



WAGGA WAGGA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

Version 5.0

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**WAGGA WAGGA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
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1. INTRODUCTION

The By-Laws and Playing Conditions of the Association are intended to be principles and rules to allow the successful running of the domestic senior competition in Wagga Wagga.

- (a) A Notice of Motion must be passed by a Management Committee meeting or at a Special general meeting of the Association (called for that purpose) to effect a change in the By-Laws and Playing Conditions.
- (b) A Notice of Motion shall be passed in the following manner:
 - i. A notice must be sent to all members advising that a management or a Special general meeting is to be held to consider a Notice of Motion.
 - ii. The notice must give details of the proposed Notice of Motion in writing and give at least seven (7) days' notice of the meeting.
 - iii. A quorum must be present at the meeting.
 - iv. To pass a Notice of Motion, a majority of over fifty (50) percent of those entitled to vote under the Constitution must be achieved.

2. REGISTRATION

- (a) A player is deemed to be registered with the league when their complete and correct details are on the current Baseball NSW Registration website and ticked as paid in their respective "member Type". All other officials and volunteers must also be registered on the Registration website where applicable.
- (b) Once all persons are on the website the WWBA in Competitions Manager will be sent an email from that club advising that this is complete. All persons must be on the website before the season commences.
- (c) For additional player registrations after the commencement of the season, for single players only, the player must be registered on the Baseball NSW registration website and have paid the BNSW portion of their fees before taking the field. An email is to be sent to the Competitions Manager once registration has been completed.
- (d) A junior player playing must be at least 15 years of age before they can play and comply with Section 2. Registration (e).
 - i. To request Age Dispensation, fill out the Age Dispensation form from Baseball NSW and send through the completed form to BNSW for review.
<https://www.baseballnsw.com.au/policies.html>
- (e) Any Club playing any player not complying with any of the above section 2. Registration (a) to (d) will incur a fine of \$25 per player per game to a total fine of \$50 and one penalty point for each game in which the offending players participated.
- (f) Clubs intending to use a batboy / batgirl must register them as a financial member with the club on the Baseball NSW Registration website prior to them undertaking this activity. To be eligible for this role they must comply with the following:
 - i. Must be 12 years old at the time of undertaking the role.
 - ii. Must have participated as a registered junior player with the WWBA or equivalent, if applicable.
 - iii. Must at all times wear appropriate protective items.
 - Enclosed shoes, double eared helmet. Males must also wear a protector box
- (g) For any exemption to Section 2 (f) (i) or (ii), clubs may apply to the WWBA Executive clearly outlining justification for the exemption. A breach of Section 2 (f) will incur a fine of \$25 for the first offence by the club. Any further breach will incur a fine of \$25 and one penalty point for each game in which the batboy / batgirl participated.

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3. FEES AND CHARGES

- (a) Player registration and insurance fees are set by Baseball NSW.
- (b) Baseball grounds controlled by Wagga Wagga City Council are booked for usage by the WWBA. Fees for the use of these grounds are set by Wagga Wagga City Council and invoiced to the WWBA. These charges are to be recovered from Clubs.

4. CLEARANCES/TRANSFERS

- (a) Players seeking a transfer/clearance should (where appropriate) speak to their club before leaving.
- (b) Players can provide a reason for leaving, but do not have to.
- (c) Clubs will be notified when a clearance is sought.
- (d) Players must be financial before clearance is approved.

5. LISTING PLAYERS AS DEFAULTERS

- (a) The WWBA Secretary shall keep a list of players' names who have been declared defaulters by the Association and/or other Leagues and Clubs affiliated with the New South Wales Baseball League. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to ensure this list is kept up to date upon receipt of notification from the aforementioned bodies.
- (b) The Secretary shall be responsible for distributing copies of the list of defaulters to each club affiliated with the WWBA at the monthly WWBA management meeting. Each club shall be deemed as having received notification of current defaulters on the date of the meeting at which the list was issued. Non attendance at a Management Committee meeting by a club will not be considered an excuse for non-notification of defaulters.
- (c) Any player registering with a club shall be deemed as cleared unless their name appears on the most recent list of defaulters supplied to that club by the Association Secretary.
- (d) If any player whose name appears on the list attempts to register with a club, that club shall inform the Secretary that the defaulter has attempted to register within a period of seven (7) days.
- (e) The Association Executive may, at their discretion, call upon the defaulter to appear before the Committee to explain their indebtedness. The Committee, if not satisfied that the player has made all possible efforts to pay their debt, or lacks proof of payment, shall suspend the player from playing any competition match until such times as they have paid their debt. If the player refuses to appear before the Committee, then they shall be suspended in absence and the Committee shall ensure that all the usual steps are taken as would be with any suspended player.
- (f) Any club who knowingly (e.g. after notification) allows a defaulter to play a competition game after being notified shall incur a penalty of the loss of all competition points for the games in which the defaulter played and a fine totalling \$25 per defaulter.
- (g) Any club who knowingly (e.g. after notification) allows a defaulter to play any final series game after being notified shall incur a penalty of the loss of any final series win for the games in which the defaulter played and a fine totalling \$50 per defaulter.
- (h) Any registered individual or member of the League who knowingly plays with or against any branch association, club, team, affiliated body or member thereof under suspension or disqualification by the Association, shall be liable to suspension from competition games for a period of three (3) competition rounds from the date that this breach is reported to the WWBA Management Committee.
- (i) It is the responsibility of all affiliated clubs to notify the WWBA Secretary of any defaulting player/s within twelve months of the end of the season in which the default occurred. Failure to do so will result in

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the Association not recognising the default. Reasons for listing a player as a defaulter may include, but not be limited to, non payment of fees, non return of uniform, etc.

