



Newcastle Baseball Association Inc.

By-Laws

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Preface

The Newcastle Baseball Association Incorporated (NBA) resides within the Baseball New South Wales (BNSW) Association and Australian Baseball Federation (ABF). The NBA Board oversees the ABF-affiliated activities within the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and Maitland regions.

The Bylaws are to be read in conjunction with, and are subject to, the requirements stated within the:

- (a) Newcastle Baseball Association Inc. Constitution, and
- (b) The Official Baseball Rules of the preceding calendar year, unless a contrary intention is specifically listed within this document.

The NBA Board shall have the responsibility and power to determine all matters for the due and proper administration of the league which are not otherwise covered under the Official Baseball Rules or this document.

Section 1 Affiliation and Registration

1.1 Club / Team Details

1.1.1 General

1.1.1.1 Club Colours

Each Club must register its colours with the NBA.

No Club shall be permitted to use an identical combination of colours to those already registered with another Club.

Any departure from or addition to the registered colours of a club must be approved by the NBA Board.

1.1.1.2 Application for Competition Entry

All Club Secretaries shall forward the name, postal address, mobile phone number and email address of their following Committee Members, to the NBA Secretary when applying for entry to the NBA Competition:

- (a) President
- (b) Secretary
- (c) Treasurer, and
- (d) Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)

1.1.1.3 Playing and Training Facility

Each Club must supply their own playing/training facility or have a written agreement to share an existing playing/training facility with another Club.

Any such agreement shall be finalised prior to a Club's submission of the entry to the NBA Board.

1.1.2 Team Entry

1.1.2.1 Team Entry

Team entries will be subject to NBA Board approval. Team entries will formally close three (3) weeks before the scheduled commencement date of the season, or as otherwise determined by the NBA Board.

Team entries after this date may be approved by the NBA Board at their discretion.

1.1.2.2 Combined Clubs

Where a Club does not fill all grades in each League, the NBA Board has the right to direct Clubs to combine for the purpose of fixtures.

- (a) Where Clubs are required to combine for the purpose of fixtures, 'home games' will be allocated as per a pro-rata basis: The Club with the team in the higher grade will be the primary home club.

1.1.3 Withdrawal From Competition

If a Club wishes to withdraw a team from the competition, it must be the Club's lowest grade.

The Club will be required to continue fielding teams in all of the remaining higher grades.

1.1.4 Participation in the Finals Series

A team will be ineligible to participate in finals series if their club is unfinancial.

- (a) Teams will be declared ineligible under this rule if they are not financial by 8pm of 30 June of the playing season.
- (b) Any team declared ineligible under this rule will forfeit all points earned during the regular season and will not be eligible for any semi-final, finals or grand finals.

1.2 Player Registrations

All Players must be registered prior to participating in each year of the competition.

1.2.1 Registration Portal

All registrations shall be via the NBA Online Registration Portal in use at the time.

1.2.2 Player Registration

A Player is considered registered when the following has been satisfied:

- (a) A Clearance, where deemed required in **By Law 1.2.3.1**, has been granted,
- (b) They have accepted and signed the ABF, BNSW, NBA and Club Codes of Conduct forms. Digital signatures via the Registration Portal are deemed acceptable,
- (c) Their details have been entered into the Registration Portal,
- (d) Payment for ABF, BNSW, NBA fees has been paid via the Registration Portal. Although discouraged, Club Fees may be accepted outside of the Registration Portal at the Club's discretion, and
- (e) Their details have been entered into the NBA database by the nominated Club Official.

1.2.2.1 Junior Registrations

Junior Registrations are additionally subject to the following regulations:

- (a) The maximum number of register players in a single Junior team shall be fourteen (14).
- (b) The NBA Board, at their discretion, request a birth certificate (or similar proof of age) be provided.
- (c) The NBA Board reserves the right to refuse a Club Transfer of a junior player if it feels that such a Transfer is not in the best interests of junior baseball in Newcastle.

1.2.3 Clearances

1.2.3.1 Requirement for Clearance

A Player intending to register with a Club within the NBA competition is required to obtain a Clearance, if:

- (a) The Player is transferring from another Club, regardless if the previous Club was affiliated with a 'Summer' or 'Winter' competition, or affiliated with the NBA Competition, or
- (b) The Player has not played in a sanctioned baseball competition for three (3) or more years, but has been listed as a defaulter with BNSW or ABF records.

Players are not required to obtain a clearance, if:

- (a) The Player's last registered Club was the Club the Player is registering with for the current season, or

- (b) The Player has not played in a sanctioned baseball competition for three (3) or more years and is not listed as a defaulter.

1.2.3.2 *Applying for a Clearance*

Upon notifying a Club of their intention to register, the Player shall notify the Club's responsible person if they require a Clearance in accordance with **By Law 1.2.3.1**.

Similarly, the Club's Responsible person shall take reasonable steps to verify if the Player requires a Clearance.

- (a) All Clearance Requests shall be managed through the Registration Portal utilised by the NBA at the time, unless otherwise noted by the NBA.
- (b) Upon approval of the Clearance request, the Club's Responsible person shall notify the NBA's Registrar, by email, of the Clearance.
- (c) If clearance has not been provided within 14 days of request the registered player may lodge a notice of dispute with the NBA. The onus will be on the player to provide evidence as to when such clearance request was first made.
 - (i) On receipt of a player's clearance dispute notice the NBA shall advise the player's current or prior registered club of the dispute and that if no response is received within seven (7) days the NBA will grant such clearance.
 - (ii) Should the Club dispute the clearance request the NBA will refer the matter to the Disputes Committee for review.
- (d) The NBA will not sanction clearances for players wishing to transfer to another Club after the 1st of June of the current season. Any player wishing to transfer after this time will be permitted to coach but not play.

1.3 Player Gradings

1.3.1 General

Clubs will be required to:

- (a) Submit to the NBA Registrar their nominated player grading by 9.00am on the Friday one (1) week prior to the commencement of the season, or as otherwise required by the NBA.
- (b) Nominate seven (7) players in the team graded the highest within their Club and a minimum of nine (9) players in the lower graded teams, at the commencement of the season.
 - (i) Where a club is unable to nominate nine (9) players for a particular team, application may be made to the NBA for dispensation.
 - (ii) Where only one (1) team is nominated in a League, then nine (9) players are required to be nominated.

The NBA Board has the sole right to accept player gradings offered and may instruct Clubs to place a player into an appropriate grade applicable to that player's ability.

1.3.2 Grading Nomination

Any player nominated for grading more than one (1) grade lower than their previous registered NBA grading shall not be eligible to play for any higher graded team during that season unless dispensation has been applied for and granted by the NBA Board.

- (a) Dispensation under this rule will be granted on a season basis only and not a round by round basis.

- (b) In general, such dispensation will only be granted where a Club can successfully demonstrate all players in all higher graded teams are of superior ability.
- (c) Any player nominated (and approved by the NBA) for grading more than two (2) grades lower than their previous registered NBA grading shall not pitch in any more than 6 defensive outs during any single game for that season.

1.3.2.1 *Returning Players or Entering From Other Associations*

A player's grading shall lapse after an absence of three (3) calendar years from the NBA.

Any player returning to or entering competition within the NBA from another association will retain their grading from their last active association, unless such absence has been greater than three (3) calendar years.

This may be varied at the discretion of the Board upon the receipt of an appeal.

1.3.2.2 *ABL Players*

Any Player who has been named on an Australian Baseball League (ABL) team in the last three (3) calendar years must be graded in 1st Grade.

- (a) Dispensation of this rule may be granted by the NBA Board on a case-by-case basis where requested by the Club.

1.3.3 *Re-Grades*

A Club may request a player be regraded to a lower grade. This request must be made in writing to the NBA by the Wednesday before the next round of fixtures. Noting:

- (a) The NBA Board will consider requested regrades on the grounds of players returning from serious injury, returning after a long illness or other such special circumstances.
- (b) The NBA Board reserves the right to place conditions on any regrading request and shall include a time limit on the application of those conditions.
- (c) Contravention of the conditional grading will result in the player being deemed "ineligible."

1.3.3.1 *Removal From the Grading list*

Any player not participating in five (5) games consecutively of those games played by their nominated grade team will be removed from the grading list.

- (a) The player will be added back to their prior graded team's list only after receiving a grading for playing a game in accordance with the grading rules described in **By Law 1.3.2**.
- (b) Dispensation of this rule may be granted by the NBA Board if satisfied absence is for injury or other satisfactory reason.

1.3.3.2 *Playing Outside of Established Grading*

Once a player's grading has been established, they will be able to play in their grade, and/or higher, without alteration to that grading. Additionally:

- (a) The players grading for the final series will be applied as per **By Law 1.3.4**
- (b) A player will be permitted to play one (1) grade lower than their registered grading, however they will not be allowed to play any other games in that round.
- (c) The player's grading determination may change subject to **By Laws 1.3.3.3 and 1.3.3.4**

1.3.3.3 Re-Grades – Lower Gradings

Once a player has received three (3) consecutive gradings in the grade lower than their registered grading, they will then be regraded to that grade.

- (a) In this instance the club would then be required to nominate a lower graded player to replace this player in the higher grade.
 - (i) Notification to the recorder of such changes to grading must be received by the recorder no later than 24 hours before the next round by email or ordinary mail prior to the player taking part in any game.
 - (ii) The club must receive acknowledgement from the NBA that this has been received and approved before the commencement time of the game the player wishes to play in.
- (b) No further lowering of grading for such player will be permitted in that season without the approval of the Board.
- (c) Clubs without teams in consecutive grades may re-grade players down by the above method, (e.g. 3rd to 5th) to a maximum of two (2) grades without NBA approval.

1.3.3.4 Re-Grades – Higher Gradings

If a player has played in two grades in the same round of fixtures they will receive a grading for the higher grade played.

A player will be considered as played in a higher grade if:

- (a) In 1st grade that player enters the game prior to the completion of five innings.
- (b) In 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades that player enters the game prior to the completion of three innings.
- (c) In all other grades that player enters the game prior to the completion of two inning.

1.3.3.5 Byes and Washouts

If the team in which a player is graded has a bye, they will not be permitted to play a grade lower in that round without the written approval from the NBA.

- (a) Application for dispensation relating to the above shall be in accordance with the requirements of **By Law 1.3.3.3(a)**

Any player who participates in a game that is washed out after at least one completed inning, shall be considered to have played on that day for the purpose of grading.

1.3.3.6 Clubs with Multiple Teams in a Grade

Clubs with two (2) or more teams in one (1) grade may interchange players within that grade, provided:

- (a) The player is listed on only one (1) team per round.
- (b) In the final series, these players may only play in the team for which they played the majority of their games during the season.
 - (i) If a player has played equal number of games for each team, then the deciding factor will be the team the player was listed with at the beginning of the season.

