

AUSTRALIA baseball

2011 AUSTRALIAN PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS OPERATIONS MANUAL



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL

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1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. In general, these National Championships will be played under the Official Australian Baseball Rules.
- 1.2. From time to time, however, special regulations (e.g. pitching allowances, time-saving rules, etc.) have been introduced to apply to the National Championships. Wherever the word State is used, it is taken to mean State, Territory or Participating Team.

2. TITLE

- 2.1. The series will be known as the Australian Provincial Baseball Championships, playing for the Australian Baseball Federation Cup.

3. OBJECT

- 3.1. The object of the tournament is to provide a prestige annual competition for Country and Provincial Leagues of affiliates of the Australian Baseball Federation.

4. TOURNAMENT VENUE

- 4.1. The Championships will be played each year at a venue determined by the Australian Baseball Federation.

5. TOURNAMENT DATES

- 5.1. The Tournament will commence on Easter Saturday, except where permission has been given to vary the date due to special circumstances.
- 5.2. Teams are to arrive at the Host City within two (2) days prior to the first day of the tournament and leave the day after completion of the program.
- 5.3. The nominated venue and also the starting date of a National Championship shall be advised by the National Programs and Competitions Coordinator by January 31 in the year of the Championships and forward copies of the Operations Manual to all affiliates by February 25.

6. LODGEMENT OF ENTRIES

- 6.1. States will advise the ABF of their participation in National Championships no later than February 7 of the year of the tournament.

7. MEETINGS

- 7.1. Managers/Head Coaches and Executive Officers of the competing teams will attend an Team Official's Meeting prior to the commencement of the Tournament which will be convened by the ABF Tournament Director. The business of the Official's Meeting will be limited to decisions in regard to the training program, ground arrangements, meals, accommodation and social functions.
- 7.2. A session on clarification of Tournament Rules including a re-emphasis of the penalties for any pitching rules transgression will be included within this meeting.
- 7.3. Head Coaches will be reminded that all game balls are returned back into the game and the penalty invoked should pilfering of baseballs occur.
- 7.4. Mention must also be made of team uniforms and any potential clashes. Refer to APPROPRIATE SECTION for further clarification.
- 7.5. The ABF Tournament Director (TD) at this meeting will formally comment upon aspects of conduct relating to participants, with particular reference to attitudes, image and damage to property. Their on-field behaviour will be monitored and leaving their position or calling out at umpires regarding decisions will not be tolerated. The TD will clearly spell out that there are penalties that will be invoked where such behaviour and conduct is not in accordance with the Players Code of Conduct and that there will be minimal tolerance towards such breaches. Reference is also to be made in regards to the use of tobacco products and the consumption of alcohol. There will be no tolerance on the use of tobacco products on-field, while in uniform or within any Tournament Venue.
- 7.6. To avoid a cumbersome paper trail it was decided to design one form to be signed by each team's EO, stating that all team personnel have completed the relevant forms and they are in his/her possession should they be required by tournament management. This single form must be submitted to the ABF prior to the Officials Meeting. Failure to produce such forms upon request during the tournament will be deemed a breach under tournament rules (see Appendices for

forms - Team Roster, Medical Authority and Release Forms, Player Participation Agreement, Team Official Participation Agreement, Game Official Participation Agreement).

7.7. The Umpires Coordinator shall outline ground rules.

7.8. The TD shall act as Chairman of this meeting. Other interested persons may be invited to attend the meeting and join in discussions subject to the Chairman's approval. Under no circumstances can decisions be made altering the Operations Manual at this meeting.

7.9. Minutes from the Officials Meeting must be prepared by the meeting secretary and signed by the Chairman of the meeting. Copies of the minutes are to be submitted to the Secretary of the TMC by no later than May 31 following the Series.

8. TEAM ROSTERS

8.1. An official team roster form is provided in the Appendices providing space to list details of players, coaches, managers, scorers and bat boys and is to be completed by competing teams. The rosters are to be sent by electronic format no later than February 28 to the ABF.

8.2. **Failure to have rosters reach this destination by the due date will attract a \$100 fine for each day late, up to a maximum of \$500.**

9. ACCOMMODATION

9.1. A Risk Management Plan for the Management of Player Welfare must be put in place by all participating states. See Appendices.

9.2. At all Championships, accommodation expenses for the Manager/Head Coach and non-player coaches, shall be the responsibility of each visiting State. It is deemed inappropriate that players are levied for team coaching and administration personnel.

10. MEALS

10.1. All team delegation members will be provided with one meal (lunch) each day as a part of the tournament package. **It is the responsibility of each team delegation to organise suitable meals, snack foods and drinks for between meals.**

11. FIRST AID

11.1. The ABF will ensure that a qualified First Aid attendant is present during all games of the Championship.

12. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

12.1. Each State team shall consist of up to 20 players but not less than 15 players (not including non-playing captains or coaches). All players and coaches must be properly attired in the uniform of their team.

12.2. Rosters are final and locked in after their lodgement at the pre tournament Officials Meeting.

13. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

13.1. Status Determination

13.1.1. If a State or team in the APC perceives that a determination of eligibility for one of its players is required, such a request must be submitted by February 28 to the ABF General Manager - Baseball Operations (via the National Programs and Competitions Coordinator).

13.1.2. These requests will be replied to by March 5. This refers specifically to the following types of issues:

13.1.2.1. Non-national players who wish to represent State Teams at APC;

13.1.2.2. Players who seek to cross State boundaries, by mutual agreement between the parties, to represent a State that they are not domiciled in (the number of these players will be limited to two (2));

13.1.2.3. Any other anomaly or questionable player eligibility issues.

13.1.3. No player eligibility determinations will be considered past 28 February unless they arise out of the need to make emergency replacements.

13.1.4. All players must be properly registered with an ABF Affiliated State or Territory or their National Federation in the case of invited National teams.

13.1.5. Players must have played at least six (6) games during the season 'preceding the tournament' within the State that they wish to play for.

13.1.6. Teams shall consist of at least twelve (12) players (60% of their roster) from within their own state. The balance of the team may be made up of Friendship Players from other states under

- the ABF's Friendship Policy. Teams that do not meet these criteria will not be eligible for ranking in the championship pool.
- 13.1.7. Should a player be registered with, and/or played with two or more affiliated teams during the season prior to the dates of the APC then the team in the state/territory in which the player has lived for the three months prior to the tournament shall have the first call on that player for selection.

13.2. Residential Qualifications

- 13.2.1. Any player properly registered with a State including a non-national, who has been a bona-fide resident of such State for a continuous period of not less than 3 months prior to the first game of the Championship, shall be eligible to represent such State.

13.3. Age Qualifications

- 13.3.1. Competing players must be 16 years of age by the Friday prior to the Tournament, ie, Good Friday, 22 April, 2011.

Child Protection Legislation

It is the responsibility of all teams that contain Under Age Players to ensure all adult team personnel comply with both their state's and the host state's Child Protection Legislation. In addition, please refer to the Appendices relating to the taking of images of children.

13.4. Medical Authority

- 13.4.1. A Medical Authority Form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each competing under-age player or any other under-age person (e.g. batboys/girls) participating with the team, in which an authority is given in respect of any medical or hospital attention (including an operation) which may be required as a result of any injury or illness sustained. This Form is not to be amended under any circumstances.
- 13.4.2. All adult players must also complete the Medical Authority Form.
- 13.4.3. These forms must be produced at the Officials Meeting prior to the commencement of the Championship and must be checked under the direction of the Chairperson before permission to compete will be given. These forms must be produced at the Officials Meeting prior to the commencement of the Championship and must be checked under the direction of the Chairperson before permission to compete will be given. A copy of this form must be available at all times while the team is participating. A copy of this form is attached - see Appendices.
- 13.4.4.

