



BASEBALL
QUEENSLAND

TOURNAMENTS

TECHNICAL NORMS



BASEBALL QUEENSLAND OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Little League Majors, Invitational, Development Shield, Little League Girls, Little League Minors (Machine Pitch), Intermediate League, Intermediate League Invitational, Junior League Majors, Junior League Invitational, Senior League Majors, Senior League Invitational, Big League, Youth Women

Table of Contents

Contents

1. TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION	5
1.1. PREAMBLE	5
1.2. TOURNAMENTS.....	5
1.3. TOURNAMENT OBJECTIVE.....	5
1.4. TOURNAMENT DATES AND VENUES.....	5
1.5. LODGEMENT OF ENTRIES	5
1.6. GUEST TEAMS	6
1.7. TRAVEL POOL	6
1.8. ACCOMMODATION	6
1.9. MEALS.....	6
1.10. FIRST AID.....	7
2. PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS.....	7
2.1. TEAM ROSTERS	7
2.2. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR STATE (Youth Women) TEAM SELECTION	8
2.3. FRIENDSHIP PLAYERS	8
2.4. MEDICAL AUTHORITY	9
2.5. PLAYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS	10
2.6. CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYERS	10
2.7. COACHES.....	10
2.8. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.....	11
2.9. UMPIRES.....	12
2.10. SCORERS AND OFFICIAL RECORDER	12
2.11. TOURNAMENT STATISTICS	13
2.12. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS’ MEETING AND FUNCTIONS	13
3. TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS	14
3.1. FIELD AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS	14
3.2. PLAYING CONDITIONS	16
3.3. STARTING TIMES OF GAME.....	16
3.4. BALLS	17
3.5. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS	17
3.6. RANKING THE TEAMS	17
3.7. TROPHIES.....	19

3.8.	FIELD DIMENSIONS.....	19
3.9.	PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	20
3.10.	ROSTER SIZE	20
3.11.	MANDATORY PLAY	20
4.	PLAYING CONDITIONS	24
4.1.	REGULATION GAME.....	24
4.2.	REGULATION TIED GAME.....	25
4.3.	SUSPENDED / RESCHEDULED GAME	25
4.4.	ABANDONED GAME	26
5.	BATTING REGULATIONS.....	26
5.1.	LITTLE LEAGUE	26
5.2.	INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE / JUNIOR LEAGUE / SENIOR LEAGUE / BIG LEAGUE / YOUTH WOMEN	26
5.3.	LL PATHWAYS ILLEGAL BATS	26
5.4.	BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN ILLEGAL BATS	27
6.	PITCHING REGULATIONS	27
7.	CATCHING.....	31
7.1.	MOVEMENT BETWEEN PITCHING AND CATCHING (PITCHER/CATCHER RULE).....	31
8.	COLLISION RULE BIG LEAGUE / YOUTH WOMEN.....	31
9.	COURTESY RUNNERS.....	32
9.1.	LITTLE LEAGUE, INTERMEDIATE (50-70) DIVISION /JUNIOR LEAGUE	32
9.2.	SENIOR LEAGUE	32
9.3.	BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN.....	33
10.	DESIGNATED HITTER	33
10.1.	SENIOR LEAGUE	33
10.2.	BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN.....	33
11.	RUN RULES (ONE SIDED GAMES)	34
11.1.	RUN LIMITS PER INNINGS.....	34
12.	LITTLE LEAGUE MINORS DEVELOPMENT SHIELD	36
12.1.	GENERAL.....	36
12.2.	DROPPED 3RD STRIKE.....	36
12.3.	PASSED BALLS.....	36
12.4.	OVERTHROWS.....	36
12.5.	COACH PITCH	36
13.	LITTLE LEAGUE MINORS – MACHINE PITCH	37
13.1.	GENERAL.....	37

13.2.	THE PLAYING FIELD	37
13.3.	PLAYING EQUIPMENT	37
13.4.	PLAYING RULES.....	38
13.5.	BATTING.....	38
13.6.	BASE RUNNING	38
13.7.	FIELDING	39
13.8.	COACHING	39
14.	DISPUTES AND PROTESTS	40
14.1.	PROTESTS.....	40
14.2.	REPORTED PLAYERS/OFFICIALS.....	40
14.3.	TRIBUNAL PROCESS.....	40
14.4.	TRIBUNAL APPEALS	42
14.5.	PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES	42
14.6.	TRIBUNAL APPEALS	43
14.7.	PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES	43
15.	Related Documents.....	44
15.1.	Regulations and Standards	44
15.2.	Baseball Queensland Documents	44

1. TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

1.1. PREAMBLE

Tournaments will be played under the Official Rules of Baseball, the Baseball Queensland (BQ) State Titles Technical Norms and/or the Official Little League Rules as outlined.

To encourage participation and safety, special regulations (e.g. pitching allowances, time-saving rules, etc.) have been introduced to apply to the Tournaments. In applying the rules and procedures they should be read as referring to the event being staged.

Wherever the word Team is used, it is taken to mean Club, Region, or Participating Team.

Any rules listed in this document are a summary only; it is strongly recommended that all coaches / staff download a copy of the rules applicable to the division they are involved with.

1.2. TOURNAMENTS

The BQ Tournament series governed by these Technical Norms includes:

- QLD Little League Majors Championships
- QLD Little League Invitational Championships (Previously Div 2)
- QLD Little League Championships - Development Shield (formerly Div3)
- QLD Little League Minors (Machine Pitch) Championships
- QLD Little League Girls Championships (QLLGC)
- QLD Intermediate League Championships
- QLD Intermediate League Invitational Championships (Previously Div 2)
- QLD Junior League Majors Championships
- QLD Junior League Invitational (Previously Div 2).
- QLD Senior League Majors Championships
- QLD Senior League Invitational Championships (Formerly Div 2)
- QLD Youth Women's State Titles
- QLD Big League State Titles.

1.3. TOURNAMENT OBJECTIVE

BQ tournaments aim to provide people of all ages with the opportunity to compete in an annual competition.

1.4. TOURNAMENT DATES AND VENUES

The tournaments will be played at a venue and at a time as determined and published by BQ.

1.5. LODGEMENT OF ENTRIES

Regions should advise BQ of entry into tournaments no later than Eight (8) weeks prior to the respective event. Each team is to submit a (completed) preliminary Team Roster. Preliminary Team Rosters will not be accepted if they do not feature all the following:

- I. The minimum number of age-eligible, registered Players required for the respective competition.

- II. at least one (1) accredited Coach, one (1) accredited Umpire and one (1) accredited Scorer capable of scoring in Game Changer; and,
- III. Four (4) weeks prior to the respective event each team is to submit a completed final Team Roster, including all officials - refer 1.5 (II) and make payment of the balance of the tournament entry fee.

Should regions require assistance with Umpires, contact State Director for Community / Little League Umpires sdull@qbua.org

Should regions require assistance with Scorers, contact Qld scorers qbssecretary@gmail.com

1.6. GUEST TEAMS

BQ will reserve the right to allow guest/interstate teams admission to a Tournament.

Where a guest/interstate team has been admitted, there will be a Tournament Champion and a State Champion. Interstate teams are only eligible to be a Tournament Champion.

1.7. TRAVEL POOL

BQ at its discretion may allocate funding through a travel pool for remote BQ Affiliated teams to attend tournaments. Teams approved for Travel Pool funding shall advise BQ of their numbers, method of travel and provide a quote for team travel at least eight (8) weeks prior to the tournament.

1.8. ACCOMMODATION

Teams participating at the Tournaments are to make their own accommodation and flight arrangements compliant with relevant BQ/BA policies. In some circumstances, where BQ has a hosting arrangement in place with a local authority that obliges participating teams to make all accommodation arrangements through a designated channel, BQ will notify Regions at least 60 days prior to the event date, of the required booking method or arrangement.

Management of Player Welfare and Risk management are important, and documented plans should be put in place by all participating teams. At Youth Tournaments, it is a requirement that two (2) adult members of the team staff always attend the place of accommodation when the team is in residence. Further:

- I. If a female is selected in a team, then an adult female must be appointed chaperone.
- II. A female participant shall not share a room with a male participant.

All Officials/Umpires shall be accommodated together but separate from any competing Team to the extent that this is possible. Where teams and Umpires are co-located, every effort should be made to ensure there is some degree of separation between the groups.

Relevant Policies

[BA Chaperone Policy](#)

[Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#)

[Further BA policies](#)

1.9. MEALS

All team delegation members will be provided with lunch during the Tournaments. Where a team plays a scheduled night game, they may receive a meal following that game in lieu of lunch. These meals will be charged to each team as part of the tournament entry fee.

It is the responsibility of each team delegation to organise all other meals as well as suitable snack foods and drinks for between meals.

1.10. FIRST AID

BQ will ensure that a qualified and dedicated First Aid attendant is present during all games of the Tournaments. [Refer BQ First Aid & Injury Management Policy](#)

2. PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

2.1. TEAM ROSTERS

Preliminary Team Rosters (PTR) are due eight (8) weeks prior to the start date of any Tournament event.

Final Team Rosters (FTR) are to be completed and submitted in writing to BQ no later than four (4) weeks prior to the start of each Tournament. Changes made after the submission of the Final Team Roster must be submitted in writing to BQ for approval. Late changes may not appear in the event program. All competitions where teams can advance to a National Tournament D need to also submit a Tournament team Affidavit.

Roster sizes shall be determined in line with individual age championship rules as prescribed in these Technical Norms under section 5.4.

Teams that do not meet roster requirements shall seek the Tournament Directors approval and will need to satisfy modified participation requirements, as set out by BQ, to remain eligible to win the Tournament.

Each team must show proof that all avenues to find a replacement player(s) have been exhausted. In the event of extraordinary circumstances that prevent a team from fielding a full roster and after approval by BQ a reduced roster can be accepted.

