

BASEBALL CANBERRA SENIOR LEAGUE LOCAL RULES



Interpretation of these Local Rules is vested in the Baseball Canberra Executive and Board of Director

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CONTENTS

RULE 1: LOCAL RULES - COMMENCEMENT AND APPLICATION.....5

RULE 2: APPLICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL RULES.....5

RULE 3: DEFINITIONS.....5

RULE 4: UMPIRES.....5

RULE 5: COMPETITION ORGANISATION.....6

RULE 6: TEAM NOMINATION.....7

RULE 7: PLAYER CONTROL.....7

RULE 8: PLAYING EQUIPMENT.....9

RULE 9: START OF GAME.....12

RULE 10: LENGTH OF GAMES - INCLUDING FINALS.....13

RULE 11: PROTESTING A GAME - NORMAL COMPETITION ROUNDS.....14

RULE 12: FINAL SERIES.....14

RULE 13: VISITS TO THE MOUND.....15

RULE 14: SCORING.....15

RULE 15: GENERAL.....16

RULE 16: RULES FOR TOURNAMENTS OR SPECIAL FIXTURES.....16

RULE 17: PENALTIES.....16

APPENDIX 1: PROCEDURES – EJECTION and/or REPORTING.....17

APPENDIX 2: FINALS ELIGIBILITY.....25

APPENDIX 3: PITCHING/CATCHING RESTRICTIONS.....27

APPENDIX 4: COACHES / MANAGERS CODE OF ETHICS.....28

APPENDIX 5 :RULES SPECIFIC TO CAVALRY ACADEMY.....29

RULE 1: LOCAL RULES - COMMENCEMENT AND APPLICATION

- [a] These local Rules of Baseball Canberra are made pursuant to the Baseball Canberra Incorporated Constitution and Rules 2003.
- [b] These local Rules are to be read in conjunction with the Official Baseball Rules, and the accepted interpretations of those Rules, and either augment or define the official Rules as they are to be applied to all official games of baseball played under the auspices of Baseball Canberra.
- [c] (1) Pursuant to sub-paragraph 3.4 of the Baseball Canberra Incorporated Constitution and Rules 2003, these local Rules are to be formally reviewed pre-season each year.

RULE 2: APPLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES

- [a] All official senior games of baseball played under the auspices of Baseball Canberra will be played strictly in accordance with the Official Baseball Rules and, these local Rules.
- [b] The accepted interpretations of the Official Baseball Rules are to be:
 - (1) those interpretations explained in the official Rules; and
 - (2) those interpretations as defined or re-defined by the National Director of Umpires and accepted by Baseball Australia, or
 - (3) where the above do not apply; as interpreted by the Director of Umpires, ACT Baseball Umpires Association [ACTBUA]
- [c] ACTBUA will advise Baseball Canberra and individual clubs at an appropriate forum of changes to the Rule interpretations, and the date from which the new interpretations are to apply.

RULE 3: DEFINITIONS

- [a] **Club:** A club shall be that group of persons affiliated with Baseball Canberra in accordance with Baseball Canberra Incorporated Constitution and Rules 2003.
- [b] **Registered senior player:** A registered senior player is a person who:
 - (1) Baseball Canberra has a record of as being registered in the current season's competition by an affiliated Club, either as a re-registration or as a new player on the database; or in the case where there is no current competition, in the competition most recently concluded;
 - (2) is not a defaulter, as defined in the Baseball Canberra Constitution;
 - (3) is not waiting on clearance from another club, league or association; and
 - (4) **a junior competing or intending to compete in the senior competition must be League Age 14 or older, as per the Baseball Canberra Age Matrix 2019/20.**
- [c] **Umpire:** An umpire is:
 - (1) a person who is a member of the ACTBUA; or
 - (2) a person who is rostered by the ACTBUA Secretary; or
 - (3) where the ACTBUA cannot provide an umpire for any senior game, it is the responsibility of the home team to arrange an accredited umpire or umpires for that game.
- [d] **Grade:** A "grade" is a ranking for a group of teams, which play each other during the course of a season. For example 1st grade, 2nd grade, Women's, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade and Masters.

RULE 4: UMPIRES

- [a] (1) Notwithstanding that Baseball Canberra officials may be present at a particular game, an official umpire accredited by the ACTBUA will be the official representative of Baseball Canberra for all matters pertaining to the conduct of the game.
 - (2) An umpire shall be deemed to be the official representative of Baseball Canberra for one (1) hour before the scheduled commencement of a game, the duration of the game and for one (1) hour after the completion of the game.
 - (3) Where more than one (1) umpire is present, the plate umpire will be Baseball Canberra's representative.
- [b] Where an umpire has adjudicated on behalf of Baseball Canberra, the umpire will verbally notify the Baseball Canberra General Manager of that fact as soon as possible, and in writing no later than the day after the game.

- [c] Where a person who has been rostered by the ACTBUA Director, or where the home team has arranged an accredited umpire/umpires for a particular game, and that person officiates that game of baseball as an umpire, that person will be deemed to remain an umpire until all tribunals, appeals, etc. arising from that game are completed.

RULE 5: COMPETITION ORGANISATION

- [a] The Baseball Canberra General Manager will be responsible for arranging a draw and timings for all games of baseball played under the auspices of Baseball Canberra.

[b] **Competition structure**

- (1) The competition will be organised into the Baseball Canberra Senior League
- (2) The Baseball Canberra Senior League competition will consist of:
 - 1st grade
 - 2nd grade
 - Women's
 - 3rd grade
 - 4th grade
 - 5th grade, and
 - Masters
- (3) To participate in the Baseball Canberra Senior 1st grade, 2nd grade or 3rd grade competition, a Club must enter one (1) team in each of 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade competitions.
 - [i] A Club may only enter one (1) team in each of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade competitions;
 - [ii] A Club may enter multiple teams in the 5th grade, Women's and Masters competitions.

[c] **Competition draw**

Once ratified by the Baseball Canberra Board, the compilation and distribution of any senior draws are to be organised by Baseball Canberra General Manager so that a given number of games are played. The number of games will depend on the number of teams entered into the competition and the period over which the season is to be played.

[d] **Points system**

- (1) Teams in each of the respective competitions (grades) will be awarded:
 - Three (3) points for a win,
 - Two (2) point for a draw,
 - One (1) point for a loss.
 - [i] Teams will incur a loss of three (3) competition points off their accumulated points total for a non-notified forfeit (eg failure to have sufficient players to start the game);
 - [ii] In the event the forfeit is invoked after the game has commenced, or through a breach of these Rules that prescribes a forfeit as a penalty, the forfeiting team will not receive one (1) point for playing; and
 - [iii] In the event of a forfeit, the opposing team shall be credited with a 9-0 win unless that opposing team had won the game with a score that, for the purposes of calculating percentage, was better than 9-0, in which case that score will stand.
- (2) The Club Championship will be awarded to the Club which has accrued the most Club Championship points at the end of the regular season. Club Championship points shall be accrued as follows:
 - [i] for games played during the regular season competition:
 - 1st grade win = 5 points;
 - 2nd grade win = 4 points
 - Women's grade win = 3 points
 - 3rd grade win = 3 points;
 - 4th grade win = 2 points;
 - 5th grade win = 2 points;
 - Drawn game = points shared depending on relevant grade.
 - [ii] Club Championship points will not be awarded for any final's games.
 - [iii] If a Club has more than one team in Women's or 5th grade, Club Championship points will be awarded for the highest ranked team only at the end of the regular season ONLY.

RULE 6: TEAM NOMINATION

- [a] At the commencement of the season, a Club must have a minimum of ten (10) registered players for each team entered.
- [b] To enter teams in the Baseball Canberra 1st grade competition, a Club must have a minimum of thirty (30) registered players (i.e. 10 each for 1st grade 2nd grade and 3rd grade sides). A further 10 registered players are required to nominate for each additional grade. **(for the 2019/20 season, special dispensation has been granted to Vikings Club to field teams in 2nd and 3rd grades without fielding a 1st grade team. This dispensation is reviewable and is valid for the 2019/20 season only).**
- [c] Clubs that have registration numbers to justify teams in subsequent grades (i.e. 4th, and 5th) must fill a minimum of one (1) team in the higher grade first. i.e. 4th grade, then 5th grade and so on.

RULE 7: PLAYER CONTROL

[a] **Player registration**

- (1) All players must be entered on the registration database before participating. Playing of a player who is not on the database shall result in a forfeit for each game in which such player plays prior to being properly entered and activated on the data base.
- (2) Registration shall only be effective when included on Baseball Canberra's database.
- (3) Lodgment of clearance for local players
Where a local clearance is required, notification (i.e. email) must be lodged with the Baseball Canberra General Manager by 6pm the day prior to the relevant game. Failing to have a player properly cleared will result in forfeiture of each game that the player plays prior to being properly cleared. If the clearance request is rejected, the player seeking clearance will not be permitted to play until the dispute is resolved. If there is no response to the clearance request within 1 week, the player will be permitted to play until Baseball Canberra hears reason for the clearance to be rejected.

