



**BASEBALL QUEENSLAND**

# *Baseball Rules*

**(Includes Rules for ALL Tournaments)**

Incorporating:

U8 T-Ball, U10 Rookie Ball,  
Little League, U14, U16, U18, and Senior Baseball

For all affiliated Clubs, Leagues and Regions

**ISSUED 29 September 2008**

# **BASEBALL QUEENSLAND**

## *Baseball Rules*

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# QUESTIONS ON THESE OR OTHER RULES?

If you have a question or enquiry regarding any of the following rules for Junior Baseball in Queensland, **please** contact Baseball Queensland.

**At Baseball Queensland direct any enquiries to the Development Officers :**

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Please Note

**All rules that appear in a shaded box, are  
new rules for 2008**

# BASEBALL RULES

The **Official Rules of Baseball** apply for all levels of play. Exceptions will be the following documentation, which has been designed to foster the development and provide for the safety of Queensland's junior players.

These rules may not and cannot be adjusted or manipulated in any way by any club, region or league affiliated with **Baseball Queensland**, without the expressed written permission of the **BQ Board of Management**. Any region or association not abiding by these rules will forfeit their right to nominate teams for any Baseball Queensland sanctioned tournament, competition or games. This includes tournaments, competitions or games sanctioned by the Australian Baseball Federation.

**These rules are to be adhered to.** Baseball Queensland may issue a \$100.00 fine per offence for any infringements of these rules.

Infringements of these rules are to be dealt with by the league or region conducting the competition. **All infringements must be reported to Baseball Queensland by the league/region president.** A panel will be put in place to hear appeals; and a separate non-affiliated arbitrator will Chair the panel. A written appeal must be lodged with Baseball Queensland within seven days of the infringement, accompanied by a letter of explanation and a cheque for **\$100 made payable to Baseball Queensland.** The cheque is refundable if the appeal is upheld.

## SPONSOR SIGNAGE

Sponsorship signage on uniforms is permitted. Anything resembling a baseball is prohibited. All sponsors names; size and placement of the signage **must** be endorsed by Baseball Queensland through the region, league or competition administration.

# AGE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

## AGE REQUIREMENTS

A. The cut-off date for all age groups is **December 31<sup>st</sup>** in the year the season begins. **For example:** to play at the U14 age level a player cannot have turned 14 in the year the season commences.

**NB:** This includes club Little League, U10 and U8 competitions. The 30 April age cutoff will only apply to players for Little League Representative teams.

B. All **registered** players are required to show proof of age upon initial registration with a club.

C. There is to be no age restriction for Tee Ball (recommended age: under 8 years of age) or Rookie Ball (recommended age: 8 – 9 years of age inclusive). Any person outside these age brackets that wishes to play Tee Ball or Rookie Ball, must seek permission from the Regional Director of Coaching. See Rule “Playing Outside natural age groups D” below.

## PLAYING OUTSIDE NATURAL AGE GROUPS

A. Players in the Little League – U16 age levels may play up one age group **ONLY**. A club must request special permission from their Regional Director of Coaching for players to play up. This will be given only after the RDC has assessed the player. A Baseball Queensland consent form (**attached**), signed by the player’s parent/guardian, the team Field Manager and the Regional Director of Coaching, must be in the hands of the scorers prior to the commencement of that player’s first game at the higher age level. Team scorers are to forward the consent form to the League Registrar attached to the game card.

Players in T-Ball (U8) & Rookie Ball (U10) may play up and down **within these age levels only**, depending on **ability**. Age or previous year(s) playing status will not be considered.

B. Players playing up an age group can only take the field to replace injured players or to ensure at least nine players take the field. i.e. they cannot take the field at the expense of a player playing in their natural age group.

C. Players when playing up or down an age level are prohibited from pitching and catching. The **ONLY** exception being U18 players competing at the senior level. All pitchers must adhere to their natural age group pitching restrictions. See **Pitching and Catching Section**. **NB: This rule applies to Little Leaguers also ie Little leaguers are not permitted to pitch or catch when they play up or down an age group.**

D. Players of lesser ability may make application to play down one age level **only**. The application must come from a parent/guardian and the player’s current coach, through the Regional Director of Coaching (RDC), to the League registrar prior to the commencement of the player’s first game in the lower age level. Copies of the approval forms must also be forwarded to Baseball Queensland.

E. Where there is no competition for a particular age level, then a League may determine the age levels that best fulfil their requirements. **For example:** U17, U15, U11 etc. Baseball Queensland approval **must** be sought before implementation.

F. To play senior baseball, a junior player **must** turn 16 years of age by **December 31<sup>st</sup>** in the year the season begins. A Baseball Queensland consent form must be forwarded to the League registrar, through the RDC, prior to the commencement of that player’s first game at the senior level.

G. Players in NQ, CQ, and FNC areas that are in the U16 age group may play senior baseball. Approval in accordance with A and F above must be obtained and they are to be monitored by way of a “Log Book” or similar. All U16 players are to fulfil their obligations to their junior team on a week to week basis, before permission is granted to play senior baseball.