6. PROCEDURE FOR LISTING DEFAULTERS

- (a) Clubs are able to list defaulters using the steps listed below.
 - i. Step 1. A letter of demand is to be sent to the person for the payment and/or return of equipment. The letter is to state that the person has 21 days to pay outstanding money or return equipment and/or uniform.
 - ii. Step 2. If after 21 days no action has been taken by the person to resolve the matter, clubs are to send photocopies of all correspondence to the Secretary of the WWBA, who will list the matter to be dealt with at the next Management Committee meeting.
- (b) A person who is found to be in default shall be considered a defaulter from the date of the meeting at which the offence was proven. He or she will be considered to be on the WWBA defaulters list from this date.
- (c) A player who has been listed as a defaulter is no longer considered a defaulter after the Club or association that listed the player as a defaulter has contacted the Association Secretary to remove the player from the default list. The WWBA Secretary will then contact all parties concerned.

7. PAYMENT OF PLAYERS

- (a) No player shall receive pecuniary or monetary consideration for playing in a game of baseball. This includes payment or services in lieu of player fees.
- (b) If clubs are found to be in breach of 4 (a), a fine of \$250 will be imposed and the team will be stripped of 10 competition points.

8. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS TO THE WWBA AND TO BASEBALL

- (a) Each club shall encourage their members to become accredited members of the NSWB Umpires Association.
- (b) Each club must have all coaches accredited to a minimum BNSW requirement or a temporary exemption (1 year) from BNSW while in the process of organising a new accredited coach.
- (c) All representative coaches must be accredited to BNSW requirements.
- (d) Coaches to be accredited by Baseball NSW or state equivalent.
- (e) Each club shall provide labour during final, semi-final and grand final series, Country Championships, Knock-outs or other tournaments and any working bees as may be requested from time to time by the WWBA Executive.
- (f) Each club is committed to:
 - i. Substantially improving playing facilities in their Club and the WWBA.
 - ii. Substantially improving spectator facilities in their Club and the WWBA.
 - iii. Substantially improving publicity within the WWBA and the Riverina.
- (g) Clubs at each ground shall endeavour to provide shelter to the scorers. Permanent shelter should have equal priority as the dugouts. Temporary shelter shall be provided on wet or windy days to those grounds without permanent shelter.
- (h) Each club shall nominate scorers to the Competitions Manager to be able to organise scorers for the games. All accredited scorers are to be members of the NSW Baseball Scorers Association.
- (i) Each club is to encourage more people to take up scoring so that each team has a different scorer.

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(j) Failure to comply with any of the above commitments and obligations may prevent any teams from that Club being admitted into the WWBA competition or a fine to a maximum of \$50 may be imposed by WWBA.

9. CLUB UNIFORMS

- (a) All teams and all team coaches shall be correctly attired in the accepted club uniform whilst ever being a participant in any competition, or finals series game.
- (b) In the event of clubs requesting a change of colour or style to their playing uniform, any change must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Uniforms shall have player's numbers on the back and must be a minimum of 150mm in height. Additional numbers on either the breast or the sleeve - preferably the one that faces the pitcher when the player is batting must be 100 mm in height.

10.CODE OF CONDUCT

- (a) Club executives shall be held responsible for their players, non-playing members and supporters. The Club Executive shall answer for any penalties or fines resulting from any actions made by non-playing or non-registered supporters which may be against the laws or ethics of Wagga Wagga Baseball Association or which brings the game into disrepute.
- (b) Players and coaches representing the League or their club are subject to the following guidelines:
 - i. There will be no participation in any activity which may bring discredit upon a team, a club, the Association or the game of baseball.
 - ii. There will be no derogatory comments or verbal or physical abuse of any player, coach, official or spectator.
 - iii. There will be no criticising or arguing with an Umpires decision. If players disagree with a decision they will have their coach or manager seek clarification.
 - iv. There will be no throwing, kicking or projecting any object in rage, anger or frustration.
 - v. There will be no wilful damage of any equipment.
 - vi. There will be no use of illegal substances while participating in a game.
 - vii. No smoking or vaping will be allowed while in club playing uniform; this includes before, during or after games at the playing field.
 - viii. There will be no drinking of alcohol while in Club playing uniform.
 - ix. There will be no use of language which is foul or offensive.
- (c) In the event of any breaches of this code, one or any of the following steps may be taken:
 - i. Warning from a coach, official or office bearer of the Association
 - ii. Once a warning has been given, the umpire is to inform the scorers, taking note of the time and the incident.
 - iii. Ejection from the game. Inform the scorers, so time and the incident is noted on the result card.
 - iv. A coach, official or any other witness to the alleged breaches can submit details of the incident in writing to the Secretary of the Association. If the incident is considered serious enough, the WWBA Executive, as per the WWBA Constitution, may cite any member to appear before the Management Committee who will determine what action is to be taken. If necessary, the person's right of appeal will be explained to them.
- (d) In the event that an umpire ejects a player or official from a game the following steps must be taken:
 - i. An umpire's report shall be submitted to the WWBA Secretary within 48 hours of the

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event. The report shall be precise and detailed as possible. Refer to the schedule of offences Section 8 part (g).

ii. Upon receipt of the umpires report, the WWBA Secretary shall notify the WWBA President, Club delegate for the person involved and other members of the WWBA Executive.

iii. In the event a report is not submitted, the umpire must present before the judiciary panel and supply a verbal report.

(e) A meeting of the Judiciary Panel, as determined by the WWBA, shall be called to adjudicate on this matter. This must take place before the commencement of the next round.

(f) The WWBA Judiciary will use the following guidelines listed in Section 8 part (g) to impose penalties on persons ejected from WWBA competition and finals games.

i. WWBA Judiciary Hearings shall consider each case on its merits and circumstances when imposing penalties.

ii. WWBA Judiciary Hearings, at their sole discretion, may impose penalties for offences not included in the guidelines as they see fit. This may include reprimands and suspended sentences.

iii. WWBA Judiciary Hearings will use the schedule of penalties for any given offence.

iv. WWBA Judiciary Hearings will consider the circumstances of each case to determine the actual penalty.