14. PLAYER PARTICIPATION SHEETS

- 14.1. Player Participation Agreements are to be completed by all players and returned to the ABF office no later than March 5, 2011. A copy of this sheet can be found in Appendices.

15. CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYERS

- 15.1. The ABF Code of Conduct must be signed by all players (and where an under-age player is involved, by their parents) in order to participate in the ABF Australian Provincial Championships. A copy of the code can be found in Appendices. These forms will be retained by the Team's EO to be produced on demand of the TD should they be required.
- 15.2. Where there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct, irrespective of whether on-field or off-field, such breaches must be reported to the TD. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the TD and team personnel.
- 15.3. **The use or possession of any form of tobacco, tobacco products, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol of any description is banned. Team and tournament officials shall have the right to conduct a search of a player's room, bags, clothing or personal belongings if he or she has a reasonable suspicion that a serious breach of the code of conduct has occurred. This must be conducted in the presence of the player and an independent adult witness**

16. THE FRIENDSHIP POLICY

- 16.1. States will be allowed to assist one another by permitting players from one State to play for another State at the Tournament. In order to invoke this rule (Friendship Policy) a State must provide a minimum of twelve (12) home State players. Applications concerning player exchange or any similar request must be sent to the ABF by February 28 each year for approval by the General Manager – Baseball Operations via the National Programs and Competitions

Coordinator. Once approval is given, the State seeking players must write immediately to the State from players are being sought.

17. COACHES

- 17.1. The ABF Participation Package will provide travel for up to three (3) coaching staff. A fourth coach, if travelling with the team, shall travel and be accommodated at each individual team's expense. All participating teams shall be accompanied by at least two (2) and at most four (4) coaches. Managers/Coaches are to be provided with a copy of the ABF Team Officials Participation Agreement and acknowledge they will abide by the conditions disclosed.
 - 17.1.1. Where there has been a breach in any of the Participation Agreement, irrespective of whether on-field or off-field, such breaches **must** be reported to the TD. Such reports are to be kept in the strictest confidence between the TD and team personnel.
 - 17.1.2. **Note: In cases where there are breaches of this Participation Agreement, the breaches must be reported to the TD. If the team official is found to have a case to answer then the matter will be referred to the Tournament Tribunal for assessment of guilt or innocence and subsequent imposition of penalties where appropriate See Section 39 – Reported Players/Coaches for further details.**
- 17.2. All coaches at APC will be attired in the same team uniform as the players. On-field coaches will remain in the coaches' boxes at all times and will not talk to members of the opposing team, nor make comments relating to umpires or their decisions.
- 17.3. All APC Coaches must be accredited to at least Level One (1) standard. All Managers/Head Coaches participating in ABF Tournaments must be accredited to Level Two (2) standards or have other qualifications acceptable to the TMC. It is the responsibility of the State Associations to ensure these standards are complied with. This level of accreditation will also be checked by the ABF Office when the team rosters are submitted.
 - 17.3.1. **The use or possession of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description by coaches, players or any team official while participating in the game, moving onto and off the playing grounds including batting practice areas, on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, while in uniform or anywhere in the vicinity of the Tournament Venue is banned.**
 - 17.3.2. **Penalty: Ejection from the game and appropriate follow-up as a breach of the Participation Agreement.**

18. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- 18.1. Executive Officers will manage all off-field activities of the State Team and are not to wear playing uniforms. They will be allowed in the dug-out but are not to venture onto the playing field at any time unless requested to do so by the Chief Umpire.
- 18.2. They are not to direct comments to, or about, umpires and their decisions.
- 18.3. Executive Officers are to be provided with a copy of the ABF Team Officials Participation Agreement and acknowledge abiding by the conditions disclosed.
- 18.4. Where there has been a breach in any of the Participation Agreement, irrespective whether on field or off field such breaches must be reported to the TD.
- 18.5. Duel Role - Executive Officer/Coach
 - 18.5.1. To allow teams to bring a fourth coach it is permissible to combine that role with the EO under the following conditions.
 - 18.5.2. The first priority is that of Executive Officer.
 - 18.5.3. Should there be occasions where duties coincide then those of the Executive Officer must take precedence.
 - 18.5.4. If a player requires transport to a medical centre or elsewhere during a game then this must take precedence.
 - 18.5.5. If an ABF or Tournament Official, (TD etc), require an EO's presence, even during pre-game, post-game or during the game, then he must forgo his coaching duties.
 - 18.5.6. There cannot be a situation where Executive Officer duties are postponed until after the game.

19. UMPIRES

19.1. The Panel

- 19.1.1. The appointment of umpires to APC is the responsibility of the ABF's Technical Officials Manager drawing from a National Panel of Accredited Umpires. The ABF will accept nominations from all participating States for positions on the APC Umpiring Panel. From these nominations a panel of appropriately qualified and experienced umpires (including an

Umpires Coordinator) will be appointed. Such umpires shall be Nationally Accredited and/or of a standard acceptable to the Technical Officials Manager.

- 19.1.2. **The use or possession of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description by umpires on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, while in uniform or in the vicinity of any Tournament Venue is banned.**
- 19.1.3. All umpires shall be accommodated together, but separate from any competing State to the extent that this is possible. Where teams and umpires are co-located, every effort should be made to ensure there is some degree of separation between the two groups.
- 19.1.4. No visiting umpires shall seek or use alternative accommodation without the consent of the coordinator, who will decide the issue after consultation with the TD.
- 19.1.5. The list of Nationally Accredited Technical Officials recommended for appointment should be forwarded to the ABF Office by February 25 for final approval.
- 19.1.6. No fees shall be payable to any umpire at APC.
- 19.1.7. Uniform to be worn shall be as approved by the ABF.
- 19.1.8. The ABF Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all Umpires in order to participate in APC. A copy of the code can be found in the Appendices. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Umpires Coordinator prior to the Tournament.

19.2. The Umpires Coordinator

- 19.2.1. For each Championship the ABF's Technical Officials Manager shall appoint a coordinator for the umpiring panel. The coordinator may be a member of the panel.
- 19.2.2. The duties of the coordinator shall include:
 - 19.2.2.1. Full control of the umpiring discipline of the panel both on & off the field.
 - 19.2.2.2. Liaison with the TD for application of their requirements.
 - 19.2.2.3. Duties associated with the appointment of umpires.
 - 19.2.2.4. The appointment of a Crew Chief to each team of umpires in each game.
 - 19.2.2.5. To make a written report to the Technical Officials Manager and ABF office by May 28 after the program. A copy of the final appointments shall be included.
- 19.2.3. The ABF may appoint an Umpires Liaison Officer to work in conjunction with the Umpires Co-ordinator.
- 19.2.4. The ABF Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by the Umpires Coordinator. A copy of the code can be found in Appendices. Signed copies of the Code of Ethics are to be presented to the Technical Officials Manager prior to approval of the appointment to the position of Umpire Coordinator.

19.3. Appointments

- 19.3.1. The Umpires Coordinator shall make appointments for the first round on a reasonable "Equal Share" basis where possible.
- 19.3.2. In the second and subsequent rounds, the Umpires Coordinator may appoint any umpire to any games as they see fit.
- 19.3.3. Appointments for the second and subsequent rounds shall be on a daily basis, with twenty (20) hours notice to umpires whenever possible.
- 19.3.4. The Three Umpire System will apply to all Championships. However, should emergencies occur, eg, double headers owing to catch-up games through rainouts etc, then a Two Umpire System may be applied to these games.