# THE PLAYING FIELD

AGE	GAME	BASEPATHS	PITCH DISTANCE	CENTREFIELD DISTANCE	# BASES
U8 *	T-BALL	60 FT	46 FT	150 FT – 170 FT	REMOVABLE
U10	ROOKIE BALL	60 FT	46 FT	200 FT – 220 FT	REMOVABLE
Little League	BASEBALL	60 FT	46 FT	225 FT	REMOVABLE
U14	BASEBALL	80 FT	54 FT	300 FT	PERMANENT
U16	BASEBALL	90 FT	60 FT 6 IN	OPEN	PERMANENT
U20	BASEBALL	90 FT	60 FT 6 IN	OPEN	PERMANENT
Snr.	BASEBALL	90 FT	60 FT 6 IN	OPEN	PERMANENT

Note: It is recommended Little League Minor Leagues use Safety balls/Injury Reduction Balls for League games.

\* In T-ball there will be a fair ball line 15 ft in front of the tee.

# All bases are to be of the padded variety and placed on level ground.

All games for the Little League and U14 age levels must have an outfield perimeter of some description in grounds that are not fully enclosed. **For example:** Cones or markers that are clearly seen from home plate. Any batted ball that passes through, will be ruled a ground rule double. Grounds that are enclosed will be played out as long as the ball remains within the playing field. If the ball leaves the playing field it will be ruled a ground rule double.

**NOTE:** Should a base be pegged to the ground (removable as per Little League), it is to be done with safety as the **PRIME CONCERN**. Pegs **MUST** be driven **entirely** into the ground with the buckles **under** the centre of the base.

## PLAYING EQUIPMENT

AGE	GAME	BALLS	BATS	SHOES
U8	T-BALL	SAFETY		RUBBER SOLE
U10	ROOKIE BALL	SAFETY		RUBBER SOLE
Little League	Little League Baseball	Minors – Safety Majors- Standard	* see note below	RUBBER SOLE
U14	BASEBALL	*STANDARD	-8 ounces or heavier	NON METAL CLEATS
U16	BASEBALL	*STANDARD	-5 ounces or heavier	METAL CLEATS PERMITTED
U20 and Seniors	BASEBALL	*STANDARD	-3 ounces or heavier	METAL CLEATS PERMITTED
Major A	BASEBALL	*STANDARD	WOOD	METAL CLEATS PERMITTED

\* All bats for Little League play must be marked by the manufacturer as “Approved for play in Little League Baseball”

Females playing U16 to Senior Baseball (Excluding Major A) are permitted to use Baseball bats - 5 ounces or heavier.

Players representing Queensland at the National Championships will be required to use the following bats at their tournaments as per the ABF Rules.

Under 18	Wood or wood composite	Under 16	-3 (any length) - 5 (33” or less)	Under 14	-8
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# PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- A. Players **must** wear full protective equipment **at all times** when catching or warming up a pitcher. **For example:** Mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup. Coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask and protective cup.

**NOTE:** At the Rookie Ball age level or below, soccer style leg guards are permitted.

- B. Properly fitted, non-damaged two eared helmets must be worn by all batters, baserunners and juniors performing the duties of a base coach.
- C. Any bat boy/girl (must be a minimum of 8 years old) in the dugout or on the field **must** wear a two-eared helmet at **ALL TIMES**.
- D. Protective cups are **MANDATORY** for **ALL** players.
- E. All clubs **must** make available a generous supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen.

**NOTE:** If in the opinion of the home plate umpire (**in consultation with both coaches**), the weather becomes potentially detrimental to any player's health, the game will be abandoned.

# GENERAL PLAYING RULES

- A. **If a play is imminent**, runners **must** slide at **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases and home plate**. At home plate, the runner **must** slide feet first.

**NOTE:** **An imminent play is defined as:** A fielder or catcher, while **receiving or retrieving** the baseball is physically able to touch the base or home plate with normal effort.

**Penalty for not sliding in the correct manner on an imminent play:** The runner shall be called out for interference. All other runners return to the base they were previously occupying.

**EXCEPTION:** **In accordance with the ABF ruling, sliding at the U20 & SENIOR level is not mandatory, BUT IS ENCOURAGED.**

- B. Under **normal circumstances**, games will be considered finished when either the maximum time duration or the maximum innings, as determined by Leagues in their bylaws, is reached.
- C. In U14, U16 and U20 baseball, if a team is ahead by 10 runs after 1 hour 45 minutes and equal innings, then the "mercy rule" **will be invoked**.
- D. Players at the U14 and below levels **MUST** start and play **a full game** in **at least 25%** of the teams officially scheduled games. Strategic coaching replacements in junior baseball, especially at these levels are not encouraged, as they detract from player development.
- E. Each junior player (U8 – U20) **MUST** play at least 50% of the time allowed for that junior fixture.

**Note:** **A five (5) minute leeway either side of the time will be granted.**

- F. In the event of an injury or ejection, a team may continue with eight players. Also, a team may commence a game with eight players. However, teams are never permitted to have less than eight players on the field at any given time.
- G. In junior games substituted players may re-enter a game in the event of an injury, ejection or a player forced to leave the ground prematurely, but are not permitted to pitch.

