



Bendigo Baseball Association

Governing Document #2 General Playing Conditions

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1. GENERAL PLAYING CONDITIONS.

1.1 Two Teams in One Section.

1.1.1 Where a team has more than one team playing the one grade it must furnish to the Competition Coordinator after the expiration of five rounds:

- a) Div 1 and 2 – the names of seven players who then cannot interchange between the teams.
- b) Div 3, Women's, and Juniors – the names of five players who then cannot interchange between the teams.

1.1.2. Interchange players can pitch only after first applying to the BBA Committee for authorisation.

1.1.3. To be eligible to play in the finals series those players named as the seven named players must have played more than 50% of their games played for that team during the season.

1.1.4. The players who may interchange will be required to play in finals with the team they have played the most games for.

1.1.5 Where the games are equal the player must gain permission from the Committee to continue in a final series.

Penalty: BBA Governing Documents #1 – Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2. – Illegal player.

1.2 Nomination of 'Top 6' Player

1.2.1 Each club shall nominate to the BBA Competition Coordinator on BBA Form #8 of the "top 6" players in the highest Division of each club or if three (3) Divisions entered by the club then the highest two (2) Divisions. This must be done prior to the commencement of the third round of BBA sanctioned matches. The nominated "top 6" lists are subject to the approval of the BBA Committee. Div. 1 and 2 teams shall submit for the approval of the BBA Committee the names of their top two (2) pitchers who must be on Div. 1 "top 6" list prior to the commencement of the third round of the season. Application to change the nominated pitchers may be made at any time to the BBA Committee but changes will only be operative after their approval.

1.2.2 The intent of the rule is to allow clubs to field full teams in each grade, not strengthen their lower grade teams with nominated top 6 players from the higher team.

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

1.2.4 A top 6 player from a higher-grade team, cannot participate in a lower grade, unless there is no one else available. That is to say, the use of a top 6 player from a higher grade will not result in a player from a lower grade than them being started on the bench.

1.2.5 A club may apply (via email to the BBA Competition Coordinator) to change a club “top 6”, or approve an application for change, by the BBA Committee.

1.2.6 Temporary approval can be given by the BBA Committee in emergency situations.

1.2.7 The “top 6” rule will be regularly reviewed by the BBA Committee via a monthly report from the BBA Competition Coordinator.

1.2.8 The report by the BBA Competition Coordinator shall contain details of the current list of “top 6” players for each division as required, any changes to the lists and any breaches of rules associated with the ‘top 6’.

1.2.9 A “top 6” Div. 1 player is not permitted to participate in a match which is two divisions lower.

1.2.10 A nominated ‘top 2’ pitcher is not permitted to pitch in a lower grade or division.

1.3 Abandoned Matches.

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

1.4 Illegal Players.

1.4.1. The penalty against a Club for violation of the clearance By-Law or for playing an illegal player in any round of matches shall be in accordance with Penalty: BBA Governing Document #1 – Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2. – Illegal player.

1.4.2. Where the offending team is the winning team, penalty is; forfeiture of points and fine in accordance with Governing Document #1 Section 5.5.2

1.4.3. In the event of forfeiture of points, the game score shall be –

- a) 0-9 to the team in default and 3-0 to its opponent. Where the winning team is not the team at fault and its run percentage for the match is greater than 3-0, the runs scored shall stand; and
- b) Where the defaulting team are the losers of the match, with a loss greater than 0-9, the runs entered will remain.
- c) Where the offending team is the losing team a fine ONLY in accordance with Penalty: BBA Governing Document #1– Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2 will be dealt.

1.5 Eligibility to play Senior Baseball.

1.5.1. No player under the age of fourteen (14) years is eligible to play senior baseball. Refer Penalty: BBA Governing Document #1 – Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2. – Underage player.

1.5.2. Where the offending team is the winning team, penalty is: forfeiture of points and fine in accordance with Penalty: BBA Governing Documents #1 – Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2..