1.3.3.7 Junior Gradings or “Leagues”

Players participating in all NBA Junior competitions will be subject to the following grading rules:

- (a) A player’s “League Age” is defined based on their date of birth for TBall, Zooka, Little League, Junior League and Senior League in accordance with the NBA Age Matrix.

- (b) A Junior player may register in their league if a player wishes to play out of their league, they must apply to the NBA Secretary email (secretary@newcastlebaseball.org.au). attaching the "Junior Player Re-grade Form" available via the NBA website.

This may be forwarded to BNSW for a final decision

- (i) A female player in the first year of a particular age group may apply on the above prescribed form to the NBA Board for consideration to play in another league
 - (ii) A player with a disability and/or special needs may apply on the above prescribed form to the NBA Board for consideration to play in another league
- (c) A player registered in one age group cannot play in any other younger age league at anytime during the season, without permission from the NBA Board.

1.3.4 Finals Series

Clubs must nominate a minimum number of nine (9) players in each grade for the participation in the Finals Series.

Eligibility and player gradings for Finals Series' shall be determined as per the below:

- (a) To be eligible to play in a final series a player must play in a minimum of five (5) games in five (5) different rounds during the regular season.
 - (i) Junior players must participate in at least one-third of the games in the competition.
- (b) During the Finals Series a player may only play in the grade (or team) for which they obtained the majority of grading during the regular season under **By Law 1.3.3**, or any higher graded team.
 - (i) if a player has played equal number of games for each team, then the deciding factor will be the team the player was listed with at the beginning of the season.
- (c) Players graded under **By Law 1.3.3.6** are eligible to play for that graded team only, or any higher graded team.

1.3.5 Grading Dispensation

Dispensation may be granted by the NBA Board, on application by the Club, if:

- (a) The player is eligible to play in a single Major League game for their Club in any given round without that game being recorded as a graded game for that player.
 - (i) The dispensation for this rule only applies if that player plays for their graded minor league team on that weekend.
 - (ii) Once a player breaches the requirements of this dispensation on three (3) occasions (i.e. such player receives three (3) major league gradings), that player will no longer be entitled to this dispensation.

1.4 Ineligible Players

A Player may be considered ineligible due to the following reasons:

- (a) Player is not registered.
- (b) Any Club playing a player without a clearance from their previous club, unless sanctioned by the NBA, will be deemed to have played an ineligible player.
- (c) Player is under suspension.

- (i) Any player participating with another baseball association, as well as the NBA, in the same season who is subsequently suspended by the other association will have that suspension carried over to the NBA.
 - (ii) The player must not participate in any fixtures within the NBA until the suspension has been correctly served within the other Association.
 - (iii) The onus will be upon the player to immediately report the suspension to the participating Club in the NBA.
 - (iv) The player's Club must then advise the NBA Secretary of the player's suspension details.
- (d) Player is playing outside of grading requirements described in **Section 1.3**.

A Club playing an ineligible player are liable to a penalty imposed by the NBA Board in accordance with that detailed within **By Law 13.1**.

Section 2 Competition

2.1 Competition Format

The Competition format and fixtures for all games shall be left to the discretion of the Board and set at the start of each season.

2.1.1 Requesting a Schedule Change

Clubs wishing to make changes to fixtures must make application to the NBA Board for consideration and approval.

For a game to be transferred because of wet weather or any other reason – notification must be given to the NBA Secretary 24 hours prior to the game, with all participating Clubs to agree.

2.1.2 Leagues

Playing leagues shall be assigned as per the following gradings:

- (a) Major League – 1st and 2nd Grade,
- (b) AA League – 3rd and 4th Grade
- (c) Minor League – 5th and 6th Grade
- (d) Juniors
 - (i) Senior League
 - (ii) Junior League
 - (iii) Little League
 - (iv) Zooka Ball
 - (v) T-Ball

2.1.3 Game Times and Durations

The NBA competition adopts the following game times and durations.

The NBA Board reserves the right to alter the schedules on an as needs basis.

2.1.3.1 Major League

Games will be played on Sundays.

- (a) 1st Grade
 - (i) 2.05pm game start
 - (ii) 9 innings duration
- (b) 2nd Grade
 - (i) 11:30am game start
 - (ii) 2hrs 15mins duration, or 9 innings

2.1.3.2 AA League

Games will be played on Saturdays.

- (c) 3rd Grade
 - (i) 2.30pm game start

(ii) 2hrs duration, or 9 innings

(d) 4th Grade

(i) 12:10pm game start

(ii) 2hrs duration, or 9 innings

2.1.3.3 *Minor League*

Games will be played on Saturdays or Sundays, according to ground availability and Club preferences for home games.

(a) 5th Grade

(i) 2.30pm game start

(ii) 2hrs duration, or 9 innings

(b) 6th Grade

(i) 12:15pm game start

(ii) 1hr 45mins duration, or 9 innings

2.1.3.4 *Junior Competition*

Games will be played on Saturdays or Sundays, according to ground availability and Club preferences for home games.

(a) TBall & Zooka Ball

(i) Sundays

(ii) 9:15 am game start

(iii) 1hr 30mins duration

(b) Little League

(i) Sundays

(ii) 9:00 am game start

(iii) 1hr 45mins duration

(c) Junior League

(i) Saturdays

(ii) 9:30 am game start

(iii) 2hrs duration

(d) Senior League

(i) Saturdays

(ii) 9:30 am game start

(iii) 2hrs duration

2.1.4 *Finals Series*

A Finals Series will be held in each grade Little League and above. The format for each Series will be determined as per the following:

(a) Where there are less than six (6) teams participating in a grade, a three (3) team Final Format will be used.

- (b) Where six (6) or more teams are participating in a grade, a four (4) team Final Format will be used.
- (c) Game Days will be allocated as per:
 - (i) Weeks 1 and 2 will be played on a Sunday for Major League.
 - (ii) Week 3 for Major League will be played on a Saturday.
 - (iii) Weeks 1, 2 and 3 will be played on a Saturday for AA and Minor Leagues.
 - (iv) Finals for Juniors will be held on the same day's as normal competition
- (d) Game times and durations will be the same as those for the regular season described in **By Law 2.1.3**

The NBA Board reserves the right to adjust the Junior Finals format as necessary to suit the needs of the Newcastle Junior Competition.

2.1.4.1 *Three Team Finals Format*

The Three Team Finals Format shall be:

- (a) Week 1 (Qualifying Final):
 - (i) Will be contested between the teams finishing 1st and 2nd in the preliminary rounds, with the team finishing 1st being the home team.
 - (ii) Winner will advance to the Grand Final.
 - (iii) Team finishing 3rd will have a bye.
 - (iv) In the case of a tie or if the game is washed out, the team that finishes higher on the competition table will progress to the Grand Final.
- (b) Week 2 (Preliminary Final):
 - (i) Loser of week 1 versus team finishing 3rd.
 - (ii) Winner will advance to the Grand Final.
 - (iii) In the case of a tie or if the game is washed out, the team that finishes higher on the competition table will progress to the Grand Final.
- (c) Week 3 (Grand Final):
 - (i) Contested between the winner of week 1 and winner of week 2.
 - (ii) Winner shall be declared the Major Premiers for the competition.

2.1.4.2 *Four Team Final Format*

The Four Team Finals Format shall be:

- (a) Week 1 (Major Semi Final):
 - (i) Will be contested between the teams finishing 1st and 2nd in the preliminary rounds, with the team finishing 1st being the home team.
 - (ii) Winner will advance to the Grand Final.
 - (iii) Loser will contest the Preliminary Final.
 - (iv) In the case of a tie or if the game is washed out, the team that finished higher on the competition table will progress to the Grand Final and the lower team will contest the Preliminary Final.

- (b) Week 1 (Minor Semi Final):
 - (i) Will be contested between the teams finishing 3rd and 4th in the preliminary rounds, with the team finishing 3rd being the home team.
 - (ii) Winner will contest the Preliminary Final.
 - (iii) Loser will be eliminated from the competition.
 - (iv) In the case of a tie or if the game is washed out, the team that finished higher on the competition table will progress to the Preliminary Final and the lower team will be eliminated from the competition.
- (c) Week 2 (Preliminary Final):
 - (i) Will be contested between the winner of the Minor Semi Final and the loser of the Major Semi Final.
 - (ii) The winner will advance to play in the Grand Final.
 - (iii) The loser will be eliminated from the competition.
 - (iv) In the case of a tie or if the game is washed out, the team that finished higher on the competition table will progress to the Grand Final.
- (d) Week 3 (Grand Final):
 - (i) Will be contested by the winner of the Major Semi Final and the winner of the Preliminary Final.
 - (ii) Winner shall be declared the Major Premiers for the competition.

2.1.4.3 Grand Final Washouts or Ties

- (a) In the case of a washout OR a tie in a AA or Minor League Grand Final the game may be re-scheduled or replayed at a suitably deemed time set down by the NBA Board.
- (b) In the case of a washout OR a tie in a Major League Grand Final the game shall be re-scheduled or replayed on the following days in order until a result is achieved:
 - (i) the following day (Sunday).
 - (ii) the following Saturday.
 - (iii) the following Sunday.
- (c) Tie Break Rule for 2nd Grade to 6th Grade Grand Finals, on the initial day of play, will be applied as follows to achieve a result, if one has not been achieved within the normal time allocated:

For purposes of this regulation, any “extra inning” is defined as the eighth inning or later in a seven-inning game, or the tenth inning or later in a nine (9) inning game.

 - (i) Where extra innings are required and any “extra inning” is about to commence, the Team at bat shall commence the Top of the inning with runners on first and second base.
 - (ii) The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would have normally led off the inning.
 - (iii) The runner on first base shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.
 - (iv) The runner on second shall be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the runner on first base.

- (v) Any runner or batter previously removed from the game for a substitute shall be ineligible to return to the game, as would be the case with any substituted player pursuant to the Official Baseball Rules.

(d) **Junior Tie Break Rules**

- (i) If a tie occurs in the Grand Final for Little League then joint Premiers shall be declared.
- (ii) For Junior League and Senior League, should a tie occur at the end of the normal time/innings then one (1) extra innings shall be played (runners will be placed on 1st and 2nd to start the inning the last two batters in the order will fill those positions).

If this also results in a tie then Joint Premiers shall be declared

- (e) If a result cannot be achieved in a Grand Final, for any grade, using **By Laws 2.1.4.3 a)** to **2.1.4.3 d)** above, then joint premiers will be declared for that grade.

2.1.4.4 Finals Series Management

- (a) A member of the Board shall be appointed as Game Day Referee for all Grand Finals. The duties of this office shall be:

- (i) To attend with a current copy of the By Laws,
- (ii) Identify himself or herself to both managers & umpires prior to the commencement of each game, and
- (iii) Advise of any special rules applying to that Grand Final.

The decisions of a Game Day Referee as to interpretation of the By Laws and any competition rules other than the Official Baseball Rules shall be final.

- (b) For all post-season fixtures, a grounds committee shall be named consisting of a minimum of three (3) persons approved by the Board.