Rosters are final upon commencement of the tournament.

Players must play with the Region in which they were last registered as a junior prior to the tournament, unless they have registered with a club within another Region for the pending summer season prior to 31 August each year. [Refer to Little League Green Book](#).

Each Tournament has specific age qualifications for its participants.

- All LL Divisions incl LL Girls: As per Little League Age Matrix Chart
- Youth Women: Competing Players must be:
 - Born between 1 January 2009 to 31 August 2011 i.e. To be eligible for the 2025 AYWC players need to be born in 2009, 2010 or 2011.

It is the responsibilities of all teams that contain under-age Players to ensure all adult team

personnel comply with their State's Child Protection Legislation. In addition, please refer to the section relating to the taking of images of children.

Rosters must include nomination of a suitably accredited Umpire and Scorer, refer to section 1.5.

2.2. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR STATE (Youth Women) TEAM SELECTION

Any Player properly registered with Baseball Queensland including a non-national, who has been a bona-fide resident of Australia for a continuous period of no fewer than three (3) months prior to the first game of the Tournament, shall be eligible to represent Queensland provided they meet the provisions of Section [2.2.1](#).

2.2.1. STATUS DETERMINATION

If a team in a Tournament perceives that a determination of eligibility for one of its Players is required, such a request must be submitted to BQ no later than two (2) months before the Tournament.

These requests will be replied to within one (1) week of submission.

Player Status Determination will deal specifically with the following types of issues:

- a) Players who seek to cross regional boundaries, by mutual agreement between the parties, to represent a Region in which they are not domiciled.
- b) Any other anomaly or questionable Player eligibility issues.

All Players must be properly registered and financial with a BA Affiliated State or Territory or their National Federation (in the case of invited teams).

Should a Player be registered with, and/or played with two (2) or more affiliated teams during the season prior to the dates of the Tournament, then the team in the Region/territory in which the Player has lived for the three (3) months prior to the Tournament shall have the first call on that Player for selection. [Refer to Little League Green Book.](#)

2.3. FRIENDSHIP PLAYERS

It is a fundamental assumption of this policy that a team exhausts all possible avenues to secure as many Players from within their own regional boundaries. If the team is unable to field a team from within its own regional boundaries, it is then entitled to make a request to the BQ Development Manager to secure Players from other Regions. Regions should not directly approach friendship Players. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in the Player being deemed ineligible for the Tournament. **Note: This rule will be effective from 1 August 2025.**

All Friendship Players must register into the "Pool". A Friendship Player can nominate a preferred Region but there is no guarantee they will be added to that roster. **Note: This rule will be effective from 1 August 2025.**

Within two (2) months from the commencement of the respective State Titles, only those Players appearing on a Regional team's roster are explicitly protected from acquisition by another Region.

To be eligible to become a Friendship Player for another Region, Players must have registered and trialled unsuccessfully for their respective home Region. Players who choose NOT to trial for their respective home Regions will be ineligible to be

considered as Friendship Players. Players are also eligible to become a Friendship Player if their Region is not submitting a team to the tournament.

Players wishing to be eligible as Friendship Players are required to register their interest online and apply for a temporary release from their Region within the specified time frames as set forth by BQ. At the completion of the registration process registered Players will form the Friendship Player selection pool. This Player pool will be initially shared to the Tournament Advisory Panel after all Players are temporarily released from any affiliated organisation that would void a Player's eligibility. In making themselves available, those Players are committing themselves to represent a Region and the costs associated with that representation.

Friendship Player Selection – the BQ Development Manager and or Performance Manager will circulate the list of approved (financial and eligible) Friendship Players to the Tournament Advisory Panel (TAP) to appoint players based on the requirements of the Regions.

If considered for a friendship position, Players will be contacted directly by the Region offering a playing opportunity. Once a Friendship Player is selected, they are able to come back to represent their home Region up until a reasonable date set by BQ prior to the tournament. This date will take into consideration being able to find a Player to replace the original appointed Player and make any necessary changes to flights and other relevant details.

Players participating in a local Queensland competition, and those who have played for a Queensland Club, Region or represented Queensland in the past 12 months, will have preference for appointment to a team over interstate/international players who have not participated in a local Queensland competition.

Any interstate or international player that has held membership at a Queensland affiliated club within the 12 months prior to a given event will be eligible to return to that Region without entering the Friendship Player pool.

The relevant Region(s) of Friendship Players will be notified of the selections and provided two (2) working days to lodge a valid written objection or provide clearance. Should a valid objection not be forthcoming within the specified timeframe, Players shall be regarded as cleared. Should the Region refuse clearance, BQ will seek the reasons for such a refusal and seek to resolve any issues to the satisfaction of all parties. BQ retains the right to ultimately provide clearance or refuse clearance to any Players making themselves available as Friendship Players.

2.4. MEDICAL AUTHORITY

All Players, Officials and Coaches must complete and hold a completed and signed Medical Authority. These shall be always retained by the EO and a copy always available (in paper or electronically) while the team is participating.

This applies to all participants including Adult Players and officials as well as underage players. Underage (U18 and below) players must have forms signed by a parent or guardian.

Medical Authority Forms are not to be amended under any circumstances.

Medical Authority Forms should be destroyed, in a confidential manner, after the event has concluded. Soft copies on personal devices are not permitted.

2.5. PLAYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS

Player Participation Agreements (BQ Ethics and Expectations Document which includes Media Release and Medical Authority Form) are to be completed by all players.

2.6. CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYERS

BQ Code of Conduct is to be adhered to by all Players (and where an under-age Player is involved, by their parents) to participate in all BQ Tournaments.

Where there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct, irrespective of whether on-field or off field, such breaches must be reported to the Tournament Director. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the Tournament Director/BQ Staff and team personnel.

Little League pathways Reg XIV (e) – Field Decorum - The possession and / or use of firearms, tobacco products, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes and vapours), controlled substances, and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches or dugouts. Alcohol is prohibited at the game site.

2.6.1. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

The use or possession of any form of tobacco, tobacco products (including smokeless and vapes), illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol of any description is banned. Team and Tournament officials shall have the right to search a player's room, bags, clothing or personal belongings if they have a reasonable suspicion that a serious breach of the code of conduct has occurred. This must be conducted in the presence of the player and an independent adult witness.

BQ is committed to ensuring that each Tournament is run in an environment that is free of sexual harassment from Players, Coaches, Umpires, scorers or anyone else attending. Sexual Harassment is defined as any unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited behaviour of a sexual nature which makes a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, and the display of offensive material or other behaviour, which creates a sexually hostile playing environment. Sexual harassment is against the law and will be referred to the appropriate authority, where deemed required.

BA Anti-Doping Policy (to which BQ adheres) supports a drug free environment in the sport of baseball for its Players, Coaches and Officials. All participants are directed to www.sportintegrity.gov.au to check all medications and have a clear understanding on the implications of drugs in sport.

All Players and Officials in the Tournament are required to adhere to the National Integrity Framework for Sports Integrity Australia. This shall include submitting for Anti-Doping Athlete Testing if requested by Sports Integrity Australia.

2.7. COACHES

The Team Head Coach/Manager/Assistant Coach shall have full responsibility for the conduct of the Team Players and its Officials during the Tournament, both on and off the field.

All Coaches at the Tournament will be attired in the same team uniform as the Players. Coaches may wear shorts uniform in appearance for all Little League Pathway tournaments.

Base Coaches are required to wear “skull cap” style helmets (i.e., without ear covers); base Coaches under the age of eighteen (18) must wear a two-eared batting helmet. Helmets and skull caps must be NOCSAE approved.

All Tournament Managers/Head Coaches must be accredited to at least Certificate C of the USA Coaching Program.

All Tournament Assistant/Pitching Coaches or any other support Coaches must be accredited to at least Certificate B of the USA Coaching Program.

The use or possession of any form of tobacco (including e-cigarettes) or alcohol of any description by Coaches, Players or any team Official while participating in the game, moving onto and off the playing grounds including batting practice areas, on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, whilst in uniform or anywhere in the vicinity of the Tournament Venue is banned.

Refer notes as above in 2.6

Penalty: Ejection from the game and appropriate follow-up as a breach of the Participation Agreement.

Where there has been a breach in any aspect of the Participation Agreement, irrespective of whether on field or off field, such breaches must be reported to the Tournament Director. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the Tournament Director/BQ Staff and team personnel.

If a team Official is found to have a case to answer, the matter will be referred to the Tournament Tribunal for assessment and subsequent imposition of penalties where appropriate.

All Coaches in the State Titles must familiarise themselves with the National Integrity Framework of Sports Integrity Australia to ensure a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment.

2.8. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Executive Officers will manage all off-field activities of the Team and are not to wear playing uniforms unless they are to participate in an on-field Coach role. Those not in full uniform will be allowed in the dugout but are not to venture onto the playing field, unless requested to do so by the Umpire.

Executive Officers shall not direct comments to, or about, Umpires and their decisions.

Executive Officers are to be provided with and sign a copy of BQ Team Officials’ Participation Agreement and acknowledge abiding by the conditions disclosed.

Executive Officers shall hold an immediately accessible copy (paper or electronic) of all Player and Officials signed Medical Authorities and Player Participation Agreements.

Where there has been a breach in any of the Participation Agreement, irrespective whether on field or off field such breaches must be reported to the Tournament Director.

An Executive Officer may combine their role as an Executive Officer and as a Bench Coach/Assistant Coach. In doing so, the Executive Officer must forgo any on-field responsibilities if they shall conflict with Executive Officer obligations including attendance at Tournament Director request, Tournament Meetings or Tribunal Attendance.

All Executive Officers in the Tournaments must familiarise themselves with the National Integrity Framework of Sports Integrity Australia to ensure a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment.