19.4. Protests

- 19.4.1. All protests against rulings during a game shall be resolved by the Umpires Coordinator at the time of the protest.
 - 19.4.1.1. Such protests must be lodged immediately and be accompanied by a written submission and a \$50 fee.
 - 19.4.1.2. Should the protest be upheld, then the \$50 Protest Fee will be refunded to the protesting team.
- 19.4.2. All disputes on Championship Rules shall be settled by the TD. All disputes regarding the Championship Rules are to be directed to the TD in writing, as soon as practical once the dispute arises. The TD is solely responsible for handling all such disputes and will use his/her discretion in deciding whether to refer the issue to the TMC for further adjudication. The TD shall provide to the TMC a copy of all Championship Rule disputes and the process by which these were handled to the TMC at the conclusion of each day's play.
- 19.4.3. Decisions of the Umpires Coordinator and the TD are final and binding.

19.5. Pitching Eligibility

- 19.5.1. The TD will be responsible for the delivering to the Chief Umpire, 30 minutes before the start of each game, a list of players who are ineligible to pitch. A copy of this list will also be supplied as soon as possible prior to the game, to the opposing Managers/Head Coaches.

20. STATISTICIANS AND OFFICIAL RECORDER

20.1. The Panel

- 20.1.1. The appointment of statisticians to APC is the responsibility of the ABF's Technical Officials Manager drawing from a National Panel of Accredited Statisticians. The ABF will accept nominations from all participating States for positions on the APC Statisticians Panel. From these nominations a panel of appropriately qualified and experienced statisticians (including a Statisticians Coordinator) will be appointed. Such statisticians shall be Nationally Accredited and/or of a standard acceptable to the Technical Officials Manager.
- 20.1.2. **The use or possession of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description by statisticians on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens, while in uniform or in the vicinity of any Tournament Venue is banned.**
- 20.1.3. All statisticians shall be accommodated together, but separate from any competing State to the extent that this is possible. Where teams and scorers are co-located, every effort should be made to ensure there is some degree of separation between the two groups.
- 20.1.4. No visiting statisticians shall seek or use alternative accommodation without the consent of the coordinator, who will decide the issue after consultation with the TD.
- 20.1.5. The list of Nationally Accredited Technical Officials recommended for appointment should be forwarded to the ABF Office by February 25 for final approval.
- 20.1.6. No fees shall be payable to any statistician at APC.
- 20.1.7. The ABF Game Officials Participation Agreement must be signed by all statisticians in order to participate in APC. A copy of the Agreement can be found in the Appendices. Signed copies of the Participation Agreement are to be presented to the Umpires Coordinator prior to the Tournament.

21. STATISTICS OF A TOURNAMENT

- 21.1. The ABF statistics software, "The Automated Scorebook", must be used at all APC. This package is to be used in conjunction with the official ABF Scorebook.
- 21.2. In listing each team in the scorebook, scorers must place both the team's batting and pitching lists and stats on the same page.
- 21.3. Statistics for all teams will be posted on display at the competition venue throughout the Championships, and will be put on the ABF website as soon as possible following the conclusion of each game.
- 21.4. Each team is to receive a copy of their statistics on a daily basis.
- 21.5. By **May 28**, after the completion of a Tournament, the Scoring Coordinator shall forward to the ABF office the following:
 - 21.5.1. The official score-book compiled by the Official Recorder.
 - 21.5.2. An electronic copy of all game scoresheets, saved to a portable storage device with a backup copy also saved by the Scoring Coordinator.
 - 21.5.3. A schedule showing the inning by inning results of each game and the final standings of all teams.
 - 21.5.4. Names of competing players and officials of competing teams.
 - 21.5.5. Pitching statistics for all pitchers in the series.
 - 21.5.6. Complete batting averages of all players including the number of visits to the plate, bases on balls, safe hits etc. and the fielding averages including put-outs, assists and errors.
 - 21.5.7. Details of Top 10 performances in hitting and pitching.
 - 21.5.8. The format for reporting on all aspects of National Championships can be found in Appendices - Reporting Standards for ABF Championships.

22. THE PLAYING FIELD

- 22.1. Normal Baseball ground dimensions will apply.
 - 22.1.1. These dimensions may only be varied with the prior authority of the Tournament Director or ABF representative.
- 22.2. A home run fence is compulsory in all APC so a totally enclosed playing field is obtained.
- 22.3. The back stop is compulsory behind the catcher in order to allow the catcher to retrieve passed balls easily. It is parallel to the front side of home plate and extends between the extensions of foul lines.
- 22.4. Dirt pitching mounds are compulsory for all APC.

23. MINIMUM FACILITIES STANDARDS

- 23.1. The following minimum facilities standards have been developed by the TMC and are mandatory requirements for all APC series:

23.2. Playing Arena:

- 23.2.1. The following requirements are to be provided in regards to the playing arena:
 - 23.2.1.1. One (1) diamond is to be provided that conform to the ABF's Championship Rules.
 - 23.2.1.2. Boundary, Back Net, Foul and Home Run Poles are to be of a material that should not present a danger to players.
 - 23.2.1.3. All materials to be used for Home Run fences shall be inspected by the TD or his/her representative for the particular series prior to the commencement of the APC.
 - 23.2.1.4. Backstops are to be a minimum of 45 feet or as approved by the ABF for the series, prior to the APC.
 - 23.2.1.5. Where a lit field is provided the lighting shall be to Standards Australia document AS2560.2.6-1994 (i.e. 600 Lux for the Infield and 400 Lux for the Outfield.).
 - 23.2.1.6. Wherever metal cleats are allowed APC venues then dirt mounds are required to be provided on the field and in the bullpen areas.
 - 23.2.1.7. Protective screens are required to be supplied for batting practice (an L Screen and feed screen (mandatory) together with a 3rd screen if a 1st Baseman is receiving fielded balls from other infielders)
 - 23.2.1.8. Adequate batting practice areas at the field or in close proximity.
 - 23.2.1.9. Where a batting tunnel is provided an L Screen and impact netting is compulsorily required to be provided.
 - 23.2.1.10. Good quality playing areas are required to be provided.
 - 23.2.1.11. Adequate protection from the sun must be provided for all players and coaches at the fields which include pitching warm-up areas.
 - 23.2.1.12. Ready access to water and ice is to be provided.
 - 23.2.1.13. Scorers and officials are to be provided with a covered area.
 - 23.2.1.14. The scorer's area should be behind or adjacent to home plate and have access to power points.
 - 23.2.1.15. Bases used shall be of the "Hollywood Style", ie anchored into the ground by a solid thick rod that is firmly and securely attached to the base and inserted into a pipe that is firmly and securely anchored in the ground. The use of spikes to anchor bases is not permitted.
 - 23.2.1.16. Scoreboards are to be provided on all grounds used showing a minimum of the score, innings and number of outs.

23.3. Maintenance

- 23.3.1. The following issues are to be addressed for maintenance of grounds at Championship venues.
 - 23.3.1.1. Each APC shall have a Grounds Coordinator with sufficient crew to be available at all games during the pre-game phase and during all games.

23.4. Facilities

- 23.4.1. The following requirements are to be provided in regards to facilities at the APC:
 - 23.4.1.1. Screens for the protection of players and coaches are to be provided at batting practice areas and within batting tunnels as referred to in "Playing Arena" above
 - 23.4.1.2. Adequate change rooms are to be provided (i.e. The venue must have two (2) change rooms for competing teams and one (1) change room for the Series Umpires.
 - 23.4.1.3. That sufficient power points be made available at the ground.
 - 23.4.1.4. That the principal venue have access to phone, fax and computer facilities to meet the daily requirements of the series.