# PITCHING AND CATCHING

- A. No junior player (including U20 comp and U18 players in senior baseball) may pitch and catch in the same day.
- B. No junior player (including U20 comp and U18 players in senior baseball) may catch in more than two games in any given day.
- C. In junior games (including U20) a courtesy runner for the catcher is **MANDATORY** after two outs.
- D. **Fastballs and changeups (NO knuckleballs, curveballs, sliders, splitfingers etc) are the only pitches permitted at the U14 and below age levels.**
- E. Pitchers **may not** exceed the game maximums, **with the exception that should they reach their maximum number of pitches while there is still a batter in the box, they must complete that batter and then be immediately replaced.** Scorers are to inform the coach when pitchers are within 20 pitches of reaching their maximum limit.

**NOTE:**

- All coaches should make changes between innings when possible - Speed up rule.
- It is **recommended** that pitchers **should not** start the next inning if 10 or less pitches remain before reaching this maximum. - Speed up rule. This also allows for the next incoming pitcher to be prepared adequately.

F. Pitching limitations for home and away League games during the normal season are as follows

AGE	GAME PITCHING MAXIMUMS
U10	35 pitches * 2 <sup>nd</sup> year players second half of the season ONLY
Little League	60 pitches or participate as a pitcher for nine defensive outs, whichever comes first
U14	70 pitches
U16	80 pitches
U20	90 pitches

**NOTE:** Any player 16 to 19 years of age (by Dec 31 in the year the season begins) that pitches at any level, including senior baseball must adhere to the U20 pitch limits.

**NOTE:** It is **STRONGLY** recommended that pitchers at the **U16 – U20** age levels throw at least **75% fastballs** throughout the season. This is an arm safety and player development requirement.

- G. All junior players (including U20) that pitch in a game **at all**, must have **at least** one complete day's rest from pitching. **(Example:** Pitches Saturday, cannot pitch again until Monday). If pitchers exceed 50% of their pitching maximum, they must have two complete days rest from pitching. **(Example:** U20 player pitches 50 or more pitches in a senior game on Friday night, they **cannot** pitch again until Monday)
- H. **No junior player (including U20)** may pitch in more than one game per day or in 2 days in a row. A pitcher, once relieved, may not pitch again during that game or day.
- I. Pitchers removed from the mound in accordance with the rules of baseball (rule 8.06) are still eligible to play in the field. However, they are not permitted to catch. If the pitcher must remain in the game it is strongly recommended that they play either First Base or Second Base.
- J. Pitchers are allowed a **maximum** of eight warm-up pitches at the start of each inning.

# BATTING

- A. In junior baseball once batters have faced a pitch during any time at bat, they cannot be replaced during that at bat, except in the case of an injury to the batter.
- B. There is no designated hitter for the pitcher in junior baseball. **However, Little League, U14 and U16 teams MUST use a 10 player batting lineup** if they have 10 or more players available. This tenth batter must stay in place for the complete game **The extra batter may appear in any batting position and** must enter the game in defence at the half way point. **The extra batter is for player development ONLY and will not count towards participation until they appear on the field.**

**The batting position of players may NOT be changed at any point during a game, only the fielding positions are changed.**

**Note:** In cases where teams have just 9 players, players of a younger age group may play up as the 10<sup>th</sup> batter provided they do not take the position of a player who should rightfully be playing in that age group. However, they may not take the field in place of another player, except in the case of injury or ejection.

**Note;** **In Little League Minor League Baseball, Leagues may exercise the option to bat more than 10 batters at their discretion.**

- C. Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. This is an umpire's judgement call. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter will result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to their bases last legally occupied.

# GENERAL COACHING

- A. **Any** person coaching in a Queensland affiliated baseball competition (Little League to Senior competition), **must have** a minimum Level 1 Baseball Coaching Accreditation and hold a current Suitability Card issued by the Commission for Children and Young People. All coaches are required to abide by the Baseball Queensland Coaches' Code of Conduct (**attached**).
- B. Coaches and players are prohibited from disputing any type of umpiring judgement calls. (**Example:** Out/safe, ball/strike, or fair/foul).  
**Penalty:** Automatic ejection
- C. Coaches must sign the scorebooks and game cards at the conclusion of every game.
- D. In the event of a coach/team being found to be in breach of any of the Baseball Queensland Rules, the offending club/region will be fined \$100.00 per offence. Coaches may also face revocation of their accreditation.