PENALTY: Failure to comply correctly with Baseball Canberra clearance Rules will result in the Club forfeiting all League and Club Championship points from games that the player participated in prior to being properly cleared.

(4) **Import Players**

- [i] Each Club will be permitted to have a maximum of three (3) import players active in the line-up (in the defensive line up or in the game as a DH) at any one time in any 1st grade, 2nd grade or Women's competitions.
- [ii] One (1) additional import player will be permitted to play in 1st grade or 2nd grade competitions for every 36 new T-Ball/Machine Pitch/Little League (minor) players registered for teams finishing in the top 4 (excluding Cavalry Academy) in the previous season (prior to playoffs). Teams finishing 5th or lower at the end of the preceding season (excluding Cavalry Academy) will be permitted to have one (1) additional import player for every 18 new players registered in T-Ball/Machine Pitch/Little League (minor).
- [iii] The additional imports will be permitted to play on the basis of the previous year's registration totals. Such additional imports cannot participate in any game until the new junior registration requirement is authenticated and approved by the Baseball Canberra Board.
- [iv] An import is defined as any individual who does not have, or has applied for, Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency.
- [v] A 'new junior', in respect to the Import Player Rule, is defined as an individual who is a first year registered junior player in the Baseball Canberra junior competition.
- [vi] Women's competition imports will not affect the number of imports permitted to play in the 1st or 2nd grade competitions.
- [vii] An additional import will be permitted to play in the Women's competition for every 9 new Women's registrations in the previous season for that Club.
- [viii] ABL imports that have not previously been registered with a Club must receive approval by the Baseball Canberra General Manager prior to playing with a Club. The following procedures must be adhered to:

- 1) Club(s) seeking to acquire ABL imports must first communicate their intentions with the Baseball Canberra General Manager.
- 2) The Baseball Canberra General Manager will consider the Club(s) requests based on but not limited to current and previous year's standings and current number of imports within the relevant Club(s).
- 3) The Baseball Canberra General Manager will adjudicate then advise the relevant Club(s) of his/her decision. The Baseball Canberra General Manager's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

Import Exemption

A player who does not have, or who has applied for, permanent residency or citizenship in Australia shall not be considered an import if the player meets the six months qualification period for living in Australia prior to the start of a season. The onus is on the player's Club to provide written proof to the satisfaction of the Baseball Canberra Board, substantiating that the player has lived in Australia for the qualification period. If the proof cannot be provided, or if the proof provided does not meet the satisfaction of the Board, the player will be deemed an import for the remainder of the season. This decision of the Baseball Canberra Board is not appealable.

PENALTY: Any Club which violates the import Rule will incur loss of points, for each game, from the team in which the particular import player infraction occurred, together with a financial penalty of \$200.

[b] Players transferring between Clubs

- (1) Between seasons a registered player may transfer from one Club to another Club with the approval of their former Club's President.
 - [i] Should such concurrence and approval not be forthcoming the matter shall be referred to Baseball Canberra. The decision of the Board shall be final, subject to any appeal to Baseball Australia. Any player awaiting a clearance decision shall not be permitted to play until the Board has made a decision to permit the player to participate.
- (2) Once the season has commenced a registered player may transfer from one Club to another Club with the approval of their former Club's President.
 - [i] Should such approval not be forthcoming the matter shall be referred to Baseball Canberra. The decision of the Board shall be final. Any player awaiting a clearance decision shall not be permitted to play until the Board has made a decision to permit the player to participate.
 - [ii] Where a Club disbands either before or during a season this Rule does not apply to players from the disbanded Club [i.e. the players may join any Club without the need for approval]. Once having been formally registered with the new Club the Rules above apply as though the new players had been registered with the Club at the commencement of the season.
 - [iii] A player may transfer any number of times prior to the 31st December.
 - [iv] When a player transfers to another club, game credits, from their previous club shall be transferred with them. There will not be any credits granted for interstate transfers.

[c] Team line-ups

- (1) For all games of baseball played under the auspices of Baseball Canberra, the line-up sheets submitted to the plate umpire at the commencement of the game are to include all starting players.
- (2) Where a team wishes to use a designated hitter they are to be listed in the batting line-up and the starting pitcher is to be listed below the starting batting line-up.
- (3) **In any game with a time limit restriction (e.g. 2hr limit), a runner for the catcher is optional with none or one out but, mandatory with two out. The courtesy runner can be any player in the line-up or on the bench. The courtesy runner must be ready to replace the catcher, without delay.**

This rule is implemented to ensure speedy end-of-inning change-overs, therefore the catcher that has been replaced must then 'kit-up' without delay, ready to commence the next ½ inning.

[d] Player participation

- (1) A 9 fresh-starter Rule applies to the **highest-grade** team from a Club in the Baseball Canberra Senior League competition. e.g. for Vikings, the 9 fresh-starter rule shall apply to 2nd grade for the 2019/20 season.
- [i] A player selected to start in a defensive position in a Clubs **highest-grade** game must **only** play in that grade and must not play in any other senior grade on that weekend.
Clarification – A player may play in a preceding senior grade game and then DH in the **highest-grade** Game, but such a player would not be able to start in a defensive position in that **highest-grade**
 - [ii] All **highest-grade** starters (except the starting pitcher) must play a minimum of 3 complete innings.
 - [iii] Where an injury, or unanticipated non-attendance or delay, precludes any **highest-grade** player from starting in any Sunday **highest-grade** game, a player that had played in a previous game may then start in that **highest-grade** game. (The team manager within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the game **must** advise Baseball Canberra General Manager of those facts).

PENALTY: If the Baseball Canberra General Manager decides that the reasons for the player from a previous (lower grade) game starting in the highest grade was not/cannot be justified, the **highest-grade** game in which that player participated AND the lower grade game/s in which that player previously participated in (from the same competition round) shall be forfeited.

- (v) If a player [s] is included in a **highest-grade** starting line-up and is replaced shortly after the commencement of a game (prior to finishing 3 complete innings), the team manager, shall within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the game, advise Baseball Canberra General Manager of those facts.

PENALTY: If the Baseball Canberra General Manager decides that the reasons for the player from a previous (lower grade) game coming in to a highest grade cannot be justified, the **highest-grade** game in which that player participated AND the lower grade game/s in which that player previously participated in (from the same competition round) shall be forfeited.

- (3) Any player that starts or pitches in a Sunday **highest-grade** game is not permitted to play in the next round of either 3rd, 4th, 5th or Master's grade games (does not apply to 1st grade midweek games).

PENALTY: Where the Baseball Canberra General Manager determines that a Club has contravened Rule 7[d](3) both the 1st grade team and the lower grade team which gained the advantage shall forfeit the game. The opposing team will be credited with a 9-0 victory.

[e] **Pitching and catching restrictions**

- (1) Information with regard to pitching and catching restrictions can be found at Appendix 3.
- (2) Pitching and catching limits are set according to the relevant minimum age group or **Women's competition** that the particular player can qualify for, and apply for the entire season, irrespective of whether or not the player is in fact playing in that junior age group or whether the player has a birthday during that season.

PENALTY: (1) For any breach of pitching and catching restrictions during regular competition season will incur a loss of three (3) competition points from the offending teams total accumulated points. For any breach of pitching and catching restrictions in a final series match (i.e. after completion of the regular competition season) will result in loss of game and the match being awarded to the opposing team.

[f] **Player under suspension**

- (1) A player reported/ejected from a game **MAY** participate in all further games for which they are eligible until a penalty is prescribed by the Baseball Canberra GM or a tribunal committee is convened.
- (2) Any player suspended by a tribunal and who then appeals, **MAY NOT** participate in any game until the appeal committee determines otherwise or the original tribunal penalty has expired
- (3) For finals, all tribunals will be heard prior to the commencement of the next scheduled game involving the team(s) of the reported player(s). The decision of the Tribunal in this instance is not appealable.

RULE 8: PLAYING EQUIPMENT

[a] **Balls**

- (1) Balls authorised for use in all games held under the auspices of Baseball Canberra shall be specified by Baseball Canberra. In addition, for all games the home team will have available in reserve a quantity of authorised replacement balls.
- (2) At the commencement of each 1st grade game, the home team is to provide the plate umpire with six (6) authorised match balls in good condition, of which four (4) must be new.
- (3) At the commencement of each 2nd, **Women's**, 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, the home team is to provide the plate umpire with four (4) authorised match balls in good condition, of which two (2) must be new.
- (5) The umpire has the authority to reject any ball that they consider is not in appropriate condition and require a replacement.

