



Wagga Wagga Baseball Association Tournament Rules

Version 1

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Wagga Wagga Baseball Association Tournament Rules

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DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- D1. In these Rules the following words or expressions have the following defined meanings:
- “Association” means any regional NSW Baseball Association or any other Association invited by the WWBA to compete in a tournament;
- “Australian Baseball Rules” means the current edition of the official rules of the Australian Baseball Federation;
- “Baseball NSW” means the NSW Baseball Association Inc;
- “CLSC” means the Baseball NSW Country Liaison Standing Committee;
- “WWBA” means Wagga Wagga Baseball Association:
- “Nomination Cut-Off Date” means the date determined by the WWBA as the last date by which the Associations shall have lodged their **Team Nomination Form** with the WWBA;
- “Nomination Fees” means the fees which each Association shall pay to WWBA to enter team/s in the tournament;
- “Non-Financial Player” means a player who has not paid his Registration Fees in full to Baseball NSW;
- “NSW Age Matrix” means the current age matrix published by Baseball NSW on its website which applies to the current year and specifies the age cutoffs for each junior age division.
- “Player” means a person who is registered with an Association.
- “Result” means a win, loss or draw after the completion of a game.
- “Rules” mean these Playing Rules;
- “Senior” means a Player who is 18 years of age or older.
- “**Team Nomination Form**” means the form used to nominate Association teams for the WWBA tournament.
- “**Team Roster Form**” means the form used to identify coaches and players in Association teams for each for the WWBA tournament..
- “**The Code of Conduct**” means the Baseball NSW Player Protection Policy as published on its website;
- “The Draw” means the draw established by WWBA for the Tournament.
- “The Matrix” means the Matrix Table which appears at the end of these Rules and forms part of these Rules.

- D2. These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the Australian Baseball Rules, and where in conflict, these Rules shall take precedence.
- D3. WWBA reserve the right to change, amend or interpret any of these Rules at their sole discretion, acting in the interests of baseball.

PRE-TOURNAMENT

General Information

- G1. The duration of the Wagga Wagga Invitational is to be 2 days, and scheduled as determined by WWBA at the earliest possible time in the year of the Tournament.
- G2. WWBA shall in its absolute discretion have the right to seed teams and design draws as it sees fit in the interests of the sport.

Submission of Team Forms

- G3. Associations wishing to nominate teams to compete in Wagga Wagga Invitational must complete and return the Team Nomination Form to the WWBA President or the Competitions Manager by the Nomination Cut Off Date.
- G4. The Team Nomination Form may be submitted to the WWBA President or the Competitions Manager in person, by post, or by electronic mail.

PENALTY: BREACH OF RULE G.3

- G5. **If the Team Nomination Form is not received by the WWBA President or the Competitions Manager by the Nomination Cut Off Date then that Association may, at the discretion of the WWBA, be fined for late lodgment or the team/s may not be included in the Draw for that Tournament.**
- G6. All Executive Officers must submit a completed **Team Roster Form** by such date as determined by the WWBA before the Tournament. An updated **Team Roster Form** may be submitted at the pre tournament meeting on the 1st day of the Tournament.
- G7. It is the responsibility of the Field Manager and Executive Officer of each team to make all team officials and players aware of the **Code of Conduct**. This document is applicable to all events conducted or sanctioned by Baseball NSW.
- G8. All nominated players and officials must be:
- Listed on the **Team Roster Form** that is sent by their Association to the WWBA;
 - In the case of Seniors, registered and financial members with Baseball NSW or another State or Territory Baseball Association;
 - In the case of any participating interstate or territory Associations, registered and financial members of such Associations.

Those players who are not registered and financial members will not be permitted to participate in the Tournament.

General Player & Official Rules

- G10. Players competing in the Senior Tournament must have turned fourteen (14) at or prior to the 30 April of the Tournament Year unless special dispensation is granted by WWBA in its absolute discretion. **No current Australian Baseball League players or players who have**

played in the Australian Baseball League in the previous 3 years shall be eligible to play in the B division.

- G11. Each team is allowed to have the following Officials: 1 Field Manager, up to 3 Assistant Coaches, 1 Executive Officer, 1 Scorer, 1 Bat Person and 1 Trainer/ Physiotherapist.
- G12. At least 1 member of the coaching staff shall be accredited to Level 3 unless otherwise approved by WWBA prior to the commencement of the Tournament.