<p><b>ALL TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL PRODUCTS ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE ONFIELD CONFINES OF ANY BASEBALL FACILITY. ALSO SEE THE BASEBALL QUEENSLAND COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT.</b> After ascertaining that a coach, player or any team official is disregarding the above directive, the umpires are to automatically eject the offending person. Leagues are then to ensure that the offending person is required to report for a judiciary hearing.</p>
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# UMPIRING

- A.** Any person that umpires a baseball game (Little League to Senior Baseball) must hold a minimum Level O Umpires Accreditation.
- B.** There **must** be an umpire situated behind home plate. Open-faced shoes of any type are prohibited.
- C.** The home team **must** provide **both** the home plate umpire and the base umpire unless otherwise stated in league/region bylaws.
- D.** No member of either coaching staff is permitted to umpire unless agreed upon by both teams.
- E.** Junior players 13 years and above may umpire games, but only below their own age level. If they are the home plate umpire they **must** wear at least a mask, chest protector, leggings and protective cup.
- F.** When an umpire (or coach) notices blood on any part of a player's person or uniform, the player in question must be removed from the field.
- G.** Where players are directed by an umpire to leave the field under paragraph **F** above, the umpire will wait a reasonable time period, allowing the blood rule (**see section "Infectious Diseases Policy"**) to be implemented. The time allowed is at the umpire's discretion, but should not exceed 10 minutes. If, when this time has elapsed, the players are unable to take their place in the team, they must be substituted in the usual manner. When a team has only nine players, the game will recommence with the team in question fielding the allowable eight players.
- H.** Any player or coach, refusing to obey an umpire's direction in accordance with **E** and **F** above, **will be** ejected from the game.
- I.** After two coaching visits to the mound in one inning (**see rule 8.06 in the Official Rules of Baseball**), the umpire is to direct the pitcher to leave the game. However, if the coach approaches the umpire and moves the pitcher to another fielding position, the umpire **is not** required to direct the pitcher to leave the game.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

The following rules pertaining to infectious diseases (**Blood Rule**) are taken from the Australian Baseball Federation's policy statement. As an affiliate of the ABF, Baseball Queensland willingly implements and will enforce this policy.

- A.** All participants with prior evidence of infectious diseases must first obtain confidential advice and clearance from a doctor prior to their participation in baseball.
- B.** No players will participate in any baseball game or continue to participate in any game for so long as such players:
  - i.** are bleeding, or
  - ii.** have blood on any part of their person or uniform
- C.** Players shall immediately, upon direction by an umpire, leave the playing field where such umpire is of the opinion that the players are bleeding or have blood on any part of their person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing field, players shall not return or take any further part in any baseball game until and unless:
  - i.** the cause of any such bleeding has been abated and the bleeding has stopped
  - ii.** the injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from
  - iii.** any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced
  - iv.** any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed
- D. CLUB RESPONSIBILITY: The following is an extract of the ABF rules pertaining to clubs.**
  - i.** Those handling bleeding players must wear disposable rubber or plastic gloves. Resuscitation bags or disposable mouth-to-mouth devices **must** be available.
  - ii.** Spitting or urinating in dugouts or on the field is strictly prohibited.
  - iii.** All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood must be treated as potentially infectious. Household bleach in a 1:10 solution may be used to wash contaminated areas. Clothing should be soaked in a bleach solution or disinfectant, depending on manufacturers instructions.
  - iv.** Sharing of towels, razors, face washers and drink containers is prohibited.
  - v.** All personnel working within baseball areas should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
  - vi.** All open cuts and abrasions must be reported to the coach, trainer or team EO and treated immediately.

# TEE BALL RULES

## 1. GENERAL

### MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED

6 per inning

**NOTE:** Teams may field as many as the opposition up to 12; and bat as many as 12 in any given game. Players that exceed the normal nine, **MUST** occupy fielding positions in the outfield.

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

## 2. PLAYING RULES

### BATTING

- A. The home plate umpire is to suspend play by calling "Time" before requesting "Batter Up". Batters then assume their position in the batter's box. Batters cannot hit the ball until the umpire calls "Play Ball"
- B. A batted ball is in play when it is hit off the tee and passes over the 15 foot fair ball line. Otherwise it is considered a foul ball.
- C. The batter will continue his time at bat until the ball is hit into fair territory.

**NOTE:** No strikes will be called on the batter.

### BASERUNNING

- A. Base stealing is prohibited.
- B. Runners may not leave their base until the batter makes contact with the ball.
- C. Runners may not advance beyond the base they are approaching on the call of "time." "Time" may only be called by the umpire once the ball is in the possession of a player in the infield and it is deemed that no other plays will reasonably take place.
- D. **NO** runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching in the event of an overthrow.
- E. Runners approaching a base occupied by a fielder in possession of the ball are to be given out. This eliminates the necessity, but **does not preclude** the tagging of a runner.

### FIELDING

- A. The fielding pitcher is **not** considered an infielder. Infielders **must** assume their initial fielding position **behind** the basepaths. Outfielders must be well behind their infielders before play can resume. An appropriate distance is **approximately** 5 meters behind the infielders.
- B. The catcher is to be **approximately** 3 metres directly behind home plate and **in front** of the umpire.
- C. Pitchers **must** throw the ball to get an out. If this does not occur the batter/runner shall be awarded the base that they are running to.

Coaches are to encourage **ALL** fielders to throw the ball to a team mate rather than independently running to a base to execute the force out.

- D. The Infield Fly rule (see rule 2.00 of the Official Rules of Baseball) does not apply to Tee Ball. Therefore, if any fly ball is caught by an infielder, the batter is out, the ball becomes dead and **NO** runner(s) may advance or be put out.
- E. On overthrows at **any base**, the ball is automatically declared dead. **NO** runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching.