- (i) The purpose of the Committee is to independently adjudicate on the fitness of a ground and whether play can commence for both senior and junior fixtures.
- (ii) Except in exceptional circumstances, if a ground is not declared unfit for play by 7pm the evening prior to a scheduled fixture, then games will not be cancelled more than 30 minutes prior to each scheduled game on that day.

2.2 Game Results

2.2.1 Recording of Results, Participation and Statistics

2.2.1.1 Home Team

Results of all games must be entered in the NBA website by the **Home Team** by 10.00 pm on Sunday of that weekend.

- (a) Results shall include names of the players participating.
- (b) First Grade results must include box scores and game detail.
- (c) All results shall include information relating to incidents, injuries, ejections, where such circumstances have occurred.

2.2.1.2 Away Team

Results of all games must be verified on the NBA website by the **Away Team** by 7.00pm on the Friday following the game.

- (a) If an **Away Team** does not agree with the **Home Team** data the non-verification will automatically trigger a dispute.
- (b) Evidence shall be provided by the **Away Team** to support the non-verification.

2.2.1.3 *Statistics*

All statistics for Major and AA Leagues must be entered on the NBA website by midday on Wednesday following the completion of the game.

Those clubs that avail themselves of the facility for their Minor League teams must enter their statistics as soon as possible after the game.

Both the Home and Away Junior Team must complete a Junior score sheets and forward to registrar@newcastlebaseball.org.au no later than 7.00pm on the Tuesday following the game.

If a junior team comprises of mixed clubs, then the club mentioned first in the Draw for said mixed team must submit a Junior Score sheet, noting which players are affiliated with each club, and additionally forward to the other club(s) for their records.

2.2.1.4 *Failure to Record*

Failure to comply with **By Law 2.2.1** are liable to a penalty imposed by the NBA Board in accordance with that detailed within **By Law 13.1**.

2.2.2 *Forfeits*

A Club unable to fulfill its game commitments shall notify the NBA Secretary by the Thursday prior to the date of the game.

- (a) Failure to comply with the above will result in the Club being liable for the umpiring fees for both their opponent and own team and shall be paid to NBUA irrespective of whether or not official umpires had been assigned to that game.

A Club wishing to forfeit must forfeit its lowest grade on a game day.

2.2.2.1 *Constitution of a Forfeit*

A 9-0 forfeit will be awarded to an opposing team if:

- (a) A club unable to fulfill its game commitments shall notify the NBA Secretary by the Thursday prior to the date of the game.
- (b) Appear on the ground or being on the ground and failing to start the game within five (5) minutes after the time appointed, or refusing to proceed where directed to do so by the umpire.
- (c) Provide nine (9) registered players in 1st Grade to 4th Grade and seven (7) registered players in 5th to 6th grades inclusive that are eligible to play by grading.

Note: Where a player has been injured and **By Law 9.4** has been enacted, the following minimum number of defensive players must be present on the field:

- (i) Major League – Nine (9) players at all times
- (ii) AA League – Eight (8) players during the period **By Law 9.4** is enacted, otherwise nine (9) players at all times.
- (iii) Minor League – Seven (7) players at all times

2.2.2.2 *Recording a Forfeit*

Website entry will be required for games forfeited in accordance with **By Law 2.2.1**.

- (a) The Home team must submit to the NBA website the result as a 9-0 forfeit win to the side receiving the forfeit.
- (b) The recipient of the forfeit must include the line-up to the website. Players listed will be assumed to have played the game and be graded accordingly.
- (c) This forfeit must be verified by the away team.
- (d) If the away team is the recipient of the forfeit they must provide their line-up for grading to the NBA Registrar by 7pm on the Monday immediately after the round.
 - (i) Failure to meet this timing will exclude the players from receiving a grading for the game.

2.2.3 Byes

- (a) Any team with a bye does not have to complete and submit a result sheet.

2.2.4 Washouts and Other Weather Conditions

Notification to cancel a ground due to wet weather must be received by the designated NBA wet weather contact by 7.30 a.m. on the day of the game.

- (a) Should weather conditions deteriorate after 7.30am then a further decision by the home Club can be made up to 2 hours before commencement time of the first game being played.
- (b) Unless noted otherwise, the NBA wet weather contact will be the NBA Secretary who will organise for the notification on the NBA website and Facebook page.
- (c) After this deadline teams must appear at the grounds at the allocated times where any decision to abandon play will be made by (in order):
 - (i) Official Grounds person or their official representative; or
 - (ii) Home team manager for games played on a home and away basis or otherwise by agreement of both Managers on a game-by-game basis; or
 - (iii) In the event the managers disagreeing, by the Umpire-in-Chief.

The Umpire-in-Chief shall not make such decision until he is in charge of the game. i.e. All umpiring fees have been paid and the home plate umpire has received both the home and visiting teams lineups.

- (d) Washouts shall be recorded via the NBA website result portal by noting a “washout” in the comments section.

Lightning and Heat Policies are available on the NBA Website.

2.2.5 Point Score

2.2.5.1 Team Standings

A team’s position in a grade will be determined by the number of games won as a percentage of games played.

The team leading on percentages at the end of the preliminary rounds shall be the Minor Premiers.

In the event of two or more teams securing equal percentages, the positions will be decided by:

- (a) Head to Head clashes in all games between the two teams involved.
- (b) If still tied, the ratio of runs scored for divided by runs scored against in the games between the two teams involved.

- (c) If still tied, the ratio of runs scored for divided by runs scored against in the games against the highest ranked team not involved in the tie.

2.2.5.2 Club Championship

Club Championship points will be allocated on the basis of competition percentages multiplied by

- (a) four (4) times for 1st grade,
- (b) three (3) times 2nd Grade,
- (c) two (2) times 3rd Grade,
- (d) one (1) times all lower grades, and
- (e) half (1/2) times all teams fielded in Junior competition.

2.3 NBA Awards and Trophies

2.3.1 MVP Award

The NBA will award a Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award for each grade at the conclusion of the season. The MVP Award will be on the following basis:

- (a) Grades 1st to 4th shall submit game statistics to the NBA website each week.
- (b) 5th and 6th Grades will nominate a Most Valuable Player on the opposing side for the game played.
 - (i) Failure of a team to nominate a player will negate their team player nomination for that game.

2.3.2 Batting Trophy

The NBA will award a Batting Trophy for all Major League grades.

- (a) This will be awarded to the player who records the highest batting average.
- (b) Minimum qualification will be 60% of the maximum Plate Appearances by any one player in that grade.

2.3.3 Team and Individual Trophies

- (a) All team and individual trophies must be returned to the NBA Secretary (or nominated representative) by the last regular season game to be engraved.
- (b) Any prospective recipient of an Association award will be ineligible to receive said award if they have been suspended, or receive a suspended sentence for any infringement referred to the NBA Board or the Tribunal.

2.4 Uniforms

Any registered player taking part in any competition or representative game must wear their club/team approved baseball attire.

- (a) Numbers on the uniform top are not mandatory, although preferred. Only club team hats are to be worn. No MLB hats, etc, are to be worn.
- (b) A uniform warm up jacket may be worn by any player at any time during the game.
- (c) The wearing of baseball shoes is not mandatory.
- (d) Any player out of uniform may be reported by the opposing team manager or an official of the NBA Inc. This report shall be tendered to the Secretary of the NBA Inc. and must be tabled at

the next NBA Board meeting. The penalty for any breach of the uniform provisions shall be discretionary per offence. This fine to be levied against the player's own Club.

(e) Application, with reasons, may be made to the Board for any departure from uniform dress.

Section 3 Grounds

3.1 General

All grounds must be properly prepared and clearly marked out in accordance with the Official Baseball Rules. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout.

- (a) Where no permanent dugout exists at the field, markings shall be placed on the ground using the fence as the back wall to indicate where the dugout is located.
- (b) If any club wishes to erect a false fence within an enclosed ground then this fence must comply with the minimum recommended measurements as per the Official Baseball Rules.

3.2 Canteen

The team responsible for the ground will be allowed full canteen rights and fundraising for that ground.

3.3 Final Series

3.3.1 Field Allocation

The following method shall be used for determining Major League Finals Games:

- (a) Yearly rotation of Grand Final games between Major League Clubs on an alphabetical basis
- (b) Yearly rotation of Preliminary Final games between Major League Clubs on an alphabetical basis, starting with the team scheduled to host the Grand Final the following year.
- (c) Note: The NBA reserves the right to alter the rotation should:
 - (i) The facility not be of the standard required to host the games, or
 - (ii) The Club has committed misdemeanours through the season.

The NBA Secretary will call for nominations to host all other finals games, prior to July 31st of each season.

Clubs nominating to host the finals series will be assessed against the criteria described in **By Law 3.3.2**.

3.3.2 Host Facility Criteria

The following criteria will be used when assessing a Club's nomination to host a finals game.

- (a) Grounds to be fully enclosed (*mandatory for all Grand Finals*).
- (b) Adequate change room facilities for both Officials and Players.
- (c) Adequate toilet facilities for Officials, Players and Spectators.
- (d) Dugouts with fixed barriers to ensure division between players and spectators.
- (e) Grounds to have clearly defined and correct line marking.
- (f) Batters boxes to be clearly marked for each and every fixture hosted.
- (g) Screens and fencing to be in good repair.
- (h) Suitable provision of an area for players, of both teams, to warm up prior to playing.
- (i) A visible scoreboard correctly monitored (*mandatory for all Grand Finals*).
- (j) Adequate canteen facilities to meet the needs of all persons present.

- (k) Certified First Aid people to be in attendance for the entire time fixtures are scheduled for. The name(s) of said individuals to be displayed at the canteen.
- (l) A fully stocked First Aid Kit to allow for any minor medical requirement.
- (m) Clear and readily available CPR instructions and clear directions of where the nearest defibrillator is located.
- (n) Adequate supplies of ice, in small satchels, for minor sprains or medicinal purposes
- (o) For those grounds with Liquor Licenses; a RSA Marshall to be present for the time any alcohol is being sold to ensure that the responsible service of alcohol is being observed (*mandatory for all Grand Finals*)
- (p) Adequate facilities for scorers, either for inclement weather or for easy access and contact with Officials.
- (q) A suitable PA system to be utilised for presentation purposes at the end of all Grand Finals.
- (r) Any successful hosting Club will need to have their grounds person liaise constantly with the appointed NBA Officials on any issues either before or during fixtures scheduled.
- (s) For hosting 3rd and 4th Grade Grand Finals; provision to host 2 junior fixtures simultaneously beforehand – must have 2 diamonds available for play.

Section 4 Playing Rules

4.1 General

Where not otherwise stated in this document, the playing rules shall be in accordance with the previous calendar year's edition of the Official Baseball Rules.

4.1.1 Minimum Players

In Juniors, 5th and 6th grade fixtures, teams may start game play and continue game play with not less than seven (7) registered players.