1.5.4. In the event of forfeiture of points, the game score shall be 0-9 to the team in default and 3-0 to its opponent. Where the winning team is not the team at fault and its run percentage for the match is greater than 3-0 runs shall stand; also, where the defaulting team are the losers of the match, with a loss greater than 0-9, the runs entered will remain.

1.5.5. Where the offending team is the losing team a fine ONLY in accordance with Penalty: BBA Governing Document #1 – Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2 will be dealt.

1.6 Two Matches in one Day.

1.6.1 A player shall not be permitted to take part in two games (matches) for their Club on the same day or in the same round of matches.

1.6.2 Exceptions to 1.6.1

Exception One:

A player may participate in any under-age competition match and then participate in a senior competition on the same day or same round. If a player catches at junior level, the player must not pitch and/or catch at senior level on the same day or in the same round. Where a junior player pitches in senior competition reference must be made to Junior Pitching Restrictions in Junior Rules.

Exception Two:

A player having participated in a Div. 2 or 3 match may also participate in a Div. 1 or 2 match on the same day provided that -

1. The player being a 'top 6' player, enters Div. 1 or 2 match after the second (2nd) innings.
2. A player who is not a nominated 'top 6' player may start the game in their second match on the same day.
3. The player does not pitch at both levels.

Exception Three:

Designated Pitcher.

1. The principle of the rule is to allow Clubs to develop young pitchers. Players who are under twenty-five (25) years of age as at the first scheduled playing date of the season and less than top rating pitchers may pitch in B Grade game and participate as a starting player in the first nine in the A Grade game, same round.
2. Div. 1 and 2 teams shall submit for the approval of the BBA Committee the names of their top two (2) pitchers who must be on Div. 1 "top 6" list prior to the commencement of the season. Application to change the nominated pitchers may be

made at any time to the BBA Committee but changes will only be operative after their approval.

3. The BBA Committee may call upon a Club to review its nominated pitchers and may at any time withdraw the use of this rule by a club.
4. A club may use a player, other than the two (2) nominated pitchers, to be a starting pitcher, and only pitch, in the lesser grade game of the same round.
5. This player shall be known as the Designated Pitcher.
6. To be a Designated Pitcher, the player shall be under twenty-five (25) years of age at the first scheduled playing date of the season.
7. In the lesser division game, a Designated Hitter shall be used for a Designated Pitcher. The use of a Designated Pitcher shall be declared to the umpire before the game commences. If the Designated Pitcher becomes a normal player, the player may only participate in the higher-grade game of the same round subject to rule 1.7.2.b/ Exception Two.
8. On the Batting Order list and Match Report Card any Designated Pitcher used in the Div 2 grade game shall be marked "DP" and all pitchers in the Div. 1 grade game shall be marked "P". Managers and Umpires shall ensure correct recording.
9. The Competition Coordinator shall check eligibility of Designated Pitchers and shall report any breaches of the rule to the BBA Committee.
10. Penalty for contravention of this Rule shall be as Penalty: BBA Governing Document #1 – Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2. – Illegal player.
11. A legal game played in each grade shall count as a game played for finals eligibility. This rule is available in the final's series.

Exception Four: Match Permits:

Div. 2 players from a club which is not able to enter a Div 1. team may, upon application to the BBA Committee (in writing via the Competition Coordinator) and at the BBA Committee discretion, play a Div. 2 game for their home club and be able to play Div. 1 game for another club on match permits.

1.7 Special Rule – Juniors

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

1.7.1 T Ball players shall be permitted to take part in Under 12 matches provided they have attained their 8th birthday.

1.7.2 Under 12 players shall be permitted to take part in - U13 matches provided they have attained their 9th birthday; U14 matches provided they have attained their 10th birthday.

1.7.3 U13 players shall be permitted to take part in - U14 matches provided they have attained their 10th birthday; U15 matches provided they have attained their 11th birthday.

1.7.4 U14 players shall be permitted to take part in - U15 matches provided they have attained their 11th birthday; U16 matches provided they have attained their 12th birthday.