2.9. UMPIRES

Each Region/Team is to nominate an appropriately qualified (accredited – any level) Umpire when submitting their team, Roster.

The Panel of Umpires will be convened from those Umpires nominated by the Regions/Teams and those appointed by the Queensland Baseball Umpires Association (QBUA).

The use or possession of any form of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, or alcohol of any description by Umpires whilst in uniform on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, or in the vicinity of any Tournament venue, is banned. (Refer notes at 2.6)

Where required, all Umpires shall be accommodated together but separate from any competing team to the extent that this is possible. Where teams and Umpires are collocated, every effort should be made to ensure there is some degree of separation between the two groups.

No visiting Umpires shall seek or use alternative accommodation without the consent of the Umpire Coordinator, who will decide the issue after consultation with the Tournament Director.

Uniform to be worn shall be as approved for the level of accreditation.

BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all Umpires to participate in any Tournament. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Umpire Manager prior to the Tournament.

2.9.1. THE UMPIRE COORDINATOR

For each Tournament, the QBUA shall appoint a Coordinator for the umpiring panel. The Co-ordinator may be a member of the panel.

The duties of the Co-ordinator shall include:

- a) Full control of the umpiring discipline of the panel both on and off the field.
- b) Liaison with the Tournament Director for application of their requirements.
- c) Duties associated with the appointment of Umpires.
- d) The appointment of the Umpires to each team in each game.

The Umpire Coordinator is the sole agent for appointment of Umpires for the duration of the event.

The Umpire Coordinator may appoint any Umpire to any games as they see fit. All Umpires are considered neutral.

The Umpires Coordinator must sign the BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement. Signed copies of the Code of Ethics are to be presented to the Tournament Director, prior to commencement of the respective tournament.

2.10. SCORERS AND OFFICIAL RECORDER

The Panel of Scorers will be convened from those Scorers nominated by the Regions/Teams.

Each Region/Team shall nominate an appropriately qualified (Level 2) Scorer when submitting their team, Roster. BQ will provide limited devices for the scoring of games. Scorers are welcome to utilise their personal devices if they wish.

The BQ Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all Scorers to participate in any Tournament. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Tournament Director prior to the Tournament.

Where required, the Queensland Baseball Scorers Association (QBSA) shall appoint a Coordinator for the scoring panel. The coordinator may be a member of the panel. The duties of the coordinator include:

- a) Full control of the discipline of the scoring panel at all times.
- b) Liaison with the Tournament Director for application of their requirements.
- c) Support with duties associated with scorers.

Players and Officials shall refrain from entering the Scorers Area during the game. Players shall not dispute the Official Scorers decision on plays. Communication between the Scorers and Players or Team Officials should be limited to confirmation of pitch counts, substitutions and player participation records/defensive outs.

The use of any form of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, vapes or alcohol of any description on the field, in the dugouts, whilst in uniform or in the vicinity of any Tournament Venue is not permitted.

2.11. TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

Gamechanger is to be used in conjunction with the official BA/BQ Scorebook. One (1) Scorer will record the game in Gamechanger while the other will use the official Scorebook.

Statistics other than those provided to subscribers within Gamechanger will not be publicised.

BQ will not provide participating teams with a summary of available players or team statistics (for their team or their opposition).

2.12. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS' MEETING AND FUNCTIONS

At the appropriate time prior to the commencement of the event, the Tournament Team Officials' Meeting, chaired by the BQ Tournament Director, will be conducted. Decisions altering the Technical Norms will not be made at this meeting.

Attendees are restricted to the Managers (Head Coaches), Executive Officers of the competing teams, Scorers and Umpires, Baseball Queensland personnel, and other relevant persons, subject to approval by BQ.

Clarification of Tournament Rules including a re-emphasis of the penalties for any rule transgression will be provided within this meeting.

The Tournament Officials' Meeting date/time, venue and agenda is to be issued to all concerned at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the Tournament.

As a guideline, the Tournament Meeting agenda should include:

- Reminder for Head Coaches that all game balls are to be returned back into the game.
- The BQ Tournament Director at this meeting will formally comment on expected participant conduct, with particular reference to attitudes, image and damage to property:
- Participants' on-field behaviour will be monitored.
- Observable expressions of disagreement with any Umpire's decision(s) will not be tolerated.

- Penalties exist and will be invoked for behaviour and conduct not in accordance with the relevant Codes of Conduct.
- Any consumption of alcohol by players or by adult personnel while in playing uniform or at the Tournament venue is not permitted.
- There will be no consumption of alcohol for any Coach or Official who is in a supervisory role of minors for the duration of the tournament.
- Excessive consumption of alcohol by any team personnel is strongly discouraged and may result in sanctions.
- There will be no tolerance of the use of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) on field, while in uniform or within any Tournament Venue.

At this meeting, each team will be reminded that all official paperwork must be available if required by the Tournament Director. Failure to produce such forms upon request during the Tournament will be deemed a breach under Tournament Technical Norms.

The Umpire Coordinator shall outline all ground rules.

Team and/or individual Players/staff will be required to attend any official function at a predetermined time and date prior to, during, or following the conclusion of the competition.

3. TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

3.1. FIELD AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

BQ will have ultimate authority in appointing a host venue for each Tournament. Tournaments may be shared between Regions/Clubs as directed by BQ.

The Tournament Director shall have full authority as the ground suitability and conditions during the Tournament. Once a game commences the authority is delegated to the appointed umpires for that game. This includes decisions on postponements, delays, field conditions, use and any other matter in relation to the field.

The following minimum field requirements have been developed by BQ and are open to negotiation with the host organisation.

Facility Standards - The following minimum facility standards have been developed by BQ and are open to negotiation with the host organisation.

- i. Boundary, back net, foul poles and home run fence are to be made of a material that does not present an unreasonable risk to Players.
- ii. All materials to be used for home run fences shall be inspected by the Tournament Director or his/her delegate for the particular series prior to the commencement of the respective event.
- iii. Back nets are to be at a minimum distance of 45 feet from home plate or as approved by BQ for the series, prior to the tournament.
- iv. Where a lit field is provided, the lighting shall be to Standards Australia document in place at the time the lighting solution was installed. Current Standards document is AS 2560.2.2:2021 (Minimum 500 Lux for the Infield and 300 Lux for the Outfield, Host organisation to provide recent (within ten (10) months from date of issue) lighting audit report to BQ no later than one (1) month prior to respective event.
- v. Wherever metal cleats are allowed, dirt mounds are required on the field and in the bullpen areas.

- vi. Protective screens are required to be supplied for batting practice: An L Screen (7x7 feet) and square screen (8x8 feet) (mandatory) together with a 3rd screen (8x8 feet) if a 1st Baseman is receiving fielded balls from other infielders.
- vii. Adequate batting practice areas are to be available at the field or in close proximity.
- viii. Any batting tunnels to be used must be equipped with an L Screen and impact netting.
- ix. Fields to be used for games and warm-up must be of good quality, with a level, even surface and without intrusions or holes, which may increase the injury risk for participants. Fields are to be maintained in good order throughout the event.
- x. Adequate shade shelter must be provided for all Players and Coaches at the fields. This includes the bullpen area.
- xi. Ready access to ice water and ice is to be provided by the host organisation to each dugout and Umpire's changeroom.
- xii. Scorers and Officials are to be provided with a covered area.
- xiii. The scorer's area must be suitably positioned, providing a clear view of the entire field and good access to communication with the Umpire. Access to electricity or portable battery packs is required.
- xiv. Bases used shall be anchored into the ground by a solid thick rod firmly and securely attached to the base and inserted into a pipe that is firmly and securely anchored in the ground. The use of spikes driven into the earth to anchor bases is not permitted.
- xv. Scoreboards on all grounds used, however is not mandatory. Scoreboard to display a minimum of the score and the innings, if possible.

Each BQ Tournament shall have a Grounds Coordinator (Appointed by the Host Organisation) with sufficient crew to be available at all games during the pre-game phase and during all games.

The following requirements are to be provided in regard to facilities for all Queensland Tournaments:

- i. A sufficient number of power points or portable power sources are to be made available at the ground, if required.
- ii. Venues with access to phone, and internet facilities to meet the daily requirements of the Tournament are preferred.
- iii. Adequate toilet facilities are to be provided for competing teams, Officials and spectators.
- iv. There shall be ready access to ice supplies for players and for use in the first aid treatment of players – host organisation to provide and replenish as needed, at least three small freezer bags of injury ice in the third base dugout of each field in use for the event.
- v. A qualified and dedicated First Aid officer must be in attendance (as appointed by BQ) at all times and a designated treatment area must be provided.
- vi. Host organisation to advise competing teams of access to doctors, physiotherapists and hospitals in preparation for event.
- vii. It is strongly recommended that an isolated area be provided at all venues for use by Scorers in compiling game reports as well as use by the Tournament Director for meetings where privacy is required, e.g., Tribunal or disciplinary meetings.

3.2. PLAYING CONDITIONS

The Tournament Director will be responsible for the arrangements for the program of games, in consultation with BQ, subject to the following conditions.

Weather interference:

- i. The number of games to be played may be reduced where weather or other conditions prevent the completion of the program within the time available.
- ii. From the first game of any Tournament the decision to delay a game shall be made by the Tournament Director

Distribution of Game Schedule – BQ will distribute the program of games no later than one (1) month before the beginning of the Tournament.

First Day of Games – In contemplating the program of games, and where a bye is necessary on the opening day of the Tournament, such a bye will be given to the Region/Team, which has travelled the greatest distance to compete.

Wherever possible, the event schedule will include a finals series.

Night games may be played. Venue curfews are to be observed.

Order of Benches and Batting – The second named team in the official schedule of games will be regarded as the Home Team, field first and occupy the third base dugout or bench. This will also be denoted by the use of the @ sign. E.g. Bris West @ Bris South, making Bris South the home team.