- 23.4.1.5. Adequate toilet facilities are to be provided for competing teams, officials and spectators.
- 23.4.1.6. There shall be ready access to ice supplies for players and for use in the first aid treatment of players.
- 23.4.1.7. A St. Johns Ambulance officer, or a service of similar standard, must be in attendance at all times and a designated treatment area must be provided
- 23.4.1.8. Access to Doctors, Physiotherapists and Hospitals is to be advised to competing teams
- 23.4.1.9. Available Medical Services are to be advised to competing teams which are available for use on a user pays basis.
- 23.4.1.10. The Official Recorder should have a dedicated room/area in which to compile game statistics containing a computer and laser printer.
- 23.4.1.11. Sufficient lap top computers shall be provided for the scoring of games.
- 23.4.1.12. It is strongly recommended that an isolated area be provided at all venues for use by statisticians in compiling game reports as well as use by the TD for meetings where privacy is required, eg, tribunal or disciplinary meetings.
- 23.4.1.13. The provision of technical equipment, eg, computers, faxes, printers, laptop computers is the responsibility of the ABF.

24. REGULATION GAME

24.1. The regulation game for APC consists of nine (9) innings (seven (7) innings if part of a double-header).

24.2. It is a regulation game when:

- 24.2.1. The Home Team has scored more runs in 8 innings than the Visiting Team has scored in 9 innings.
- 24.2.2. The Home team scores the winning run in the 9th innings before the inning is completed. If a batter in the last half of the final inning of a game hits a home run over the home run fence or into the stand, all runners on base at the time of the hit as well as the batter, shall be entitled to score, but to legally score all bases must be touched in order by all runners. The final score of such a game shall be the total number of runs scored by each team.
- 24.2.3. The score is tied at the end of the 9th innings played, the game is continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings, provided that if the Home team scores the winning run before the third man is out in any inning after the 9th the game shall terminate and be a regulation game.
- 24.2.4. The game is Terminated by the Umpire on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible, provided 5 or more innings have been played, or the home team scores more runs in 4 innings, or before the completion of its 5th inning, than the Visiting team has scored 5 completed innings.
- 24.2.5. If the umpire terminates play after 5 completed innings, the score of such games shall be the score, at the end of the last completed inning. If, however, the Home team has scored more total runs than the Visiting team and the game is terminated while the home team is at bat, the score of such game shall be the total runs scored by each team. Also when a game is terminated after 5 completed innings with the Visiting team at bat and the Home team ahead, the score shall be the total number of runs scored by each team at the time the game is terminated.

25. REGULATION TIED GAME

25.1. It is a regulation tied game when the umpire terminates play on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible and:

- 25.1.1. If at the end of 5 or more completed innings the score is tied.
- 25.1.2. If the Home team shall score in its uncompleted 5th innings or any incomplete innings thereafter enough runs to equal the Visiting team's score.

26. SUSPENDED / RESCHEDULED GAME

- 26.1. It is a suspended game when the umpire terminates play on account of darkness, weather or any other cause which makes it impossible for further play in the game, and where less than 5 innings have been completed by each team.
- 26.2. When a number of games are suspended or not commenced during an APC, then these games shall be **re-scheduled** so that each team play as near as possible an equal number of games. Where the suspended or not commenced games that are to be re-scheduled include key games

between teams vying for the APC, then these key games will be given precedence over other games. Games may be re-scheduled to be played on rest days if the TD desires. If re-scheduled, suspended games will be re-commenced at the point where the games were halted.

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

27. ABANDONED GAMES

- 27.1. If the TD cannot re-schedule a suspended game, then that game will be considered as **abandoned**, and competing teams will be awarded points as detailed in Rule 29.
- 27.2. **Note:** If a game is abandoned, pitch statistics and pitching rules will apply.

28. STARTING TIMES OF GAMES

- 28.1. Where possible, games at APC start no earlier than 9:00 am. Where earlier starts are necessary, approval from the TD is required.

29. PLAYING CONDITIONS

29.1. The Program of Games

- 29.1.1. The TD will be responsible for the arrangements for the program of games, in consultation with the ABF, subject to the following conditions. Refer to schedules in Appendices.

29.2. Weather Interference:

- 29.2.1. In (a) above, the number of games to be played may be reduced where weather or other conditions prevent the completion of the program within the time available.
- 29.2.2. For the first game of any day of the APC the decision to delay, or abandon a game shall be made by the TD.

29.3. Distribution of Program

- 29.3.1. The program of games must be distributed by the Secretary of the Tournament Management Committee no later than **March 1** of the year of the tournament.

29.4. Disagreement with Program:

- 29.4.1. Should any State be in protest regarding the proposed program of games, the Secretary of the TMC must be notified by **March 8**, showing the reasons for the protest. The TD shall, in consultation with the TMC, adjudicate on any protest and within seven (7) days of receipt of such protest shall inform the protesting State in writing of such adjudication.

29.5. First Day of Games:

- 29.5.1. In contemplating the program of games, and where a bye is necessary on the opening day of the Championship, such a bye must be given to the State which has travelled the greatest distance to compete.

29.6. Double Header Games:

- 29.6.1. When a State(s) is required to play a double header game, at least 30 minutes is required between games after the groundsman has returned the ground to the umpire.
- 29.6.2. Where possible the first game should start before 12 noon and again if possible that State(s) should be scheduled to play either the afternoon or night game the next day.

29.7. Final Series

- 29.7.1. Where the possibility of an additional game (or "Final") could be required to determine the Championship, the first game will be required to commence prior to 12 noon and the second game must be scheduled to commence 30 minutes after the groundsman has returned the ground to the TD.

29.8. Night Games:

- 29.8.1. Night games may be played.

29.9. Order of Benches and Batting:

- 29.9.1. The **First Named** team in the official schedule of games will be regarded as the **Home Team**, **Field First** and occupy the **Third Base** dug-out or bench.

29.10. Warm up before Games:

- 29.10.1. Twenty-five (25) minutes before the scheduled starting time of a game, the **Home Team** will commence their entitled seven (7) minutes warm up on the playing diamond.
- 29.10.2. Eighteen (18) minutes before the schedule starting time of the game the **Away Team** will commence their entitled seven minute warm up.
- 29.10.3. The remaining ten (10) minutes will allow the ground crew to finalise ground preparation.

- 29.10.4. The supervision of the warm up before the game will be the responsibility of the TD or a designated official.
- 29.10.5. If facilities at or near the playing venue are to be made available for pre-game batting practice then a standard schedule of batting practice and training will be drawn up by the TD and distributed at the Officials Meeting prior to the commencement of the series.

29.11. One Sided Games

- 29.11.1. A game shall be completed when the team is leading by 10 or more runs after 7 innings (5 innings in a 7-innings game), providing the team that is ten runs behind completes its time at bat;
- 29.11.2. When one team is leading by fifteen (15) or more runs after five (5) innings of a nine (9) innings game, or two hours from the scheduled or rescheduled starting time, provided the last half of the innings shall not be played if the team second at bat is, or has become, fifteen (15) or more runs ahead.

30. POINTSCORE

- 30.1. The Points allocated to Teams will be as follows:
 - 30.1.1. TWO points for a win.
 - 30.1.2. ONE point for each team in Tied game.
- 30.2. NO points for either team in an abandoned game.

31. RANKING THE TEAMS

31.1. After Round 1

- 31.1.1. After the first round, the teams will be ranked by the points they have scored in the round robin games, the highest ranking being accorded to the team which scores the greatest number of points (and so on)
- 31.1.2. Where two or more teams score the same number of points, the "Head to Head" method will be used to separate them
- 31.1.3. If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:
 - 31.1.3.1. The fewest runs allowed in the game(s) contested by those teams (which are tied) will gain the highest ranking.
 - 31.1.3.2. The remaining teams will revert to the "Head to Head". If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams (which are tied) method and then back to "Head to Head", and so forth.
 - 31.1.3.3. If teams are still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the competition, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher ranking team then the remaining teams will revert to the "Head to Head". If remaining teams are still tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and then back to "Head to Head" and so forth.
 - 31.1.3.4. The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the head to head process.