(g) Offence and penalties guidelines:

Offence	Penalties
Equipment abuse	1 game
Tobacco / Alcohol abuse	2 games
Audible offensive language / swearing (repeated)	2 games
Unsportsmanlike conduct / language towards an umpire, player or spectator	2 games
Disobeying an Umpire's direction	2 games
Dissent of an Umpire's decision	2 games
Arguing balls, strikes and judgement calls	2 games
Contempt of an WWBA Meeting / WWBA Judiciary Hearing	4 games
Instigating / joining a fight	4 games
Reckless play	6 games
Dangerous play	8 games
Deliberate collision	8 games
Abuse of Umpire during / after Game (verbal and /or physical [threatened or actual])	8 games
Striking another player	12 games
Racial / Religious vilification	12 games

Note: these are guidelines and all have the potential for a Life ban

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11.FLOATING PLAYERS

- (a) In the event that a team cannot field a team of nine (9) of its own players, the team in question may seek the use of a floating player. This team must have seven (7) players from its own list before seeking this help or a forfeit is applied.
- (b) All players are considered floating players, unless they have played representative baseball in the last two (2) years.
- (c) In the event of WWBA being composed of multiple grades, this list is final and any changes (i.e. players being injured or leaving the competition.) can be addressed by the executive at any time.
- (d) No floating player is permitted to play in the battery (pitcher/catcher) in any game where they are a floating player.
- (e) The floating player must bat in the last spots of your lineup (i.e. 9 if you have one floating player, 8 & 9 if you have 2 floating players.)

12.UMPIRES

- (a) Any non-accredited umpires that belong to the Umpire's Association should be linked to a Club for insurance purposes, they are registered as an official and not as an umpire. If they then gain accreditation, they will then go through the umpires association.
- (b) Non-accredited umpires are expected to umpire to the best of their ability, in a non biased way and have an appropriate level of knowledge of the game.
- (c) Experienced club members are expected to assist an new/inexperienced umpire during their allocated game.

13.PLAYING RULES & CONDITIONS

Games conducted by the Wagga Wagga Baseball Association Inc. will, in addition to the rules of Baseball, include:

Game Duration and Times

- (a) All general games will be two (2) hours. In the event of tied scores no extra innings will be played or game time extended apart from an extension detailed in Sections 20 (a) (v).
- (b) Game start times will be set each season by the Management Committee.
- (c) Matches set down as competition fixtures must be played out for a minimum of seventy-five (75) minutes or five (5) innings, whichever is the earliest to constitute an official game.
- (d) No inning shall start with less than ten (10) minutes remaining to the finish time. Once an inning starts it must be played out for a result not for averages. No game shall be called with more than ten (10) minutes remaining irrespective of the score, unless due to bad weather or mercy rule.
- (e) Double Header Rule
 - i. A double header shall be seven (7) innings or 1¾ hours whichever comes first.
 - ii. The duration between games of a double header, played on the same day, shall be a minimum of fifteen minutes to a maximum of thirty minutes.
 - iii. Any other decisions regarding double headers will be made by the WWBA Executive Committee.

Declaration and Mercy Rule

- (a) Declarations - A team may declare its batting innings closed at any stage during the game. There is no restriction on the number of times a team may declare their batting inning closed during a game.
- (b) Mercy Rule The mercy rule is to be used in all games: More than 15 runs after 4 (4) completed

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innings. More than 10 runs after 5 (5) completed innings.

(c) In all games, the mercy rule need not be applied should the coaches of both teams agree to continue.

(d) In the event of agreement not being reached the mercy rule will be applied.

Seven (7) Run Rule

(a) The Seven Runs Rules shall apply for all Games.

i. After seven (7) runs cross the plate in an innings, that team will declare their innings closed.

ii. If six (6) runs or less have already crossed the plate and the next batter's hit:

- 1. Entitles the batter to advance to either home or 3rd base without liability to be put out; or
- 2. Is ruled a ground rule double. All runs that score from such a hit shall count in that innings even though this may result in more than 6 runs being scored in the innings. In all other dead or live ball situations, no more than 7 runs in total can be scored in an innings.

(b) iii. This rule will not apply for Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals.

Weather and Other Factors

(a) If light, rain or any other factor prohibits a Grand Final game from being completed, it must be re-commenced on a date arranged, from the position where the game was called. If at the rescheduled game no play or limited play occurs, then the result is determined as per section 23. Playing Conditions (a) v. above or if this does not resolve the matter, then the team highest on the ladder moves forward in draw as the winner.

(b) In the event of bad weather, the umpires shall have the power to determine whether or not the ground is in playing condition. If the umpire decides that games shall not commence, then all games scheduled for that ground that day shall be cancelled. If after a period of bad weather, the weekend is clear but the umpire feels the ground is too wet for the full schedule of fixtures, then the umpire has the power to cancel lower grade games so the 1st grade game can be played if they feel the ground can be made playable for that fixture.

(c) WWBA Executives have the authority to call off games due to ground conditions up to prior to the game start within two (2) hours of start time. All games on Council controlled grounds must follow Council directions. Council controlled grounds are to be notified at commencement of each season.

(d) If in the event of a ground being declared unplayable (by either Council, Umpire, or Association) every effort should be made to transfer the game to another venue.

(e) Approved senior grounds are to be determined by decision of the management committee. In the case of unforeseen events, such as overnight heavy rain, vandalism or other factors, the move to another venue can still be made on game day provided it does not delay the scheduled start time of any game and it has the approval of Club Executives impacted and a member of the Association Executive, preferably the President.

(f) In the case of venues with multiple approved senior grounds, if the scheduled ground is unplayable, Umpires and Association Executives have the authority to move the game to another approved senior ground at the same venue.

Grounds

(a) Approved senior grounds are those grounds approved by the WWBA Management Committee.

(b) Approved senior grounds shall be those grounds that meet the minimum dimensions required for senior play and will have either a fully enclosed field or such a field setup with temporary fencing and obvious markings to indicate a home run fence, foul lines and dead ball lines (e.g. witches hats or clearly mowed strips).

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(c) Approved senior grounds not under the control of individual teams or clubs (i.e. junior fields) that meet the minimum requirements for senior play may be used to avoid cancellation of games. These grounds may be used for competition, final series, country championships or similar tournaments and shall be deemed seniors grounds when set up in the approved configuration.