Pre-game infield routine (if available):

- i. Where adequate batting cages are available, the home team will have access to one tunnel for 30 minutes commencing 90 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
- ii. Where adequate batting cages are available, the visiting team will have access to one tunnel for 30 minutes commencing 60 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
- iii. Twenty-five (25) minutes before the scheduled starting time of a game, the Home Team will commence their entitled seven (7) minutes warm-up on the playing diamond.
- iv. Eighteen (18) minutes before the schedule starting time of the game the Away Team will commence their entitled seven (7) minute warm-up.
- v. The remaining ten (10) minutes will allow the ground crew to finalise ground preparation.
- vi. The supervision of the warm-up before the game will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director or a designated Official. Pre-game is not to delay game start times.
- vii. If the ground crew do not release the field for use at least twenty-five (25) minutes prior to game time, neither team will be entitled to take infield / outfield.
- viii. The opposing team is not to occupy the field at any time while the competing team is performing the warm-up.

3.3. STARTING TIMES OF GAME

Where possible, all games will not begin before 7:30 am. The Tournament Director must approve all earlier starts.

3.4. BALLS

For all Tournaments, BQ will approve and supply one brand of baseball to be used in games.

BQ will notify the competing Regions of the type of baseballs to be used one (1) month before the event is to take place.

One game baseball shall be made available to each team thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled starting time of each game to enable pitchers to warm up with the game baseball. These baseballs are to be handed to the Chief Umpire before the start of the game.

Warm-up balls will not be provided for relief pitchers.

3.5. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Each Tournament has certain specifications for equipment and uniforms.

3.5.1. UNIFORMS

- i. The Rules of Baseball in relation to uniforms shall apply to all Tournaments.
- ii. All Players on a team shall wear numbered uniforms identical in colour, trim and style.
- iii. White undershirts or sleeves will not be permitted as part of a team's uniform.
- iv. All members of competing teams, including Coaches, will wear the same colour uniforms.
- v. For all Little League pathway games Rule 1.11 refers. Particular attention should be given to 1.11(j) Players must not wear jewellery
- vi. For all other competition games, players must not wear jewellery
- vii. Rule 1.11(3) Amended 2025 – Allows the use of neoprene sleeves.

3.5.2. FOOTWEAR

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

3.5.3. PROTECTIVE HELMETS

For all competition games double-eared helmets are mandatory that meet the International Safety standard endorsed by NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) in all games for the hitter, the hitter on deck, the base runners, the batboy/girl (not permitted in any Little League Pathway Divisions) and any base Coach under the age of 18 years. Adult base Coaches are required to wear 'skull cap' style helmets (i.e., without ear covers), although they can wear two-eared helmet if they choose. For Little League Pathway divisions, refer LLI rule 1.16.

All helmets worn must have the safety logo on the helmet.

NOTE * whilst the LLI rulebook states usage of helmets by base coaches to be optional, Baseball Australia requires base coaches MUST wear helmets whilst base coaching as a mandatory requirement.**

3.6. RANKING THE TEAMS

3.6.1. LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL

Refer to International Tournament Pool Play Format: Section III – Tie Breaker Procedures & Section IV Runs – Allowed Ratio.

3.6.2. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

Tournament teams will be ranked by the points they have scored in the round robin games.

The Points allocated to Teams will be as follows:

- TWO points for a win.
- ONE point for a tied game.
- NO points for an abandoned game or a loss.

Where two (2) or more teams score the same number of points, the “head-to-head” method will be used to separate them.

If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:

- i. The highest ranking will be awarded to the team which allowed the fewest runs in the game(s) contested by those teams (which are tied) requiring separation.
- ii. The remaining teams will then be ranked according to the results of “head-to-head” games between them. If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams (which are tied) method and then back to “head-to-head”, and so forth.
- iii. If teams are still tied, ranking will be according to the lowest number of runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the competition, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher-ranking team then the remaining teams will revert to the “head-to-head”. If remaining teams are still tied, revert to using the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams, and then back to “head-to-head” and so forth.
- iv. The “head-to-head” process will determine the ranking of the final two (2) teams in the above situation.

The Tournament Region/Team

- i. The Champion Region/Team will be the team who wins the Tournament Final.
- ii. If the Tournament Final fails to decide the Tournament Region/Team (e.g. game abandoned due to weather, light, etc.) then the team which finished the most recently completed round in the highest position will be declared State Champion.

Tournaments Affected by Abandoned Games – Where fewer than the total number of games scheduled for a Tournament is completed as the result of “Abandoned Games”, the Winning Region/Team will be determined as follows:

- a) For a Region/Team which completed all of its scheduled games, the number of competition points which it has actually scored will be divided by the number of points which it could have scored if it had won all games in which it competed, and a percentage determined.
- b) For a Region/Team which completed fewer than the number of its scheduled games the number of competition points actually scored by the Region/Team will be divided by the number of points it could have scored had it won all games in which it competed, and a percentage determined.
- c) In comparing the percentages calculated in accordance with (30.5.1) and (30.5.2) above, the higher percentage is better than the lower percentage.
- d) When highest percentages are equal then the highest points actually scored will determine the higher place.
- e) When the highest points scored are the same then a “head-to-head” method will apply.

- f) When the “head-to-head” result is equal, the “head-to-head” method will be used against the same teams finishing above or below the teams involved with the “head-to-head” method.
- g) In the event two (2), three (3) or more teams tie, and the “head-to-head” method does not resolve the order of ranking, then the following method is to apply:
 - i. The fewest runs allowed in the games played between the tied teams.
 - ii. The fewest runs allowed in the games played against teams above the tied teams.
 - iii. The fewest runs allowed in the games played against teams immediately below the tied Teams.

3.7. TROPHIES

Where there are guest/interstate teams participating in the event there will be a Tournament Champion in addition to a Queensland Champion.

The winning Queensland Champion team will receive a:

- a. A perpetual trophy is awarded to the winning team of each Tournament.
- b. BQ will retain the perpetual trophy and arrange to have the trophy suitably engraved.

Medallions for First, Second and Third-placed teams Players, Manager, Assistant Coaches, Executive Officer and Scorer are to receive a suitable medallion, such medallions are to be supplied by BQ.

Any rules listed in this document are a summary only, it is strongly recommended that all coaches / staff download a copy of the rules applicable to the division they are involved with refer to page 50.

3.8. FIELD DIMENSIONS

Games will be conducted on the following field dimensions:

Division	Base Path	Pitching Distance	Centre Field Distance
Little League Majors Little League Invitational	60 ft	46 ft	200 ft
Little League Development Shield	60ft	40 ft	200 ft
Intermediate League and Invitational	70 ft	50 ft	200 ft
Junior League Majors/ Invitational / Qld Youth Women	80 ft	54 ft	300 ft
Senior League Majors/ Invitational/Big League	90 ft	60 ft 6 in	Open

3.9. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Age limits shall be defined by the Little League International Age Matrix

[Refer to Little League Age - 2024 Baseball Age Chart.docx \(littleleague.org\)](#)

The following age groups are eligible for Tournament Play:

Division	League Age
Little League Division 1/Major	10, 11, 12
Little League Division 2 and 3	10, 11, 12
Intermediate League	11, 12, 13
Junior League	12, 13, 14
Senior League	13, 14, 15, 16
Big League	U20, (refer 5.1.4 for out of age players)
Youth Women	Born between 1 January 2010 to 31 August 2012

3.10. ROSTER SIZE

3.10.1. LITTLE LEAGUE (ALL DIVISIONS), INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE (ALL DIVISIONS), JUNIOR LEAGUE (ALL DIVISIONS) AND LITTLE LEAGUE GIRLS

Teams shall submit a roster of no more than fourteen (14) players and no fewer than ten players

3.10.2. YOUTH WOMEN

Each Youth Women's Team shall consist of minimum twelve (12) players up to maximum of up to fourteen (14) Players. Teams shall also have one (1) manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.

3.10.3. SENIOR LEAGUE

Teams shall submit a roster of min twelve (12) and a max of sixteen (16) players.

3.10.4. BIG LEAGUE

Teams shall submit a roster of no more than sixteen (16) players. Included in the roster a team can have a maximum of three (3) players under twenty-three (23) years of age.

3.11. MANDATORY PLAY

3.11.1. LITTLE/INTERMEDIATE/JUNIOR LEAGUE (ALL DIVISIONS)

BA Tournament Rule 9

ALL teams are required to have continuous batting that will include all players on the team Affidavit, to appear in the batting order. Each player is required to bat in his/her respective spot of the batting order. All players MUST have at least one At-Bat.

If a tournament team has thirteen (13) or more eligible players in uniform at a game, then every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of three (3) consecutive defensive outs and at least one (1) at bat. If a tournament team has twelve (12) or fewer eligible players in uniform at a game for a minimum of six

(6) consecutive defensive outs and at least one (1) at bat,

Bat at least one (1) time is defined as: A player enters the batter's box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, the inning or game ends.

Failure to meet Continuous Batting mandatory play requirements in this rule is a basis for protest. If one or more players on a roster do not meet this requirement, and if protested or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention, the breach shall be referred to the Charter Committee in Williamsport for a ruling.

When a manager or coach is suspended for any reason is not permitted to be at the game site and must not take part in the game/s, nor have any communications whatsoever with any person at the game site. This includes pregame and postgame activities. Violation may result, by action of the Tournament Committee, in further suspension; forfeiture of a game; and/or disqualification of the team, managers, or coaches from further tournament participation.

Tournament Play – Mandatory Play (except Senior League) – AUSTRALIAN VARIATION

If a tournament team has thirteen (13) or more eligible players in uniform at a game, then every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of three (3) consecutive defensive outs. If a tournament team has twelve (12) or fewer eligible players in uniform at a game for a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs.