31.2. The Champion State

- 31.2.1. The Champion state team will be the team who wins the Championship Final.
- 31.2.2. If the Championship Final fails to decide the Champion State team (e.g. game abandoned due to weather, light, etc) then the team which finished the most recently completed will be declared joint Australian Provincial Champions.

31.3. Championships Affected by Abandoned Games

- 31.3.1. Where less than the total number of games scheduled for a Championship is completed as the result of "Abandoned Games", the Winning State will be determined as follows:
 - 31.3.1.1. For a State which completed all of its scheduled games, the number of points which it has actually scored will be divided by the number of points which it could have scored if it had won all games in which it competed and a percentage determined.
 - 31.3.1.2. For a State which completed less than the number of its scheduled games the number of points actually scored by the State will be divided by the number of points it could have scored had it won all games in which it competed and a percentage determined.

- 31.3.1.3. In comparing the percentages calculated in accordance with (31.3.1.1) and (31.3.1.2) above, the higher percentage is better than the lower percentage.
- 31.3.1.4. When highest percentages are equal then the highest points actually scored will determine the higher place.
- 31.3.1.5. When the highest points scored are the same then a "Head-to-Head" method will apply.
- 31.3.1.6. When the Head-to-Head result is equal the Head-to-Head method will be used against the same teams finishing above or below the teams involved with the Head-to-Head method.
- 31.3.1.7. In the event two, three or more teams tie and the Head to Head method does not resolve order of ranking, then the following method is to apply:
 - 31.3.1.7.1. The fewest runs allowed in the games played between the tied teams.
 - 31.3.1.7.2. The fewest runs allowed in the games played between teams above or below the tied teams.
- 31.3.1.8. In any event a State is ineligible to win the Tournament unless it has completed at least 60% of its scheduled games.

32. TIME SAVING RULES

32.1. Policy and Intent

- 32.1.1. The ABF Board have resolved to speed-up the play of ABF games. The intent of these rules is to encourage umpires, coaches and players to limit time-wasting and to ensure ABF games progress quickly and smoothly.

32.2. Umpires Responsible for Enforcement

- 32.2.1. Umpires are responsible for enforcement of the ABF time saving rules and should wear a wrist-watch for this purpose. All violations of this Section should be reported to the Tournament Director and referenced in the Umpires' Written Report to the ABF.

32.3. Pre-game Practice

- 32.3.1. In no event should pre-game practice interfere with or delay the scheduled start of the game (with the exception of wet weather implications). The teams should comply with the Rules set forth herein regarding such matters.

32.4. 12 Second Pitch Rule

- 32.4.1. The 12 second rule for the pitcher shall apply whenever there are no runners on base. Official Baseball Rule 8.04
- 32.4.2. If the pitch is thrown before the violation is called, the pitch shall be deemed a ball, regardless of its location.
- 32.4.3. If, in the Umpire's opinion, the pitcher is intentionally violating the Rule, the Umpire may eject the offending pitcher and/or manager from the game.

32.5. Hitter to Remain in Batter's Box

- 32.5.1. The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless he makes a request for "time" and the umpire feels that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the umpire grant time out.
- 32.5.2. If no runners are on base, the batter should not be granted time and permitted to leave the batter's box unless, in the opinion of the umpire, unusual circumstances exist which make the request a reasonable one.

32.6. Limits on Warm-up Pitches

- 32.6.1. Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, he shall be permitted a maximum of eight (8) warm-up pitches. This same limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of an inning.

32.7. Limits on Offensive Meetings

- 32.7.1. Teams are allowed a maximum of three (3) "offensive meetings" per game. An offensive meeting shall be charged any time a coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive player, whether it be the hitter, a base-runner or an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another coach. If the game goes into extra innings, one (1) additional "offensive meeting" shall be permitted for each three (3) extra innings.

32.8. Visits to the Mound

- 32.8.1. Three (3) free visits will be allowed to the mound in a game. The fourth, and any subsequent visit in a game will cause the removal of the pitcher. The second, and any subsequent visit in any one inning, will cause the removal of the pitcher.

- 32.8.2. Any visit may be no longer than **60** seconds to the mound (at the umpire's discretion). Time starts when the Coach / Manager crosses the foul line.
- 32.8.3. Should a game proceed into extra innings, then one (1) extra visit will be allowed for every three (3) innings or part thereof.
- 32.8.4. Pitching changes must be made by a visit to the mound. Any attempt to move the pitcher to a defensive position on a second visit by going directly to the Plate Umpire is a circumvention of the rule and is not permitted.
- 32.8.5. All substitutions must be made via the Plate Umpire. After receiving the substitution/s the umpire will signal the scorers to indicate the substitutions. Scorers are to be alert for changes so as to avoid unnecessary delays. It is recommended that there be somebody situated adjacent to the scorers to alert them when changes are being made.

33. PITCHERS

- 33.1. To apply to under age players.
- 33.2. A pitcher's game will be classified as:

Assignment	Under 18
MAJOR	80 pitches and not to exceed 100 pitches
SUBSTANTIAL	40 – 79 pitches
MINOR	Less than 40 pitches

- 33.2.1. It will be the responsibility of the official scorer to notify the Chief Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within 10 pitches of the maximum allowable number.
- 33.2.2. A pitcher reaching their maximum number of pitches for a major assignment is to be removed from the game once they have completed the batter, has thrown a further five pitches or has been moved to Designated Hitter. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3rd out of an inning, then that pitcher shall be entitled to take their place as a batter in the next half inning.
- 33.2.3. A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate whether it be hit safely or not shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".
- 33.2.4. A "no pitch", eg, batter steps out of the batter's box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count.
- 33.2.5. Should a pitcher be selected out of their age group then tournament limits and game contribution will be applicable to the pitcher's age, not the championship that they are playing in.
- 33.2.6. The winning pitcher be awarded to the pitcher who completes four (4) innings and complies with the requirements of the existing rule.
- 33.3. Any player pitching a major assignment will be required to complete one days rest before any playing participation except as a designated hitter or for pinch hitting and pinch running and three days rest before commencing any further (pitching / catching) assignments.
- 33.4. For a substantial part played, 2 days rest from pitching / catching is required.
 - 33.4.1. Once a pitcher has reached a "substantial part of their assignment" they are no longer eligible to play any other fielding position and must be removed from the game once their pitching assignment has been completed. If a player pitches a substantial in the first game of a double header, then they can only participate in the second game of a double header as a designated hitter, pinch hitter or runner.
- 33.5. Any player pitching a minor followed by a substantial the next day will be required to complete one days rest before any playing participation except for pinch hitting, pinch running or acting as a designated hitter and three days rest before commencing any further pitching / catching assignments. **Note: No pitcher may throw a major assignment directly following a minor assignment.**
 - 33.5.1. No days rest is required after a minor part played. However, for two successive minor assignments, 2 days' rest is required from pitching/catching if the total number of pitches thrown in those two assignments equals or exceeds the amounts below. 1 day's rest is required if the total number of pitches is less than these amounts:
 - 33.5.1.1. 40 pitches for Under 18