- (a) The hole(s) in the batting line-up will be treated as an automatic out(s), except in the cases of Junior Competitions, where no automatic outs are to be recorded.

4.1.2 Constitution of a Game

The following playing conditions constitute a game in regular season and finals series fixtures:

- (a) 1st Grade
 - (i) five (5) completed innings;
 - (ii) If the home team has scored more runs in four or four and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in five completed half-innings;
 - (iii) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth inning to tie the score.
- (b) 2nd Grade to 4th Grade – Three (3) completed innings or 1 hour
- (c) Minor Leagues – Two (2) completed innings or 1 hour

4.1.3 Recognition of Results

Results are recognised only on completed even innings unless the team batting last has scored the winning run and then time is called, without three outs being recorded.

If the team batting last has tied the game at the time at which **By Law 4.2.1(b)** is applied, then the result shall be a “tied-game.”

4.2 Time-Limit Games

All time limit games shall be called at the end of the scheduled game completion time and the score reverted to the last equal innings, unless **By Law 4.2.1** applies.

If an at-bat has commenced prior to the scheduled game completion time the game shall be called at the completion of all continuous play of said at-bat.

The umpire in chief will assign an umpire as the official timekeeper. The official timekeeper's time shall be agreed upon at the plate meeting by the coaches. No other devices shall be used or referenced in relation to the game time.

4.2.1 Playing for a Result

If the top of the inning is completed prior to scheduled game completion time, the bottom of the inning will be played out for a result, provided:

- (a) The deficit is 3 runs or less at the start of the bottom innings.
 - (i) For the purposes of the above, the “start of the bottom innings” is the time at which the final out, or declaration, in the top of the innings is made.

- (b) The game does not extend further than 10 minutes past the scheduled game completion time; unless an at-bat has commenced prior to that time, in which case, the game shall be called at the completion of all continuous play of said at-bat.
- (c) Junior games shall not be extended past their scheduled completion time, except during Finals Series, noting however that any at-bat that commences prior to the scheduled game completion time, must be completed.

4.2.1.1 *Delay of the Following Game*

In the event that a previous game extends past the planned finish time, the umpires shall consult the following game's coaches and determine the appropriate start time for the following game.

4.3 Declaration and Mercy Rule

4.3.1 Declarations

A team may declare its batting innings closed at any stage during the game.

There is no restriction on the number of times a team may declare their batting inning closed during a game.

4.3.2 Mercy Rule

The 10-run mercy rule is to be used in all games, after seven (7) completed innings.

- (a) In all 2nd to 6th grade games, the mercy rule need not be applied should the coaches of both teams agree to continue.
- (b) In the event of agreement not being reached the mercy rule will be applied.

4.4 Pitching

4.4.1 Pitching Limits

Unless noted otherwise in **By Law 5.2.1**, all pitchers shall be limited to a maximum 120 pitches for the weekend.

- (a) Excluding the situation described in **(b)**, should a player's pitch limit be reached, the player must leave the game and not play again during the weekend.
- (b) If at the time the pitcher reaches their maximum allowable and the batter being faced has not completed a legal time at bat, then they may finish the batter before being removed from the game.
- (c) The Team's Game Day Manager is solely responsible for managing the player pitch count and verifying against the official scorebook.

4.4.2 Intentional Walk, Balks and No Balls

- (a) A pitcher performing an intentional walk:
 - (i) Must signal to the umpire that an intentional walk is intended.
 - (ii) Does not need to pitch the remaining pitches to facilitate the "base on balls"
 - (iii) Shall have the remaining pitches required to facilitate a "base on balls" added to their pitch count.
- (b) If a no pitch is declared by an umpire it is not counted towards the pitcher's pitch count

- (c) A “balk” called by an umpire where the ball is pitched to the batter is counted towards the pitcher’s pitch count.

4.4.3 Mound Visits

Mound visits, without a pitching change, shall be limited to 5 per team.

- (a) For the purposes of the above, a manager or coach trip to the mound to meet with a pitcher shall constitute a visit.
- (b) A player leaving their position to confer with the pitcher, including the pitcher leaving the mound to confer with another player, shall also constitute a visit regardless of where the visit occurs or the length of the visit.
 - (i) Visits by a manager, coach or player to join a mound visit already in progress shall not constitute an independent visit. In addition, the following shall not constitute visits:
- (c) On the second visit to the pitcher by the coach /manager in the same inning the pitcher shall be removed from pitching but may take a position in the field.
 - (i) The pitcher may not return to pitch in that game and does not need to leave the game completely.
- (d) A manager or coach who crosses the foul line on his way to the mound after their team has exhausted its mound visits must make a pitching change.
 - (i) If a manager or coach believes an exception to the mound visit rule applies, they must confer with the umpire prior to crossing the foul line.
- (e) If a position player makes a visit after their team has exhausted its allotted number of mound visits they may be subject to ejection for failing to return to their position when instructed by the umpire; however, an impermissible visit by a position player shall not require the removal of the pitcher.

4.4.3.1 Occasions Not Constituting as a Visit

The following shall not constitute visits:

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

4.4.3.2 Cross Up in Signs

In the event a team has exhausted its allotment of mound visits in a game, and the home plate umpire determines that the catcher and pitcher did not have a shared understanding of the location or type of pitch that had been signalled by the catcher, the home plate umpire may, upon request of the catcher, allow the catcher to make a brief mound visit.

However, any mound visit resulting from a “cross up” prior to a team exhausting its allotted number of visits shall count against a team’s total number of allotted mound visits.

4.4.4 “Designated Pitcher”

The designated pitcher rule is as follows:

- (a) Each week a club can nominate 1 (one) player as a “designated pitcher” in 1st Grade.
- (b) This player must participate in 2nd grade (field and bat) but not pitch.
- (c) The player must only be used as a pitcher in the subsequent 1st grade game.
 - (i) If this occurs the player will not be credited with a 1st grade grading for that week and will retain their 2nd grade participation grading.
 - (ii) If for any reason the nominated player fields and/or bats in 1st grade they will receive a 1st grade participation grading for that week.
 - (iii) A “designated pitcher” can only pitch in 1st grade.
- (d) Each club must notify the NBA Secretary the name of the ‘designated pitcher’ before 8pm on the Thursday night before the weekend of play.
- (e) Clubs will be limited to a maximum of 5 (five) occasions for any one player that this By Law can be utilized: after which a 1st grade grading will be applied for all future participation in that grade.

4.4.5 Pitching Breaches

Clubs guilty of breaching these pitching restrictions are liable to a penalty imposed by the NBA Board in accordance with that detailed within **By Law 13.1**.

4.5 Designated Hitter Rule

The use of a Designated Hitter as per the previous calendar year’s edition of the Official Baseball Rules will be acceptable in all grades of play within the NBA competition.

The Designated Hitter may sit in the bull pen.

No Designated Hitters shall be used in Junior Games.

4.6 Loan Players

Loan players from a AA or Minor League Club, who are playing with a Major League Club, must

- (a) Be playing the highest grade possible in their AA or Minor League Club
- (b) Must only pitch one assignment per weekend.

Note that this provision is intended to be a temporary measure to encourage development of AA League clubs to achieve Major League status.

4.7 Equipment

4.7.1 Baseballs

The following baseball shall be used for the NBA competition:

- 1st to 4th Grade – Wilson A1010 HS / HS1(High School)
- 6th and 5th Grade – Wilson A1010S (Blem) **or** A1010HS / HS1

Additionally:

(a) The Home team for each game shall supply:

- (i) 1st and 2nd Grade: 2 new and 2 good backup balls,
- (ii) 3rd and 4th Grade: 2 new and 2 good backup balls.
- (iii) 5th and 6th Grade: 1 new and 2 good used balls,

(b) All balls are to be good quality and will be subject to rejection by the umpires should they consider they are not of an acceptable standard.

(c) *Note Deleted*

(d) In all semi-finals and finals, in all grades, each participating club must provide 2 new balls at the commencement of the game and new balls for any subsequent replacements.

(e) The NBA will supply baseballs for all grand finals and participating clubs will be invoiced for balls issued.

(f) Alternate ball specifications are not permitted without approval of the NBA Board.

(g) Junior baseballs shall clean and of good quality, and in accordance with the specific league requirements detailed in **By Law 5.5**.

4.7.1.1 Light Policy

At the commencement of the seventh inning of a 1st Grade game, the umpire may determine that new baseballs shall be put into play.

(a) This decision shall be made at the discretion of the umpire with consideration to ball condition, colour and available light.

4.7.2 Bats

(a) Bat rules for the NBA competition are as follows:

- (i) Major league – Wood or Wood composite bats
- (ii) AA League – Wood or Wood composite bats
- (iii) Minor League – Wood, Wood composite or BBCOR

(b) A female player may only use a bat appropriate to the League in which they participate.

(c) Juniors participating in Senior grades may only use a bat appropriate to the League in which they participate.

(d) Bat regulations for Junior Competitions shall comply with the current edition of the BNSW “Bat Regulation Policy”, accessible by the “Resources” portal on the Newcastle Baseball Website, and the Baseball NSW website.

4.8 Runner for Catcher

No “Runners for Catcher” shall be used Senior Baseball (i.e. Grades 1 to 6)

A runner for catcher is Mandatory for Junior Baseball games

A catcher may participate offensively until there are two outs and they have reached first base.

- (a) If on base, they must be replaced by a designated runner immediately the second out is achieved.
- (b) If at bat, then they may be replaced once the play by which they get on base is complete, provided that the courtesy runner can immediately replace the catcher.
- (c) *Not Used.*
- (d) The courtesy runner can be any bench player including a player who has been substituted out of the game
- (e) The courtesy runner can be a player that is currently in the game except that they must not be one of the five batters following the catcher in the line-up.
- (f) Catchers replaced by a courtesy runner are to immediately put their leggings and breast plate back on in preparation for the innings changeover.

Section 5 Junior Playing Rules

5.1 Eligibility for Senior Competition

Players must be a minimum 15 years old by the start of the season, to participate in the Senior Competition.

- (a) Exemptions may be requested, in writing, to the Baseball NSW Technical Committee prior to the commencement of the season. Such exemptions must be requested by the Club Secretary, via email to the NBA Secretary.

5.1.1 Grade Restrictions

Junior players in the “League Age 16” bracket will be eligible for the following grades only:

- (a) September to December Birthday – Can play any Grade
(b) January to “Season Start Date” birthday – up to and including 3rd Grade

Exemptions may be requested in accordance with **By Law 5.1(a)**

5.1.2 Junior Commitments

Junior players must fulfill junior commitments prior to playing in the senior competition within the same round of fixtures.

5.2 Playing Restrictions

5.2.1 Pitching Limits

Junior players will be subjected to the following pitch count limits, totalled for the weekend (inclusive of junior and senior games), in accordance with the “NBA Junior Player Protection Requirements- Pitching” document.”