Any player who does not start a game in a defensive position and enters the game as a defensive replacement cannot be removed from defence until his/her mandatory defensive outs have been completed.

This rule does not apply to any game shortened due to run rule, bad weather or light (or other similar issue) or the end of a time limit game.

PENALTY: The player/s involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed and the requirement for this game before being removed (any penalties applied under the LLI Tournament Rules shall also apply).

Defensive Outs is defined as: a player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defence and occupies a defensive position while three (3) outs are made.

Failure to meet Defensive Outs mandatory play requirements in this rule is a basis for protest. If one or more players on a roster do not meet this requirement, and if protested or brought to the Tournament Director's attention, it shall result (by action of the Tournament

Director) in the removal of the team's manager, without replacement, for the nominated breach penalty.

Management of a Defensive Outs breach will be the Tournament Directors role, with the following penalties:

- First Offence – Warning and Education on the participation and player management
- Second Offence – 2 game Suspension
- Subsequent Offence/s– the state/territory to provide feedback to BA on team manager's continued role, i.e. head to Nationals or World Series.
- Any Subsequent breach is to be noted on the Affidavit.

3.11.2. SENIOR LEAGUE

There is **NO** mandatory play for Senior League, refer LLI Tournament Rule 9.

3.11.3. BIG LEAGUE

There is **NO** mandatory play for Big League.

3.11.4. YOUTH WOMEN

There are mandatory participation requirements for all teams which must be met by all Players by the completion of the State Titles, including any games played on the final day.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in the team concerned being deemed ineligible to record a win on the final day's play.

Medical grounds for failure to meet participation requirements must be verified to the satisfaction of the Tournament Director. Please provide medical certificates detailing the parameters of any prescribed rest/deactivation period to the Tournament Director.

Participation in timed games Youth Women's Tournament – at the completion of the tournament, players must have played 40% of the scheduled game time (in minutes). (Scheduled game time is to take into consideration any changes to the schedule e.g. reduction in games due to wet weather)

Any Player injured or taken ill during a game shall be credited with having completed that game. This is subject to approval by the Tournament Director.

External circumstances during the State Titles may cause participation problems for Field Managers. The Tournament Director will address each case on its merit.

The Field Managers are responsible for ensuring Players on their teams satisfy the participation requirements. Infringements shall be noted by the Tournament Director, for a ruling and subsequent disciplinary action (if any).

Injury or illness - Should a Player be rendered unavailable for a period due to illness or injury the following shall apply:

The team is to provide the Tournament Director with written advice from a qualified medical officer detailing the period that the Player is unable to participate.

It is the responsibility of team management to provide the Tournament Director with any medical documentation required to verify a Player is unable to play.

Monitoring participation is as follows:

- All substitutions must be made via the Plate Umpire and recorded by Scorers. It is recommended that Managers send a runner to the scorer, where possible, with written advice of substitutions to be made. NB: these substitutions do not come into effect until the Umpire officially notifies the Scorer.
- The Scorers are required to provide participation information to the Tournament Director to enable the Tournament Director to monitor participation throughout the State Titles.
- As part of the duty to monitor participation, the Tournament Director will have the right to direct a manager to ensure that underused Players are included in subsequent games if such inclusion is required for that Player to meet the participation minimum for the State Titles. Failure to adhere to this directive will be viewed as a very serious breach and will ordinarily result in the suspension of the Manager for the remainder of the State Titles by order and at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- Penalties for failing to adhere to participation regulations – Teams that do not meet participation requirements will be deemed ineligible to officially record a win on their final day of competition and may be fined up to \$500.

4. PLAYING CONDITIONS

4.1. REGULATION GAME

Division	Innings	Time Limit	Regulation Game
Little League (LL) Majors	6 Innings	No Time Limit	4 Innings
Little League Invitational (2) & LL Girls	6 Innings	2 hours – No new innings to start with fewer than 10 minutes remaining from the first pitch may finish the innings if the home team is behind).	4 innings
Little League Development Shield (Division 3)	Refer section 13 Of Tech Norms	1.5 Hours - No new innings to start with fewer than 10 minutes remaining from the first pitch may finish the innings if the home team is behind).	45 mins Add in 10 minutes
Little League Minors (Machine Pitch)	Refer section 14 Tech Norms	1 hours	30 minutes
Intermediate League (IL) Majors	7 Innings	No Time Limit	5 innings
Intermediate League Invitational	7 Innings	2 hours – No new innings to start with fewer than 10 minutes remaining from the first pitch may finish the innings if the home team is behind).	5 innings
Junior League Majors (JL)	7 Innings	No Time Limit	5 innings
JL Invitational	7 Innings	2 Hours – No new innings to start with fewer than 10 minutes remaining from the first pitch may finish the innings if the home team is behind).	5 innings
Senior League Majors (SL)	7 innings	No Time Limit	5 innings
Senior League Invitational	7 innings	2 Hours – No new innings to start with fewer than 10 minutes remaining from the first pitch may finish the innings if the home team is behind).	5 innings
Big League	7 innings	2 hours - No new innings to start with fewer than 10 minutes remaining from the first pitch may finish the innings if the home team is behind)	5 innings
Youth Women	7 innings	2 hours - No new innings to start with fewer than 10 minutes remaining from the first pitch may finish the innings if the home team is behind.	5 innings

4.2. REGULATION TIED GAME

4.2.1. LITTLE LEAGUE PATHWAYS

Tied Game (for all divisions)

When the completion of six innings (Junior/Senior League: seven innings), and the score is tied, starting in the top of the seventh inning (Junior/Senior League: eighth inning), and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. Refer LLI Rule 14

EXAMPLE: If the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. An eligible substitute or special pinch runner may be inserted for the runner.

4.2.2. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

- It is a regulation tied game when the umpire terminates play on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible and:
- If at the end of 4 or more completed innings, for all Tournaments, the score is tied.
- If the Home team shall score in its uncompleted 4th or any incomplete innings thereafter enough runs to equal the Visiting team's score.

Tie Breaker Rule – Where conditions and time permit, Teams shall play extra innings as required to achieve a result. Each Team shall commence the top of their offense inning with runners on first and second base. The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning. The runner on first shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning. The runner on second base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the runner on first base. Any runner or batter 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. For purposes of this Regulation, any “extra inning” is defined as the next inning after the Regulation Inning as defined in Section 3.1

4.3. SUSPENDED / RESCHEDULED GAME

4.3.1. LITTLE LEAGUE PATHWAY

Tournament Rule 11 Suspended Games & Tournament Rule - 15 Replaying Games applies and replace tech norm. 6.3.& 6.4 for suspended / rescheduled games.

4.3.2. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

It is a suspended game when the Umpire terminates play on account of darkness, weather or any other cause which makes it impossible for further play in the game, and where fewer than five (5) innings have been completed.

When a number of games are suspended or not commenced, then these games shall be rescheduled so that each team play as near as possible an equal number of games. Where the

suspended or not commenced games that are to be re-scheduled include key games between teams vying for the Championship, then these key games will be given precedence over other games. Games involving teams that cannot be feasibly reconvened at a later date will also be considered a priority for completion. Games can be re-scheduled on rest days if the Tournament Director desires. If re-scheduled, suspended games will be re-commenced at the point where the games were halted.

If game(s) are rain delayed or rained out, they may be rescheduled on an alternate ground. This decision remains with the Tournament Director.

Any pitcher's eligibility to pitch in the continuation of any resumed game (the resumption of a game that had previously been suspended) shall be at the time of the resumption of the suspended game

4.4. ABANDONED GAME

4.4.1. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

If the Tournament Director cannot re-schedule a suspended game, then that game will be considered as abandoned, and competing teams will be awarded points as detailed in Rule [4.6](#).

Any pitches thrown in an abandoned game shall be counted in pitch statistics and must be included in calculations concerning pitch limits and required rest periods.

5. BATTING REGULATIONS

Refer Page 50 for specific bat regulations

A summary of key requirements is listed below. The official requirements are per the Little League International Rules. 1.10.

5.1. LITTLE LEAGUE

On Deck Batters are not permitted, Refer LLI refer 1.08.

5.2. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE / JUNIOR LEAGUE / SENIOR LEAGUE / BIG LEAGUE / YOUTH WOMEN

On Deck Batters are allowed. The on-deck batter shall be positioned in the on-deck circle closest to their dugout. Refer LLI Rule XIV (b) (AR) & Australia Baseball rules.

Teams and Managers shall ensure that all Bats in the dugout comply with the Little League Rules & Baseball Australia Rules for their Divisio

All bats must have the BBCOR Performance Standard and bear compliant markings, or; The USA Baseball Standard and bear compliant markings,

5.3. LL PATHWAYS ILLEGAL BATS

The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance is prohibited at all levels of Little League Baseball. Use of these substances will result in the bat being declared illegal and removed from play. Rule 1.10 Note 2 refers

The PENALTY for the use or attempted use of an illegal bat in Little League refer rule 6.06(d) and Tournament Rule 3 (d).

5.4. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN ILLEGAL BATS

The bat handle may be covered or treated with any material or substance to improve the grip but must not exceed more than 18 inches (0.45 m) from its end. Any such material or substance that exceeds the 18-inch (0.45 m) limit shall be cause for the bat to be removed from the game. Refer to Australian Baseball Rules 3.2.1.6

6. PITCHING REGULATIONS

Refer LLI Rules and BA Tournament Manual.

The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the pitch limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position [4.d]

EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half- inning or the game; 4. The pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at bat.

6.1.1. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

Pitchers once removed from the mound but remaining in the game at another position may return to pitch later in the same game but only once per game [4.c].

A player cannot pitch in two games in a day [4.f].

6.1.2. JUNIOR LEAGUE

Pitchers once removed from the mound but remaining in the game at another position may return to pitch later in the same game but only once per game [4.c].