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- H1. The Association hosting the Tournament shall ensure there is an adequate undercover room/tent/area for a First Aid Attendant is available at all times during a Tournament.
- H2. The Association hosting the Tournament shall also ensure there is access to an Ambulance Service/ Doctor / Medical Centre on call 24 hours. The contact telephone number and address for those services shall be posted at the canteen area and EO meeting area.

PRE TOURNAMENT MEETING

- M1. One (1) hour prior to the commencement of the first game for the Tournament there will be the following meeting:
 - a. Tournament Director and ALL SCORERS, UMPIRES AND TEAM EXECUTIVE OFFICERS/FIELD MANAGERS**Attendance is compulsory for the parties concerned. Balls, Score Sheets etc. will be available at these meetings.**
- M2. Any changes to the Team Nomination Form of players and officials which was submitted prior to the Tournament must be notified at the meeting of Executive Officers and Field Managers prior to the start of the Tournament.
- M3. All Team lists submitted at the Executive Officers and Field Managers meeting are final. Once a player has participated in a game in the Tournament he/she may not be replaced in the Team List

SCORERS

- S1. Each Association participating at the Tournament must provide one (1) Team Scorer per team nominated.
- S2. The Team Scorer for each team shall be named on the Team Nomination Form.
- S3. It is the responsibility of each Association to notify the WWBA Competitions Coordinator, at least days (7) days prior to the Tournament of their nominated Official Scorer.
- S4. All Team Scorers and Official Scorers shall be qualified to a minimum of Country Level 3 or CABS level 2, and be a current member and insured by ABF (on the "IMG" database) or otherwise have obtained an exemption from the WWBA Competitions Coordinator.
- S5. Official line-up sheets are to be in the hands of the Scorers ten (10) minutes before the official starting time of each game.

- S6. Scorers are responsible for tendering results sheets to the WWBA Competitions Coordinator within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of a game, or in the case of a double header, forty-five (45) minutes after the second game.
- S7. Before an Association is declared the winner of a game, the Association's line up sheets and the official score books may be vetted for any anomalies or breaches of these Rules.

UMPIRES

- U1. Each Association participating at the Tournament must provide one (1) Team Umpire per team nominated. The Team Roster Form must contain the details of the team's designated umpire otherwise the penalty will be imposed.
- U2. Each Team Umpire shall be competent to umpire at this level, to the discretion of each Association supplying one.

RULES FOR THE TOURNAMENT

Balls & Attire

- R1. All baseballs used at the Tournament are to be supplied by Wagga Baseball to the umpires of each game. We will be using three (3) balls in each game to prevent delays while waiting for Foul Balls to be retrieved.
- R2. Player uniforms are to display number on centre back of playing top 18cm-25cm in size. These numbers to be in 'strong' contrast to the playing top colour. Numbers on sleeves are optional and should be 8cm-12.5cm in size. These numbers to be in 'strong' contrast to the playing top colour.
- R3. Only Association uniform or attire may be worn while participating in the Tournament. This rule applies whilst playing or in Team Dugouts.
- R4. The WWBA Executive Committee members have the authority to direct the Team Field Manager or Executive Officer to have the player remove any non-Association article of apparel.

Modification of Official Baseball Rules

- R5. The Official Baseball Rules shall apply to the Tournament subject to the amendments and modifications set out in these Rules.

Home team

- R6. The first team nominated on the Tournament Draw shall be declared the Home Team. They will occupy the 3rd base dugout and shall field first.

Safety

- R7. All batters, batters on deck, base runners and the bat person must wear double eared helmets during the Tournament.
- R8. All adult base coaches shall wear a skull helmet at all times whilst base coaching. All Junior player base coaches must wear double eared helmets whilst base coaching.
- R9. The Collision Rule shall apply throughout the Tournament. This means when a batter, runner or base runner is trying to obtain 2nd, 3rd or home base and a play is being made on the runner or runners, the runner must slide into the base they are trying to obtain. A play is being made when

the ball and the runner arrive at or near the same time. If the runner fails to slide in this situation, the runner shall be called out.

- R10. All catchers MUST wear full protective gear, which includes leggings, a chest plate, a protective box, a helmet and face mask with throat guard. Any person warming up a pitcher must wear a helmet/face mask at all times, whether in the bullpen or on the playing field.