[b] **Bats**

- (1) Wood or wood composite bats are compulsory for all players in 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th or Masters grade.
- (2) Junior male players playing in senior grades are to abide by the above restriction.
- (3) **Bats for Youth Women, and Women's may be wood, wood composite/laminated, aluminium, ceramic or carbon graphite. In accordance with IBAF rules, 1.15 decibels will be the sound emission limit standard for non-wood bats.**

Youth Women - a bat may be no more than 34 inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8th inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than 15/16ths inches in diameter at its smallest part. The minimum diameter for a bat, which is less than 30" long, is 7/8ths of an inch at its smallest part.

[c] **Uniforms**

- (1) Teams shall be attired in uniforms that are registered with Baseball Canberra. Caps, playing pants and undershirts are part of the uniform and are to be of the same colour and design throughout a team.
 - [i] In cases where any 1st grade or 2nd grade player infringes the above, they are ineligible to participate in that and any other game until they are correctly attired.
 - [ii] If an infringement is discovered after the game has commenced, the umpire can request that player(s) comply immediately.

PENALTY: No penalty will apply to either team or player should the uniform infringement be remedied to the Umpires satisfaction. The Umpire can remove any player from the game where that player refuses to comply.

- [iii] A player may wear wide brim hat provided that it is the same colour as the approved Club cap.
- (2) The wearing of undershirts is optional unless the uniform playing top is sleeveless, in which case an undershirt then becomes compulsory. All undershirts must be the same colour throughout the team. White undershirts are not permitted.

- (3) Numbers shall be clearly displayed on uniform tops. The location of numbers is at a Club's discretion, but they must be in an identical location on all uniforms. No two (or more) players shall wear the same uniform number in the same game.
- (4) **Coaches and managers of all senior grade teams must be attired in playing uniform.** Any person not correctly attired is not allowed on the playing field or in the dugout.

[d] **Jackets**

- (1) Jackets must be in Club colours unless prior arrangements have been made with Baseball Canberra.
NOTE: Common sense is to prevail, and in cool weather in the interest of preventing injury non-Club colour jackets may be allowed in the dugouts, but Club colour jackets only are allowed in the playing area (fair and foul) forward of the dugouts.

[e] **Helmets**

- (1) The wearing of double earflap helmets whilst on deck, batting and base running is compulsory.
 - [i] A player may not wear cracked, damaged or one earflap helmets while he is on deck, at bat, base running or fielding.
- (2) A helmet must be worn by the catcher and may be worn by any fielder.
- (3) **All base coaches in ALL senior grades are to wear protective helmets when coaching the bases, but they may be a cap design (e.g. without ear flaps).**
- (3) A bat person or ball person employed in a game must wear a batting helmet with two (2) ear protectors at all times whether he/she is on the field or on the bench.
- (4) Helmets will be uniform in colour throughout a Club and in the colour registered for helmets by the Club.

[f] **Pitcher**

- (1) The pitcher while pitching is not to wear:
 - [i] a batting glove or any other form of glove under his/her fielder's glove;
 - [ii] sweat band/s on their throwing arm (sweat bands may be worn on the non-throwing arm but must not be white);
 - [iii] a white or light grey undershirt or an undershirt that has faded to resemble white or light grey;
 - [iv] any white or light coloured sleeve or bandage on their throwing arm; and
 - [v] any foreign article on their throwing hand (e.g. band aid or taping)

PENALTY: Any Pitcher in breach of the above will be asked by the Umpire to remedy the situation by removal of the offending item. Failure to remove the item will result in the player either being removed from the mound or ejected from the game.

[g] **Catchers**

- (1) All catchers are to wear the following:
 - face mask, helmet, chest plate, leggings and a protector (box).
- (2) Any person warming up a pitcher must wear a facemask and helmet.

[h] **Jewelry**

- (1) Except for a wedding ring or ear studs, any player in either a defensive or offensive position on the field will not wear any form of visible jewelry that could cause injury to, or distract an opposing player.
- (2) The Umpire will ensure that any visible stud or ring on the eye brow must be either removed or taped down securely.

[i] **Club responsibilities**

The Club designated by Baseball Canberra General Manager as the home team is responsible for the layout of the diamond.

- (1) Regardless of the grade, all bases, home plate and the pitcher's plate are to be securely pegged.
 - [i] All home plates should sit with their top surface "level" with the surrounding ground (without mounding the surrounding dirt).
- (2) A pitching mound must be constructed or provided on a club's Main home diamond and it must conform to those dimensions set out in the Official Australian Baseball Rules.
- (3) Home run fences are to be erected for 1st grade and 2nd grade games. (Exception – severe inclement weather- common sense prevail).

- [i] All efforts are to be made by the home team to fully erect a fence prior to the scheduled starting time of 2nd grade, failure to do so may incur a fine of \$100. This does not mean that games do not commence if the fence is not fully erected by the start of the game.
 - [ii] The points where the foul lines meet the fence are to be marked with a pole clearly visible by the plate umpire from home plate.
 - [iii] The distance from home plate along the foul lines to the nearest point of the fence should be at least 300 feet and the distance from home plate to the centre field fence will be at least 360 feet. Baseball Canberra must approve any variation.
 - [iv] In Women's, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, and Masters games when home run fences are not used, foul poles that are clearly visible from the home plate by the plate umpire should be erected approximately 300 feet from home plate on the foul lines and the home run line marked with cones or similar.
- (5) Where the field is not fully enclosed, each home team will define a dead-ball line with line marking extending from the fence line in foul territory out to the home run fence line.
- [j] **Benches and dugouts**
- (1) All benches and dugouts will be positioned outside the dead-ball line. All seating, playing equipment, etc. when not being used on the playing field will be placed inside the defined bench area and is not to be placed against the defined dead-ball line.
 - (2) The home team must provide a bench seat and overhead cover for the visiting team.

PENALTY: The plate umpire shall give the offending team the opportunity to correct the infringement. If the infringement is not corrected the plate umpire shall report the matter to Baseball Canberra (via the match report) for appropriate action. Baseball Canberra will fine a club \$200 for failure to comply with this section.

RULE 9: START OF GAME

- [a] **Commencement times**
- (1) All games are to commence at the times stated in the draw.
 - (2) The plate umpire shall be the final judge of the fitness of the playing field for the commencement of the game and for the resumption of play after any suspension.
- [b] **Forfeit**
- (1) Any team that will be unable to field the required number of players for any normal competition round game is to notify Baseball Canberra, the ACTBUA and the opposing coach at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled start of the game.
No points will be awarded to the team that forfeits and a 9-0 score line will be accredited against that team, as per Rule 5 [e] (1).
 - (2) Failure to notify a forfeit prior to the any game will result in the loss of three, (3), accumulated competition points. The Club will also be responsible for paying a fine that is equivalent to the cost of the umpire's fees and ground hire for that grade.
- [c] **Insufficient Players**
- (1)
 - (i) Where a team has fewer than the required number of players (nine [9] players for 1st grade and 2nd grade) and is therefore unable to commence a match, the plate umpire shall allow up to fifteen (15) minutes after the due commencement time of the game for the required number of players to report to the ground. If a team is still unable to field the required number of players at the end of that time, the plate umpire shall declare the game forfeited to the opposing team. The game will be treated as a non-notified forfeit with a 9-0 score line and a loss of 3 competition points.
 - (ii) The required number of players for Women's 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade and Masters is seven, (7). For each of those competitions only, if less than 9 players, then automatic outs will be enforced. This particular Rule equally applies to the finals.
 - (2) Where both teams are unable to field the required number of players fifteen (15) minutes after the due commencement time of the game, the plate umpire shall declare the game a no game.
 - (3) Where a game has ended because a team is unable to field the sufficient number of players, the game will then be called and treated as a forfeit and awarded against the team with insufficient players. A score line of 9-0 will be accredited to the winning team and no game points will be awarded to the forfeiting team.

- (4) Any team that wins by forfeit must submit a game report in order to receive eligibility points. Non-notified forfeiting teams will not be awarded eligibility points.

PENALTY: A Club that forfeits due to a lack of players will be responsible for paying a fine that is equivalent to the cost of the umpire's fees and ground hire for that grade. Failure to pay in the timeframe set by Baseball Canberra Commissioner will result in the team being declared a defaulter to Baseball Canberra and will forfeit all future games until fees are paid.

[d] **Weather/ground conditions prevent game commencing or continuing**

- (1) Where inclement weather or ground conditions may prevent a game commencing, an ACTBUA official and/or Club President (or delegated officiator), may call off that and any subsequent game at that ground provided, that in their combined judgement, there is no possibility of subsequent games commencing that day (for detailed Heat Policy refer to Baseball Canberra website).
- (2) All effort shall be made to commence or continue a scheduled game. Once the plate umpire accepts the ground as playable the game shall proceed as normal.
- (3) Mechanical light failure at Narrabundah Ballpark
- [i] In the event of light failure during a play, (other than a safe hit, catch or any out/s made before the light failure), the play shall revert back to the pitch.
- [ii] In the event of light failure after a safe hit, the ball will be dead and all runners shall advance one base.
- [iii] In the event of light failure after a catch or any out/s made, the ball will be dead, the out/s shall stand and the runners return.