A player who pitches 30 pitches or fewer in a game may pitch in a second game on the same day

[4.f]

Exception: League Age 12 participating in JLs are not eligible to pitch in two games in a day.

6.1.3. REST PERIODS- LITTLE / INTERMEDIATE / JUNIOR LEAGUE

Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirement [4.e]:

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

- If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar days of rest must be observed.

Note: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to the final batter faced. Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

6.1.4. SENIOR LEAGUE

A player who pitches 30 pitches or fewer in a game may pitch in a second game on the same day [4.f]

The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the pitch limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position [4.d]

EXCEPTION: If a pitcher reaches the limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game; 4. The pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at bat.

Pitchers league age 13-16 must adhere to the following rest requirement [4.e]:

If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 61-75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 46-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 31-45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar days of rest must be observed.

Note: A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to the final batter faced.

Note: Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days. [4.e]

Note: Rest periods commence at the conclusion of a player's final pitching assignment on a given day after which the full day rest requirements as mandated commence at midnight.

6.1.5. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

A pitcher's game contribution will be classified according to the number of pitches officially thrown.

Rest requirements will be applicable across all consecutive BQ endorsed tournaments i.e. If a player is on 2 days rest from pitching at the completion of the Open Women's tournament, then the same 2 days rest from pitching will be applied if they play in the subsequent Youth Women's tournament. A pitcher reaching his/her daily limit of pitches for a Maximum assignment is to be removed from the game once he/she has completed the batter or has been moved to Designated Hitter. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3rd out of an inning, then that pitcher is entitled to take their place as a batter should he or she be due to hit in the next half inning.

The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule.

Tournament	Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	No Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest
Big League	17 – 18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
Big League	19 – 22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
Youth Women	13-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

To learn more about why these pitching restrictions have been implemented please refer to this link: <https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>.

6.1.6. REST PERIODS – BIG LEAGUE / YOUTH WOMEN

Maximum assignment – Once a pitcher has reached the above assignment, they will be required to complete one day's rest before any playing participation except as a designated hitter or for pinch hitting and pinch running

Substantial/Major or Maximum Assignment - Once a pitcher has reached the above assignment, he or she is no longer eligible to play any other fielding position and must be removed from the game once the pitching assignment has been completed. If a player pitches a substantial in the first game of a double header, then they can only participate in the second game of a double header as a designated hitter, pinch hitter or runner.

Short pitching assignment - No rest days are required. For three (3) Short assignments on successive days, (1) One days' rest is required from pitching and catching.

*The 3rd consecutive assignment on successive days may only be a Short Assignment.

*In accordance with "Pitch Smart Guidelines" players are ineligible to pitch more than one outing per day, including shorts.

An "assignment" is any pitching role of any length in any game: the delivery of even one pitch shall be considered one assignment.

A player once removed from pitching may not pitch again in the same game.

The scorers shall indicate in the scorebook the game contribution for each pitcher and when the pitcher may next play.

The Chief Umpire will be supplied, 30 minutes prior to the start of each teams 1st game that day, a list of players who are ineligible to pitch. The Scorers Co-Ordinator will be responsible for the delivery of this information to the Chief Umpire and the two Managers/Head Coaches as soon as possible prior to the game.

*Scorers Co-Ordinator will only provide this information for a teams 2nd game of the day, if time permits. Managers are ultimately responsible for player welfare and rest periods.

The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule.

Penalties for failing to adhere to participation and/or pitching regulations

Using a pitcher who has not had the required rest in either a pitching or defensive capacity is considered a serious breach, as it exposes the player to an increased injury risk. In most cases, such use will be penalised by the suspension of the manager for at least one game, as well as the monetary penalty outlined below. To prevent managers flaunting this rule in the knowledge that the following game is a lesser priority, the duration of the suspension is at the discretion of the CD.

7. CATCHING

7.1. MOVEMENT BETWEEN PITCHING AND CATCHING (PITCHER/CATCHER RULE)

7.1.1. LITTLE LEAGUE / INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE / JUNIOR LEAGUE

Any player on the team may pitch [4.a].

Exception: Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day [4.a].

A player who played the position of catcher for three innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more (15- and 16-year-olds: 31 pitches or more) in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. [4.a].

Exception: If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit (15- and 16-year-olds: 30-pitch limit) while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. [4.a].

The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. [4.d].

NB: TOURNAMENT RULE 3(F) Managers or Coaches are not permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bull pen or elsewhere at any time. They may stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-ups in the bull pen.

7.1.2. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

YOUTH WOMEN

All catchers, including coaches, assistants or players assisting in warmups, are required to wear protective head gear, and an attached-type protective throat guard, for pitcher warmup, and any form of infield or infield/outfield practice. The "Hockey Style" helmet is authorized for use at all levels of play.

BIG LEAGUE

No player may pitch and catch on the same day.

Exception- Any player 18 or over.

PENALTY: Immediate ejection from the game for first and subsequent offences. The offending team shall forfeit the game, and the Manager/Head Coach shall be reported to the TD, followed by a mandatory tribunal hearing.

8. COLLISION RULE BIG LEAGUE / YOUTH WOMEN

For collisions at home plate:

A runner attempting to score may not deviate from their direct pathway to the plate to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the Umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the Umpire shall declare the runner out (even if the player covering home plate

loses possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the Umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, they shall not be judged to have violated Rule 6.01 (i).

Rule of Baseball 6.01 (i) (1) Comment: The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the plate, the runner's lowering of the shoulder, or the runner's pushing through with their hands, elbows or arms, would support a determination that the runner deviated from the pathway in order to initiate contact with the catcher in violation of Rule 6.01, or otherwise initiated a collision that could have been avoided. A slide into the plate in an appropriate manner, they shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 6.01. A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner's buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. In the case of a headfirst slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if their body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. If the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner, the umpire shall not find that the runner initiated an avoidable collision in violation of this Rule 6.01 (i) (1).

Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner attempting to score. If, in the judgment of the Umpire, the catcher without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the Umpire shall call or signal the runner safe. Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation of this Rule 6.01(i) (2) if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner to field a throw, and the Umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.

9. COURTESY RUNNERS

Note: *The courtesy runner must always be the player in the batting order who made the last out. If a team chooses to use a courtesy runner and the player who made the last out is the pitcher or catcher of record, that pitcher or catcher of record must be used as the courtesy runner. A team may not skip the pitcher or catcher of record if that pitcher or catcher of record made the last out and is therefore due to be the courtesy runner.*

9.1. LITTLE LEAGUE, INTERMEDIATE (50-70) DIVISION /JUNIOR LEAGUE

COURTESY RUNNER: A tournament team may permit a "courtesy runner"

for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Utilizing continuous batting order, the courtesy runner may be in the team's batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

9.2. SENIOR LEAGUE

Tournament rule 3.d – special pinch runner – SENIOR LEAGUE ONLY

Twice a game but not more than one time per inning, a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a

special pinch-runner one time during a game. The player for whom the pinch-runner runs is not subject to removal from the line-up. If the pinch-runner remains in the game as a substitute defensive or offensive player, the player may not be used again as a pinch-runner while in the batting order. However, if removed for another substitute that player or any player not in the line-up, is again eligible to be used as a pinch-runner.

9.3. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

All teams may use a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time subject to the following: (a) the courtesy runner shall be any eligible player.

A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury, illness or ejection.

No running stats shall be credited to the courtesy runner; they shall be credited to the catcher.

10. DESIGNATED HITTER

10.1. SENIOR LEAGUE

Refer Rule 3.03 applies in full

Each manager may list on the line-up card a Designated Hitter to bat throughout the game for a designated player in the regular line-up,

Only a player not in the regular batting order maybe used as a designated hitter.

10.2. BIG LEAGUE AND YOUTH WOMEN

A designated hitter may be used at all Tournaments.

The following is an option for underage Tournaments only and should be read in conjunction with the Designated Hitter Rule.

A team may move the pitcher to the designated hitter's role and introduce a new pitcher anytime in the game, subject to Rule 37.2.3.

Where the designated hitter has started the game, a once-only switch in roles between the pitcher and the designated hitter is allowed subject to Rule 37.2.3.

The manager may only initiate these changes directly with the plate umpire on the first visit to the pitcher during a defensive innings, or during an offensive innings.

A designated hitter that becomes the pitcher, or a pitcher who becomes the designated hitter may not participate in the game in any other way.

In any subsequent substitutions or positional changes following the once-only switch mentioned above, when a player comes from a defensive position or designated hitter to the mound, the designated hitter may not be used for the remainder of the game.

Teams may apply the “Ohtani Rule”.

Teams may commence a game without a Designated Hitter, and subsequently ‘move’ the starting pitcher to the Designated Hitter role upon their completion of an assignment on the mound. In such a circumstance, participation will be recognised for the pitching outing only.

11. RUN RULES (ONE SIDED GAMES)

A game determined by the 15-run rule, shall be considered a regulation game.

Division	Runs and Inning	Runs and Inning
Little League Majors /Invitational / LL Girls	15 runs after 3 innings	10 runs after 4 innings
Intermediate League/ Intermediate League Invitational	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Junior League Majors/ Junior League Invitational	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Senior League / Senior League Invitational/ Big League	15 runs after 4 innings	10 runs after 5 innings
Youth Women	15 or more runs after 5 completed innings	8 or more runs after 6 completed innings

11.1. RUN LIMITS PER INNINGS

11.1.1. INVITATIONAL DIVISIONS / LL GIRLS

A maximum of four (4) runs may be scored in the first four (4) innings of play – more than six (6) runs may score as a result of additional runs scoring on the final play of the inning but only six runs will count for scoring purposes.

Any inning shortened due to the 4-run rule shall be considered three (3) defensive outs (DO), for mandatory play purposes.