Injuries

- R11. Medical Certificates must be provided to the Tournament Coordinator as soon as possible for any injury or illness that may prevent a player from completing their participation requirements.
- R12. If a player is injured whilst playing they may obtain treatment. If they are unable to be treated within a reasonable period of time as determined by the plate umpire the injured player shall be replaced until the injured player is able to return to the game.
- R13. If the injured player is at bat the pitch count which was on the injured player shall apply to a replacement batter. The injured player if removed from the field shall not bat again until their turn in the line up again arrives.
- R14. Players who are injured during the course of a game and who require treatment to stem the flow of blood or any body fluids may leave the game without penalty. All clothing which has blood or other bodily fluids on it MUST be replaced.
- R15. If any injured player is unable to return into the game at the completion of three (3) further innings they shall be replaced. **NO EJECTED PLAYER MAY BE USED AS A REPLACEMENT PLAYER.** If the team has no reserves in the team line up then a person who has left the game may be used.

Minimum Team Roster

- R16. The WWBA may in its absolute discretion allow teams to participate with less than the minimum or greater than the maximum number of players in the Matrix.

Start and End of Games & Declaring Innings

- R17. Games shall start at their scheduled times however in the event games start late they must still finish at the scheduled finish times subject to the Rules below.
- R18. The top of an innings shall not commence within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled finish time.
- R19. If the top of an innings has been commenced more than (10) minutes before the scheduled finish time the inning shall continue until completed or a result is achieved provided that the game shall not continue beyond ten (10) minutes after the scheduled finish time. At that point the game shall stop and the score shall revert to the last fully completed innings.
- R20. A Team can declare their batting innings is ended at any time by notifying the plate umpire.

Spirit of the Game

- R21. All games are played as per the rules of baseball, with the exception of modifications listed in these Rules. Teams are especially reminded that all games, including "dead rubbers" are expected to be played within the spirit of the game, and for the full duration indicated within these Rules.
- R22. Any umpire believing that a team is not adhering to these rules (including but not exclusively):
- a. intentional slowing down of a game,

- b. throwing or not trying in a game,
 - c. manipulating the result or prematurely finishing a game
- he is required to officially warn the offending team(s) (See rule of baseball rule 4.15 (b))

R23. If the umpire believes the team(s) have not adhered to such a warning he may end the game by imposing a forfeit, or dual forfeit, and will forward a report immediately to the WWBA Executive. If found guilty at a subsequent Judiciary hearing the offending team(s) will lose 2 (two) wins in addition to the forfeit imposed in this rule.

Points & Forfeits

R24. The following points shall be allocated for the following results of games:

- a. Win – 3 points
- b. Draw – 2 points
- c. Loss – 1 point
- d. Forfeit - no points.

R25. A forfeit will occur in any of the following circumstances:

- a. If a team cannot field at least 7 players;
- b. if a team is not ready to commence play within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time.
- c. a team is found guilty of a breach of rule R.22.

R26. The result of a forfeit will be 9 runs to Nil.

Disputes

R27. WWBA will appoint a Disputes Committee and Judiciary, to adjudicate on any matter. Any dispute shall be in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 fee, and shall be handed to the Tournament Coordinator prior to the team's next game. If the appeal is unsuccessful the fee will not be refunded. If the appeal is successful the fee will be refunded in full.

Finals

Teams finishing on equal points after round games

R28. In the event of teams finishing on equal points after the completion of the round stage of the Tournament, then the team with the fewest runs allowed in the round games (ie: the best defensive record) shall finish in a higher position or if they are still equal then the team with the fewest runs allowed in the games played against the team finishing immediately below the tied teams shall finish in a higher position..

Semi/ Preliminary Finals

R29. If the Draw provides for a Semi Final or Preliminary Final and such a game is tied at the completion of the game the highest ranked team after completion of the round games will move into the Tournament Final.

Tournament Final

R30. If the Draw provides for a Tournament Final in the applicable division it shall be played over the number of innings specified in the Draw with the option of a specified maximum time limit as determined by WWBA.

R31. In the event of a tied score at the completion of the designated time, one (1) extra innings will be played to decide the Tournament winner. If scores remain tied after such extra innings both teams shall be declared joint winners of the Tournament in that division.

- R32. If the Final fails to reach the minimum number of innings as specified in the Draw or the Matrix both teams shall be declared joint winners of the Tournament in that division.