Teams

- (a) All players in the starting line-up for each grade in any competition round must be fresh players. All players intending to be used in a game shall be listed on the line up sheet. Exemptions to this rule are outlined in point (iii) below and Section 21 Forfeits.
- (b) Players entering a higher grade after they have appeared in a lower grade or will appear in the case of minor league games must only enter after 2 completed innings have been completed in the higher grade, except under extenuating circumstances (or exemption granted by the management committee).
- (c) In the event a grade cannot field a full roster of nine (9) players in a competition round, excluding any final series game, to avoid a forfeit, a player may start in two grades in the same round. This exemption is subject to the following conditions:
- (d) In the event a player is required to start in two grades in the same round, that player shall be considered to be a player of the higher grade after the player has been in the starting line-up for four (4) rounds.
- (e) A club that continues to play players up beyond the allowed rounds shall be penalised one (1) competition point from the competition standings for that grade and for any further breaches of this rule
- (f) For an exception from this rule the club must apply to the Executive Committee in writing. The rule can be taken on a case-by-case basis.
- (g) No player who is scheduled to play in a higher grade game on any day in the same round will be permitted to enter a game in progress. That is they must be listed as being on the bench or have played in a lower grade in the same round.
- (h) The names of fresh reserves and starting team must appear on the original team line up sheet. A player who has participated or will participate in a lower grade game in the same round shall not enter a game until after 3 complete innings of play have been completed unless extenuating circumstances occur.
- (i) Where a protest is lodged before a game starts to the Umpire in regards to a breach of the By-Laws and Playing Conditions, the protest should be noted on the result sheet and the game will be played as normal. In addition, this protest must also be submitted in accordance with Section 10 Protests and Appeal.
- (j) Extenuating Circumstances - injury - to be ruled on by the Umpire. Any other circumstances shall be ruled on by the Executive Committee.

Equipment

- (a) All teams shall be required to use double eared batting helmets, and all players shall wear them whilst batting and base running.
- (b) All grades to follow BNSW Bat Regulations
- (c) In all grades, the home team shall field first.
- (d) All grades shall start play with at least two new league approved balls, one supplied from each team unless provided by sponsorship to the association.
- (e) The League approved balls are those approved by the WWBA Management Committee for use in all grade games.

14.BATTERY REGULATIONS (Pitcher/Catcher)

- (f) A pitcher must adhere to the MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines as instituted by Baseball NSW & Baseball Australia. Refer to <https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>
- (g) Age restrictions are to be based on Baseball NSW Age Matrix. Refer to

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<https://www.baseballnsw.com.au/resources/policies/>

(h) Any player who must adhere to the MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines in reference to pitching is not to be allowed to play catcher in a game where they have pitched, or intend to pitch. (i.e, if you start a player as a catcher who is in the age requirements for MLB Pitch Smart restrictions state the player should avoid pitch and catching that game/day.)

(i) Breaches of the pitching limits and restrictions that occur shall incur loss of points for the game plus the following fines.

- i. \$50 for the first breach by the club in each season.
- ii. \$100 for a second breach by the club in each season.
- iii. \$200 for a third or subsequent breach by the club in each season plus a one round suspension of the team coach responsible. They may not participate as a coach in any grade in the next scheduled competition round or final series round after the penalty has been imposed by the WWBA Executive.

15.SPEED-UP RULES

Policy and Intent

The WWBA has resolved to speed up the play of the games. The intent of these rules is to allow umpires, coaches and players to limit time-wasting and to encourage games to progress quickly and smoothly.

Umpires responsible for enforcement

Umpires are responsible for enforcement of the Speed-Up Rules and should wear a watch for this purpose. All violations of this section should be reported to the WWBA Secretary and referenced in the Umpires' Written Report to the Management Committee.

Pre-Game Practice

In no event should pre-game practice interfere with or delay the scheduled start of the game.

Pitch Clock

- (j) Pitchers have 15 seconds to throw a pitch when the bases are empty.
- (k) Pitchers have 20 seconds to throw a pitch when there are runners on base.
- (l) Under the pitch clock, the pitcher must begin their pitching motion within the given time of receiving the ball from the catcher, umpire or other player. This requirement shall not apply if the batter is granted time to leave the batter's box.
- (m) If the pitcher violates the pitch clock, then the umpire shall call a ball against the team in violation. If, in the umpire's opinion, the pitcher is intentionally violating the rule, he may eject the pitcher and/or the Manager from the game.
- (n) If the pitcher deliberately wastes time by throwing to the base(s) the umpire shall call a baulk.
- (o) If the batter violates the pitch clock, the umpire shall call a strike against the team in violation.

Hitter to remain in Batter's box

- (a) The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box. If the batter considers they are at physical risk, they may make a request for "time". If the umpire feels that there is risk present, the umpire may grant a time out.
- (b) The batter shall be expected to return to the batter's box promptly and the umpire may call "play". If the umpire feels the batter is not returning sufficiently quickly enough, regardless of whether the batter has returned to the batter's box at the time, a strike shall be called on the batter.

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Time Limitations Between Innings

- (a) The team taking the field after making their third out must be ready to pitch to the opposing team within sixty (60) seconds. The plate umpire shall take all steps to ensure that the game re-commences without undue delay.
- (b) Batter not ready. If the batter is not ready to receive the pitch within sixty (60) seconds, the umpire shall award a strike to the batter. The batter then has fifteen (15) seconds before the Rule (e) is enforced.
- (c) Pitcher not ready. If the pitcher is not ready to deliver the pitch within sixty (60) seconds, the umpire shall award a ball to the batter. The pitcher then has fifteen (15) seconds before the Rule (e), 15-Second Rule, is enforced.
- (d) In the event of between-inning on field entertainment being scheduled by the home team, the umpire may extend the time permitted between innings.