Note 1: The plate umpire is to advise Baseball Canberra General Manager verbally as soon as possible and in writing within 48 hours after a game was scheduled to commence, of any reasons for a late start (other than proceeding game carryover] or a no-game situation.

Note 2: **In all grades, regular season games which are washed out and/or cancelled, will not be rescheduled.** All playoff games will be rescheduled wherever possible; otherwise the team finishing higher on the ladder will advance to the next round or, in the case of a Grand Final, will be awarded the Championship.

RULE 10: LENGTH OF GAMES - INCLUDING FINALS

[a] **1st grade**

- (1) 1st grade **Sunday and/or final's** games shall be played out as per the Official Baseball Rules. **Midweek games (other than finals) will be 'timed' games, with no new inning to start at or after 2 hours. Also, a courtesy runner for the catcher, Rule 7(3)(c), will apply.**

[b] **2nd grade, Women's, 3rd grade, 4th grade and 5th grade**

- (1) 2nd grade, Women's, 3rd grade, 4th grade and 5th grade games shall be two hours in duration or nine (9) innings, whichever is sooner.

[c] **Masters games – no new inning is to commence on or after 90 minutes.**

[d] **1st and 2nd grades - scheduled start time**

- (1) 1st grade games shall commence at the scheduled start time or no later than 30 minutes after the completion of the preceding game on the same diamond, whichever is later. 1st grade teams will be permitted to undertake pre-game warm up (infield/outfield practice).
- (2) 2nd grade games shall commence at the scheduled start time or 15 minutes after the completion of the preceding game on the same diamond, whichever is later. Teams will **only** be permitted to undertake pre-game warm up (infield/outfield practice) on the diamond if time permits.

[e] **Mercy Rule – All grades**

- (1). All games, including final series games, shall be called where one team is leading by:
- twenty (20) or more runs at the completion of the fifth (5th) inning (middle of the 5th inning if the home team is leading);
 - fifteen (15) or more runs at the completion of the sixth (6th) inning (middle of the 6th inning if the home team is leading); or
 - ten (10) or more runs at any time after the completion of the seventh (7th) inning (middle of the 7th inning if the home team is leading).

- [f] **Timed Games**
- (1) **2nd grade, Women's, 3rd grade, 4th grade and 5th grade** games shall be 2-hour timed games.
 - (2) No new innings shall commence at or after the 2-hour (game) time limit as recorded by the official umpire for **2nd grade, Women's, 3rd grade, 4th grade and 5th grade**.
 - (3) The actual starting time is that notified to the scorers by the umpire-in-chief.
 - (4) A **2nd grade, Women's, 3rd grade, 4th grade or 5th grade** inning in progress at the 2-hour mark shall be completed only where necessary (ie. where the home team is in front at the 2-hour mark, the game shall cease then, without the inning being completed).
- [g] **Called game**
- (1) **Where a game has become a regulation game (see Rule 7.01) and is called for whatever reason, the Official Baseball Rules shall apply except that for timed games, where the score is tied at the end of the time allocated, the game will be recorded as a draw.**
- [h] **Regulation game**
- (1) For the purposes of these local Rules a regulation game shall be that as defined in the Official Baseball Rules except for;
 - [i] 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade and 5th grade where 4 complete innings shall constitute a regulation game.
 - [ii] **Women's** grade where 3 complete innings shall constitute a regulation game.
- [i] **Pre game warm up**
- (1) Before the start of each game both teams may exercise a maximum of seven (7) minutes as a warm up period on the diamond but only provided that sufficient time is available before the scheduled starting time.
The home team manager will control this warm up period and will follow the sequence of home team followed by the visiting team.
- [j] **Offensive Run Rule:**
- (1) **An Offensive run Rule of seven (7) runs shall apply for all Women's games and, nine (9) runs for all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade games, including final series games; ie. in any one inning a team cannot score more than 7 runs. The scoring of the 7th or 9th run signifies the end of the inning and any additional runs will not count.**
Example: A Women's team has scored 6 runs in an inning with bases loaded. The next batter hits a home run – only one additional run will be recorded on the scoresheet for that inning however, all runs will count toward individual statistics.

RULE 11: PROTESTING A GAME - NORMAL COMPETITION ROUNDS

- [a] Where a manager is of the opinion that, where there has been a perceived violation of the Local Rules and/or an umpire's decision is in violation of either the Official Baseball Rules or these local Rules, they may protest that decision. Protests on any judgement decisions made by an umpire will not be permitted.
- [b] The protest must be lodged with the plate umpire immediately after the play has been completed and before the next pitch, or in the case of a play made that ends the game before the plate umpire leaves the playing field.
- [c] The procedure to be adopted is as follows:
- (1) The manager is to advise the umpire concerned that they are lodging a protest on the decision made. If this umpire is a base umpire, the manager is then to advise the plate umpire of their action.
 - (2) The plate umpire is to advise the manager whether he can accept the protest in accordance with the provisions of Official Australian Baseball Rules (i.e. the decision by the umpire was not a judgement call).
 - (3) The plate umpire will then advise the scorers of the protest.
 - (4) The scorers are to annotate on their scorebooks:
 - [i] the time the protest was lodged;
 - [ii] the point of the protest;
 - [iii] the state of the game, and the count on the batter, if applicable.
 - (5) The game will then proceed normally.
 - (6) At the completion of the game;

- [i] if the team protesting has lost the game, the manager has until 9.00pm on the first working day after the game to lodge an official protest in writing to Baseball Canberra General Manager: or
- [ii] if the team protesting has won the game the protest is automatically dismissed; nevertheless the team manager must within 48 hours of the completion of the game report the incident in writing to Baseball Canberra General Manager who will advise the ACTBUA Director of Umpires.
- [d] On receipt of a protest lodged in accordance with Rule 11 [c] (6) [i], Baseball Canberra Commissioner or his nominated representative is to, convene a meeting of both team managers and those players whom they consider will assist in arriving at a decision. Also those umpires involved in the protested game, the ACTBUA Director of Umpires (who is to advise on umpiring procedures and Rules interpretation] and the scorebooks.
- [e] On hearing all involved, Baseball Canberra Commissioner or his nominated representative is to Rule in accordance with the provisions of Official Baseball Rule 7.04.
- [f] Where it is necessary to replay a game or that part of a game from the protest point to reach a decision, the game will be played as soon as possible after the protest has been decided. Where such games are replayed they must be replayed if possible, with those players, managers and coaches as detailed on the original line-up sheets. If possible, those umpires who officiated in the original game are also to be allocated to the game. Where possible the same ground is to be used.

RULE 12: FINAL SERIES

- [a] For all Grades. The teams will be ranked according to highest points percentage. The top ranked team in each grade will be determined to be the minor premiers.

$$\text{Points percentage} = \frac{\text{wins} * 3 + \text{draws} * 2 + \text{losses} * 1 - \text{Points Penalties}}{(\text{wins} + \text{draws} + \text{losses}) * 3}$$
 - (1) If the teams are equal the head to head method between the teams tied will be used to gain a result.
 - (2) If the teams are still equal, the best percentage of runs against divided by defensive innings [between the teams tied] will be ranked higher. Where a half inning has commenced it will count as a full half inning (ie whole number) regardless of how many outs are made.
 - (3) If the teams are still equal, the best percentage of runs against divided by defensive outs will be applied against the top team in the competition.
 - (4) If the teams are still equal, the best percentage of runs against divided by defensive outs against the second place team (and each subsequent team if still equal) will be applied.
 - (5) If the teams are still equal, the highest percentage of (runs for divided by offensive outs)/(runs against divided by defensive outs) (between the teams tied) will be applied. If the teams are still equal the same formula is applied the first place team, then the second place team, etc. as in 4.
 - (6) If this does not determine a result a play-off will be required.
- [b] The final series will be organised according to the established schedule for each competition year.
- [c] **Player eligibility. Refer to Appendix 2.**
- [d] **Conduct of finals series games**
 - (1) The plate umpire controlling the game will decide on the suitability of the ground, the light/weather conditions and/or similar aspects, for the commencement, continuance or otherwise of play.
 - (2) Where a game cannot be commenced for any reason (excepting a forfeit), or where because of light or adverse weather conditions, a regulation game, as defined in Rule 10 [g], cannot be reached, Baseball Canberra will attempt to reschedule all games (see also Rule 9 [d] note 2).
- [e] **Protesting a game - final series**
 - (1) During any finals series game a manager may protest against any ruling, whether it is a perceived violation of the Local Rules and / or made by an umpire where they believe there has been a violation of the Official Baseball Rules or these local Rules. Protests will not be accepted on any judgement decision made by an umpire.
 - (2) Rules 11 [b] and 11 [c] (1) to 11 [c] (4) shall apply to procedures. The protest will then be decided at the time it is lodged by an independent finals committee appointed prior to the final series by Baseball Canberra Commissioner. Play will be suspended while the committee deliberates. The decision reached by the committee **will be final** and the game **will** continue.

