing are allowed – this includes stealing on a pitch
- 12.3.5 Runners have a two base maximum while stealing
- 12.3.6 If a ball is hit into play there is no limit to the number of bases runners can advance.
- 12.3.7 One warning for balks and education from coach/umpire. Second and subsequent balks will be called. – No penalties for balks, instruct only.
- 12.3.8 No curves or sliders are to be thrown in this division.
- 12.3.9 Balls as approved by the BBA – Full size leather waterproof balls.
- 12.3.10 Nine batter rule applies to both the regular season and final series.
- 12.3.11 A maximum of 12 players per team and all players may bat.

12.4 UNDER 16 /17

- 12.4.1 Duration of match will be 90 minutes or 7 innings.
- 12.4.2 Balls as approved by the BBA – Full-size leather waterproof balls
- 12.4.3 No pitcher will be moved closer than the set pitching distances.
- 12.4.4 Nine batter rule applies to both the regular season and final series.
- 12.4.5 Blatant balks are called, no warning. One warning for obscure balks. One warning and instruction, subsequent balks will be called.
- 12.4.6 A balk will result in a 1 base advance for each runner on base.
- 12.4.7 Drop 3rd strike is played out
- 12.4.8 Leads and stealing are permitted and have no limit
- 12.4.9 A maximum of 12 players per team and all players may bat.

12.5 UNDER18

- 12.5.1 Duration of match will be 105 minutes or 7 innings.
- 12.5.2 Nine batter rule applies to both the regular season and final series.
- 12.5.3 Blatant balks are called with no warning. One warning will be given for obscure balks.
- 12.5.4 Full sized, waterproof leather balls are used.

13. Two Games in One Day

13.1 Players shall be permitted to take part in two junior matches on the same day or in the same round of matches provided that the player has attained the minimum age for that grade.

14. Substitute Runner

14.1 A Substitute Runner - SR - shall be used for the catcher when the catcher reaches base and there are two outs. This applies to all junior age groups except Tball.

14.2 The SR shall be a bench player, however if there is no bench player, then the last player out must be the SR.

15. Nine Batter Rule

15.1 A team shall bat for a maximum of nine batters in any one offensive inning. As the ninth batter for the inning comes to the plate, the scorer shall notify the umpire. At the completion of the ninth batter's plate appearance the umpire shall call time, and should there be less than 3 out at the time, all the runners on base at the time, shall be scored as runs. It shall not be necessary for those runners to cross the plate.

15.2 Should the batter or base runner be put out to constitute the third out, normal baseball rules apply and any runners left on base do not score.

16. Match Report Sheet

16.1 It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that a Match Report Sheet is available at junior matches.

16.2 In addition to the information requested on the Match Report Sheet, the following information is also required to be included:

16.2.1 Each pitcher must be noted on the sheet, by the letter "P" followed by a number denoting the order in which they came to the mound;

16.2.2 Any under-age pitchers who have a pitch count restriction, must have the number of pitches recorded against their name,

in red;

16.2.3 Any under-age catchers who have caught to be noted as "C" in red.

16.3 The Match Report Sheet must be written in ink, not pencil.

16.4 Team managers or their substitute must come to the scorers' location and sign the Match Report Sheet;

16.5 The Match Report Sheet must not be altered after it is signed by the Umpire/s and managers or their delegates.

16.6 The **home** team must ensure the Match Report Sheet is delivered to the Competition Coordinator, within 48 hours of the finish of the match, either electronically or in hard copy.

16.7 Scorers are not to sign the Match Report Sheet.

17. Match Reports for the Media

17.1 Media coverage is vital to the progress of baseball in the Greater Bendigo area. The BBA Committee will endeavour to appoint a Media Representative prior to each season.

17.2 Where a BBA media representative is appointed:

17.2.1 Each club will appoint a Club Media Representative who is responsible for ensuring that winning teams complete a match Report for submission to the BBA.

17.3.2 The winning team of a junior match designated by the BBA is to complete a media report detailing the following:

17.2.3 The box scores of the match

17.2.4 Pitchers' statistics for both teams

17.2.5 Batting statistics for both teams

17.2.6 A summary of the game

17.3 The Club Media Representative is then responsible for getting the BBA Media Reports to the BBA Media Representative within 24 hours from the completion of the game.