1.7.5 U15 players shall be permitted to take part in - U16 matches provided they have attained their 12th birthday; U17 matches provided they have attained their 13th birthday.

1.7.6 U16 players shall be permitted to take part in - U17 matches provided they have attained their 13th birthday; U18 matches provided they have attained their 14th birthday.

1.8 Game Start

1.8.1 Games shall commence at times stated in the fixture or these Playing Conditions, as relevant, subject to the Umpire being satisfied that the playing field is fit for the playing of the match. See Governing Document #9, Section #4, Starting Matches.

1.8.3 The BBA Committee may abandon games prior to the commencement of play due to the fitness of playing conditions or weather.

1.8.4 Rule of baseball 4.04 and 4.05 also apply.

1.9 Late Start and Forfeiture / 7 Player Rule

1.9.1 Where a team has less than seven players present at the scheduled start time for a game, the commencement of the game shall be deferred for a maximum of ten (10) minutes.

1.9.2 If sufficient players arrive for the team to field seven players within ten minutes from the scheduled start time, play will commence immediately and may continue whenever there are at least seven players. The Umpire shall record the late start and the team that caused the late start on the Match Report Card. The BBA Committee shall impose a "Late Start" fine on the defaulting team, as per BBA Governing Document #1 Section 5.5.2.

1.9.3 If, at ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time, the defaulting team is unable to field seven (7) players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win for the game by forfeit. The Umpire shall record the win as a forfeit to the opposing team on the Match Report Card awarding a score of 3-0. The BBA Committee shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on the defaulting team, as per BBA Governing Document #1 Sect 5.5.2, and a score of 0-9.

1.9.4 If neither team can field seven players within ten minutes from the scheduled start time, both teams will be awarded a loss and the score of 0-9. The Umpire shall record the losses on the Match Report Card. The BBA Committee shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on both teams. The cost of the umpire fees shall be shared between the defaulting teams.

1.9.5 When a game is forfeited the names of the players in attendance from the defaulting team(s) must be recorded in the Match Report Card. The non-defaulting team must record a minimum of seven players and a maximum of nine, of the players in attendance.

1.9.6 Players recorded on the Match Report Card under this Playing Condition may not play in another game in that round, except under the Two Games/One Day Rule as stipulated in these Playing Conditions.

2.0 BYES

2.1 Where a team is scheduled for a bye in a round, any 'top 6' players having started at a higher level for both of this Club's preceding 2 rounds shall be ineligible to play in a lower grade or team for such round. 2.2 Exception: Designated Pitcher.

Penalty: BBA Governing Document #1 – Administration of Baseball Section 6.6.2. Illegal Player.

3.0 FORFEIT

3.1 A game may be forfeited to the opposing team, when a team:

3.1.1 Fails to appear upon the field, or being upon the field, refuses to start play within 5 minutes after the umpire has called "Play" at the appointed starting time for beginning the game, unless such delayed appearance is, in the umpire's judgment, unavoidable.

3.1.2 Employs tactics palpably designed to delay or shorten the game.

3.1.3 Refuses to continue play during a game unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire.

3.1.4 Fails to resume play, after a suspension, within one minute after the umpire has called "Play".

3.1.5 After warning by the umpire, wilfully and persistently violates any rules of the game.

3.1.6 Fails to obey within a reasonable time, the umpire's order for removal of a player from the game.

3.1.7 Fails to appear for the second game of a double-header within 20 minutes after the close of the first game unless the umpire-in-chief of the first game shall have extended the intermission between games.

3.1.8 A game shall be forfeited to the visiting team if, after it has been suspended, the orders of the umpire's reasonable request to groundskeepers respecting preparation of the field for resumption of play are not complied with.

3.1.9 A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team is unable or refuses to put 7 registered players on the field. This is termed a "Walkover".