PENALTY: Penalties resulting from finals protests will depend upon the protest that has been lodged. Where the protest is upheld the independent finals committee will advise the applicable penalty.

- (3) For any player or team official reported / ejected from a Finals game, the independent finals committee shall meet at the conclusion of the game, and prior to the commencement of the next scheduled game involving the team of the reported / ejected person, to determine what further penalty, if any, shall apply to that person.

PENALTY: Such penalty, if any, shall be in line with the Tribunal Offences and Penalties document contained in Attachment A of Appendix 1 of these Local Rules.

- (f) Length of game – final series. **Refer to Rule 10.**

RULE 13: VISITS TO THE MOUND

Official Baseball Rules prescribe that the second visit of a manager to a pitcher in the same inning forces the removal of that pitcher from the game. For the application within the ACTBA competitions, that pitcher may assume a fielding position, but may not pitch again in that game.

RULE 14: SCORING

- [a] Scorers from both participating Clubs will sit together immediately behind the back net at all matches. The conduct of scorers is to conform with the provisions of Official Baseball Rule 10.01 [a]. Spectators are to respect the status of the scorers as officials and avoid distracting them from their duties.
Note 1. Scorers are not to smoke in scorers' box.
Note 2. Players, other officials and spectators are not to smoke within 10 metres of the scorers' box.
- [b] If a scorer cannot or will not conform to these Rules, a report shall be made to Baseball Canberra by the opposing club within 48 hours of the completion of a game. The Scorers President will be contacted with regard proper disciplinary action.
- [c] As soon as possible after the conclusion of each game both managers will report to the scorers area and sign the match report.
- [d] All match report sheets are to be lodged electronically by the home team **within 24 hours** to; generalmanager@actbaseball.com
- Ensure all details on the match report are fully and correctly **entered**.

RULE 15: GENERAL

- [a] (1) Any player or official covered by either these Local Rules or the Official Baseball Rules is not permitted to consume alcoholic beverage, smoke or chew tobacco on the playing field benches or dugouts during the game. Nor shall a player leave the playing field for such a purpose. [Scorers are encouraged not to smoke and to respect non- smokers – use common sense].

PENALTY: Immediate ejection from the game, together with a further penalty in line with the Tribunal Offences and Penalties document contained in these Local Rules.

- (2) The umpire, within 24 hours of advising Baseball Canberra General Manager, is to forward their written report on any person [s] reported or ejected from a game. A copy of the report is also sent to the secretary of the ACTBUA (actbua@gmail.com).
- (3) All members of the playing and coaching staffs are to make themselves fully conversant with the intent and contents of these Rules.
- [b] Any club that has a **bat person** is to ensure that their responsibility for the duty of care to that person is undertaken prior to, during and immediately after a game.
- [c] **Head Injury** – If any player suffers a loss of consciousness they must be immediately removed from the game. It is a requirement by the League that the player does not play for sixteen (16) days unless a physician directs otherwise or there is an extended break in the competition. If the prognosis by a qualified physician has deemed a longer absence, then that must be adhered to. Any such injury is to be reported to Baseball Canberra within 48 hours. The player will be granted those games missed, for eligibility, on producing a certificate to Baseball Canberra office as soon as possible after the incident.

- [d] **Disability/illness** – If any player who suffers an injury or has an illness, for a period of more than two weeks, that player upon request may be granted dispensation for those games missed. The Eligibility Committee will verify any request prior to its determination. This dispensation shall be given only in relation to illness/injury diagnosed and attested to by a qualified physician and as soon as practicable after determination.
- [e] **Player disability** – Any player who has a permanent disability, of any limb, that prevents them from competing to their fullest has dispensation for a courtesy runner once they have reached first (1st) base of their own accord without detriment to their continued participation.
 - [f] **Blood Bin Rule**
 - (1) Any players who are injured and who require treatment to stem the flow of any body fluids may leave the game without penalty.
 - [i] If on base, a courtesy runner may be used until replaced by the original player.
 - [ii] If at bat, the player may obtain treatment, and if unable to be treated within a reasonable period of time that player may be replaced with the same count applied to a courtesy batter.
 - [iii] If on the field, a courtesy fielder may be used while treatment is applied.
 - (2) Players who after treatment are unable to return into the game at the completion of three further innings shall be replaced. The following shall apply:
 - [i] No ejected player may be used as a replacement player.
 - [ii] All soiled clothing must be replaced.

RULE 16: RULES FOR TOURNAMENTS OR SPECIAL FIXTURES

Baseball Canberra may from time to time make special Rules over and above the Official Baseball Rules and these local Rules for the conduct of special tournaments or interstate fixtures. Baseball Canberra will nominate such tournaments or fixtures and may overrule both the Official Baseball Rules and these local Rules.

RULE 17: PENALTIES

- [a] Any member of Baseball Canberra [incorporating Junior League] that incurs a fine is ineligible to participate in any final series, until the fine is paid. Failure to adhere to this Rule will result in that player's team forfeiting all subsequent games until that person becomes financial to Baseball Canberra.
- [b] Any Club which is not financial by the Christmas break, including Juniors, will forfeit all further games that Club is involved in unless specific exception has been approved in writing by the Commissioner. The Baseball Canberra Executive will list within 48 hours prior to the commencement of the post-Christmas games a list of each of the Club's financial status to the Council. This will allow any Club that amount of time to finalise any outstanding payments. The Commissioner will notify each Club President or their nominated delegate prior to the first finals game time of player eligibility.

APPENDIX 1: PROCEDURES – EJECTION and/or REPORTING

1 EJECTION:

In accordance with Rule 4 of these Local Rules, an official umpire, accredited by the ACTBUA, will be the official representative of Baseball Canberra for all matters pertaining to the conduct of the game and is charged with the authority to adjudicate on the application of ; i) the Official Baseball Rules, ii) and these Local Rules) Where a person, playing in a sanctioned Baseball Canberra game, is ejected (removed) from a game the umpire MUST take the following actions:

- [a] advise the respective manager and the person(s) ejected. The advice to the manager and person(s) is simply to inform them of the ejection.

The scorer shall note the following:

- [a] The name of the person(s) ejected;
- [b] The time of ejection; and
- [c] Confirmation of the substitute player.

Note:

- (1) Where a manager is ejected, the ejected manager is to notify the umpire-in-chief of their replacement. If they fail to do so, the umpire will then appoint a person from that team to be the Manager.
- (2) As soon as practicably possible, after completion of the game where an ejection occurred, the umpire is to inform Baseball Canberra General Manager either by phone, voice message, SMS, in person or by email, of the ejection.
- (3) The umpire will then, within 24 hours, or by 12:00 noon that immediate Monday (whichever is earlier), forward their written report regarding the circumstances of the ejection. The written report is to expressly specify the Offence, from Baseball Canberra’s “Offences and Penalties table, (Attachment A of this Appendix).
- (4) Should the umpire consider that the offence is of a serious enough nature they may, in their report, request that the matter be referred directly to a tribunal.

2 REPORTING:

In addition to incidents usually reportable by an umpire, following an ejection, any official or other person may report an incident to Baseball Canberra General Manager against players, club members and officials, including umpires, which in the opinion of the reporter brings the game into discredit or disrepute.

- [a] A written report detailing the incident(s) is to be forwarded in writing within 24 hours, or by 12 noon that immediate Monday (whichever is earlier), of the conclusion of the game to Baseball Canberra General Manager by letter or by email at generalmanager@actbaseball.com. A copy of the report is also sent to the secretary of the ACTBUA (actbua@gmail.com).

3 GENERAL MANAGER:

On receipt of a report from an umpire, or other person, Baseball Canberra General Manager will make a determination whether the reported action warrants either; i) a penalty from Baseball Canberra’s Offences and Penalties table, ii) a Tribunal, or iii) no further action.

Should Baseball Canberra General Manager determine that a Penalty or Tribunal is required; the General Manager will then advise the relevant Club President (or other appropriate Club representative), with:

- [a] the name of the person under report, and
- [b] the offence or charge against the person which led to the ejection and or report; and
- [c] the “penalty”, if any, from Baseball Canberra’s “Offences and Penalties table, (Attachment A of this Appendix) that is to be applied for that offence / charge, or
- [d] should the circumstances warrant, that a tribunal hearing is to be held,.

The club will then have 24hrs, or by 12 noon that immediate Tuesday (whichever is earlier), to inform Baseball Canberra if that person; i) accepts the “penalty”, or ii) wishes to go to a Tribunal and plead a case to reduce the penalty”.