Visits to the Pitcher's mound limited

- (a) By Catcher. The catcher shall be permitted to make one trip per inning to the pitcher's mound.
- (b) By Manager or Coach. A Manager or Coach is permitted two (2) visits to the pitcher's mound to consult with the pitcher. A second visit in any one inning results in the automatic replacement of the pitcher.
- (c) However a second visit is allowed to change the current pitcher to a fielding position if the Manager/Coach approaches the Plate Umpire and advises the Umpire of their intention.
- (d) Failure to make the change through the Plate Umpire will then mean the rules of Baseball will apply and the pitcher must be replaced.
- (e) Player/Coach. A player who is also acting as a coach must be so nominated on the Line-Up sheet. Only a coach playing in the infield may request time to visit the pitcher. Any such visit will be deemed a visit under this rule.
- (f) The umpire will automatically call for the relief pitcher when this rule requires a change of pitcher.

Occasions Not Constituting as a visit; the following shall not constitute visits:

- (a) Discussions between pitchers and position player(s) that occur between batters in the normal course of play and do not require either the position player(s) or the pitcher to relocate
- (b) Visits by position players to the mound solely to clean spikes, provided the player does not confer with the pitcher
- (c) Visits to the mound due to an injury or potential injury of the pitcher.
- (d) Visits by position players to the mound after the announcement of an offensive substitution but prior to a subsequent pitch or play.
- (e) Visits to the mound by position players that occur during a suspension of play pursuant to an umpire's call of "Time" (e.g., following an injury to an umpire or player; the presence of a spectator, object, or a member of the grounds crew on the field; a manager's initiation of Replay Review, etc.), provided that the mound visit does not otherwise delay a return to game action.
- (f) Visits to the mound by position players after a home run, provided that the player returns to his position before the runner crosses home plate; and
- (g) Visits to the mound by position players during an inning break or pitching change, provided that the mound visit does not prevent the pitcher from complying with any applicable inning break or pitching change time limits.

Limits on Warm-up Pitches

- (a) A pitcher entering a game to replace a pitcher, who has been injured or ejected, shall be permitted a maximum of eight (8) warm-up pitches.
- (b) Pitcher warming up prior to the start of an innings is limited to 60 seconds under Rule (g).

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Designated runner for the Catcher

- (a) A catcher must participate offensively until there are two (2) outs. The last out closest to the current batter is to be used as the runner.
- (b) If on base, they shall be replaced by a designated runner immediately the second out is achieved.
- (c) If at bat, they shall be replaced once the play by which they get on base is complete.

16.BLOOD BIN RULES

- (d) Players who are injured and who require treatment to stem the flow of any body fluids may leave the game without penalty.
 - i. If on base, a courtesy runner may be used until replaced by the original player.
 - ii. If at bat, the player may obtain treatment and
 - iii. If unable to be treated within a reasonable period the player may be replaced or the batting shall continue with the count applied to a courtesy batter (the player if removed for treatment shall not bat until their turn in the line up again arrives).
 - iv. If in the field a courtesy fielder may be used while treatment is applied.
- (e) Soiled clothing shall be replaced.
- (f) Players who after treatment are unable to return into the game at the completion of one (1) further innings shall be replaced.
- (g) No ejected player may be used as a replacement. If there are no reserves, a person who has left the game may be used.

17.FORFEITS

General

- (h) Every effort is to be made to avoid a forfeit of the game/s.
- (i) In all competition games and Final Series games, where a club is unable to field a team at the scheduled start time of the game but have advised the umpire that players are due to arrive that will enable the game to proceed, The umpire may delay the scheduled start time by up to 15 minutes. The scheduled finish time will remain unchanged.
- (j) Forfeits, if declared, should be at the lowest grade level possible. Players from lower grade must be assigned to the higher grade. The intent is to prevent any forfeit in the highest grade.
- (k) If a club continues to forfeit games the club may be asked the show cause, before the Association Management Committee at the next General Meeting of the Association, why the club should not be removed from any further competition.
- (l) To avoid a forfeit, clubs will be permitted to allow players to play up from 2nd Grade to 1st Grade, within the rules set out in section 20 (d)
- (m) If in the event a team cannot field a full roster of nine (9) players, following the period of the player playing up, each grade will be permitted to field seven (7) players with an automatic out when the vacancy comes up in the battery.

Notified Forfeits

A notified forfeit shall be:

- (a) Where a club makes notification to the Association Secretary that the club has been forced to forfeit its game/s for the upcoming round.
- (b) The notification must be with the league secretary no later than 24hrs prior to the scheduled time for the game/s for the upcoming round.

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- (c) The notification shall be in the form of an email stating that the club will be forfeiting game/s and stating the reason for the forfeit of the game/s for the upcoming round.

Un-Notified Forfeits

An un-notified forfeit shall be:

- (a) Where a club has made no reasonable effort to notify the league secretary in the time period allowed, that the club will be forfeiting game/s for the upcoming round.
- (b) Where notification that a club will be forfeiting game/s for the upcoming round inside the 24hrs notification period.
- (c) Where the club is unable to field a team at the scheduled start time of the game/s.
- (d) Where a club notifies the Umpires that the club is to forfeit the game prior to the scheduled start time game/s.

Penalties

- (a) Where a team forfeits a game it will be recorded as a 9-0 win to the opposing team.
- (b) In the case of a Notified Forfeit no other penalty shall apply initially.
- (c) The Club shall notify the opposition club of the forfeit as soon as the decision has been made.
- (d) In the case of an un-notified forfeit the club that has forfeited shall also be liable for all costs incurred as a result of the forfeit. Which shall include but not limited to any council ground fees for game/s that were forfeited and the costs incurred for the umpires fees for the game/s that were forfeited.