18. Reported Persons

18.1 Ejected persons must leave the playing field immediately and cannot

re-enter the playing field while the umpire is still on the ground.

18.1.1 Rule of Baseball 6.04(d)

(When a manager, player, coach or trainer is ejected from a game, he shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. He shall remain in the Club house or change to street clothes and either leave the park or take a seat in the grandstand well removed from the vicinity of his team's bench or bullpen.)

shall be enforced insofar as they are practicable in the circumstances of that particular game.

18.2 Ejected persons are not to approach the umpire after being ejected.

18.3 Each Team Manager or their substitute must come to the Scorers' area and sign the Match Report Sheet, and any Report Card Form (BBA Form #7) upon their completion by the Umpire.

18.4 Signing of the Card/Notice is compulsory, and thereby endorses that the Manager and his/her club is aware of what is included on the Card/Notice.

18.5 The Card/Notice shall not then be amended or added to except for the description of the offence that will be completed by the Umpire and forwarded to the appropriate BBA Secretary.

18.6 A reported person's manager will **NOT** receive a copy of the Report Card Form (BBA Form #7). No other official notification of a report shall be forwarded to a Club or ejected person unless:

18.6.1 The club or the ejected person may via email or in writing, before a Tribunal hearing, request a copy of the Report Card (BBA Form #7). The appropriate Secretary must comply with this request so that the club and/or ejected person can examine the document at least 24 hours prior to the person or club appearing before the Tribunal.

18.6.2 If a club or any registered person wishes to see any Yellow, Blue or Red Card reports, not entailing a Tribunal appearance, then they must request so in writing or via email to the appropriate BBA Secretary. The request will be put to the BBA Committee if appropriate and if records are to be released.

19. Eligibility of Players - Age Qualifications

19.1 All junior age group divisions are based on the age of a player as at the 1st of September in the year of competition.

19.1.1 A player is eligible to take part in any match in the respective age groupings, provided that they are under the age of the division at 1st September in the year of competition.

19.1.2 A player who attains the age of the particular division by 1st September is ineligible to play in that division.

19.2 No player may participate in any BBA competition until they have reached their 5th birthday.

19.3 No player may participate in any other age division unless they have attained an age no less than 4 years younger than the age division.

19.4 All clubs are able to apply for special circumstances, where they feel that a player is either

- not up to the standard of the age group; or
- capable of meeting the standard in a higher age group.

The BBA will assess such cases individually. The club that wishes to apply for such dispensation must have the said player assessed by 2 Certificate B coaches who are not from the player's club, as per BBA Assessment Procedure, (See Appendix 1), and submit a written application to the BBA using the official application form, BBA Governing Document #10.1 - BBA Application for Special Consideration Dispensation Form or BBA Governing Document #10.2 - BBA Dispensation Form to Play Above Age Group

19.4.1 A review of such players, who are successful in these circumstances, must occur regularly (4 weeks) or at the request of opposition coaches if they feel an individual player is playing at a level which would be appropriate at a higher age division.

19.5 No player under the age of 14 years is eligible to play senior baseball. Refer Governing Document #1 Administration of Baseball, Section 5.5.2.

20. Eligibility of Players in Finals

20.1 No player shall be allowed to take part in finals rounds matches or Association 'Representative' sides unless he has been registered for his Club with the Competition Coordinator of the BBA and played in at least 3 rounds with his Club during the same season previous to such finals/representative side.

20.2 In circumstances where a player has been unable to qualify due to being involved with representative teams, an application for dispensation may be made by a club, for such a player, The BBA will then consider the case, and make a decision based upon the individual case, and in the light of any such precedents.

20.3 A player shall not be eligible to play finals with a lower age group unless they have played in more than half the number of scheduled matches for that age group in the same season.

20.4 Where a player has played for more than one team in the same division during the season, to be eligible to play for a particular team in the finals series those players must have played more than 50% of their games played for that team during the season.

21. EQUIPMENT

21.1 Bases: To be whitened and fixed.

21.2 Home Plate: To be whitened, fixed and flush to the surface. On constructed baseball fields, the plate shall be permanently fixed.