- 33.5.2. If a player completes a second minor assignment on the same day, they shall leave the game and not have any further participation on that day.
- 33.5.3. For teams participating in 'double headers' a pitcher may only throw two minor assignments on the same calendar day.
- 33.5.4. If any pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one (1) assignment.
- 33.5.5. The word assignment means that each game in which a player pitches is considered one assignment.
- 33.5.6. A player once removed as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
- 33.5.7. The scorers shall indicate in the score-book for each pitcher the game contribution and when the pitcher may next play.
- 33.5.8. The Chief Umpire will be supplied, 30 minutes prior to the start of the game, a list of players who are ineligible to pitch. The TD will be responsible for the delivery of this information to the Chief Umpire and the two Managers/Head Coaches as soon as possible prior to the game.
- 33.5.9. The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule. Scorers must be aware of and notify the umpire if an ineligible pitcher enters the game.
- 33.5.10. No under-age pitcher can relieve directly from the field and must come from either the dug-out or bull pen. If the proposed relief pitcher is in the game they can only relieve at the start of an inning.
- 33.5.11. If an Under Age pitcher is being moved from the mound to a defensive position the defensive manager must advise the plate umpire and opposing manager of the move. The umpire must check with the official scorer to ascertain if the move is legal under Rule 32. If there is a breach then the move cannot be made. If either team's manager realises that the move is in breach of the rule then they must immediately advise the plate umpire. If Rule 32 is breached a penalty may be applied by the TD. In deciding such penalty, the TD should take into consideration any influence on the game that the illegal substitution had on the result of the game and the number of plays that the player was involved in. Such penalties could be the suspension of the manager for a number of games deemed appropriate. Forfeiture of the game is not an option as a penalty.

34. PITCHER/CATCHER RULE

- 34.1. An under age player may not pitch and catch in the same day.
- 34.2. **PENALTY: Immediate ejection from the game for first and subsequent offences. The offending team shall forfeit the game and the Manager/Head Coach shall be reported to the TD and dealt with by the tribunal.**

35. DESIGNATED HITTER

- 35.1. A designated hitter may be used.

36. BASEBALLS

- 36.1. Baseballs to be used in any game must be a brand approved by the ABF. Only one brand of baseball will be used in any one game.
- 36.2. The ABF will notify the competing States of the type of baseballs to be used by **March 1**.
- 36.3. One match baseball shall be given to each team thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled starting time of each game to enable pitchers to warm up with the match baseball. These baseballs are to be handed to the Chief Umpire before the start of the game.
- 36.4. Warm-up balls will not to be provided for relief pitchers.
- 36.5. Six (6) new balls are to be provided for the first game of the each day, and four new balls per game after that. Balls are not to be re-used until after Day Two of competition.

37. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

- 37.1. The following specific instructions cover certain items of equipment and uniforms:
 - 37.1.1. **Footwear:**
 - 37.1.1.1. In APC, the use of nylon and rubber stop soles is permitted and metal cleats can be worn.
 - 37.1.1.2. No colour is specified for footwear, but to project a professional image of the game it is recommended that a team's footwear be uniform in colour.

- 37.1.1.3. Host Venues may make further restrictions on footwear to protect artificial surfaces or to meet local ordinance conditions. These restrictions must be notified no later than February 25.
- 37.1.2. Protective Helmets**
 - 37.1.2.1. Each team must provide an adequate number of protective helmets as approved by the ABF. Double-eared helmets will be mandatory in all Championships for the hitter, the hitter on deck, the base runners and the bat person.
 - 37.1.2.2. All catchers are required to wear protective head gear and shall wear a protective throat guard.
- 37.1.3. Face Masks**
 - 37.1.3.1. Any player or coach warming up a pitcher shall wear a face mask and a helmet no matter whether in the bull pen or on the playing field. The face mask will have a throat guard attached to it unless the throat guard forms part of the mask.
- 37.1.4. Baseball Caps**
 - 37.1.4.1. Baseball caps are regarded as part of the playing uniform and must be worn by all coaches and players, including catchers, at all times during a game unless where substituted by a protective helmet.
- 37.1.5. Warm-up Jackets**
 - 37.1.5.1. When his team is on offence, a pitcher or a relieved pitcher may wear a team warm-up jacket once they reach base.
- 37.1.6. Baseball Bats**
 - 37.1.6.1. Baseball bats may be wood or wood composite. Laminated, aluminium, ceramic or carbon graphite bats are not permitted.
- 37.1.7. Uniforms**
 - 37.1.7.1. The Rules of Baseball in relation to uniforms shall apply to all Championships. Each Participant shall register, by notification to the ABF by 1 March prior to the APC, the design and colour of uniforms to be worn by its State team and no changes will be allowed to such uniforms without first obtaining the consent of the Federation. All uniforms must be numbered.
 - 37.1.7.2. White undershirts will not be approved as part of a team's uniform. All members of competing teams, including coaches, will wear the same colour uniforms.
 - 37.1.7.3. If there are any clashes in uniform colours, the Away team is to change their choice of uniform colour for that game. It is the responsibility of the Away team to contact the Home team to ensure that no such clashes occur.
- 37.1.8. Line-Up Cards**
 - 37.1.8.1. All players eligible to play in a game must be listed on the line up card handed to the Plate Umpire at the home plate meeting. However in the event of an oversight in which an eligible player is omitted from the original line up card will not prevent that player from entering the game.

38. TROPHIES

38.1. Winning State:

- 38.1.1. No trophies other than as specified in rule 2 of this Operations Manual will be made available or awarded to teams or individuals winning the APC without prior reference to the ABF and approval by the Federation.
- 38.1.2. It will be the responsibility of the State winning the Championship to have the team trophy suitably engraved, and to be responsible for the proper care of the trophy during the period until the next Championship. It must also ensure that the trophy is available at the venue conducting the next Championship for further presentation. Any damage or need for maintenance of a trophy should be reported to the Federation.

38.2. Medallions for First-, Second- and Third-placed teams:

- 38.2.1. Players, manager, assistant coaches, executive officer, are to receive a suitable medallion, such medallions to be supplied by the Federation. Umpires from the winning state do not receive medallions.

38.3. Individual Trophies and Awards

- 38.3.1. Individual trophies may be presented at the discretion of the TMC.
 - 38.3.1.1. For the 2011 Championships the following individual awards will be recognised.
 - 38.3.1.1.1. Most Valuable Player

- 38.3.1.1.1.2. Hitting Champion
- 38.3.1.1.1.3. Golden Glove
- 38.3.1.1.1.4. Golden Arm
- 38.3.1.1.2. All-Star Team
- 38.3.2. Should the ABF be naming an Australian Team or squad (in any age group) then NO ALL-STAR TEAM shall be selected or announced in that year.