11.1.2. DEVELOPMENT SHIELD / YOUTH WOMEN

A maximum of four (4) runs may be scored in the first four (4) innings of play - Exception: If the final at bat sees an outcome that exceeds the seven (4) runs by a home run, all runs scored on the final play will count. (Consistent with normal walk-off rules).

12. LITTLE LEAGUE MINORS DEVELOPMENT SHIELD

12.1. GENERAL

Division 3 Little League is a development League designed to increase participation and development of players.

The following additional playing rules shall be in place for this division only:

Game duration

6 innings or 1.5 hrs

Regulation Game

45 minutes

12.2. DROPPED 3RD STRIKE

A batter shall be OUT when a 3rd Strike is not caught by the catcher.

Runners on base may advance one base at a time.

12.3. PASSED BALLS

No runner may advance to home on a passed ball or wild pitch. Other runners may advance at their own peril but not beyond 3rd base.

Runners may advance only 1 base on a passed ball or wild pitch.

12.4. OVERTHROWS

As overthrows and errors are more likely to occur in the development shield, coaches should remain respectful and not allow runners to advance additional bases on overthrows or misplayed balls.

Runners may advance additional bases at their own peril should there be an overthrow or error but should not advance further than if the ball would have gone out of play.

Example: Runner on 1st. Batter hits ball to 2nd Base who makes an overthrow to first base and the ball remains in play. Runner on 1st Base is allowed to advance to 3rd base and/or batter is allowed to advance to 2nd base at their own peril (i.e. can be subsequently tagged out on the play) but runners shall not advance beyond 3rd base and 2nd base irrespective of additional errors on the play.

Coaches are encouraged to apply this rule with common sense and not continue to run on errors.

Players shall not “suicide run” on plays for the purpose of drawing a throw or error from the defensive team. Umpires will ensure respect for the game and call “Time” and return runners to their original position.

12.5. COACH PITCH

Upon the defensive pitcher throwing four (4) balls, the offensive coach will “Coach Pitch” to the hitter.

Upon a coach entering the playing field for the purposes of “Coach Pitch” all runners on base shall be frozen in their position. Runners shall not advance until there is a hit occurs. Runners shall not be permitted to steal or advance on a passed ball during the “Coach Pitch”.

Offensive Coaches must wear a coaching helmet and use a fielding glove at all times to take a position in front of the pitching rubber at a position of 30 feet from home plate (as marked) by kneeling to throw to the batter. The Pitcher will stand on or adjacent to the pitching rubber as a positional player.

Coaches shall pitch to the hitter with all pitches deemed a strike to encourage the batter to hit the ball, a maximum of three (3) pitches permitted.

Should a fair batted ball hit the Offensive Coach on the field in position while "Coach Pitch", the ball remains live and play on 13.6 run Limitation

13. LITTLE LEAGUE MINORS – MACHINE PITCH

13.1. GENERAL

Teams may field as many fielders as the opposition up to 12; and bat as many as 12 in any given game using a continuous batting order. Players that exceed the normal nine MUST occupy fielding positions in the outfield.

NOTE: It is important to note that at this age level, all emphasis should be on games and modified games that are used to help develop basic motor skills and basic Baseball skills.

13.2. THE PLAYING FIELD

Division	Base Path Distance	Pitching Distance	Bases
U10 (LLM MP)	50 ft	36-40 ft	Removable

A 15ft fair ball line is to be in place in front of tee.

ALL Bases are to be removable and be of the padded variety and placed on level ground.

Machine Pitch position shall be 36ft from Home Plate position.

Any player playing position of pitcher must be positioned behind the pitching machine.

13.3. PLAYING EQUIPMENT

NOTE: It is recommended that the use of Safety Balls and/or Injury Reduction Balls be used for both divisions of play.

It is mandatory that **ALL** Players must wear a protective athletic cup

ALL players must wear enclosed shoes, rubber molded cleats are allowed.

Properly fitted, two-eared helmet must be worn by all batters, baserunners and player coaches.

Managers and Coaches must wear an approved helmet (skull cap style) whilst on the field performing coaching duties.

Catchers will not be mandatory for any age group. Umpires are to assist with ball collection.

A Pitching Machine (Zooka) will be used for accuracy of pitching and set to a maximum of **36mph** between 36ft and 40 ft. from home plate.

13.3.1. PITCHING MACHINE FAILURE

In the event of pitching machine failure, a designated pitcher (coach) is to pitch from a kneeling position. The pitcher is required to throw a flat trajectory pitch either over arm or under arm, at a speed that is conducive to the batter's ability **to make contact with the ball**.

The fielding pitcher must be positioned approximately an arm's length to either side and behind the designated pitcher.

A designated pitcher is defined as: a coach or other delegated person from the batting team that pitches the ball to that team's batters. The designated pitcher must be 15 years of age or older.

13.4. PLAYING RULES

Game Duration: 60 minutes

Regulation Game: 30 minutes

13.5. BATTING

ALL Teams must use a continuous batting order.

The home plate umpire is to suspend play by calling "Time" before requesting "Batter Up". Batters then assume their position in the batter's box. Batters cannot hit the ball until the umpire calls "Play Ball".

Should the batter hit the ball into the Pitching Machine and/or designated pitcher, the batter will be awarded a single base hit (if forced, all other runners advance one base only). Designated pitchers (when used) should wear a glove for self-protection but **must make effort to avoid touching any batted ball**.

Only **ONE** baseball is allowed on the playing field at any given time.

There are no "Base on Balls" in Rookie Ball.

Players receive a maximum of six (6) machine pitches or three (3) swinging strikes. A Tee will be used for the batter to hit off. The batter will continue his/her at bat until such time as he/she hits the ball into fair territory. (Only full rubber tees or fold up tees are to be used.)

When the tee is used the batter must hit the ball a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the tee before the ball is considered to be in fair territory.

MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED – four (4) runs per inning.

13.6. BASE RUNNING

Base stealing, or advancing on passed balls and wild pitches, is prohibited

Runners may not leave their base until the batter makes contact with the ball.

Penalty: Should the umpire observe such an infringement, the runner is sent back to the base last legally occupied. If the pitch is hit into fair territory, the infringing runner is ruled out. **All** other plays resulting from that hit stand.

Runners may not advance beyond the base they are approaching on the call of "time." "Time" may only be called by the umpire once the ball is in the possession of a player in the infield and it is deemed that no other plays will reasonably take place.

On overthrows at **any** base, the ball is automatically declared dead. **NO** runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching.

13.7. FIELDING

The fielding pitcher is **not considered an** infielder. Infielders must **assume** their initial fielding position **behind the** base paths. Outfielders **must** be well behind their infielders before play can resume. An appropriate distance is approximately **5-10 meters** behind the infielders. **All** fielders shall remain relatively stationary when the umpire calls “play ball.”

The Infield Fly rule (**see rule 2.00 of the Official Rules of Baseball**) does not apply to Rookie Ball. Therefore, if any fly ball is caught by an infielder, the batter is out, the ball becomes dead, and **NO** runner(s) may advance or be put out.

The position of pitcher (player must wear helmet) is allowed to feed the Pitching Machine and then assume a position behind the pitching machine and must maintain a good pace and flow of the game. Coaches are to communicate and encourage a good flow of the game.

All players play defense, and all players are in a continuous batting order however sides exchange after 3 outs or 4 runs scored across the plate.

13.8. COACHING

Coaches are **only** permitted on field if positioned **behind** their infielders. When on field, coaches may not physically touch a hit ball, or a player in the act of fielding.

Penalty: Batter/runner is awarded first base; all other runners advance one base only.

Appeals by a defensive coach for **(1)** runners leaving early, **(2)** bat throwing, or **(3)** for taking extra bases on “Time,” may only occur at the conclusion of said play. Such appeals **must** be in the form of a question and **must** occur prior to the first pitch to the next official batter.

Coaches must at least wear the club uniform shirt and cap and be neatly attired at all times. **Open-toed shoes of any type are prohibited.**

Coaches are encouraged to rotate players in a different fielding position each inning.

Coaches will be encouraged to speed the game up between innings with a maximum of 60 seconds between innings.

Any Coach or assistant playing in the position of pitcher must wear a glove. For all male coaches and assistants, a protective athletic cup must be worn at all times whilst playing the position of pitcher. Any junior coach/assistant (Under the age of 18) must also wear two-eared baseball helmet at all times whilst playing the position of pitcher.

14. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS

14.1. PROTESTS

Refer Little League Rule 4.19 Protesting a Game reference, current Little League Rule Book in **full (NOTE: no game can be played under protest)** include Youth Women and Big League.

NB: Protests shall be considered only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule, use of an ineligible pitcher or the use of an ineligible player.

No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgement.

Equipment which does not meet specifications must be removed from the game.

Exception: Little League Rule Illegal bat (refer 6.06 (d) and TR 3 (d)).

14.2. REPORTED PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

Once a Player/Official has been ejected from the game, the Umpire shall write an official report and delivers the report to the Umpires Coordinator, who will then discuss the offence/s with the Tournament Director to determine if a Tribunal is warranted.

Should any Player, Coach or Manager be ejected by an Umpire, the person ejected will receive a mandatory and automatic one (1) game suspension plus time served.

The Tribunal is authorised to impose whatever penalty is deemed necessary.

Full details of the Tribunal matter will be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BQ within one (1) month of the completion of the Tournament.

Tribunal procedures at Tournaments

- i. Wherever possible, any Tribunal hearing during a Tournament, whether related to an on-field or off-field incident, must be finalised prior to the next game in which the parties are involved.
- ii. The Tribunal will be composed of three (3) adults; the Tournament Director, at least one BQ Official (or his/her appointed representative) along with one additional member appointed by BQ. It will not include any members of a competing team's staff or delegation. It is empowered to make determinations regarding rule infringements of BQ Playing Rules.