Should the ejected/reported person elect to go to Tribunal, Baseball Canberra General Manager will then forward a copy of the relevant report to the Club President (or other appropriate Club representative). In the case of report against an umpire, Baseball Canberra General Manager is to forward a copy of the report to the ACTBUA, who will then deal with the matter accordingly and internally..

4 TIME LIMIT FAILURE

Baseball Canberra General Manager or a person delegated by the Commissioner may decide that a report shall not be entertained, if it is not made within the time limits specified in these procedures.

PROCEDURES FOR TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

5 INTRODUCTION

When a person is ejected from a game by an official umpire, then that umpire, in their capacity as the official representative of Baseball Canberra for all matters pertaining to the conduct of the game, has already determined that that person had committed an offence. Accordingly, if the matter is then referred to a Tribunal, the only issue that can be considered by that Tribunal is; the appropriate penalty that should be applied, given all the evidence that is presented to it.

Any reported person, referred to a Tribunal, is able to play until that matter is heard.

6 TRIBUNAL PANEL

- [a] Baseball Canberra General Manager will act as secretary, or may nominate another member of Baseball Canberra to act as secretary. This person may also be a member of the tribunal panel.
- [b] One member of the panel will be appointed as Chairman.
- [c] Monday evening (or as soon as possible) is the designated day for tribunal/appeal hearings.

7 FORMALITY

- [a] Any reported person/s that is referred to a Tribunal must attend the very next scheduled hearing on that immediate Monday.
- [b] If for any reason the reported person cannot attend on that immediate Monday, they may then elect to either;
 - i) have another representative from their club attend on their behalf, or
 - ii) participate by teleconference, or
 - iii) provide the tribunal with a written statement to assist them in determining the appropriate penalty, or
 - iv) elect to have the matter heard in absentia.
- [c] Should the reported person fail to elect one of the above, the Chairman may continue with Tribunal.
- [d] A Tribunal hearing may only be postponed through the inability of sufficient (three [3]) panel members to form a panel. In such cases, the Tribunal may be rescheduled to any other night.

Before the tribunal panel convenes, the secretary is to ensure that:

- [e] All members of the tribunal panel are present.
- [f] The following is presented to the Chairman of the Tribunal:
 - The umpire's original ejection report or other report.
 - The prior conviction book.
 - A copy of Baseball Canberra local Rules.
 - A copy of the Official Baseball Rules.
- [g] Copies of the report are to be made available for all other members of the tribunal panel as well as the person under report.
- [h] The person under report is present.
- [i] The umpire(s) reporting the offence(s) is/are present or available for teleconference. A tribunal may however proceed if an umpire is unavailable, however only the details of their report will then be considered.
- [j] Any persons that the chairman, tribunal panel and/or person under report have requested to appear before the tribunal are present, either as a witness or to clarify what transpired. Witness Statements will not be heard unless the witness is present.

- [k] When the Secretary has confirmed that the tribunal may commence, the tribunal panel and secretary are to meet in private and review the report/s and the Rule or Rules under which the report/s are made.

Note: It will be the decision of the chairman of the tribunal panel to decide whether the tribunal should proceed. This includes; if the reported person or the person(s) making the report are not present, and/or if the report is determined incorrect. [If there is a delay due to non-attendance of any person/s the chairman of the panel may adjourn the hearing for a maximum of 30 minutes, unless prior communication was established and agreed].

8 PROCEDURE

The following are the set procedures to be adopted for all tribunal hearings:

- [a] The chairman will read out the report to those assembled, ensuring that all understand the nature of the report.
- [b] The reported person and the person(s) making the report will remain present throughout the proceedings when evidence is given (see 7[b] and [i] above).
- [d] The reporting person(s) may then provide any additional information and the tribunal panel may ask questions, and the reported person may ask questions through the Chairman.
- [e] The chairman is to ask the reported person what they have to say about the incident, including any extenuating or mitigating circumstances.
- [f] The chairman is to advise the reported person that they:
- (1) may comment on the report: or
 - (2) may remain silent; and/or
 - (3) may call witnesses (who must also be present)
- [g] The tribunal may question any reported person's evidence.
- [h] All witnesses called are to be treated in the same manner, whereby the chairman is to:
- (1) invite the witness to give evidence;
 - (2) allow the tribunal to question the witness; and
 - (3) allow the reported person to question the witness through the chairman.
- [i] After all evidence has been given, the reported person and reporting persons are to withdraw and the tribunal panel is to consider its decision. At any time during this deliberation, any person may be recalled to clarify any statements. However, at all such times the reported person should also be present and may question the recalled witness.
- [j] After the tribunal panel has reached a decision the reported person is to be recalled and informed of the tribunal panel's decision.

9 PENALTIES

- [a] On hearing the evidence the tribunal panel may;
- i) determine the prescribed penalty as listed in the "Offences and Penalties table, or
 - ii) determine a lesser penalty, or
 - iii) determine a greater penalty, or
 - iv) determine that the ejection is deemed sufficient.
- [b] The gravity of the reported offence(s) is to be used to decide on the penalty awarded. However, consideration is also to be given to previous or repeat offences/offenders in reaching this penalty

10 PERIOD QUALIFICATIONS

If a penalty of disqualification is imposed, the following is to be adhered to:

- [a] Where periods are stipulated in hours, weeks, months (calendar) or a year/s (365 days), the disqualification is to commence one minute after the completion of the tribunal and cease one minute to midnight on whatever period was previously stipulated.
- [b] Game (round) disqualifications are to be distinct from period disqualifications.

11 APPEALS

- [a] If there is a penalty applied, the chairman of the tribunal panel is to also inform the reported person that they have a right of appeal, against the severity of the penalty only. If they wish to exercise this right, they must do so within the time frame and provisions specified below.

- (1) The person appealing has 24 hours to notify Baseball Canberra General Manager, on Baseball Canberra Appeal Lodgment Form - at Attachment C to Appendix 2 of these Local Rules.
 - (2) Once Baseball Canberra General Manager has received Baseball Canberra Appeal Lodgment Form, the person appealing then has 48 hours to provide a written detailed explanation of the extenuating or mitigating circumstances. There are no appeals against tribunal decisions during finals games.
 - (3) Included, with the written detailed appeal, is to be a payment of \$100.00. This will be held as a bond by Baseball Canberra. If the appeal or part of the appeal is found in favour of that person, then full or part of the fee will be returned to that person. The chairman of the appeal panel is to automatically reject frivolous appeals and no refund will be given. No refund will be given if the original penalty is upheld or increased.
- [b] No player will be permitted to play or take any part in any game until the Appeal has been heard by the Appeals Panel.

The above procedures are to be adhered to in total or it will be regarded that there will be no appeal against the penalty awarded.

12 CONVENING AN APPEAL PANEL

Once all documentation is received Baseball Canberra General Manager is to convene an Appeal Panel, consisting of no less than three persons, as soon as possible after receiving all paperwork (including payment). Before the appeal panel convenes, the secretary is to ensure that:

- [a] All members of the appeal panel are present.
- [b] The following is presented to the Chairman of the Appeal Panel:
 - The umpire's original ejection report and/or original report.
 - The prior conviction book.
 - A copy of Baseball Canberra appeal form; and
 - A copy of the detailed written appeal explanation.
- [c] The person appealing is present. If they are not present, the appeal will be dismissed.
- [e] The umpire(s) reporting the offence(s) is/are present.
- [f] Any persons that the chairman, appeal panel and / or person under report have requested to appear before the tribunal/appeal are present, either as a witness or to clarify what transpired. Witness Statements will not be heard unless the witness is present.
- [g] When the Secretary has confirmed that the appeal may commence, the appeal panel and secretary are to meet in private and review the appeal and the circumstances under which the appeal is made.

Note: It will be the decision of the chairman of the appeal panel to decide whether the appeal should proceed, be adjourned or the appeal dismissed (the appeal may be deemed frivolous). This includes if the person making the appeal is not present. If there is a delay due to non-attendance of any persons, other than the person appealing, the chairman of the panel may adjourn the hearing to another date, but no later than seven days after the original date [an allowable delay would be 30 minutes unless prior communication was established].

13 APPEAL PROCEDURES

The following are the set procedures to be adopted for all appeal hearings:

- [a] That all required persons are to be assembled before the appeal panel.
- [b] The chairman will read out the appeal to those assembled, ensuring that all present understand the nature of the appeal and then direct that all, except the person making the appeal, are to retire.
- [c] The person appealing will then give a verbal explanation of the appeal and the appeal panel may ask questions.
- [d] All witnesses called are to be treated in the same manner, where the chairman is to:
 - (1) invite the witness to give evidence;
 - (2) allow the panel to question the witness; and
 - (3) allow the person appealing to question the witness through the chairman.
- [e] After all evidence has been given, the person appealing is to withdraw and the appeal panel is to consider its decision. At any time during this deliberation, any person may be recalled to clarify any statements.

However, at all such times the person appealing must also be present and must be allowed to question the recalled witness.