Table 5-1 –Junior Player Pitching Limits

	Little League	Junior League	Senior League	Under 18's
Minor	1-24	1-24	1-29	1-39
Substantial	25-44	25-54	30-64	40-74
Major	45-55	55-65	65-75	75-80
Innings Limit	3	3	3	3
Note: A Player younger than 10 yrs old shall not pitch more than 40 pitches				

- (a) A pitcher’s pitch count shall be calculated at the end of the batter.
- (i) If a pitcher begins the batter with the pitch count in “Minor” or “Substantial” category, but pitches enough to extend into the next category, then they shall be adjudicated for the greater category and are subject to the restrictions described in **By Law 5.2.2**.
- (b) While not advised, a pitcher may extend past the maximum “Major” pitch limit for the sole purpose of completing the batter,
- (i) The player must leave the game immediately at the completion of the batter
- (ii) The Club will be required to provide evidence that the pitcher was removed from the game after exceeding the pitch limit to complete the batter, where requested

- (c) The Team's Game Day Manager is solely responsible for managing the player pitch count and verifying against the official scorebook.
- (d) Junior players may not pitch and catch, in any order, in the same weekend.
- (e) Junior players pitching in the senior competition are not subject to innings limits but must abide by the pitch limits and rest periods.

5.2.2 Completion of Pitching Assignment

Upon the completion of the pitching assignment, the following restrictions shall be placed upon the player, subject to the pitch category their final pitch count falls in.

5.2.2.1 *Minor*

- (a) No restrictions, other than **By Law 5.2.1(d)**

5.2.2.2 *Substantial*

- (a) The player must only play the following identified positions for the remainder of the game, in order of preference:
 - (i) 1st Base,
 - (ii) 2nd Base, or
 - (iii) Left Field

5.2.2.3 *Major*

The player must leave the game at the completion of the assignment and shall not play again for the weekend.

5.3 Breach of Requirements

The penalty for any breach of the **Section 5** rules will be in accordance to **By Law 13.1**.

Additionally, the offending coach or manager cited may be asked to appear before the NBA Board and show cause as to why they should not be suspended.

5.4 Etiquette and Participation

Coaches are encouraged to ensure all players are given equal opportunity to learn and develop in multiple playing positions and achieve equal game time.

Similarly, this extends to encouraging a healthy, competitive and encouraging environment for the opposing team.

5.4.1 Re-Entering a Game

Any of the nine starting Junior players may withdraw and re-enter the game once, provided that such player occupies the same place in the batting order.

- (a) The player who substitutes, must play at least six outs in defence, and bat at least once.
- (b) This rule does not override the requirements of a player pitching a "Major."

5.4.2 7 Runs Rule

Once a team has a lead in excess of seven (7) runs coaches for the side in front must stop stealing.

- (a) The team behind in runs may continue to steal until equal innings, for both teams, has been completed.
- (b) If a player steals the umpire will send the runner back to the base occupied before the pitch, explain why and issue a warning to the coach.
- (c) If the runner steals again they will be called out
- (d) Coaches shall utilise the declaration rule (**By Law 4.3.1**) in situations where one team is appreciably stronger than their opponent.

5.4.3 Ninth-Batter Rule

The Coach shall notify the Umpire when the ninth batter is at the plate.

- (a) The results of the ninth batter's at bat shall count. i.e. for loaded bases, walk awarded to 9th batter, run counts at home
- (b) If a passed ball (that goes dead) occurs on the 4th ball (walk), one (1) base is awarded to the batter and all occupied bases then play shall cease
- (c) The defending team can end the innings by making a third out or by making a play to a base
- (d) Where more than nine (9) players are on a line-up, and if both Coaches agree, the rule may be waived to "bat-through" each line-up.

5.5 League-Specific Playing Rules

5.5.1 Rules Specific to T-Ball & Zooka

5.5.1.1 *Field Dimensions*

- (a) Base Paths
 - (i) Tball – 13.72m (45ft)
 - (ii) Zooka – Base Paths – 18.29m (60ft)
(Optional depending on skill level)
- (b) Pitching Distance –
Safe Distance from the Batter

5.5.1.2 *Participation*

- (a) The objective of tee ball is the learning of basic skills in a fun and friendly team environment. All coaches and parents should support all children's endeavours.
- (b) All players field and hit; Bunting is not permitted
- (c) Players should change fielding positions each innings
- (d) Fielders must be encouraged to throw the ball to make an out.
- (e) We do not keep score in these age groups

5.5.1.3 *Pitching Restrictions*

- (a) No Player Pitching
- (b) In Tball the pitcher must stand with both feet on the pitching plate until the ball is hit
- (c) In Zooka the pitcher can stand next to the Zooka machine

5.5.1.4 *Catching Restrictions*

- (a) In Tball the pitcher and catcher **must** wear a double-ear helmet
- (b) In Zooka the catcher must wear the appropriate catcher's gear and pitcher a double ear helmet.

5.5.1.5 *Specific Rules*

- (a) The batter shall take a set stance with their both feet parallel to the inside edge of home plate. Their back foot will not be permitted to be repositioned after "Play Ball" is called
- (b) A runner must wait until the ball is hit before leaving the base
- (c) When the last batter comes to the plate the coach shall notify both sides by loudly calling and signalling "last batter"

5.5.1.6 *Equipment*

- (a) Only shoes with flexible or moulded soles permitted. Metal cleats not allowed
- (b) All batters and base runners must wear 2 eared helmets
- (c) Ball Size / Type – 8.5" Safety Ball
- (d) The base of the tee stand does not substitute as a home plate.
A standard home plate must be placed the correct position on the diamond.
The stem of the tee is then positioned in front of the home plate
- (e) Zooka machine to be set at a speed that is appropriate for all players

5.5.2 *Rules Specific to Little League*

5.5.2.1 *Field Dimensions*

- (a) Base Paths
 - (i) 18.29m (60ft)
- (b) Pitching Distance
 - (i) 14.02m (46ft)
- (c) Foul line Distance
 - (i) 60.96m (200ft)
- (d) Centre Field Distance
 - (i) 75m (246ft)

5.5.2.2 *Participation*

- (a) Minimum Game Participation
 - (i) 6-11 Players – 6 outs and 1 at bat
 - (ii) 12-14 Players – 3 outs and 1 at bat
- (b) Minimum Players for game
 - (i) 6
- (c) Maximum Players in a team
 - (i) 14

(d) All players in the team shall be placed on the score sheet in batting order including reserves and allowed to bat in that order, normal rules shall apply.

(i) Pitch counts and innings caught by the catchers must be recorded.

(e) During Gala Day games, all players except the pitcher / catcher must change positions every 2 innings of a game.

It is encouraged that all players experience different positions throughout the season

(f) During all games one Coach is encouraged to stand on the field, outside the diamond, to advise their defensive team during play.

That Coach must not take part in, or interfere with, any plays made by their side.

Deliberate interference or participation by the Coach for their defensive team or against an offensive team will result in the coach being removed from the field

5.5.2.3 Pitching Restrictions

(a) Refer Table 5-1 and By Law 5.2.1 for Pitching Restrictions

(b) Any breaking ball thrown by any pitcher in any situation shall be called a “ball” unless the ball is hit.

(i) The result of the hit shall be played out

(ii) Breaking balls include curve balls and sliders

5.5.2.4 Catching Restrictions

(a) Catching Limits

(i) 3 innings per game

(ii) 6 per weekend

(iii) No limit for finals series

(b) Junior players may not pitch and catch, in any order, in the same weekend.

5.5.2.5 Specific Rules

(a) Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball reaches the batter

(i) If the ball is hit and as a result of the play the runner(s) are put out the play will stand

(b) The batter is out after the call of “strike three” whether the ball is caught

(c) Until announced by the NBA Runners cannot advance bases by stealing or pass balls

(d) Until announced by the NBA, any batter who earns a walk (four balls) will have a free hit from a tee.

(i) If there are runners on base they must remain where they are and play out the hit. The hitter and runners may only advance one (1) base in this situation

(e) Until announced the by NBA the **One Throw Rule** will be implemented in this age group. This means when a throw is made to any base and the play has been attempted the ball becomes dead.

(i) For example; a play is made at first and the ball goes passed the first baseman the runners cannot advance to second.

(ii) The same will apply for plays at second, third and home.

5.5.2.6 *Equipment*

- (a) Only shoes with flexible or moulded soles permitted. Metal cleats not allowed
- (b) All batters and base runners must wear 2 eared helmets
- (c) Ball Size / Type – 9” baseball

5.5.3 Rules Specific to Junior League

5.5.3.1 *Field Dimensions*

- (a) Base Paths
 - (i) 24.38m (80ft)
- (b) Pitching Distance
 - (i) 16.46m (54ft)
- (c) Foul line Distance
 - (i) 76.2m (250ft)
- (d) Centre Field Distance
 - (i) 92.66m (304ft)

5.5.3.2 *Participation*

- (a) Minimum Game Participation
 - (i) 6-11 Players – 6 outs and 1 at bat
 - (ii) 12-14 Players – 3 outs and 1 at bat
- (b) Minimum Players for game
 - (i) 7
- (c) Maximum Players in a team
 - (i) 14
- (d) All players in the team shall be placed on the score sheet in batting order including reserves and allowed to bat in that order, normal rules shall apply.
 - (i) Pitch counts and innings caught by the catchers must be recorded.
 - (ii) During the finals series only 9 batters are required to bat

5.5.3.3 *Pitching Restrictions*

- (a) Refer Table 5-1 and By Law 5.2.1 for Pitching Restrictions

5.5.3.4 *Catching Restrictions*

- (a) Catching Limits
 - (i) 4 innings per game
 - (ii) 8 per weekend
 - (iii) No limit for finals series
- (b) Junior players may not pitch and catch, in any order, in the same weekend.

5.5.3.5 *Specific Rules*

- (a) After six (6) runs cross the plate in an innings, that team will declare their innings closed. If five (5) runs have crossed the plate and the next batter hits a home run over the homerun fence then all runs will score from that hit.
 - (i) This rule will not apply for Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals
- (b) No stealing on your opponent when you are 7 or more runs in front.
 - (i) The team behind in score may continue stealing until both teams have played equal innings.

5.5.4 *Rules Specific to Senior League*

5.5.4.1 *Field Dimensions*

- (a) Base Paths
 - (i) 27.43m (90ft)
- (b) Pitching Distance
 - (i) 18.44m (60ft 6inches)
- (c) Foul line Distance
 - (i) Senior Dimensions
- (d) Centre Field Distance
 - (i) Senior Dimensions

5.5.4.2 *Participation*

- (a) Minimum Game Participation
 - (i) 6-11 Players – 6 outs and 1 at bat
 - (ii) 12-14 Players – 3 outs and 1 at bat
- (b) Minimum Players for game
 - (i) 7
- (c) Maximum Players in a team
 - (i) 14
- (d) All players in the team shall be placed on the score sheet in batting order including reserves and allowed to bat in that order, normal rules shall apply.
 - (i) Pitch counts and innings caught by the catchers must be recorded.
 - (ii) During the finals series only 9 batters are required to bat

5.5.4.3 *Pitching Restrictions*

- (a) Refer Table 5-1 and By Law 5.2.1 for Pitching Restrictions

5.5.4.4 *Catching Restrictions*

- (a) Catching Limits
 - (i) No innings limit finals series
- (b) Junior players may not pitch and catch, in any order, in the same weekend.