14.3. TRIBUNAL PROCESS

Once the Tournament Director is made aware of any matter for which the Tournament Tribunal is required, he/she sets the Tribunal hearing date/time and venue. The Tournament Director shall then personally make contact by telephone or in person with Tribunal members (and minutes secretary) and the relevant parties (Player /Coach/Official to be advised via their Executive Officer) to advise the particulars of the Tribunal hearing including its time, place and method of any hearing.

The Tournament Director shall clearly indicate to all parties the reason for the Tribunal hearing (e.g. Player ejection, purported breach of BQ playing rules, Code of Conduct etc).

The Tribunal shall be held in closed session whilst being cognisant of the principles of natural justice and will determine any matters in accord with the following procedural steps:

- i. The Tournament Director shall assume the role of Tribunal Chairperson and will preside over the Tribunal proceedings, which shall be recorded by a minute secretary appointed by BQ.
- ii. The Umpire concerned shall present his or her version of the facts (by either report or in person). The Executive Officer shall be entitled to then ask questions in a reasonable manner to clarify matters in dispute.
- iii. The Umpire or Tribunal Members may at his or her discretion present other evidence (scorebook, other Umpire etc.) for corroborative purposes. The other evidence shall be made available during the Tribunal sitting to the Executive Officer for examination/questioning.
- iv. The Tribunal Chairperson and/or any Tribunal Member shall be entitled at any time during the hearing to ask questions of the parties to clarify any evidence where such clarification assists in deliberations.
- v. The Executive Officer (EO), (or in the case of a breach regarding an adult, the alleged Perpetrator/respondent) is then invited to put forward the case for the alleged offender/or their team.
- vi. The Player/Coach/Official shall be given a reasonable time to explain his position when presenting their version of the incident. The EO may ask questions of his or her team member to assist in presenting his or her version of the facts and to clarify any points.
- vii. The Tribunal Members can seek and consider evidence from any source they deem appropriate but must make that evidence available to both parties.
- viii. The EO may present any written evidence (e.g. Scorebook) and/or call a reasonable number of other witnesses for corroboration. Such witnesses may be subject to questions in cross examination by Tribunal members.
- ix. The EO is then invited by the Tribunal to add any comment in summary relating to the facts presented. At the conclusion of their evidence, the EO, the ejected individual and any witnesses are to leave the confines of the room whilst the members of the Tribunal consider the facts. The Tribunal members are encouraged to pause/stop any recording devices, prior to deliberation.
- x. Once a decision has been reached, the EO and ejected individual are re-called in order to be presented with the Tribunal's decision by the Chairperson.
- xi. Where a discretionary penalty is to be applied, the EO and ejected individual are given the opportunity to speak in mitigation of this penalty.
- xii. After making such a plea, they shall once again leave the room whilst the facts are summarised objectively by the Tournament Director and a determination of any discretionary penalty is finalised.
- xiii. The EO and ejected individual are then recalled, and the Tribunal Chairperson shall announce penalty and close the hearing.
- xiv. At the conclusion of the hearing, the minute secretary shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings, which shall be signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record. The EO shall be advised in writing (notice prepared by minute secretary) of the penalty as announced by the Tribunal Chairperson and the Chairperson shall sign such notice.
- xv. The penalty and any other relevant matters are then enacted.
- xvi. The minutes of the Tribunal hearing are to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BQ within one (1) month following the Tournaments for validation of penalty; for example, where discretionary fines are applicable.

- xvii. Note: Whilst, for the sake of thoroughness and due process, there are a number of steps depicted above, every effort should be made to carry out the Tribunal proceedings in an informal manner.

14.4. TRIBUNAL APPEALS

Please refer to the Member Protection Policy for Appeals Process. Please follow this link to access the policy: <https://www.baseballqueensland.com.au/resources/>.

14.5. PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES

A field rule violation is defined as the breaking of any rule in a game. The penalty for a breach of BQ playing rules, unless otherwise specified in BQ Operations Manual for Championships, may be a fine of up to a maximum of \$500 – levied against the Region/Club and a mandatory and automatically applied, one (1) game suspension of the offending team's Manager.

The penalty for breaching BQ Procedural Regulations (pre/post program) is a fine of up to \$50 for any one offence. Multiple offences in the same event may lead to the automatic suspension of the offending team's Manager.

The penalty for breaches of Code of Conduct agreements is also a fine of up to \$500 for any one offence, possible ejection from the game and, at the discretion of the Tribunal, suspension or dismissal from the Tournament.

If there are breaches of the Rules where there are no penalties prescribed, then the Tournament Director is to rule on the matter in the best interests of the game. Such penalties may be levied as financial penalties or include suspension from a number of games or even the whole Tournament.

If a team is presented with a situation where they run out of eligible Players to field a team or enter the game, it is grounds for forfeit. Forfeiting the game is sufficient punishment in this situation if it is unpreventable.

Anyone serving a suspension must not attend the Tournament Facility for the duration of their suspension.

- i. The Tournament Director shall assume the role of Tribunal Chairperson and will preside over the Tribunal proceedings, which shall be recorded by a minute secretary appointed by BQ.
- ii. The Umpire concerned shall present his or her version of the facts (by either report or in person). The Executive Officer shall be entitled to then ask questions in a reasonable manner to clarify matters in dispute.
- iii. The Umpire or Tribunal Members may at his or her discretion present other evidence (scorebook, other Umpire etc.) for corroborative purposes. The other evidence shall be made available during the Tribunal sitting to the Executive Officer for examination/questioning.
- iv. The Tribunal Chairperson and/or any Tribunal Member shall be entitled at any time during the hearing to ask questions of the parties to clarify any evidence where such clarification assists in deliberations.
- v. The Executive Officer (EO), (or in the case of a breach regarding an adult, the alleged Perpetrator/respondent) is then invited to put forward the case for the alleged offender/or their team.

- vi. The Player/Coach/Official shall be given a reasonable time to explain his position when presenting their version of the incident. The EO may ask questions of his or her team member to assist in presenting his or her version of the facts and to clarify any points.
- vii. The Tribunal Members can seek and consider evidence from any source they deem appropriate but must make that evidence available to both parties.
- viii. The EO may present any written evidence (e.g. Scorebook) and/or call a reasonable number of other witnesses for corroboration. Such witnesses may be subject to questions in cross examination by Tribunal members.
- ix. The EO is then invited by the Tribunal to add any comment in summary relating to the facts presented. At the conclusion of their evidence, the EO, the ejected individual and any witnesses are to leave the confines of the room whilst the members of the Tribunal consider the facts. The Tribunal members are encouraged to pause/stop any recording devices, prior to deliberation.
- x. Once a decision has been reached, the EO and ejected individual are re-called in order to be presented with the Tribunal's decision by the Chairperson.
- xi. Where a discretionary penalty is to be applied, the EO and ejected individual are given the opportunity to speak in mitigation of this penalty.
- xii. After making such a plea, they shall once again leave the room whilst the facts are summarised objectively by the Tournament Director and a determination of any discretionary penalty is finalised.
- xiii. The EO and ejected individual are then recalled, and the Tribunal Chairperson shall announce penalty and close the hearing.
- xiv. At the conclusion of the hearing, the minute secretary shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings, which shall be signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record. The EO shall be advised in writing (notice prepared by minute secretary) of the penalty as announced by the Tribunal Chairperson and the Chairperson shall sign such notice.
- xv. The penalty and any other relevant matters are then enacted.
- xvi. The minutes of the Tribunal hearing are to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of BQ within one (1) month following the Tournament for validation of penalty; for example, where discretionary fines are applicable.
- xvii. Note: Whilst, for the sake of thoroughness and due process, there are a number of steps depicted above, every effort should be made to carry out the Tribunal proceedings in an informal manner.

14.6. TRIBUNAL APPEALS

Please refer to the Member Protection Policy for Appeals Process. Please follow this link to access the policy: <https://www.baseballqueensland.com.au/resources/>

14.7. PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES

A field rule violation is defined as the breaking of any rule in a game. The penalty for a breach of BQ playing rules, unless otherwise specified in BQ Operations Manual for Championships, may be a fine of up to a maximum of \$500 – levied against the Region/Club and a mandatory and automatically applied, one (1) game suspension of the offending team's Manager.

The penalty for breaching BQ Procedural Regulations (pre/post program) is a fine of up to \$50 for any one offence. Multiple offences in the same event may lead to the automatic suspension of the offending team's Manager.

The penalty for breaches of Code of Conduct agreements is also a fine of up to \$500 for any one offence, possible ejection from the game and, at the discretion of the Tribunal, suspension or dismissal from the Tournament.

If there are breaches of the Rules where there are no penalties prescribed, then the Tournament Director is to rule on the matter in the best interests of the game. Such penalties may be levied as financial penalties or include suspension from a number of games or even the whole Tournament.

If a team is presented with a situation where they run out of eligible Players to field a team or enter the game, it is grounds for forfeit. Forfeiting the game is sufficient punishment in this situation if it is unpreventable.

15. Related Documents

15.1. Regulations and Standards

Little League Rule book

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/>

[BA Little League Tournament Manual Ver updated Jan 2025](#)

OBR rule book link

<https://qbua.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-official-baseball-rules.pdf>

- [Bat Rules - Little League](#)
- [Bat Rules – Big League](#)
- [Bat Rules – Youth Women](#)
- Baseball Australia Tech Norms - [National Tournament Resource - LiveBinder](#)
- Baseball Australia Photography & Videography Policy - <https://assets.baseball.com.au/uploads/2023/05/BA-Photography-Policy-2023-v1-2.pdf>

15.2. Baseball Queensland Documents

- [Air Quality Policy](#)
- [Accreditation Policy](#)
- [Blue Card Policy](#)
- [Betting and Match Fixing Policy](#)
- [First Aid and Injury Management Guidelines](#)
- [Alcohol Prohibition Policy](#)