39. REPORTED PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

- 39.1. Should any player, non-playing coach or manager be ordered from the game by an umpire for any misdemeanour, the person concerned will appear before the tournament tribunal prior to such person's next game in the APC. Any tribunal hearing during a APC must be finalised prior to the next game in which the involved parties are engaged.
- 39.2. The tribunal is authorised to impose whatever penalty is deemed necessary.
- 39.3. Full details of the tribunal matter will be submitted to the Secretary of the ABF Tournament Management Committee by May 28 after the completion of the Program.
- 39.4. **TRIBUNAL PROCEDURES - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 - 39.4.1. Should any player, non-playing coach or manager, or any other team official, be ordered from the game for any misdemeanour, the person concerned will appear before the Tribunal of the APC prior to such person's next game in the APC.
 - 39.4.2. Any tribunal hearing during an APC, regardless of whether it is related to an on-field or off-field incident, must be finalised prior to the next game in which the parties are involved.
 - 39.4.3. The Tribunal will be composed of the TD, at least one ABF Official (or his/her appointed representative) along with one member appointed by the ABF. It will not include any members of a competing team's staff or delegation. It is empowered to make determinations regarding rule infringements of ABF Playing Rules.
 - 39.4.3.1. **Tribunal Process**
 - 39.4.3.2. Once the TD has been advised (or becomes aware) of any matter that is required to be determined by the Tournament Tribunal, he/she is to set the tribunal hearing date/time and venue. The TD shall then personally make contact by telephone or in person with tribunal members (and minute secretary) and the relevant parties (player /coach to be advised via the Executive Officer) to advise the particulars of the Tribunal meeting.
 - 39.4.3.3. The TD shall clearly indicate to all parties the reason for the tribunal hearing (eg. player ejection, purported breach of ABF playing rules).
 - 39.4.3.4. The tribunal shall be held in closed session whilst being cognisant of the principles of natural justice and will determine any matters in accord with the following procedural steps:
 - 39.4.3.4.1. The TD shall assume the role of Tribunal Chairperson and will preside over the Tribunal proceedings which shall be minuted by a minute secretary appointed by the ABF.
 - 39.4.3.4.2. The umpire where there has been an ejection shall present his version of the facts to the tribunal in the presence of the Executive Officer and the ejected person. The Executive Officer shall be entitled to ask questions in a reasonable manner to clarify matters in dispute after the umpire has presented his evidence.
 - 39.4.3.4.3. The umpire shall be given the opportunity if he desires to present other evidence (scorebook, other umpire etc) for corroborative purposes. The other evidence shall be made available during the tribunal sitting to the Executive Officer for examination/questioning.
 - 39.4.3.4.4. **Note:** Where the breaking of a rule does not involve the decision of the umpire as to penalty, determination of the penalty is made by the Tribunal and the facts in such cases shall be presented by the TD in a similar manner to the umpire presenting evidence on another matter (eg. an ejection).
 - 39.4.3.4.5. The Tribunal Chairperson and/or any Tribunal Member shall be entitled at any time during the hearing to ask questions of the parties to clarify any evidence which would enable the determination of the matter before the tribunal.

- 39.4.3.4.6. Upon the completion of the presentation of the Umpires' and their witnesses' evidence, they shall be asked to leave the room and not the general area in case they are needed for any points of clarification. The Executive Officer (EO), (or in the case of a breach regarding an adult, the alleged perpetrator) is then invited to put forward the case for the alleged offender/or his team.
- 39.4.3.4.7. The player/coach when presenting his version of the incident shall be given a reasonable time to explain his position. The EO may ask questions of his team member to assist in presenting his version of the facts and to clarify any points.
- 39.4.3.4.8. The Tribunal Members only shall be entitled to cross examine the player/coach in regards to the facts presented.
- 39.4.3.4.9. The EO may then present any written evidence (eg Scorebook) and/or call a reasonable number of other witnesses for corroboration with such witnesses being subject to any questions in cross examination that may be put by tribunal members.
- 39.4.3.4.10. The EO is then invited by the Tribunal to add any comment in summary relating to the facts presented at the conclusion of which the EO and witnesses shall be requested to leave the confines of the room whilst the members of the tribunal consider the facts.
- 39.4.3.4.11. Once the members have arrived at their decision the minute secretary shall re-call the EO (and player/coach) to be presented the Tribunal's decision by the Chairperson.
- 39.4.3.4.12. The Tribunal Chairperson where there is a requirement to apply a discretion in application of penalty shall give the EO the opportunity to speak in mitigation of such penalty. The EO (and player/coach) shall after presentation of the plea in mitigation shall be asked to once again leave the room whilst the discretionary penalty is determined.
- 39.4.3.4.13. The EO (and player/coach) shall be recalled and the Tribunal Chairperson shall announce penalty and close the hearing.
- 39.4.3.4.14. At the conclusion of the tribunal hearing the minute secretary shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings which shall be signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record. The EO shall be advised in writing (notice prepared by minute secretary) of the penalty as announced by the Tribunal Chairperson and such notice shall be signed by the Chairperson.
- 39.4.3.4.15. The relevant matters in regards the decision of the tribunal are then applied.
- 39.4.3.4.16. The minutes of the tribunal hearing are required to be submitted to the Secretary of the ABF TMC by May 28 following the tournament for validation of penalty where discretionary fines to a maximum figure are applicable.
- 39.4.3.4.17. **Note: Whilst there are a number of steps depicted above the Tribunal proceedings must be carried out in an informal but fair manner.**

40. PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF RULES

- 40.1. A field rule violation is defined as the breaking of any rule in a game. The penalty for a breach of ABF playing rules, unless otherwise specified in the ABF Operations Manual for ANWC, may be a fine of up to a maximum of \$500 – levied against the State body.
 - 40.1.1. The penalty for breach(es) of ABF Procedural Regulations (pre/post program) will be a fine(s) up to a maximum of \$500 for any one offence.
 - 40.1.2. The penalty for breaches of Code of Conduct agreements shall be up to \$500 for any one offence and where relevant ejection from the game or tournament.
- 40.2. When an offending team in breach of the pitching rules has won the game, then that team loses the game on a forfeiture (i.e. the non-offending team will be awarded the game on a 9-0 forfeiture basis and will be awarded the points). If the offending team loses the game, the violation shall be reported to the TD for consideration of imposition of penalty.
- 40.3. If there are breaches of the Rules where there are no penalties prescribed, then the TD is to rule on the matter in the best interests of the game. Such penalties may be levied as financial penalties or include suspension from a number of games or even the whole tournament.

41. INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

41.1. Definitions

41.2. In this policy:

- 41.2.1. "ASMF" means Australian Sports Medicine Federation
- 41.2.2. "Club" means any team competing in ABF-affiliated Leagues and Tournaments.
- 41.2.3. "Official" means an official, Baseball umpire, ABF director, coach, trainer, medical practitioner, sports scientist or psychologist or any other person associated with the sport of Baseball and recognised by the ABF in an official capacity other than as an athlete;
- 41.2.4. "Player" means a person who plays the game of Baseball under the jurisdiction of the ABF and/or its affiliated members; and is a registered member of the ABF and/or its affiliate
- 41.2.5. "ABF" means Australian Baseball Federation Inc., being the national sporting organisation for the sport of Baseball in Australia as recognised by Australian Sports Commission, Australian Olympic Committee and the national governing body for the sport of Baseball as recognised by International Baseball Association ;
- 41.2.6. "Baseball" includes the sport of Baseball which is being conducted under the jurisdiction, control or sanctioning consent of the ABF or it's affiliated State or Territory associations;

41.3. Introduction

41.3.1. As in most sports, there is a chance of physical contact and or collision in Baseball. A number of blood-borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during body contact during physical contact or collision. The more serious of these include Hepatitis and HIV infections. These diseases may be spread by contact between broken skin or mucous membranes and the infected agents such as:

- 41.3.1.1. Blood
- 41.3.1.2. Saliva (not for HIV)
- 41.3.1.3. Semen and vaginal fluids
- 41.3.1.4. **NB. At this stage there is no evidence that sweat/urine, and tears will transmit Hepatitis or HIV.**

41.4. Object And Application Of This Policy

41.4.1. The object of this policy is to:

- 41.4.1.1. Set out the basis for procedures which must be adopted by players, teams and officials in order to prevent the spread of Infectious diseases, namely HIV and Hepatitis B & C within the sport of Baseball.
- 41.4.1.2. Detail the responsibilities of athletes, officials and ABF relating to the possible transmission of Infectious Diseases.
- 41.4.1.3. Educate athletes and officials on the subject of diseases transmitted through the exchange of blood or other bodily fluids.
- 41.4.1.4. Provide the method for determining whether a breach of this policy has occurred.
- 41.4.1.5. This policy applies to:
 - 41.4.1.5.1. All Australian athletes involved in the sport of Baseball under the control or jurisdiction of the ABF, in Australia or overseas.
 - 41.4.1.5.2. All officials involved in the sport of Baseball in any way and under the jurisdiction of the ABF.
 - 41.4.1.5.3. All foreign athletes competing in Baseball competition in Australia.
- 41.4.1.6. This policy shall be binding on all players/officials/organising affiliates and members of the ABF.