5.5.4.5 *Specific Rules*

- (c) After six (6) runs cross the plate in an innings, that team will declare their innings closed. If five (5) runs have crossed the plate and the next batter hits a home run over the homerun fence then all runs will score from that hit.
 - (i) This rule will not apply for Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals
- (d) No stealing on your opponent when you are 7 or more runs in front.
 - (i) The team behind in score may continue stealing until both teams have played equal innings.

Section 6 Coaches, Officials and Supporting Staff

6.1 Coaches

All Coaches within the NBA competition are required to hold:

- (a) A valid Working With Children Check, and
- (b) At least a:
 - (i) Level A USA Baseball Coaches Certification
Applicable for Entry level baseball, all non-player pitch baseball only (T-ball, machine, or coach pitch baseball)

, or
 - (ii) Level B USA Baseball Coaches Certification
Required for all player pitch baseball from Little League minors to senior (adult) baseball, including assistant coaches.

, or
 - (iii) Level 3 Baseball NSW Coaching Accreditation

It is recommended all Major League Clubs have a Level C USA Baseball Certified Coach (or equivalent BNSW Coaching Accreditation) as their First Grade coach and / or Club Head Coach (when available).

6.1.1 Assistant and Base Coaches

An “Assistant Coach” is a person who regularly acts in an official “Assistant Coach” role, or a non-playing person who acts as a Base Coach.

- (a) These persons must be listed on the team list provided to the umpires
- (b) All Assistant Coaches shall hold Coaching Accreditation and WWCC as per **By Law 6.1**.
- (c) A playing person, or bench player who assists as a “Base Coach” on an infrequent basis may do so unaccredited, on the basis that they are deemed competent by the Club and Team Coach / Manager.
- (d) It is recommended that players who regularly act as a Base Coach for their team complete the Level B USA Baseball Coaches Certification.

6.2 Scorers

- (a) Each Major and AA League team shall supply a scorer for games.
 - (i) Failure to supply a scorer with result in the Club being liable to a penalty in accordance with that detailed within **By Law 13.1**.
- (b) All other teams should provide a scorer for their games.
 - (i) Where this is not possible, it shall be mandatory that the game score, injuries, ejections and player names are recorded by the team and uploaded to the NBA website in accordance with **By Law 2.2.1**
- (c) It shall be mandatory that all home teams supply a scorer to ensure games data is uploaded to the NBA website in accordance with **By Law 2.2.1**
- (d) Scorers shall be seated together in a designated area behind home plate where possible.

- (e) The home team is required to provide a table, chairs and shelter that provide adequate cover from all forms of weather.
- (f) Club scorebooks maybe requested by the NBA Board to ensure player participation requirements are being adhered to.

6.3 Umpires

6.3.1 Appointment of Umpires

- (a) The appointment of ABF-accredited umpires will be the under the sole control of the Newcastle Baseball Umpires Association Inc (NBUA).
- (b) In the event of an appointed umpire not arriving at the ground, any other umpire appointed may take charge of the game and, through the Managers, seek a suitable assistant umpire. In the event of no ABF-accredited umpire being present, the managers of each team may elect non-accredited umpires for the game.
- (c) It should be assumed that for Juniors, 5th grade and 6th Grade umpires will not be allocated UNLESS the club is notified by the Umpires Association to the contrary.
 - (i) For these grades, it is acceptable for one person to act as an umpire and officiate from behind the pitching mound area.
- (d) When no official umpires have been allocated to a game or fixture then the home team will be responsible for supplying the umpires.

6.3.2 Umpire Payment

All umpire's fees shall be determined by the NBA Board, after consultation with the Board of the NBUA Inc, at the commencement of each season.

- (a) Such fees are to be paid by the teams to the umpire(s) prior to the start of each game.
 - (i) In the case of Major League teams, if the money has not been paid to the umpire(s) prior to the start of the 1st grade game, the umpire(s) shall not officiate at the 1st Grade game.
- (b) All non-official umpires are required to be paid as per official umpires.
- (c) When only one umpire has been allocated to a game or fixture then each team will be responsible for half the umpire fee.
- (d) Payment for umpires shall be via the Scorers. No transfer of money shall occur on the baseball diamond.

Section 7 Representative Teams

7.1 Selection Committee

Each Selection Committee for representative teams shall consist of the:

- (a) Team Field Manager,
- (b) Assistant Coaches, and
- (c) the NBA President as Chairman of Selectors.

The NBA Chairman may delegate his role as Chairman of Selectors to another Board member at their discretion.

7.1.1 Selection Committee Duties

The duties of the NBA Inc. Selectors are:

- (a) To select representative teams from those players eligible and currently participating in any competition under the NBA Inc. jurisdiction, in accordance with the approved Selection Guidelines as approved by the NBA Board from time to time.
- (b) To select teams at least six (6) weeks prior to any major series e.g. Country Week, and for other representative fixtures a minimum of 3 weeks prior.
- (c) To report their selections to the NBA Board for subsequent ratification, and to satisfy the Board concerning their reasons for any particular selection, if required to do so.
- (d) To ensure that all players selected will be available, except in unforeseen circumstances, for all representative fixtures laid down for the current representative season.
- (e) To preserve the good reputation of the NBA by selecting only those players who are likely to represent the NBA in a sportsmanlike manner acceptable under the provisions of the NBA By Laws and Player Code of Conduct.

7.2 Officials

Coaches, Managers and Scorers shall be appointed by the NBA Board.

- (a) Managers of all Senior Representative teams shall conduct at least four team training sessions prior to the team leaving for any major series.
- (b) Assistant coaches, Pitching coaches, Assistant Managers, etc., are required to assist Managers in conducting these training sessions with due regard to the responsibilities of their particular role.
- (c) Managers, Coaches or Selectors are empowered to drop players from Representative squads whose poor attendance and attitude is deemed not to be acceptable.

7.3 Unavailability

Any player selected in an NBA representative side, who fails to inform the NBA Secretary of their unavailability within one week of being notified of their selection, shall be suspended for the next three competition games, unless the NBA Board considers there are special or extenuating circumstances involved.

7.4 Representative Uniforms

All players selected in a representative side shall be given and sign for a playing top (returnable at tournament end) and hat (free of charge on first selection).

All uniform cleaning shall be undertaken by the Team Managers with monetary reimbursement from the NBA at the ruling rate.

7.5 Junior Selection Criteria

In addition to the criteria described in **By Law 7.1.1**, Junior player selections will be carried out by the selected coaching staff for each representative team, using the following guidelines:

- (a) To be eligible for a representative team, a player must be registered and participating in NBA Junior Competition games.
- (b) Participation in a minimum of 60% of the games their team has played is required.
- (c) Proof of age may be requested
- (d) The NBA Board has the right to refuse a player selection at their discretion
- (e) All representative players selected must nominate a responsible adult(s) to accompany them to all representative commitments including training sessions.
- (f) All players who are selected in a representative team shall complete their representative commitments or they may be subject to penalty at the discretion of the NBA Board. The ABF Member Protection Policy procedures should be followed
- (g) Any player (or parent or guardian of a player) who, whilst at any representative training or event, acts in a manner contradictory to the Code of Conduct or who brings discredit to the team or the NBA, may result in the removal of the player from the team or squad

Section 8 Safety

- (a) All catchers shall use protective skull caps and throat guards on their masks.
- (b) All batters and base runners must wear two-eared helmets.
- (c) Bat boys/girls must wear a batting helmet and uniform while undertaking their duties on the field. All coaching staff on the field of play must wear a helmet.
- (d) Any player warming up a pitcher before or during a game, whether on the playing field in the bull pen or elsewhere, must wear an approved face mask and throat guard.
- (e) Only players in the line-up card and reserves are allowed in the dugout during a game. All players and officials within a dugout must be in full Club uniform.
- (f) Any registered player or official taking and consuming alcohol in a glass container and/or glass bottles on any ground on which baseball is being played should be warned. If they persist then they will be suspended in accordance with **By Law 13.2**
- (g) No Alcohol will be permitted on the field of play.

Section 9 Medical and Injuries

9.1 Provision of First Aid

All host facilities shall have ice and a basic First Aid kit available for use. It is encouraged that all host facilities have a First Aid officer present.

9.2 Medical Conditions Disclosure

Before registering to play, all people should notify their club officials of any condition that may affect their performance or participation in the sport of baseball.

- (a) Such conditions may include, for example, pregnancy, epilepsy and diabetes.
- (b) Players or officials with such a condition shall seek medical advice in relation to their continuing participation in the sport.
- (c) Information relating to an individual's medical condition shall be held confidentially (unless this is not required) but may be used by the organisation for administrative, insurance, legal or related purposes.
- (d) All people who register within the NBA competition agree that they shall not contravene any medical advice in relation to their continued participation and when required, to provide a medical certificate approving their continued participation in the sport.
- (e) The NBA will not be held responsible for the players or individual's failure to seek, and follow appropriate medical advice.

9.3 Infection Policy

Any players who, having any visible signs of any body fluids, must stem the flow of these fluids and remove or clean or cover any visible sign of these fluids from clothing and equipment.

- (a) While the player receives such treatment, the game may continue in accordance with **By Law 9.4**.
- (b) Where the nature of the incident is obviously serious enough to prevent the player from returning to the game, a substitution should be made.

9.4 Injury Rule

If a player is injured and, in the opinion of the umpire, such injury will hinder the progress of the game, the player can be replaced by a courtesy fielder or runner and leave the field for medical attention.

- (a) The time of approval will be recorded by the official scorers.
- (b) The replaced player must return to the game within 15 minutes from the time the umpire grants approval for the replacement under this provision.
 - (i) The replaced player must inform the umpire when they are ready to return to the game and the time to be recorded by the official scorers.
- (c) The replacement player (courtesy fielder or runner) may not bat for the injured player.
 - (i) If the player is due to bat in the line-up they will have to re-enter the game, be replaced for the remainder of the game, or an automatic out will be declared at that position in the batting order.
- (d) The courtesy fielder or runner will not obtain a grading solely from participation under this rule.

(e) The courtesy player may not pitch.

9.5 Returning From Injury

It shall be the responsibility of the Club and Player to confirm the Player's capacity to return to baseball activities after an injury.

- (a) A Medical Certificate is to be provided to the Club to confirm the Player's capacity to return to activities after an injury forces a player to leave a game and/or miss multiple games.
- (b) This Medical Certificate must be provided to the NBA, upon request.