### **3. COACHING**

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

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

- B. In accordance with **Rule B** in General coaching, no debates on **ANY** calls are permitted.
- C. Coaches must wear at least the club uniform shirt and cap and be neatly attired at all times. Open faced shoes of any type, are prohibited.

**NO LEAGUE OR PERSONAL STATISTICAL DATA IS TO BE KEPT AT THE TEE BALL LEVEL.**

# ROOKIE BALL RULES

## 1. GENERAL

### MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED

6 per inning

**NOTE:** Teams may field as many as the opposition, up to 12; and bat as many as 12 in any given game. Players that exceed the normal nine **MUST** occupy fielding positions in the outfield.

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

## 2. PLAYING RULES

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

### BATTING

- A.** Should the batter hit the ball into the designated pitcher, the batter will be awarded a single base hit (all other runners advance one base **only**). Designated pitchers should wear a glove for self-protection, but **must make every effort to avoid touching any batted ball**.
- B.** Only **ONE** baseball is allowed **on the playing field** at any given time.
- C.** There are no Base on Balls in Rookie Ball.
- D.** Each batter will have three (3) swings after which a tee will be provided for the batter to hit off. The batter will continue his/her at bat until such time as he/she hits the ball into fair territory. (Only full rubber tees or fold up tees are to be used.)
- E.** When the tee is in use the batter must hit the ball a minimum of 15 feet from the tee before the ball is considered to be in fair territory.

### BASERUNNING

- A.** Base stealing, or advancing on passed balls and wild pitches, is prohibited.
- B.** Runners may not leave their base until the batter makes contact with the ball.  
**Penalty:** Should the umpire observe such an infringement, the runner is sent back to the base last legally occupied. If the pitch is hit into fair territory, the infringing runner is ruled out. **All** other plays resulting from that hit stand.
- C.** Runners may not advance beyond the base they are approaching on the call of "time." "Time" may only be called by the umpire once the ball is in the possession of a player in the infield and it is deemed that no other plays will reasonably take place.
- D.** On overthrows at **any** base, the ball is automatically declared dead. **NO** runner(s) including the batter/runner, may advance beyond the base they are approaching.

### FIELDING

- A.** The fielding pitcher is **not** considered an infielder. Infielders **must** assume their initial fielding position **behind** the basepaths. Outfielders **must** be well behind their infielders before play can resume. An appropriate distance is approximately 5 meters behind the infielders. **All** fielders shall remain relatively stationary when the umpire calls "play ball."
- B.** The Infield Fly rule (**see rule 2.00 of the Official Rules of Baseball**) does not apply to Rookie Ball. Therefore, if any fly ball is caught by an infielder, the batter is out, the ball becomes dead and **NO** runner(s) may advance or be put out.

**NOTE:** Coaches should teach players how to "tag up" in the event of a fly ball.

## PITCHING

- A. The designated pitcher (coach) is to pitch from a kneeling position. The pitcher is required to throw a flat trajectory pitch either over arm or under arm, at a speed that is conducive to the batter's ability **to make contact with the ball**. (See **Playing Rules; Batting C) Battery operated pitching machines are permitted on low settings only**.)
- B. The fielding pitcher must be positioned approximately an arms length to either side and behind the designated pitcher.
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> year players will be eligible to pitch in the second half of the season. These players will be limited to a maximum of 35 pitches per game and can only pitch in one game per day. These players will pitch to their own team and emphasis should be placed on pitching balls to their team that can be hit.

## **3. COACHING**

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

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

- B. Appeals by a defensive coach for **(1)** runners leaving early, **(2)** bat throwing, or **(3)** for taking extra bases on "Time," may only occur at the conclusion of said play. Such appeals **must** be in the form of a question and **must** occur prior to the first pitch to the next official batter.
- C. Coaches must wear at least the club uniform shirt and cap and be neatly attired at all times. Open-faced shoes of any type are prohibited.

**NO LEAGUE OR PERSONAL STATISTICAL DATA IS REQUIRED AT THE ROOKIE BALL LEVEL. HOWEVER, PITCHING DATA IS TO BE KEPT WHEN A SECOND YEAR PLAYER IS PITCHING.**

# LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL RULES (League Competitions)

For Major League and Minor League Divisions of Little League.

## 1. GENERAL

### A. MAXIMUM RUNS THAT CAN BE SCORED

6 per inning

**NOTE:** All innings started must be completed (weather permitting)

## 2. PLAYING RULES

### BASERUNNING

A. Baserunners may not leave their base until the pitch crosses the front of home plate.

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

B. Coaches **must not** encourage their players to take extra bases in a “suicide” manner with the intention of enticing an overthrow. This is a breach of the Coaches Code of Conduct and could result in the runner(s) involved being called out, the coach being ejected, or both.

### PITCHING

A. There are no “Automatic” balks at the Little League level.

B. For all other Pitching and Catching limits and rules please refer to ‘Pitching and Catching’ on page 7.

### BATTING

A. There is no dropped third strike in Little League Baseball, Minors or Majors. i.e if the catcher drops the third strike the hitter is automatically out.