41.5. Responsibilities Of Athletes

- 41.5.1. It is the participant's responsibility to maintain strict personal hygiene as this is the best method of controlling the spread of these diseases.
- 41.5.2. It is strongly recommended that all participants, involved in baseball and playing under adult rules be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- 41.5.3. All participants with prior evidence of these diseases should obtain confidential advice and clearance to participate from a doctor prior to participation in baseball.
- 41.5.4. No Player shall participate in any Baseball game or continue to participate in any game for so long as such Player:
 - 41.5.4.1. is bleeding or
 - 41.5.4.2. has blood on any part of his person or uniform
- 41.5.5. A Player shall immediately upon a direction by an umpire leave the playing arena where such umpire is of the opinion that the Player is bleeding or has blood on any part of his person or

uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing arena, a Player shall not return or take any further part in any Baseball game until and unless:

- 41.5.5.1. The cause of any such bleeding has been abated and the bleeding has stopped.
- 41.5.5.2. The injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from.
- 41.5.5.3. Any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced and
- 41.5.5.4. Any blood on any part of a Player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.

41.6. **Responsibility Of Teams**

- 41.6.1. Those handling bleeding players must wear disposable rubber or plastic gloves. Resuscitation bags or disposable mouth to mouth devices must be available.
- 41.6.2. It is the Host Venue's responsibility to ensure that the dressing rooms be clean and tidy. Particular attention should be paid to hand-basins, toilets and showers. Adequate soap, paper handtowels, brooms, refuse disposal bins and disinfectants, must be available at all times.
- 41.6.3. Communal bathing areas (eg. Spas) within the clubs, should be strongly discouraged.
- 41.6.4. The practices of spitting and urinating in team areas is not permitted.
- 41.6.5. 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 and white clothing should be soaked in 1:10 solution bleach for 30 minutes before washing. Bleach should be rinsed off after use. Coloured clothing should be soaked in disinfectant for 30 minutes then washed at high temperature on a long cycle.
- 41.6.6. Sharing of towels, shaving razors, face washers and drink containers must not occur.
- 41.6.7. All personnel working within baseball areas should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- 41.6.8. In all training areas, open cuts and abrasions must be reported to the coach/official and be treated immediately.
- 41.6.9. Teams should undertake education programs to advise players and officials of this policy.
- 41.6.10. No Club shall allow any Player to participate in any Baseball game or continue to participate in any game for so long as such Player:
 - 41.6.10.1. is bleeding or
 - 41.6.10.2. has blood on any part of his person or uniform

41.7. **Responsibility Of Umpires**

- 41.7.1. Those who officiate in baseball should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- 41.7.2. When an umpire notices that a player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform, he is to direct the Player to leave the playing field.
- 41.7.3. Where a Player is directed by an umpire to leave the field under this Rule the umpire shall wait a reasonable period to allow the bleeding to be attended to. The amount of time is entirely at the discretion of the umpire. If, when this time has elapsed, the player is unable to take his place in the team, he must be replaced in the usual manner of substitution.
- 41.7.4. A player who refuses to promptly obey a direction of an umpire given in accordance with this paragraph (6b) shall be reported by the umpire to the relevant body of baseball at that level.
- 41.7.5. Such Player shall be dealt with by that body as it deems fit.
- 41.7.6. Umpires have power to eject a player/official if they refuse to obey the rule.

41.8. **AMENDMENT OF THIS POLICY**

- 41.8.1. This Policy will be reviewed regularly and updated accordingly. The ABF may amend this policy at any time, such amendment to take effect upon notification to the affiliated State and Territory association.
- 41.8.2. It is strongly recommended that all team physicians, other sports medicine staff, coaches, referees, team managers, administrators, players and their parents be informed of this policy and adopt and implement its commonsense recommendations.

41.9. **For further information you may contact**

- The Australian Baseball Federation
Ph. (07) 5510 6800
- Alternatively: The Australian Sports Medicine Federation
Ph: (02) 6251 6944
Fax: (02) 6253 1489
- 41.9.1. The Australian Sports Medicine Federation has further information on Infectious Diseases Policy in Australia and Guidelines which must be followed.

42. SPONSORSHIP POLICY

42.1. This policy aims to define the rights, responsibilities and relationships between the parties where sales and marketing of an APC is concerned.

42.2. This policy is adopted by the Board of the ABF and is monitored by the TMC.

42.3. **State Team Major Sponsorship**

42.3.1. The State Team Major Sponsor is the property of the State Association, although the State Team cannot sell Team naming rights as a part of this arrangement. State Team, Major Sponsors must be approved by the Australian Baseball Federation in order to avoid potential conflicts between competing sponsors. ***The Team must be named after the State it represents.***

42.4. **Playing Uniform And Travel Apparel Signage And/Or Logo Display**

42.4.1. **Playing Top:**

42.4.1.1. Three (3) spots are available on the playing top for sponsor representations; these include:

42.4.1.1.1. The **left sleeve patch** is the property of the Australian Baseball Federation, and is for the display of the logo of the Naming Rights Sponsor. The Naming Rights sponsor's logo or signage representation should be no larger than 120mm x 80mm. If ABF wishes to utilise this space on the State Team uniform, patches must be forwarded to the State Association's Executive Director no later than December 1, along with a check to cover the cost of fixing these patches to the uniform top.

42.4.1.1.2. The **right sleeve patch** is also the property of the ABF and is for display of the Major Sponsor of the Championship. The Major Sponsor's logo or signage representation should be no larger than 120mm x 80mm.

42.4.1.1.3. The **shoulder to shoulder patch** on the back of the playing top, is the property of the State Team (Association), and is for the display of the signage representation of the State Team Major Sponsor. The Major Sponsor's signage representation should be no more than 350mm x 100mm in size. If the State wishes to utilise this space, the fixing of patches is the responsibility of that State.

42.4.2. **Playing Pants:**

42.4.2.1. There is no sponsorship signage space available on the playing pant.

42.4.3. **Playing Caps:**

42.4.3.1. There is no sponsorship signage available on the playing cap.

42.4.4. **Batting Helmets:**

42.4.4.1. There is no sponsorship signage available on the batting helmet.

42.4.5. **Team Warm-up Jackets:**

42.4.5.1. The **shoulder to shoulder patch** on the back of the Team warm-up jacket is the property of the State Team (Association), and is for the display of the State Team Major Sponsor. The Major Sponsor's signage representation should be no larger than 350mm x 100mm.

42.4.6. **Team Batting Practice Tops:**

42.4.6.1. The signage available on the Team Batting Practice Top is the property of the State Team (Association), and can be used for either the team's Major Sponsor, or secondary sponsor(s). Spaces available for State Team sponsors include the **left and right sleeve patches**, to be no more than 120mm x 80mm in size, and the **shoulder to shoulder patch** on the back on the Top no more than 350mm x 100mm in size. The State Team (Association) is responsible for fixing these patches to the Team's Batting Practice Tops.

42.4.7. **Team Travel Shirt:**

42.4.7.1. The signage available on the Team Travel Shirt is the property of the State Team. The specifications for the number of spaces available and size restrictions are the same as for the Batting Practice Top (above).

42.4.8. **There is no other space available on competition or travel apparel for logo or signage displays.**

42.5. Equipment And Clothing Manufacturers' Logos

42.5.1. The size of the manufacturer's logo on playing equipment and playing or travel apparel should be no more than 70mm x 70mm in size and may appear only once on any single item. This does not include player equipment bags, where there is no restriction on the manufacturers' logo.

42.6. Dispute Resolution

42.6.1. If any disputes or disagreements arise relating to sponsorship issues specific to this policy, the matter should be referred to the Chair of the Tournament Management Committee for resolution.