[f] After the appeal panel has reached a decision the person appealing is to be recalled and informed of the appeal panel's decision.

[g] The appeal panel will;

i) determine that the original penalty shall remain, or

ii) determine a lesser penalty, or

iii) determine a greater penalty,

Return all of the above as soon as possible after the hearing to Baseball Canberra General Manager.

14 SERVING OF PENALTIES

If a player, manager, coach or any other official or member of a club has received any penalty, they are suspended according to the specific direction and ruling as provided by the tribunal. If this Rule is contravened then that person will receive an additional suspension on top of their original penalty and the club in question will forfeit any game that this person was involved in at the time of suspension/disqualification.

15 CARRY OVER TO FOLLOWING SEASON

If any player, manager, coach or any other official or member of a club that has received any penalty that cannot be served in that team's grade or for that club in that current season (including finals), they are to serve the remainder of the penalty or the complete penalty, starting at the commencement of the next season.

16 WHERE ANY PERSON(S) BEFORE A TRIBUNAL/APPEAL MISBEHAVES

Baseball Canberra will not tolerate any misbehavior by any person, at or to anyone associated with a tribunal or appeal hearing. If this occurs the action is to be recorded and reported by the chairman and appropriate disciplinary action is to be taken.

Offences and Penalties Table

Behaviour warranting ejection from a game will not be tolerated by Baseball Canberra. As an organisation, not only do we have a duty to protect our umpires from abuse, but we also have an obligation to protect the image of our sport.

Imperative also is a Tribunal system which is consistent in its application of charges and the penalties which attach to same, so that players and umpires alike have confidence in a system that will deal fairly and consistently with whomever might come before it.

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

Any offence can be referred to the Tribunal, and an Umpire or Baseball Canberra General Manager has the authority in respect of any offence to refer the matter in his/her report directly to the Tribunal, should he/she so wish.

Offence / Charge	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence
Audible Offensive Language/Swearing	1 game suspended for remainder of season	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence
Abuse Directed at an Umpire	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 game suspension + 4 game suspended sentence	8 game suspension + 8 game suspended sentence
Dissent	Ejection Sufficient	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence
Arguing Balls and Strikes	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 game suspension + 4 game suspended sentence
Equipment Abuse	Ejection Sufficient	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence
Disobeying an Umpires Direction	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 game suspension + 4 game suspended sentence
Failing to Leave the Field of Play	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 game suspension + 4 game suspended sentence
Tobacco / Alcohol use	Ejection Sufficient	1 game suspension + 1 game suspended sentence	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence
Racial or Religious Vilification	2 game suspension + 2 game suspended sentence	4 games suspension + 4 game suspended sentence	8 game suspension + 8 game suspended sentence
Striking/fighting	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal
Dangerous Play	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal

Baseball Canberra TRIBUNAL/APPEAL HEARING

(Cross out whichever not applicable)

Date:/...../..... Time Commenced:
In Attendance:
Chairperson:
Members:
Secretary:
Ejected player:
Ejected/reported by (umpire/s):
Witnesses:

Date ejected:/...../..... Game:vs Grade:
Umpires ejection report/umpires report received: YES NO
Appeal documentation received (delete if tribunal): YES NO
Prior Conviction Book received: YES NO
Baseball Canberra Senior Local Rules received: YES NO
Official Australian Baseball Rules Book received: YES NO

.....(print name), after having heard the details of the above matter, we the
panel,
UPHOLD/DISMISS your appeal against the severity of the sentence advised for your Offence, and you are to
serve the following penalty/no additional penalty is to be served (delete whichever is inapplicable)

.....
.....

(Chairperson) (Member) (Member)

Baseball Canberra APPEAL LODGEMENT FORM - 1

I,(print name), am hereby informing Baseball Canberra of my decision to appeal against the severity of the sentence imposed against me by the decision of the Tribunal Panel relating to the offences that were reported against me on/...../.....(Date), by (print name) at the tribunal hearing on/...../.....(Date).

I am aware of my responsibilities with regard to the Appeals Procedures in that I:

- (a) must submit a written detailed explanation of the extenuating or mitigating circumstances I am relying upon to ground my case against any further additional penalty to that already experienced via my removal from the game in question; and that
(b) this appeal is to be in the hands of Baseball Canberra General Manager within 48 hours of Baseball Canberra General Manager receiving the appeal lodgment form: and
(c) that a \$100.00 bond is also to accompany the appeal documentation.

I am also aware that when the Appeals Panel convenes that, all my witnesses from the tribunal hearing are to be present, if requested by the Chairman of the Appeal Panel. I am also responsible to ensure that they are available and that all my relevant documentation for my appeal is in my presence.

DECLARATION

I have read and fully understand the procedures and my responsibilities with regard to my Appeal. I am aware that if the Procedures are not adhered to in total, I will forfeit my right of appeal.

Signed.....

Date...../...../.....

Date received by Baseball Canberra...../...../.....
Received by Baseball Canberra (print name).....
Signature.....

This form is to be forwarded to Baseball Canberra General Manager by e-mail generalmanager@actbaseball.com within 24 hours of the conclusion of the Tribunal/Appeal Hearing, or you as the reported person are regarded as having accepted the penalty awarded.

Note: If emailed a receipt will be sent from the office to confirm receipt. Person appealing: if emailing to either scan signature or put in brush script.

APPENDIX 2: FINALS ELIGIBILITY

For a player to participate in any senior grade of the Baseball Canberra competition Final Series, they must satisfy the criteria of both the following rules:

- Rule (A) PLAYER ELIGIBILITY
- Rule (B) PLAYER QUALIFICATION

RULE (A) – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

For players to participate in Baseball Canberra Final Series, they must in the first instance satisfy the ‘PLAYER ELIGIBILITY’ criteria stipulated below:

1st Grade: Must have started or pitched in a total of 10 games for that club during Baseball Canberra regular season (in any senior grade)

2nd Grade: Must have started or pitched in a total of 5 games for that club during Baseball Canberra regular season (in any senior grade)

3rd Grade: Must have started or pitched in a total of 5 games for that club during Baseball Canberra regular season (in any senior grade)

4th Grade: Must have started or pitched in a total of 5 games for that club during Baseball Canberra regular season (in any senior grade)

5th Grade: Must have started or pitched in a total of 5 games for that club during Baseball Canberra regular season (in any senior grade)

Women: Must have started or pitched in a total of 5 games for that club during Baseball Canberra regular season (in any senior grade)

FAILURE TO MEET THE ‘PLAYER ELIGIBILITY’ CRITERIA STIPULATED IN RULE (A) AUTOMATICALLY RENDERS ANY PLAYER INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN the Baseball Canberra SENIOR FINAL SERIES (unless dispensation is granted by Baseball Canberra as per rules 15(d))

RULE (B) - PLAYER QUALIFICATION

Provided players have satisfied the ‘PLAYER ELIGIBILITY’ criteria stipulated in Rule (A), they will then be deemed qualified for the senior grade/or grades in accordance with the ‘PLAYER QUALIFICATION’ criteria detailed below (including the General Notes).

1st grade:

- (1) The % number of 1st grade games a particular player has started in or pitched in during the regular season out of the total number of games that player has started in or pitched in during the regular season for the club are eligible only for 1st grade final series only.
- (2) Whereby more than 9 players share the same % of 1st grade games played at the completion of the regular season, the club shall nominate **9 (and only 9)** of those players who will be deemed qualified to participate in the 1st grade Final Series only.

***Footnote** – The regular season 1st grade ‘*fresh starter*’ rule is only applicable whenever a 1st grade Final Series game is played on the same day as any lower grade Final Series game.

2nd grade:

- (1) After the top 9 players for the club have been determined according to the above, the next 9 players (10-18) for the Club are ranked on total points acquired throughout the regular season (points allocation table in general notes).
- (2) Whereby more than 9 players share the same total of ‘player qualification points’ at the completion of Baseball Canberra regular season, the club shall nominate 9 (and only 9) of those players who will then be deemed qualified to participate in only the 2nd grade (or higher) Final Series.

3rd, 4th, 5th & grade:

- (1) All other players ranked outside the top 18 ranked players will be qualified to play finals in the grade where they have played the majority of their games (or higher) during Baseball Canberra regular season.
- (2) Players that played the majority of their regular season games in a higher grade (than 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th grade), but by virtue of their qualification points accumulation fall outside the top 18 ranked players, will be qualified to only participate in the 3rd grade (or higher) Final Series.
- (3) In cases whereby players ranked outside the top 18 have played the same number of regular season games in multiple grades, then they shall be deemed qualified to play in the lowest of those grades.

Women: Female players deemed to have satisfied the 'Player Eligibility' criteria of **5 games** for the women's competition, will be automatically regarded as eligible and qualified to participate in any senior grade Final Series game.