## 3. COACHING

- A. In club competition coaches are permitted to wear the **full** team or club uniform including cap, pants and playing top. Minimum dress standard – Team Cap, Team shirt, appropriate shorts and closed shoes.
- B. Open faced shoes of any type, are prohibited.

## 4. PARTICIPATION

- A. Pitchers and catchers may only play those positions for a maximum of nine defensive outs in any one game (**see Pitching and Catching F on page 7**). However, if six or more runs are scored in an inning, this will be considered to equal three defensive outs for that inning.
- B. If players have played the outfield at any time in two successive games, they **must** then play their next game as an infielder. For dispensation from this rule, Clubs **must** contact Baseball Queensland through their Regional Director of Coaching. The RDC will then write to Baseball Queensland seeking approval.

# COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

These principles are considered practicable and are within the aims and objectives of Baseball Queensland

- Supervise the behaviour of the team at all times.
- Do not criticise players in front of spectators, parents or other teams. Review constructive criticism with a player or the team in private.
- Accept decisions of the umpire as being fair and called to the best of their ability. Do not abuse or ridicule the umpire nor allow your players to do so.
- Develop team respect for opponents, spectators and officials. Do not criticise other teams, supporters or officials by words or gestures.
- Set a good example in personal appearance and behaviour.
- Encourage sportsmanlike behaviour among the players.
- Ensure whenever possible all players have equal time on the diamond. Avoid overplaying the talented players - the average players need and deserve equal time.
- Encourage players to work together as a unified group (teamwork).
- Keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and seek more skilled advice when necessary.
- Encourage your team to hustle on and off the playing field at all times.
- Place the welfare and development of the individual above a winning or losing record.
- Do not embarrass or demoralise your opponents.
- Do not use any form of tobacco or alcohol on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens or while in uniform.
- Whenever possible provide assistance with coaching expertise and knowledge to developing teams.
- Abide by the rules and regulations established by Baseball Queensland.
- Be aware of any player with medical problems.
- Strive to develop a positive image and self-sufficient attitude with each player.
- Present the sport of baseball in a positive image.
- Ensure your accreditation is current and updated regularly.
- Ensure you are the holder of a current Suitability Card issued by the Commission for Children and Young People.

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the above code of conduct and agree to abide by this code of conduct.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# Tournament Rules

These Tournament Rules and Procedures are **mandatory** for all Tournaments played by Baseball Queensland affiliated bodies. This would include, but not be limited to: **State Championships, International Touring Team Tournaments, Timberjack Invitational and GBBB Junior Tournaments.**

For Little League Tournament Rules refer to the Little League specific rules enclosed herein.

**ALL tournaments MUST BE sanctioned by BQI. As such, it is imperative that these rules are issued to and adhered to by all participating teams. The Official Rules of Baseball and Baseball Queensland Junior Rules of Baseball will apply for ALL Tournaments involving junior players. Exceptions to these are covered by the enclosed.**

## 1. TOURNAMENT CONTROL INCLUDING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Tournament Organizer(s) will appoint a **Tournament Director or Directors** who will, in concert with the relevant organisations, appoint:

- ★ Tournament Manager (**Host organization**)
- ★ Umpires Coordinator (**QBUA**)
- ★ Official Scorer (**Queensland Scorers**)
- ∇ Judiciary Panel (**Host organization**)

**NOTE** For State Championships, Baseball Queensland will appoint the Tournament Director. This person will work in conjunction with the host organizations Tournament Manager.

B. The **Tournament Managers** decision is final in regard to all disputes during any tournament other than State Championships.

C. The **Tournament Manager** should be a representative of the host organization and will, either directly or by delegation, be responsible for:

- ★ Organisation of billets (where applicable)
- ★ Games controllers
- ★ Ground maintenance
- ★ Delivery of baseballs to games and umpires
- ★ Canteen
- ★ **Other duties as required**

D. The **Tournament Host (CLUB)** is responsible for providing a safe environment for game play. **This would include:** Field(s) being dragged after each game, and home plates and all pitching mounds (including bullpens) being rebuilt prior to each days play. All batting cages in proper working condition with safe to use 'L' screens for the safety of batting practice pitchers.

E. In the event of two or more teams finishing on an equal win/loss percentage, placings shall be awarded on a head to head basis. Should this not resolve the issue, the following formula will be used to determine placings:

$$\text{Winning runs \%} = \frac{\text{runs for} - \text{runs against}}{\text{Runs for}} \times 100$$

## 2. ALL TOURNAMENTS.

**Specific rules for State Championships are in *bold italics*.**

- A. *Baseball Queensland after consultation with regions will set the final schedule.*
- B. *Regional teams are restricted to a minimum of 16 players and a maximum of 18 players. Under 18 Regional teams are restricted to a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 18 players.*
- C. *Regions are to inform Baseball Queensland of their intention to participate in State Championships, no later than three months prior to the tournament start date. If the dates are not known within this timeframe, then regions are to notify Baseball Queensland within two weeks of receiving notification of the dates.*
- D. *Each Regional team is to present to Baseball Queensland, a legible and official Baseball Queensland Team Roster. (ATTACHED). Only this roster type is acceptable. This roster must be received by Baseball Queensland no later than 14 days prior to commencement of the respective championship. A \$400 administrative fee applies for non-compliance.*