18.PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- (a) Clubs may appeal a decision of the Judiciary Panel, as per the WWBA Constitution. The Executive Committee shall decide if an appeal is accepted or rejected.
- (b) In the event of an umpire giving an erroneous decision on a point of law and refusing to alter their decision, although their attention was drawn to the fact at the time on the field by the coach/manager of the team disadvantaged by the decision, then the team so disadvantaged shall have the right to protest to the Executive Committee, provided the intention to protest is indicated to the Umpires Coordinator at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched or before any intervening play occurs, and the final protest is made to the Umpires Coordinator within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the game.
- (c) If a protest is submitted to an umpire during a competition game in relation to Section 9 (b), then a written letter explaining the circumstances of the protest must be handed to a member of the Executive of the Association by the protesting team no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in no further action on the protest.
- (d) If a club wishes to lodge a protest in regards to a breach of the WWBA By-Laws and Playing Conditions that has impacted the result of a competition or Final Series game, the protest is to be made the Umpires Coordinator within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the game, then a written letter explaining the circumstances of the protest must be handed to a member of the Executive of the Association by the protesting team no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in no further action on the protest.
- (e) All protests, in regards to Section 9, apart from judicial matters, will be to the Executive Committee for adjudication. Any appeal of these decisions will be to a meeting of the WWBA Management Committee.
- (f) All protests and appeals must be accompanied by a \$50 fee. If the protest or appeal is lost or dismissed then the fee is forfeited to the Association
- (g) An affiliate wishing the WWBA to hear an appeal on any decision, apart from Judicial Panel

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matters (refer to WWBA Constitution), shall forward within 24 hours of such decision a clear statement on the grounds for appeal signed by the Secretary of the club.

(h) Unless the grounds for appeal have been clearly substantiated, the appeals committee does not have the power to alter any fine or penalty imposed by the committee that first heard the case.

(i) Provided that a person or body has made an appeal in the correct manner, as laid out in these rules, that person or body is permitted to play until the appeal is heard.

19. GAME RESULTS - Where/when applicable

(a) Result sheets should be completed clearly and neatly in all appropriate places with players full details (first & last name) and only reserves players that have played in that game

(b) In compliance with Section 2 Registration, any new player registrations are to be recorded on the result sheet.

(c) At the conclusion of games, result sheets are to be finalised and signed in the proper places by umpires and scorers.

(d) Result sheets must be collected and sent to the Competitions Manager via email by Wednesday of the following week by the home team.

(e) Failure to provide any result sheets will result in the Club being notified via email and having until the following Wednesday to submit the requested missing sheets. The club will be given three warnings throughout the season (including final series). After three warnings have been given to that club they will receive a \$20 fine each subsequent time a result sheet has not been submitted to the Association on time.

(f) Clubs must notify the Publicity Officer if a camera and/or representative from one of the media organisations was present.

(g) Failure to comply with section 10. Game Results (f) and (g) above may incur a fine of \$20 per incident at the discretion of the Association and supported by the Management Committee.

(h) Umpires must complete the 321 points nominations on the result sheet.

(i) Standings are determined on win percentage using the formula listed below.

Win Percentage = Wins/Games Played (Byes & Washouts are not included as a game is not played) or if the executive decides not to proceed to (j)

(j) Game point structure if using Points

- i. Win 2
- ii. Loss 0
- iii. Draw 1
- iv. Washout is regarded as a 7 all draw.

20. SCORERS STATISTIC SHEETS

(a) To be eligible for inclusion in calculation of game statistics, all Game statistic sheets are to be in the hands of the nominated scorers contact within two days from the conclusion of the game.

(b) The penalty for failure to comply will be the exclusion of the relevant game statistics from any game or player statistic calculated by the nominated scorer's contact.

21. FINAL SERIES

(a) The WWBA Executive committee has total jurisdiction over all final series matters, including ground allocations and times/dates.

(b) All grounds will be made available for the entire final series. will be used if necessary to play

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final series games.

- (c) For the makeup of the final series all positions will be determined on
 - i. Win Percentage' or 'Game win/loss points depending on the committee choice.
 - ii. if teams are then tied, the first tie breaker for position shall be determined on 'Run Differential'.
 - iii. if still unresolved the highest 'Total Runs For' between the tied teams shall determine the positions.
 - iv. if still unresolved the lowest 'Total Runs Against' between the tied teams shall determine the positions.
 - v. if still unresolved the head-to-head record of the affected teams.
 - vi. If still unresolved a single "coin toss" conducted by a member of the WWBA Executive, preferably the WWBA President, and a delegate from each of the clubs impacted shall determine the positions.
- (d) In the Semi Finals & Finals Weekends if the game is 'washed out' or unable to be played for any reason then the team higher on the table shall progress through to the next series.
- (e) The Grand Final series where a spare day shall be set aside for a replayed or rescheduled game.
- (f) If the replayed or rescheduled GF game is washed out then it is the first qualifier who is the winner.
- (g) All Grand Final games shall be on a single game basis.
- (h) All final series games shall be limited to 2 hours duration. No inning shall commence once the time has expired, the inning being currently played must be completed.
 - i. In the event of tied scores in a finals game, except the Grand Final, one extra innings shall be played in an attempt to achieve a result. The Grand Final will be played until a result is achieved.

For purposes of this regulation, any "extra inning" is defined as the inning after the completed inning when the 2 hour time limit is reached.

- ii. Where extra innings are required and any "extra inning" is about to commence, the Team at bat shall commence the Top of the inning with a runner on second base.
 - iii. The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning.
 - iv. The runner on second base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter in the line-up who leads off the inning.
 - v. Any runner or batter previously removed from the game for a substitute shall be ineligible to return to the game, as would be the case with any substituted player pursuant to the Official Baseball Rules.
 - vi. In the event the game is still tied after the 1 extra innings, on Semi Finals or Finals Weekend then the game is declared over and the higher seed (home team) advances to the next round of Finals.
 - vii. For Grand Finals, the game will only be replayed on a spare weekend due to weather or poor lighting. If the game cannot be commenced/completed, then the home team is declared winner of the Grand Final.
- (i) In all Final series games, except Grand Final, both teams are to supply game balls unless provided by a sponsor. The WWBA will provide game balls for each Grand Final game.
- (j) In final series games the team finishing higher on the competition table shall field first and occupy the 3rd base dugout. For example,
 - i. Semi Finals - The team higher on the competition table at the end of the regular competition games.
 - ii. Finals - The team losing the Major Semi-Final.
 - iii. Grand Finals - The team winning the Major Semi-Final.