Section 10 Disputes, Ejections and Tribunal

10.1 Protests

Any club who wishes to protest on the result of a competition game, or any club or team manager wishing to lodge a dispute or protest on any procedure or incident during a competition game, shall lodge such protest or dispute in writing to the NBA Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the game concerned, together with a fee of \$100.

- (a) This fee is refundable if the appeal is upheld.
- (b) Whenever a manager protests a game because of alleged misapplication of the rules, the protest will not be recognized unless the umpires are notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play.
- (c) Protests or disputes shall be heard by the NBA Inc Board.
- (d) No protest will be accepted which does not comply with the provisions of the previous calendar year's edition of the Official Baseball Rules.
- (e) In all situations, the decision of the NBA Board shall be final.

10.2 Ejections / Reporting / Disciplining / Appeal

10.2.1 Ejections

During a competition game any officiating umpire may eject any player or team official participating in that game for any breach of the Rules of Baseball, the NBA Code of Conduct, or other matter deemed serious enough to justify ejection.

- (a) An officiating umpire who ejects a player or official from a game must:
 - (i) Notify the NBA Secretary by email or text message by 9pm on the night of the game of the ejection – including the name of the player ejected, the clubs involved and the game concerned
 - (ii) Submit a written report to the NBA Secretary (by email) by 9pm on the Monday following the game of the incident in accordance with the Newcastle Umpires pro-forma
 - (iii) Be available to attend any Tribunal hearing, if required.
- (b) Any player or official ejected, for whatever reason, will not be allowed to participate in any other game that day.
 - (i) The NBA reserves the right to stand down an ejected player or official for the rest of the round depending on the severity of the charges advised in the report.
- (c) All ejections by an officiating umpire will be referred to the NBA Board for review using the Prescribed Penalties List.
- (d) On receipt of any ejection notice pursuant to (a), the NBA Secretary will notify the Secretary of the Club involved and:
 - (i) Advise the penalty if using the Prescribed Penalty List
 - (ii) Provide any reports received in relation to the incident
 - (iii) Request the Club notify the effected member immediately
 - (iv) Request the effected member provide a report in reply within 24 hours
 - (v) Request any supporting statements be provided within 24 hours

- (e) The named member can either accept the charges and penalties to be applied OR request that a hearing be convened by the Tribunal
 - (i) Should the member request a hearing, the Tribunal may confirm or impose either a lower or higher penalty than that listed on the Prescribed Penalty List.

10.2.2 Code of Conduct Breach

Any officiating umpire, NBA Board Member, Club President or Club Secretary may report any incident breaching the NBA Code of Conduct; whether occurring on or off the field of play whilst representing the NBA at representative tournaments or other capacity.

- (a) The NBA shall not deal with any report received under this section if received later than 5pm on the Friday following the incident, unless the NBA Board considers the matter raised to be of such serious nature as to warrant a suspension of the player or club official for a period of 2 weeks or greater.
- (b) All reports received pursuant to the above shall be considered by the NBA Board within 5 days of receipt.
 - (i) The NBA Board may either dismiss the matter or issue warning to the member and club involved.
 - (ii) If the NBA Board feels suspension may be warranted, they must refer the matter to the Tribunal for review.

10.2.3 Permission to Play

Any member facing charges that are not on the Prescribed Penalty List or where it states that the charges will be referred directly to the Tribunal will not be allowed to play until the matter has been resolved by the Tribunal.

Should the member be appealing a ruling, then playing permissions will be in accordance with **By Law 10.3.4(b)**

10.2.4 Appeals

A member disciplined by decision of the NBA Board, either in the first instance or on appeal from the Tribunal, may appeal the decision in accordance with the Member Protection Policy adopted by Baseball NSW.

10.3 Tribunal Committee

On receipt of report referable to the Tribunal, the Secretary will call for a Committee to form.

- (a) Such Committee will comprise a minimum of three (3) members who are not executive members of the NBA Board.
- (b) The Committee members shall be appointed from time to time by the NBA Board and shall meet as required to deal with all disputes.

10.3.1 Duties of Tribunal Committee

The Committee shall endeavour to hear all disputes matters prior to the following round of competition.

- (a) Should the hearing not be able to be heard in this time, because of the inability of the Committee members to convene, then any member cited to appear may not participate in any game until the report is heard by the Committee, unless determined otherwise by the Board.

10.3.2 Tribunal Committee Authority

The Committee has the power, once convened, to adjourn to a later date or to allow for further investigation or evidence to be tabled.

- (a) The Committee is authorised to review the facts submitted and confirm a suspension as listed on the Prescribed Penalties List without holding a Tribunal hearing.
- (b) The cited member/player may elect to have the charge heard by a full hearing.

To do so they must inform the NBA Secretary within 24 hours of receiving the charge report and before submitting their responses.

10.3.3 Tribunal Attendance

The Committee may request an umpire not connected with the dispute to attend any disputes hearing for interpretations only and provide guidance to the Committee on matters pertaining to rules and interpretations.

Any umpire, player or club, responsible for a citation being heard before the Committee, plus the player cited and a representative of the cited players club, must attend the Tribunal hearing if requested by the Committee.

- (a) The cited player and representative of that players club are entitled to sit in on the hearing of evidence, but may not interrupt, question or otherwise influence a witness.
- (b) If the cited player or their representative interrupts or otherwise influences the witness the Committee Chairman will issue a warning.
- (c) If such actions continue the Committee Chairman may direct the cited player and their representative to leave the room.
- (d) All parties will be requested to leave the room whilst the Committee deliberates on the evidence.

10.3.4 Appeals

The decision of the Committee shall be final.

- (a) Appeal of a decision is to the NBA Inc Board within 24 hours of the notification of the Tribunal decision. This appeal must follow the Member Protection Policy adopted by the NBA from Baseball NSW, together with the appropriate fee.
 - (i) Any appeal brought before the NBA Board, shall be decided within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the receipt of the said appeal.
 - (ii) If the appeal is dismissed by the NBA Board then any further appeals are to be dealt with in accordance with the Member Protection Policy adopted by the NBA from Baseball NSW within (7) calendar days after the previous decision.
- (b) A player appealing the Tribunal ruling to the NBA may play in any NBA competition until the appeal has been heard and the result conveyed to the club secretary concerned, unless the Board decides in the circumstances such participation is not appropriate.
 - (i) A matter referred directly to the Tribunal shall be deemed as serious; the named member will not be able to participate in any games until the matter(s) are resolved.

10.3.5 Communication

A copy of the Committee minutes shall be forwarded to the NBA Secretary in writing who shall, in turn, advise the cited player's club in writing of any decisions made.

Section 11 Legal

11.1 Legal Advice

When any member or officer of the NBA Inc. requests legal advice be given on any matter concerning the business of the NBA, a copy of that request shall be submitted to the NBA Secretary in writing, setting out the date, information required, and any background information associated with the request.

- (a) Two NBA Board members must sign and approve the application before submission.
- (b) The legal advice supplied in response to such a request shall also be submitted to the NBA in writing and signed by the legally qualified person giving such advice and information.
- (c) Both requests for advice and subsequent legal advice shall be filed as a permanent record in the NBA records by the Secretary

11.2 Members Protection Policy

The Members Protection Policy of Baseball NSW will be adopted for the NBA

11.3 Player Recording

The participation of all players shall be recorded by the Club.

- (a) Such information is to be uploaded to the NBA Website in accordance with **By Law 2.2.1**

Section 12 Communication

All official communications from the NBA Board to registered Clubs will be by email to the email address registered with the NBA of each Club's Secretary.

- (a) Notwithstanding the requirements of the above, should the NBA Board deem communication on a certain issue by email to be inappropriate or ineffective then the NBA Board may communicate with Clubs by whichever means they deem appropriate.
- (b) Delivery of any email to the registered email address of a Club's Secretary will be deemed receipt of such communication by that Club.

12.1 Social Media

The NBA will use the official NBA Facebook page when required to distribute information to the general public and association members (for example: Wet Weather notifications).

- (a) Where deemed necessary for official communications, the Club Secretaries will be emailed of the information at the same time
- (b) It is encouraged that Clubs "share" the NBA Facebook posts on their Club's Facebook page to increase the exposure of the posts to the community.
- (c) The NBA can, where appropriate, share Club posts on the NBA page for certain events such as Come and Try days.
- (d) All Social Media activities by the Clubs and NBA shall be in accordance the NBA Social Media Policy.
- (e) All Clubs shall maintain a register of photo permissions for all Junior members.
- (f) No Club shall post a photo of a Junior members on social media or websites without confirmation of photography permission status.

Section 13 Prescribed Penalties

The maximum financial penalty, determination of a forfeit and suspension durations relevant to a breach of requirements listed within this document, NBA Codes of Conduct and other referenced policies, shall be as detailed within this Section.

13.1 Prescribed Club Penalties

Table 13-1 Club Penalty Table

By Law	Description	Max. Fine (per occurrence)	Game result	Comments
1.4	Playing an Ineligible Player	\$50	Forfeit 9-0	If both teams play an ineligible player, then both teams shall forfeit 9-0
2.2.1.4	Failure to record player data	\$50	-	-
4.4.5 & 5.3	Pitching Breach	\$200	Forfeit 9-0, case by case	Additionally, the offending coach or manager cited may be asked to appear before the NBA Board.
6.2	Lack of Scorer in Major League	\$50	-	-
Other	All other breaches, as determined by the NBA Board	As determined by the NBA Board		

13.2 Prescribed Player Penalties

For the offences that are listed below, immediate ejection from the game will result, followed by an additional penalty if any as listed, unless an appeal is made against the imposition of that additional penalty.

Table 13-2 - Player Prescribed Penalties List

Offence / Charge	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence
Audible Offensive Language/Swearing	1 game suspended for remainder of season	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence
Abuse Directed at an Umpire	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 games suspension + 4 game suspended sentence
Dissent	Ejection Sufficient	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence
Arguing Judgement by an umpire	1 game suspended sentence	1 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 3 game suspended sentence
Equipment Abuse	Ejection Sufficient	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence

Offence / Charge	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence
Disobeying an Umpires Direction	1 game suspended sentence for remainder of season	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 games suspension + 4 game suspended sentence
Failing to Leave the Field of Play	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 games suspension + 4 game suspended sentence
Tobacco / Alcohol use	Ejection Sufficient	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence
Racial or Religious Vilification	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 games suspension + 4 game suspended sentence	8 games suspension + 8 game suspended sentence
Striking/fighting	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal
Dangerous Play	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal

Second and Third Offence relate to charges within the preceding 12 month calendar period.
Any charged not listed above will be referred direct to the Tribunal.

Revision Log

2022.2

4.8

c) "A runner for catcher is mandatory for all junior games, and optional for Senior competitions" **Deleted**

2022.1

(Typical)

Formatting Improvements

Preface b)

Official Australian Baseball Rules" **replaced with** "Official Baseball Rules"

Note: Update reflected throughout document.