*Approval for a team to play in a State Championship with team sizes differing to rule B above must be sought from Baseball Queensland one month (30 days) prior to the scheduled commencement date of the championship. **NOTE** If a Region has only the minimum number of players trying out (16) then all must be chosen unless extenuating circumstances apply. Baseball Queensland ONLY will rule on this issue.*

*At no time will a region use a player from another region without written permission. This permission is to be sought from Baseball Queensland prior to the roster being finalised and must include written approval from both regional directors of coaching and from the player's parent/guardian.*

*Players must play with the region in which they were last registered as a junior prior to the State Championships, unless they have signed on with a club in another region for the coming season before July 31st. (Eg. a player played for a club in Brisbane South for the 2003/04 season, but has signed on with a club in Brisbane Metro for the 2004/05 season. That player is eligible to play for Brisbane Metro at the 2004 State Championships). Any circumstances that may require clarification are to be forwarded to Baseball Queensland for written approval.*

- E. *Regional teams that will affect the travel pool are to notify Baseball Queensland of their numbers and method of travel for each player as per rule C above.*
- F. *All regions attend the championships with a clear understanding of the Baseball Queensland rules.*
- G. *The Field Manager and Executive Officer of each Regional team will be responsible for ensuring that their players fulfil the age eligibility requirements. Infringements shall be noted by the Tournament Manager and/or BQI Tournament Director. If it is found that the team in question has played an ineligible player, all games that the said player participated in will be considered forfeits.*
  - 1. *All players must be registered players with Baseball Queensland.*
  - 2. *All players must meet the age requirements for their respective age groups. Players must be under the relevant age for the entire year in which that State Championship is being played. Any players not fulfilling the above requirements are ineligible.*
- H. *Completed player profiles must be presented with the team roster. Players not submitting these profiles will be ineligible to participate in ANY of the State Championships.*
- I. *All players who ARE NOT available for State selection at the Championship must make this known through their team Executive Officer and/or Field Manager at the time the roster is forwarded to Baseball Queensland. The section on the player profile indicating availability must be completed.*
- J. *At the completion of the championship, players shall have played a minimum of 50% of their team's total scheduled playing time.*

## All other tournaments *including* State Championships

A. All on field personnel must fulfil the requirements of the Baseball Australia Licensing Agreement (International Touring teams are exempt). If uniform items do not fulfil the requirements, the offending person will not be permitted on the field at any time.

B. Games will be of two hours or seven (7) innings duration unless otherwise specified. No new inning may commence after 1 hour 50 minutes from the actual starting time.

C. All innings started shall be completed, **unless** the home team is in front and at bat. In this instance, the game will be considered finished as soon as the winning run is scored.

D. The home team is named first on the schedule and shall occupy the third base dugout.

E. One hour of play or four (4) complete innings shall constitute a complete game should it be necessary to call it early. **EXAMPLE:** Inclement weather. If the game does not reach the 4<sup>th</sup> inning then the game will be declared a nil all draw.

F. The Mercy Rule will be invoked after 4 innings. I.e. When either team is ahead by 10 or more runs after four (4) complete innings the game shall be called.

G. In all FINALS **ONLY**, the game will be a two hour game with extra innings if needed.

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

I. Any player injured or taken ill during a game shall be credited with having completed that game. This is subject to approval by the Tournament Manager and/or BQI Tournament Director.

J. External circumstances during a championship may provide participation problems for Field Managers. The Tournament Manager and/or BQI Tournament Director will address each case on its merit.

K. Uniforms are to be numbered and not exchanged until after the final out of **any** Championship.

L. There is no limit to the number of runs a team may score in any inning of Little League Tournament play. (i.e. The six run; side away rule, is not in effect in Little League tournament play.

### 3. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

*SEE BASEBALL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR BASEBALL RULES.*

### 4. OFFICIALS

Each team at **ANY** tournament shall supply:

1. An approved scorebook
2. Level 1 Accredited Coaches
3. An accredited scorer
4. An accredited umpire

**NOTE: International touring teams are exempt from the above.**

## 5. PITCHING/CATCHING RULES

### PITCHING LIMITS

#### TWO DAY TOURNAMENT

	<b>DAILY MINOR</b> (First outing maximum)	<b>TOURNAMENT MAXIMUM</b>
Little League	1 – 19 pitches	70 pitches
U14	1 – 19 pitches	80 pitches
U16	1 – 29 pitches	90 pitches
U 18	1 – 39 pitches	100 pitches

**NOTE:** Pitchers are permitted to exceed the tournament maximum, **ONLY** to finish the batter to which they are pitching.

Pitchers are restricted to two (2) outings for a two day tournament.

Pitchers are allowed to pitch in more than one game on the same day provided that the Tournament maximum is adhered to.

Players are not permitted to pitch & catch in the same day.

To be eligible to pitch on both days of the tournament a pitcher must not exceed the daily minor on the first day and must not exceed the tournament maximum.