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- (k) For all finals games including Grand Finals the game time shall start at a time decided by the executive allowing for factors such as bad weather, community events or anything deemed to have a negative impact on completion of a game.
- (l) To be eligible to play in the final series a player must be registered with the club in compliance with Section 2 Registration. In addition, a player must have participated in at least one third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of their teams individual competition rounds rounded up to the nearest number. (ie $15/3 = 5$ games, $16/3 = 6$ games (5.33 rounded up to the nearest whole number).
 - i. Compliance with this clause may be waived upon application to the Management Committee. The application in writing must be in the hands of the Association Secretary prior to the final series, clearly stating the reasons for the requested waiver.
- (m) The grade in which a player shall be eligible to participate in the final series shall be determined by the last 5 competition rounds in which a player has participated. A player must not participate in a lower grade unless the majority of their participation, as part of the starting line-up or fresh reserve, has been in the lower grades during the last 5 competition rounds in which they have participated. For an exception to this rule the club must apply to the Executive Committee in writing prior to the final series game. For example:
 - i. A player with 50% in 1st grade and 50% in 2nd grade, is not eligible for 2nd grade but is still eligible for 1st grade.
- (n) The grade in which a player shall be eligible to participate in the final series shall not be (2) two grades lower than in which they started in the previous competition round. Note, forfeit, bye and washout constitute a game for the purpose of this rule. For an exception to this rule the club must apply to the Executive Committee in writing prior to the final series game.
- (o) All players, including a designated hitter, in the starting line-up for each grade in any final series game must be fresh players.
- (p) A player who has appeared in a lower grade final series game cannot appear in the first two (2) innings of a higher grade final series game.
- (q) Once a player has formed part of the starting line-up of a higher grade in the final series that player will be deemed to be a player of the higher grade and shall remain in the higher grade for the duration of the final series. For an exception to this rule the club must apply to the Executive Committee in writing prior to the final series game.
- (r) Penalty for playing an ineligible player shall be the game in which the player participates will be declared a forfeit and a 9-0 win recorded to the non-offending team. A final series game shall be either a Semi-Final, Final or Grand Final game.
- (s) All decisions of grounds and playing conditions shall be made by an Umpires Committee which will consist of that game/s & Umpires Coordinator, if the Umpires Coordinator is unavailable then the President shall step into their place on the day.
- (t) Every effort must be made to play a finals game, these include:
 - i. The latest start time for the last game on any finals day is 3:00pm, the umpires can wait until they deem necessary to make this decision.
 - ii. All efforts should be made by clubs to make the field in playable condition.
 - iii. The Umpires Committee decision is final, any dissention or umpire abuse will not be tolerated and the player/s involved will be ejected from the game

22. REPRESENTATIVE PREREQUISITES

- (a) To be eligible to represent WWBA at Country Championships or other representative fixtures, a player must have participated in regular season competition rounds enough to qualify for Finals in

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accordance with WWBA Policy. All efforts must be made to ensure that WWBA squad is filled with players from current WWBA season unless:

- i. Compliance with this clause may be waived upon application by the Head Coach to the Executive Committee. This application must be made in writing to the Executive Committee detailing why an exemption is sought. (i.e requirement for the team, pitching etc)
- (b) Suspended players will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Head Coach is to submit an application to the WWBA Executive stating why the suspended player should be included in the playing squad.
- (c) Any player who is unavailable for or withdraws from a representative team cannot play for their Club or any team during the period that such representative games are being played without the permission of the Management Committee.
- (d) Players shall also be responsible for any monetary cost resulting from his/her withdrawal unless such withdrawal is approved by the WWBA executive.
- (e) Coaches, managers, scorers etc. will be called for by no later than the middle round of the season each year.

23. RESPONSIBILITIES OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS AND STAFF

Selection Committee

The makeup and duties of the Selection Committee shall be:

- (a) The Selection Committee shall consist of no more than (5) members. This will consist of the Representative Coaching staff and the Representative Coordinator.
- (b) To select representative teams from those players eligible in accordance with the approved selection guidelines.
- (c) To select the teams at least eight (8) weeks prior to any major series, e.g. Country Championships or any other representative fixture that may be relevant to requiring an WWBA representative team.
- (d) To report the selection list to the Executive Committee for ratification to satisfy the league that all has been done within the guidelines.
- (e) To ensure that all players selected will be available, except for unforeseen circumstances, for all representative fixtures.
- (f) To uphold and promote the reputation of the WWBA by only selecting those players who are likely to represent the WWBA in a sportsmanlike manner acceptable under the WWBA code of conduct.

Coaching Staff

The Head Coach of the Representative Team must be a non-playing coach.

The duties of the Coaching staff shall be:

- (a) Provide clear, consistent communication with all players in contention for selection.
- (b) To run training sessions and communicate with all those selected.
- (c) To cut from the team those players that display poor performance, attendance or attitude that is deemed not acceptable.

Representative Players

The duties of the selected representative players shall be:

- (a) To honour their selection in the WWBA Representative team and to conduct themselves within the WWBA code of conduct.
- (b) To attend organised training sessions and communicate with the coaching staff any related issues.
- (c) To inform the WWBA Secretary within one (1) week of being notified of their selection of their

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unavailability. involved.