Weather

- R33. All round games and finals will have either a minimum number of innings or time as specified in the Draw or the Matrix that must be played to achieve a result if interrupted by bad weather.
- R34. If after a game has commenced bad weather prevents that minimum number of innings or time being completed the umpire shall declare the game to be a washout and the result shall be a draw.
- R35. If bad weather interrupts such a number of round games that either seeding or clear division placings cannot be determined, then the outcome of the Tournament shall be determined by a meeting of WWBA which will be held as soon as possible after either local council or ground staff closes grounds or in the opinion of the WWBA the outcome of the Tournament is threatened.
- R36. Where the local council does not close grounds, then the condition of the grounds shall be judged by consultation between ground crew / or ground crew chief and the Tournament coordinator. If the grounds are deemed unplayable then games for that game slot or that day will be declared a washout and the result shall be a draw. An assessment on the weather conditions will be made that evening and again the following morning to determine if the grounds are playable.

SENIORS TOURNAMENT RULES

Clothing & Equipment

- SNR1. The clothing and equipment requirements in Seniors is as follows:

- a. Shoes: In Senior tournaments the use of nylon and rubber stopped soles is permitted and metal cleats can be worn.

Host Associations may make further restrictions on footwear to protect artificial surfaces or to meet local ordinance conditions.

Host Associations conducting tournaments where there are special footwear requirements must notify all competing Associations of their requirements prior to accepting nominations.

- b. Bats:
Baseball bats must be wood or wood composite/laminated as approved by the ABF and/or IBAF.

Before each game the umpire may inspect all bats to ensure they are legal. Any illegal bat will be removed, and if used for play immediately beforehand, the play will be nullified. If used after being identified by the umpire, the coach will be removed from the game.

Senior League and Women players participating in B Division games are permitted to use whichever bats they are permitted to use at the next level of their representation. i.e. if a Senior League Country team is playing in B Division their players may use their age group's bats. If female players are playing in B Division they may use their age appropriate bats.

Playing Rules

SNR2. The pitching and catching restrictions are as set out in the Matrix. Any Junior player playing in seniors shall still be subject to the pitching and catching restrictions for their age group. The penalties for a breach of each age group's rules also applies to any breach.

SNR3. Specific rules not covered in this supplement shall be as per the Official Baseball Rules.

SNR4. Junior Players require the permission of the WWBA before participating in the senior Tournament.

SNR5. Pitchers may come from the field but will not receive extra warm up pitchers, Junior Pitchers must come from the bench or change of innings and are subject to other restrictions in these Rules which apply to their age groups.

Team Grading

SNR6. Grading of teams and players will be will be determined by an "In the interest of Baseball" philosophy by WWBA in its absolute discretion..

Breaches

SNR7. The following penalties will apply for breaches of the above rules:

- a. an intentional breach of Rules:
 - i. The Manager shall not be allowed to accompany the team, coach or assist the team for the next team game; and
 - ii. The points for two (2) wins will be deducted from the team's Tournament total; and
 - iii. A \$100.00 fine will be imposed on that Association.

- b. An accidental breach of Rules:
 - i. The Manager shall not be allowed to accompany the team, coach or assist for the next team game.
 - ii. Any second or subsequent accidental breach of such rules will result in the Manager being removed for the remainder of the Tournament, the points for two (2) wins will be deducted from the team's Tournament total and a \$100 fine will be imposed on the Association.

MATRIX

Rule/Specification	Under 18s	Seniors	U/23 Women	Women
Squad members min	12	12	12	12
Squad members max	19	19	19	19
Duration (or time as spec)	7 inn (2 hours)	7 inn (2 hours)	7 inn	7 inn
Pitch assign - Minor	1-39	n/a		
Pitch assign - Substantial	40-60	n/a		
Pitch assign - Major	61-80	n/a		
Pitch max per game	80	130	80	80
Pitch max per Tournament	140	200	140	140
Max pitch assign per Tournament	3	n/a		
Catch max per day	2 games/day	n/a		
Catch max per Tournament	60% of games	n/a		
Base Path distances	90ft	90ft	90ft	90ft
Pitching Distances	60ft 6in	60ft 6in	60ft 6in	60ft 6in
Home Run distance at foul line	275ft	275ft	275ft	275ft
Home Run distance at c/f	320ft	320ft	320ft	320ft
Designated Hitter rule	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mercy Rule runs/def inning	20/3	20/3	20/3	20/3
	10/5	15/5	15/4	
	10/7	10/7	10/5	
Inclement weather minimum game duration	4 inn or 1 hr	4 inn or 1 hr	4 inn or 1 hr	4 inn or 1 hr