21.3 Pitching mats: To be pegged on the mound.

21.4 Players' Benches: Must be provided for all games. Scorers and/or statisticians are not permitted on the bench.

21.5 Teams who are designated as the Home Team at neutral venues will incur a fine if they do not remove all equipment from the ground, and replace it back into storage, clean up the field and benches, smooth base paths and base areas.

21.6 Batting Helmets: Double eared batting helmets must be worn by all batters, on deck batters, base runners, junior base coaches and bat boys in all junior and senior matches. Senior base coaches may wear skull caps. Should a player approach the batting box with an unsafe or one eared batting helmet, the umpire is to direct the player to change it immediately.

Exception: A player may wear a one eared helmet if a medical condition requires that he do so, however the batters leading ear must be covered at all times.

21.7 Catcher's Helmets and Masks: All players when catching must wear a mask with a throat guard and helmet during the match. Players and coaches warming up a pitcher must also wear a mask (with a throat guard if a junior) and helmet. The umpire is to stop the pitcher from throwing to home plate until the player or coach has a mask and helmet.

21.8 Footwear: No junior player in any BBA competition is to wear metal cleats.

21.9 Jewelry: Exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets and types of earrings, neck chains or any other items judged dangerous by the umpire, must not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry, but if worn, must be taped to the body. Players must be asked to remove jewelry and in failing to do so, will be ejected from the game.

21.10 Gloves: No circle marking shall be different in color to the glove. Sweatbands of minimal size for wearing at the wrist to be in club colors, but white not permitted.

21.11 Bats: Wood, wood composite, ceramic, aluminum or carbon graphite bats may be used, as per current Baseball Victoria advice.

21.11.1 Under 10/12/13

- BPF 1.15 marking/ 2 ¼" barrel maximum
- USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum

21.11.2 Under 14/15

- 2 ¼" alloy/metal barrel with BPF stamp of 1.15
- 2 5/8" alloy/metal (no marking required)
- 2 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR stamp
- USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum

21.11.3 Under 16/17

- All bats must be BBCOR

21.11.4 Under 18

- Baseball Bats must be wood or wood composite/laminated as approved by Baseball Victoria

Note: The above regulations may be subject to change and should be confirmed prior to the commencement of each season.

22. Behavioural Expectations

22.1 Good relationships should be fostered between clubs and their teams before, during and after matches.

22.2 The authority and decisions of the umpire must be respected. Abusive and intimidating language or tactics will not be tolerated by the BBA and should not be directed to any person.

22.3 The coach of each team must insist that their players behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times while at the field. Any person acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, and using abusive or offensive language, may be reported for their actions

22.4 Coaches and players are requested to draw attention to their own members and spectators to behave in a suitable manner. They should show support towards their team, and not berate and belittle the opposition.

23. Time Wasting

23.1 It is contrary to the spirit of junior baseball for teams to engage in the practice of time wasting, particularly in the closing minutes of a time limit game.

23.2 Umpires are instructed to take all necessary steps to prevent such malpractice and adults in charge of teams are warned that the BBA will not tolerate such tactics.

24. Alcohol

No alcohol is to be available or consumed at any junior match.

25. Junior Playing Field Dimensions

	TBall	Under 12 & 13	Under 14 & 15	Under 16 & 17
Pitching Distance	43' (13.11m)	46' (14.02m)	54' (16.46m)	60' 6" (18.44m)
Base Paths	60' (18.3m)	60' (18.3m)	80' (24.38m)	90' (27.43m)
Diagonal	84' 10" (25.86m)	84' 10" (25.86m)	113' 3" (34.52m)	127 3 3/8" (38.79m)
Pass Ball Line	25' (7.62m)	Min:25' (7.62m) Max: 35' (10m)	Max: 40' (12.2m)	Max: 60' (18.3m)
Bases	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size
Home Plate	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size
Pitching Plate	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size
Left & Right Field	180' (54.86m)	180' (54.86m)	230' (70.1m)	320' (76.2m)
Centre Field	180' (54.86m)	180' (54.86m)	250' (76.2m)	374' (97.54m)
Coaches Box	8' x 4' (2.44m x 1.22m)	8' x 4' (2.44m x 1.22m)	16' x 8' (4.88m x 2.44m)	20' x 10' (6.1m x 3.05m)
Batting Box	6' x 3' (1.83m x 0.92m)	6' x 3' (1.83m x 0.92m)	6' x 4' (1.83m x 1.22m)	6' x 4' (1.83m x 1.22m)