(d) To pay, when selected prior to the Country Championships, a minimum of \$100 to the Association. This shall be a deposit on expenses related to the team such as accommodation and/or travelling expenses. This deposit shall be deducted from final costs owing by the player. Late withdrawals from the team by players or failure to arrive or participate for the arranged tournament shall result in forfeiting of the deposit. This is subject to appeal by the player to the WWBA management committee

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24. REVISION NOTES

15/02/2019 Tracy Clark, Deb Hoogers, Warwick Pethybridge, Andrew Clark, Adam Hoogers, Scott Hawkins.
Started 6.45pm Finished 9.00pm Apologies Albert Richardson, Daniel Hunter

1. Renumbered all sections to be in order.
2. Changed all reference to IMG to be Baseball NSW Registration Website.
3. Updated 2 'REGISTRATION' (e) with regard to new players registration after season commences.
4. Updated 6 'GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS TO THE WWBA AND TO BASEBALL' (h) from level 3 to be competent.
5. Updated 8. 'CODE OF CONDUCT' (b) smoking is only allowed off the field and in the designated areas
6. Updated 10 'GAME RESULTS - Where/when applicable' (i) Umpire 321's must be populated.
7. Updated 10 'GAME RESULTS - Where/when applicable' (d) emailed through to the Competitions Manager instead of Association.
8. Updated 10 'GAME RESULTS - Where/when applicable' (f) emailed through to the Competitions Manager instead of Association.
9. Updated 12. 'FINAL SERIES' (g) bottom of the 5th innings
10. Updated 12. 'FINAL SERIES' (h) unless provided by a sponsor.
11. Updated 12 'FINAL SERIES' (l) to be $\frac{1}{3}$ games instead of 3 to accommodate different season lengths.
12. Updated 12 'FINAL SERIES' (p) to be 2 innings instead of 3.
13. Updated 14 'RESPONSIBILITIES OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS AND STAFF' (c)iv. deposit when selected instead of 1 week prior to championships.
14. Update 16. 'BLOOD BIN RULES' (c) changed from 3 innings to 1 innings.
15. Updated 17 'PITCHING REGULATIONS' (d) pitching restrictions to match BNSW matrix.
16. Updated 18 'SPEED-UP RULES' (j) added last out is to be used as the runner.
17. Updated 20 'PLAYING CONDITIONS' (a) v. changed from 5 minutes to 10.
18. Updated 20 'PLAYING CONDITIONS' (d) ii changed from 3 innings to 2.
19. Updated 20 'PLAYING CONDITIONS' (e) ii 2 changed from Nationals to State.
20. Updated 20 'PLAYING CONDITIONS' (e) iv added unless provided by sponsorship to the association.
21. Updated 21 'FORFEITS' (a) vi updated from the word eight to seven

26/02/2019 General Meeting

1. Updated 2 'REGISTRATION' (d) updated age from 16 to 15.

30/09/2021 Albert Richardson, Dave Abbott, Tracy Clark, Jeremy Cooper, Andrew Clark, Warwick Pethybridge, Shannon Billingham, Wade Ball, (Phone) Daniel Hunter, Joel Linsell

1. Updated 2. 'REGISTRATION' (a) to be where applicable.
2. Created 2. 'REGISTRATION' (d)(i) for exemption process.
3. Removed 2. 'REGISTRATION' (e) - Voted by all who attended.

No player may take part in a competition match after round 6, unless registered and has played at least one (1) competition game for that club before round 6. Compliance with this clause may be waived upon application to the Management Committee. The application in writing must be in the hands of the Association Secretary prior to round 7, clearly stating the reasons for the requested waiver.

4. Re numbered 2. 'REGISTRATION'
5. Updated 2. 'REGISTRATION' (f)(iii) from
Must at all times wear appropriate protective items such as shoes and double eared helmet. Males must also wear a protector box
6. Updated 'His' through the document to be their, he to to the appropriate
7. Updated 6. 'GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS TO THE WWBA AND TO BASEBALL' (b) from
Each club aims to have all coaches accredited to minimum Level 2 under the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS).
8. Updated 6. 'GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS TO THE WWBA AND TO BASEBALL' (c) from

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All representative coaches must be accredited to a minimum Level 3 under the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS).

9. Updated 6. 'GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS TO THE WWBA AND TO BASEBALL' (g) from 'should' to 'shall'
 10. Updated 6. 'GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS TO THE WWBA AND TO BASEBALL' (h) from Each Club shall have at least one (1) competent scorer. All accredited scorers are to be members of the NSW Baseball Scorers Association.
 11. Updated 8. 'CODE OF CONDUCT' (d) from 'should' to 'shall'.
 12. Updated 8. 'CODE OF CONDUCT' (d)(ii) from 'judiciary chairman to WWBA President.
 13. Updated 8. 'CODE OF CONDUCT' (f) from 'Section 9' to 'Section 8'
 14. Updated 8. 'CODE OF CONDUCT' (g) from
Agurging balls & strikes to Arguing balls, strikes and judgement calls,
Change Abuse of Umpire from 8 games to Life to 8 games
Added Note'
 15. Updated 9. 'PROTESTS AND APPEALS' (c) from 'Section 9' to 'Section 10'.
 16. Updated 9. 'PROTESTS AND APPEALS' (e) from 'Section 9' to 'Section 10'.
 17. Updated 10. 'GAME RESULTS - Where/when applicable'
Merge D & F
(d) Result sheets must be collected and sent to the Competitions Manager by Wednesday of the following week by both teams.
(f) Results are to be emailed through to the Competitions Manager by the home team in accordance with the times set by the management committee each season.
Added in points for win/loss
 18. Updated 12. 'FINAL SERIES' (c) final series positions will be determined on.
 19. Added 12. 'FINAL SERIES' (d) 'If the rescheduled GF game is washed out then it is the first qualifier who is the winner. '
- 28/10/2021 Tracy Clark, Jeremy Cooper, Andrew Clark, Warwick Pethybridge, Joel Linsell
1. Updated 17. 'PITCHING REGULATIONS'
removed b, c & e
 2. Updated Speed Up Rules
(j) changed from may to shall, updated the last out to be last out closest to the batter
 3. PLAYING CONDITIONS
Updated a 6 from 5 to 7
Equipment
2 update to follow BNSW Bat regulations
Updated Ball regulations.
 4. Updated Fees and Charges

02/03/2025 Sarah Jane Jameson, Tracy Clark, Andrew Clark, Amanda Wenham, Shawn Morris, Chris Ebsworth, Harleigh Lang, Dion Clothier, Travis Warren, Brenton Burnett

1.

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.....End of By-Laws and Playing Conditions.....