3.2 In the event of a forfeit, the names of the players in attendance from the defaulting team, may be recorded on the Match Report Card. The non-defaulting team must be recorded on the Match Report Card, naming a minimum of 7 players, and a maximum of 9 players. Players so named must be in attendance and Umpires must sight the players and then sign the Match Card as verification of attendance.

3.3 In instances where teams forfeit games prior to the appointed date, or time for the game, a Match Report Card is to be completed by the non-defaulting team naming a minimum of 7 registered players, and a maximum of 9 registered players. The team is then

to forward the Match Report Cards to the BBA Competition Coordinator, signed by a member of their Executive as referred in Club Information Form.

3.4 No player then so recorded may play in another game in that round except when in compliance with Clause 1.6.

4.0 SUSPENDED GAMES

4.1 A suspended game is only called under the following circumstances:

4.1.1 A curfew imposed by law.

4.1.2 A time limit permissible under association rules.

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

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

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

4.2.1 NOTE: Weather and similar conditions shall take precedence in determining whether a called game shall be a suspended game. A game can only be considered a suspended game if stopped for any of the 4 reasons specified in Clause 4.1.1 to 4.1.4.

4.3 A suspended game shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension of the original game and the following MUST apply:

4.3.1 The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game.

4.3.2 The line-up and batting order of both teams shall be the same as the line-up and batting order from the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing substitution.

4.3.3 Any player may be replaced by a player who had not been in the game prior to the suspension. No player removed before the suspension may be returned to the line-up.

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

5.0 CLUBS WITHOUT JUNIOR TEAMS

Senior Clubs shall be required to enter such junior teams competing in matches of the Junior League as may be determined by the BBA Committee, or in the event that

such requirements are waived, fulfil such Junior obligations as directed by the BBA Committee

6.0 APPOINTMENT OF COACHES

No person shall be appointed Coach of any team or Club in the Association without having first been registered as a member of a Club that is affiliated with the Association. Penalty: BBA Bylaws – Administration of Baseball Section 5.5.2.

7.0 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS IN FINALS.

7.1 Player Rights in Finals

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

7.2 Player Eligibility in Lower Grades.

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

7.3 Number of Rounds Required: No player in the senior competition shall be allowed to take part in finals rounds of matches unless:

7.3.1 They have been registered for their club with the Competition Coordinator of the BBA; and

7.3.2 Played in at least five (5) rounds of matches with their club during the same season before the finals. The qualifying standard for juniors is three (3) such matches as per the above. Credits at either level are not interchangeable.

7.3.3 Two games played in the same round in different divisions will only result in one round being credited.

7.3.4 In order to be eligible to represent Bendigo in the State Winter Championships, a player must be currently registered with the BBA Competition Coordinator, and they must have played in at least one more than half the games available in their respective local league fixtures to each Championships. This standard applies for both Senior and Junior teams. Exception – BBA “Friendship” ruling applies to those players, registered with other associations, who are unable to participate in any State Competition for a variety of reasons. “Friendship” invitations to be extended by the BBA Committee, via the BBA Secretary on an “as required basis.” Registration with another association is mandatory.

7.4 Abandoned Matches/Other Eligibility/Appeal

7.4.1 In the event that the eligibility of a player to take part in final rounds has been affected by matches:

- a) Being abandoned by adverse weather.
- b) Byes (*See below comment).
- c) By the player being on duty with the armed forces of the Commonwealth or by being engaged on work of national importance.
- d) Having sustained injury; or
- e) Other exceptional circumstances.

Such player shall have the right of appeal to the BBA Committee.

7.4.2 (*) In interpreting the use of a bye to determine if a player is eligible to participate in a lower grade, the BBA Committee will take into consideration, the difference between the number of byes and the number of rounds the player requires to be eligible (eg.10 in the higher grade & 8 in the lower grade plus three byes would effectively mean that had there not been a bye, the player would normally be eligible for the lower grade). All appeals under 7.4.1 must be in writing and received by the Competition Coordinator by the Tuesday, in the week prior to the Finals Rounds. The appeal shall be dealt with by the BBA Committee and its decision is final.