APPENDIX 1

BBA Junior Assessment Procedure

Notification that an assessment is required must be forwarded to the BBA Secretary, by the Secretary of the Club requesting the assessment. The application must be made by completing the appropriate assessment application form.

RATIONALE FOR ASSESSMENTS

The assessment process is available to Clubs for instances where the Club feels that a junior player needs to be re-graded according to their athletic ability, not their chronological age.

An assessment may be requested in order to have a player who qualifies for a certain division, be allowed to play in a younger age group.

An assessment may be requested by a Club to have a junior player assessed to play in an older age group. In most instances this should not be necessary, as the Club may choose to promote players in line with the BBA Junior Playing Rules in accordance with Rule 19.

No juniors will be allowed or assessed to play T-Ball if they are under 5 years old. No juniors will be allowed or assessed to play Seniors until they are 14 years old.

Assessments will be made on the basis of player safety and athletic ability. They will not be re-graded to allow them to play with siblings and/or friends, on that basis only.

TIME FRAMES

The BBA Secretary will endeavor to schedule two assessment sessions prior to the beginning of the season and give notification of these to the Sub-Committee, and all Club delegates and Coaches.

Clubs should not expect to have assessments completed unless adequate time is given to have the assessment organized. The application for assessment should reach the BBA Secretary at least 5 days before the assessment is required.

Once the Secretary has received the application they will organise the

assessment and notify the Club of the date, time and place.

If a Club requires an assessment done in less than 5 days so that the junior can play the next available game, they can appeal to the Secretary. However, they must be aware that the Secretary reserves the right to decline this request..

The Secretary will request the presence of a Club representative at all assessments.

PROCESS

The Secretary will organize to have two Certificate B coaches perform the assessment. Under urgent circumstances, and as authorized by the Secretary, an assessment may be made by one Certificate B coach.

The coaches will examine the application and be clear what is being sought before starting the assessment.

The coaches will assess the player on the following skills :

- A coach will play catch with the player being assessed, and report on the glove skills and throwing strength of the player.
- A coach will ask the player to play second base, and hit them at least 10 ground balls. The coach will report on the ability of the player to field the ball, and then their ability to throw it to first base to complete an out.
- The player will then play short stop, and receive at least 10 ground balls. The coach will report on the ability of the player to field the ball and then their ability to throw it to first base to complete an out.
- The player will then be placed in an outfield position, and at least 10 fly balls will be hit to them. The coach will report on the player's ability to catch the ball, and whether they do so in a safe manner.
- The player will then be asked to take live batting practice. The coach will pitch 15 pitches to the player, at a speed they believe would be comparable to the division being assessed for, and then report on the player's ability to make contact, and the power at which they are hitting. Players being assessed for U12 will have this procedure repeated for hitting off the "T".
- The coaches can make a comment on the report regarding any other issues they believe are relevant.
- The coaches write a recommendation.

The coaches may use video equipment if it is available for further analysis. During and at the completion of the assessment, the coaches will confer and write a report as per the application form. When this is completed, they will discuss the result with the player, their parents and their Club representative.

REPORTS AND REVIEWS

A written report will be produced within 48 hours for all assessments and copies provided to :

- The Secretary of the parent club
- The coaches who completed the assessment
- The Junior Sub-Committee Chairperson
- The BBA Secretary
- The BBA Competition Coordinator
- To all Junior coaches

The report may include extra assessment gleaned from video footage. The assessments will become part of the Sub-Committee agenda for each meeting. Coaches may bring any issues they are concerned about to the meeting, and seek permission for a new assessment.

Each junior player assessed will be reviewed by the Secretary :

- After 4 rounds played by the player
- As per the original report
- As per direction voted upon by the Sub-Committee
- At the request of the Junior Sub-Committee Chairperson