1.1.4

"(b) Any Club declared ineligible under this rule will forfeit their teams scheduled finals game/s 9-0." **replaced with** "(b) Any team declared ineligible under this rule will forfeit all points earned during the regular season and will not be eligible for any semi-final, finals or grand finals."

1.2.2.1

New Addition: "Junior Registrations" (see By Law for detail)

1.3.2.1

"Any player returning to or entering competition within the NBA from another association will retain their grading from their last active association" **replaced with** "Any player returning to or entering competition within the NBA from another association will retain their grading from their last active association, unless such absence has been greater than three (3) calendar years."

1.3.3.5

"If the team in which the player is graded has a bye, they will not be permitted to play a grade lower in that round without the approval from the NBA" **replaced with** "If the team in which the player is graded has a bye, they will not be permitted to play a grade lower in that round without the written approval from the NBA"

1.3.3.7

New Addition: "Junior Gradings or "Leagues"" (see By Law for detail)

1.3.3.7

New Addition: "(i) Junior players must participate in at least one-third of the games in the competition."

2.1.2

New Addition: "(a) Juniors

(i) Senior League

(ii) Junior League

(iii) Little League

(iv) Zooka Ball

(v) T-Ball”

2.1.3.4

New Addition: Junior Competition game times (see By Law for detail)

2.1.4

“A Finals Series will be held in each grade of senior baseball.” **replaced with** “A Finals Series will be held in each grade Little League and above”

New Addition: “(c) (iv) Finals for Juniors will be held on the same day’s as normal competition”

New Addition: “(d) Game times and durations will be the same as those for the regular season described in By Law 2.1.3

New Addition: “The NBA Board reserves the right to adjust the Junior Finals format as necessary to suit the needs of the Newcastle Junior Competition.”

2.1.4.2

New Addition: “(b) (iii)(iv) In the case of a tie or if the game is washed out, the team that finished higher on the competition table will progress to the Preliminary Final and the lower team will be eliminated from the competition”

New Addition: “(c) (iii)(iv) In the case of a tie or if the game is washed out, the team that finished higher on the competition table will progress to the Grand Final.”

2.1.4.3

New Addition: “For purposes of this regulation, any “extra inning” is defined as the eighth inning or later in a seven-inning game, or the tenth inning or later in a nine (9) inning game.”

New Addition: “(d) Junior Tie Break Rules

(i) If a tie occurs in the Grand Final for Little League then joint Premiers shall be declared.

(ii) For Junior League and Senior League, should a tie occur at the end of the normal time/innings then one (1) extra innings shall be played (runners will be placed on 1st and 2nd to start the inning the last two batters in the order will fill those positions).

If this also results in a tie then Joint Premiers shall be declared”

2.2.1.3

New Addition: “Both the Home and Away Junior Team must complete a Junior score sheets and forward to registrar@newcastlebaseball.org.au no later than 7.00pm on the Tuesday following the game.

If a junior team comprises of mixed clubs, then the club mentioned first in the Draw for said mixed team must submit a Junior Score sheet, noting which players are affiliated with each club, and additionally forward to the other club(s) for their records.”

2.2.2

“Failure to comply with the above will result in the Club being liable for the game fees for both their opponent and own team.” **replaced with** “Failure to comply with the above will result in the Club being liable for the umpiring fees for both their opponent and own team and shall be paid to NBUA irrespective of whether or not official umpires had been assigned to that game.”

2.2.2.1

New Addition: “Note: Where a player has been injured and **By Law 9.4** has been enacted, the following minimum number of defensive players must be present on the field:

- (i) Major League – Nine (9) players at all times
- (ii) AA League – Eight (8) players during the period **By Law 9.4** is enacted, otherwise nine (9) players at all times.
- (iii) Minor League – Seven (7) players at all times”

2.2.4

New Addition: “(iii) The Umpire-in-Chief shall not make such decision until he is in charge of the game. i.e. All umpiring fees have been paid and the home plate umpire has received both the home and visiting teams lineups.”

4.1.1

“In 5th and 6th grade fixtures, teams may start game play and continue game play with not less than 7 registered players.

(a)The hole in the batting line-up will be handled by Rule 6.02c of the Official Baseball Rules.
replaced with

“In Juniors, 5th and 6th grade fixtures, teams may start game play and continue game play with not less than seven (7) registered players.

(a)The hole(s) in the batting line-up will be treated as an automatic out(s), except in the cases of Junior Competitions, where no automatic outs are to be recorded.”

4.1.2

New Addition: “(a) (ii) If the home team has scored more runs in four or four and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in five completed half-innings; (iii) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth inning to tie the score.”

4.1.3

New Addition: “If the team batting last has tied the game at the time at which By Law 4.2.1 (b) is applied, then the result shall be a “tied-game.””

4.2

New Addition: “, unless By Law 4.2.1 applies.”

If an at-bat has commenced prior to the scheduled game completion time the game shall be called at the completion of all continuous play of said at-bat.

The umpire in chief will assign an umpire as the official timekeeper. The official timekeeper’s time shall be agreed upon at the plate meeting by the coaches. No other devices shall be used or referenced in relation to the game time.

4.2.1

“(c) Junior games shall not be extended past their scheduled completion time, except during Finals Series, noting however that any at-bat that commences prior to the scheduled game completion time, must be completed.” **replaced with** “Junior games shall not be extended past their scheduled completion time, except during Finals Series, noting however that any at-bat that commences prior to the scheduled game completion time, must be completed.”

4.4.1

(b) “The game does not extend further than 10 minutes past the scheduled game time”
replaced with “The game does not extend further than 10 minutes past the scheduled game

time; unless the final at-bat has commenced prior to the time, in which case, the game shall be concluded at the completion of said at-bat.”

New Addition: “, (c) Junior games shall not be extended past their scheduled completion time, except during Finals Series”

4.4.2

Title “Intentional Walks” **replaced with** “Intentional Walk, Balks and No Balls”

New Addition:

“(b) If a no pitch is declared by an umpire it is not counted towards the pitcher’s pitch count

(c) A “balk” called by an umpire where the ball is thrown to the batter is counted towards the pitcher’s pitch count”

4.4.4 b)

“This player will be allowed to play in 2nd grade (field and bat) but not pitch.” **replaced with** “This player must participate in 2nd grade (field and bat) but not pitch. “

4.7.1

Bylaw replaced with:

The following baseball shall be used for the NBA competition:

- 1st to 4th Grade – Wilson A1010 HS / HS1(High School)
- 6th and 5th Grade – Wilson A1010S (Blem) **or** A1010HS / HS1

Additionally:

(g) The Home team for each game shall supply:

- (i) 1st and 2nd Grade: 2 new and 2 good backup balls,
- (ii) 3rd and 4th Grade: 2 new, 2 good backup balls.
- (iii) 5th and 6th Grade: 1 new and 2 good used balls,

(h) All balls are to be good quality and will be subject to rejection by the umpires should they consider they are not of an acceptable standard.

(i) *Note Deleted*

(j) In all semi-finals and finals, in all grades, each participating club must provide 2 new balls at the commencement of the game and new balls for any subsequent replacements.

(k) The NBA will supply baseballs for all grand finals and participating clubs will be invoiced for balls issued.

(l) Alternate ball specifications are not permitted without approval of the NBA Board.

(m) Junior baseballs shall clean and of good quality, and in accordance with the specific league requirements detailed in **By Law 5.5**.

4.7.2 d)

New Addition: “Bat regulations for Junior Competitions shall comply with the current edition of the BNSW “Bat Regulation Policy”, accessible by the “Resources” portal on the Newcastle Baseball Website, and the Baseball NSW website.”

4.5

New Addition: “No Designated Hitters shall be used in Junior Games.”

4.8

New Addition: “Runner for Catcher

No “Runners for Catcher” shall be used Senior Baseball (i.e. Grades 1 to 6)

A runner for catcher is Mandatory for Junior Baseball games

A catcher may participate offensively until there are two outs and they have reached first base.

- (n) If on base, they must be replaced by a designated runner immediately the second out is achieved.
- (o) If at bat, then they may be replaced once the play by which they get on base is complete, provided that the courtesy runner can immediately replace the catcher.
- (p) A runner for catcher is mandatory for all junior games, and optional for Senior competitions
- (q) The courtesy runner can be any bench player including a player who has been substituted out of the game
- (r) The courtesy runner can be a player that is currently in the game except that they must not be one of the five batters following the catcher in the line-up.
- (s) Catchers replaced by a courtesy runner are to immediately put their leggings and breast plate back on in preparation for the innings changeover.

Section 5

Title “Juniors playing within the Senior Competition” **replaced with** “Junior Playing Rules

5.1

Title “Eligibility” **replaced with** “Eligibility for Senior Competition

Table 5-1

New Addition: “Innings Limits

New Addition: “Note: A Player younger than 10 yrs old shall not pitch more than 40 pitches”

5.4

New Addition: Etiquette and Participation (see By Law for detail)

5.4.1 “Re-Entering a Game”

5.4.2 “7 Runs Rule”

5.4.3 “Ninth-Batter Rule”

6.1

“(b) At least a

- (i) Level B USA Baseball Coaches Certification, or
- (ii) Level 3 Baseball NSW Coaching Accreditation”

Replaced with

“(b) At least a

- (i) Level A USA Baseball Coaches Certification

Applicable for Entry level baseball, all non-player pitch baseball only (T-ball, machine, or coach pitch baseball)

, or

- (ii) Level B USA Baseball Coaches Certification

Required for all player pitch baseball from Little League minors to senior (adult) baseball, including assistant coaches.

, or

(iii) Level 3 Baseball NSW Coaching Accreditation”

6.1.1

New Addition: Assistant and Base Coaches (see By Law for detail)

6.2

New Addition: Club scorebooks maybe requested by the NBA Board to ensure player participation requirements are being adhered to.

6.3.1

(c) It should be assumed that for 6th grade and 5th Grade umpires will not be allocated UNLESS the club is notified by the Umpires Association to the contrary.

(i) For 5th and 6th Grades it is acceptable for one person to act as an umpire and officiate from behind the pitching mound area.

Replaced with

(c) It should be assumed that for Juniors, 5th grade and 6th Grade umpires will not be allocated UNLESS the club is notified by the Umpires Association to the contrary.

(i) For these grades, it is acceptable for one person to act as an umpire and officiate from behind the pitching mound area.

7.5

New Addition: Junior Selection Criteria (see By Law for detail)

9.3

“(b) Where the nature of the incident is obviously serious enough to prevent the player from returning to the game, a substitution is required to avoid abuse of this rule” **replaced with** “Where the nature of the incident is obviously serious enough to prevent the player from returning to the game, a substitution should be made.”

12.1

New Addition:

(e) All Clubs shall maintain a register of photo permissions for all Junior members.

(f) No Club shall post a photo of a Junior members on social media or websites without confirmation of photography permission status.

--// END //--