#### THREE DAY TOURNAMENT (STATE TITLES)

	<b>DAILY MINOR</b> Able to pitch same day or next day	<b>DAILY MAXIMUM</b> 1 day's rest from pitching May finish hitter	<b>TOURNAMENT MAXIMUM</b> (3 day Tournaments) May finish
Little League	1-19 pitches	20-50 pitches	70 pitches
U 14	1-19 pitches	20-50 pitches	80 pitches
U16	1-29 pitches	30-60 pitches	90 pitches
U18	1-39 pitches	40-80 pitches	120 pitches

**NOTE:** Pitchers are permitted to exceed the tournament maximum, **ONLY** to finish the batter to which they are pitching.

Pitchers are allowed to pitch in more than one game on the same day provided that they do not exceed the Daily Minor limit in their first outing and the daily maximum is adhered to.

Players are not permitted to pitch & catch in the same day.

Players are not permitted to exceed two pitching outings for the tournament.

Players are not permitted to pitch on three consecutive days.

**THE PENALTY FOR ANY BREACH OF RULE 5 WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION OF THE FIELD MANAGER FOR ONE COMPLETE GAME. THE FIELD MANAGER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ANY PART IN, OR HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH PLAYERS, STAFF OR OFFICIALS DURING THE GAME IN WHICH THEY SERVE THEIR SUSPENSION.**

**FOR ALL OTHER PITCHING AND CATCHING RULES SEE BASEBALL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR BASEBALL RULES**

## **6. BATTING**

**A designated hitter is permitted in the under 18 age group ONLY.**

**FOR ALL OTHER BATTING RULES SEE BASEBALL QUEENSLAND JUNIOR BASEBALL RULES (Batting Sections A, B and C)**

## **7. BREACH OF TOURNAMENT RULES**

**In the event of any team or coach being found to be in breach of these Baseball Queensland Tournament Rule(s), the offending region will be fined \$100.00 per offence. Coaches may also face revocation of their accreditation.**

## **8. RUNNER FOR CATCHER**

**No runners will be permitted for catchers. Coaches must have a bench player ready, in appropriate catching gear, to warm up pitchers at the changeover of innings.**

## **9. RULE VARIATION**

**The Tournament Manager of the host organisation must apply to Baseball Queensland for alteration to any of these rules.**

**Such an application must be in writing and will be considered on its individual merits. Decisions arising shall not constitute precedence or be considered to have changed the rule for future events.**

# BASEBALL QUEENSLAND INC.

TEAM ROSTER FOR ALL BQI AFFILIATED TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

REGION \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM U10 / U12 / U14 / U16 / U18 / OPEN (Please circle one)

PLAYED AT \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

1	SURNAME	GIVEN	UNI #	YR*	AGE	DOB	HT	WT	B	T	POS(S)
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											
14											
15											
16											
17											
18											

\* Denotes 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Eligibility status.

	SURNAME	GIVEN	UNI #	CLUB	ACCRED. LEVEL
Field Manager					
Pitching Coach					
Assistant Coach					
Assistant Coach					
Executive Officer					
Scorer					
Umpire					

The details above have been verified by the Region and or club. I officially certify that all above details are true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Club or Regional Secretary's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# BASEBALL QUEENSLAND

## PLAYING UP/DOWN CONSENT FORM

Player's Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Player's Given Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Position played \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned seek dispensation from Rule A (Playing Outside Natural Age Groups) for the above player. Reasons for the request that the player participate one age level above the player's natural age level are as follows:

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All of the above information is to our knowledge true and correct. We as a unified group believe these to be the exact reasons for seeking this dispensation. As such, we absolve Baseball Queensland and ANY of its employees of any liability that may occur as a result of said player being given this dispensation. This liability may include, but is not limited to personal injury, emotional trauma and decreased skill development as a player.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Team Field Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Regional Director of Coaching

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
BQI Development Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# BASEBALL QUEENSLAND

## PLAYER PROFILE

U14 U16 U18 U23 WOMEN PROVINCIAL CLAXTON SHIELD  
(please circle the level you will play)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names (if U18 and below) \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any medical conditions that Baseball Queensland should be made aware of? Please advise if this requires medication.**

*(This is a duty of care question and the answers will be kept in strictest confidence)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Height (cm) \_\_\_\_\_ Weight (kg) \_\_\_\_\_ Bats \_\_\_\_\_ Throws \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Position \_\_\_\_\_ Next Position(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Numbers (Numbers 1 – 52 excluding 12 and 38) \_\_\_\_\_

### Player's Commitment

I hereby make a commitment to participate in any State Team for which I am chosen. I am available to attend the National Championships. Should there be any reason that would make me unavailable for the State Team, then I must state my case in writing to Baseball Queensland, to be negotiated on a case-by case basis **prior to** the State Championships if applicable.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Baseball Queensland adheres to the National Privacy Principles of the Privacy Act with regard to the manner in which it receives, manages and stores personal information. Your personal details will only be used for the purpose for which you have provided them. We will not disclose your personal information to others, publish personal information through any medium or allow third parties to access it unless required by law, or unless it is necessary to do so to prevent a threat to life or health.