General Notes

- Players that do not satisfy the 'PLAYER ELIGIBILITY' rule (A) criteria for any of the senior grades, are deemed ineligible to participate for any club in the senior Final Series. Any such player shall not count in the 'PLAYER QUALIFICATION' grade rankings for a club.
- Players that have satisfied the 'PLAYER ELIGIBILITY' rule (A) criteria for any senior grade but for some reason are not available to participate in the Finals (injury/departure etc.) will still occupy a position in the 'PLAYER QUALIFICATION' grade rankings as per their season percentage and/or points accumulation totals.
- Players can always participate in finals games in a higher grade (than the grade for which they have qualified), but in order to do so they must have satisfied the 'ELIGIBILITY' criteria for that higher grade (Rule A).
- Where a club has multiple teams nominated in any single senior grade, players will be qualified to participate in the Final Series for the team in which they participated for in the majority of games throughout the regular season. If this number is equal for both teams, then the club will nominate only 1 of those teams that the player is then deemed qualified to play for in the Final Series.
- Under no circumstances is any player permitted to play finals in a grade lower than the grade for which they have qualified.

Player Qualification points allocation reference table

1st	5	Allocated to any player that starts, or pitches in a 1st grade regular season game
2nd	3	Allocated to any player that starts, or pitches in a 2nd grade regular season game
Rest	0	Allocated to any player that starts, or pitches in any regular season game for 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade or the Women's competition
DH	1	Allocated to any player starting as a designated hitter in 1st and 2nd grade only. All other grades receive game credit only

Baseball Canberra - FINAL SERIES Dispensation

Any request for Baseball Canberra Finals Series dispensation relating to individual player eligibility and/or qualification must be received in writing/email by Baseball Canberra General Manager by no later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the Senior Final Series.

- Disability/illness (refer Rule 15(d))
- Players registered in Baseball Canberra competition can be granted club game credits only (Eligibility-Rule (A) by Baseball Canberra General Manager for any games missed as a result of representing Baseball Canberra state, ABL or National teams.

The game credits applied to representative players will only be for the grade in which that player last started prior to the commencement of their representative tournament.

Baseball Canberra Penalties - ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATION breach

The game in which that player participated will be recorded as a forfeit (9-0) in favour of the opposing team.

APPENDIX 3: PITCHING/CATCHING RESTRICTIONS

The following is the Baseball Australia Rules with regard to restrictions and applies to **Junior League** and **Colts** players whether playing in the Junior and/or in the Senior competition.

Pitching and catching limits are set according to the relevant age group the particular junior can qualify for, and will apply for the entire season, irrespective of whether or not the junior is in fact playing in that age group.

[a] **Pitch restrictions**

1. The pitch restrictions for a player shall be consistent with the junior age category that the pitcher shall be eligible for according to his/her age and is irrespective of the age group they are actually playing in. This includes when pitching in senior games.

Note: To be eligible to participate in the relevant minimum age category, a player must comply with the relevant ACTBA age grouping matrix.

2. The following pitching limits apply to individual games.
(Important: Pitching limits are set according to the relevant minimum age category the player can qualify for, and not the age group that he/she is playing in, if any.)

Junior League (under 15)	80 pitches per game
Colts	100 pitches per game

3. A player pitching a major assignment is entitled to finish pitching to a batter once started, as long as the at-bat commences prior to the relevant pitch count limit.

PENALTY: during regular competition season - see Rule 7[e].

PENALTY: during a final's series match (i.e. after completion of the regular competition season) – see Rule 7[e].

4. A pitcher's assignment will be classified as:

Assignment	Junior League (under 15)	Colts
MAXIMUM	76+	76+
MAJOR	61-75	61-75
SUBSTANTIAL	46-60	46-60
MODERATE	31-45	31-45
SHORT	1-30	1-30

Assignment	Rest Period
Maximum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) days rest from any defensive role • An additional three (3), bringing the total to four (4) days rest from pitching.
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) days rest from catching • Three (3) days rest from pitching
Substantial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) days rest from catching • Two (2) days rest from pitching
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) days rest from catching • One (1) days rest from pitching
Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero (0) days rest from pitching • No rest days are required after a Short pitching assignment however, for two (2) short assignments on successive or on the same day, one (1) days rest is required from pitching and catching

1. Any player pitching a Maximum assignment will be required to complete one day's rest before any playing participation except as a designated hitter or for pinch hitting and pinch running
2. No rest days are required after a Short pitching assignment. However, for two (2) Short assignments on successive days or on the same day, (1) One days' rest are required from pitching and catching.
3. An "assignment" is any pitching role of any length in any game: the delivery of even one pitch shall be considered one assignment.
4. A player once removed, as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.

[b] Catching restrictions

1. Any player that has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
2. A pitcher that exceeds a short assignment in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that calendar day.

[c] Women's Competition Specific Pitching Restrictions

All pitchers in women's competition games, irrespective of whether junior or senior, are restricted to a maximum of 75 pitches in any assignment. A pitcher may only exceed 75 pitches to complete a batter currently at bat, no 'new' batter can be commenced.

A 'junior' pitcher (under the age of 18) must abide by the relative pitching restrictions, as detailed above.

APPENDIX 4: COACHES / MANAGERS CODE OF ETHICS

In establishing a solid foundation of character building with players, the key responsibility of any coach is to lead by example. Coaches, through their own behaviour (on and off the field) have an enormous impact on not only the experienced but the development of young players. A good coach has the respect of not only their players but the opposition.

The responsibilities and duties of a coach are not simple and should be dealt with in a professional manner. For these reasons Baseball Canberra has developed a Code of Ethics for all coaches / managers participating in the Local Competition as well as Baseball Canberra endorsed and organised tournaments and any special events.

These principles are considered practicable and are within the aims and objectives of this Association.

- Responsible for the control and supervision, includes behaviour, of the team at all times.
- Accept decisions of the umpire as being fair and called to the best of their ability. Do not abuse, ridicule or intimidate any umpire nor allow your players to do so.
- Develop team respect for opponents, spectators and officials.
- Do not criticise, harass, provoke, distract or intimidate opponents, individual players, supporters or any officials by words or gestures.
- Set a good example in personnel appearance and behaviour.
- Encourage sportsmanlike behaviour among the players.
- Encourage your team to be correctly dressed and to hustle on and off the playing field at all times.
- Do not embarrass your opponents and more importantly yourself.
- Be aware of your duty of care to all players that you are responsible for.
- Do not use any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description on the field, in the dugouts, bullpens or during the game.
- Abide by the competition Rules and regulations established by Baseball Canberra.
- Enforce both Baseball Canberra Player Code of Conduct and Baseball Canberra HDS Policy.
- Present ACT Baseball in a positive image.

NOTE: In cases where there are breaches of this Code of Ethics, the breaches can be reported to Baseball Canberra in writing. If any breaches reported are proved, then the matter (s) will be referred to Baseball Canberra for subsequent administrative action i.e. adjudication of a penalty.

APPENDIX 5 : RULES SPECIFIC TO CAVALRY ACADEMY

1 PLAYER CONTROL

- (a) Clubs will have first priority over their players in relation to any game schedule conflicts which occur with Cavalry Academy. When such a conflict does not occur, Clubs must ensure Cavalry Academy players are eligible to pitch for Cavalry Academy (in accordance with the junior pitching restrictions).
- (b) ALL Cavalry Academy players must be registered with a Baseball Canberra Club.

2 EQUIPMENT AND FIELD DUTIES

- Cavalry Academy to provide game balls for all games in which they are playing except finals
- Cavalry Academy to prepare the field for all midweek 1st grade games throughout the season

3 REFERENCE - RULE 3 - AFFILIATION

Cavalry Academy has been invited to play as a team in the 1st grade competition and as such will be treated as an "Affiliated Club" in accordance with Rule 3 [a]. Cavalry Academy will have a standing invitation to participate in the 1st grade competition each year or otherwise determined by Baseball Canberra Board.

4 REFERENCE – RULE 5 [b] (3) – TEAM REQUIREMENTS

Cavalry Academy will be considered an invitational team and are not required to fulfil 2nd grade and 3rd grade teams in order to participate.

5 REFERENCE – RULE 7[a] – PLAYER REGISTRATION

Cavalry Academy players are allowed to play for the Cavalry Academy and their own club. Cavalry Academy players will register and be cleared through their home club, but will not be required to register or to be cleared separately to play with Cavalry Academy.

6 REFERENCE – RULE 7 [a] (5) – IMPORT PLAYERS

Cavalry Academy are not to be limited in regards to the number of imports so long as the individuals are registered and playing with ACT clubs.

7 REFERENCE – RULE 7 [d] (4) - STARTERS

Starters for Cavalry Academy will not be required to play 3 innings.

9 REFERENCE – RULE 7 [f] (1) – PLAYER UNDER SUSPENSION

Suspension of Cavalry Academy players will begin immediately following a tribunal hearing/appeal and include all games in which that individual would ordinarily be eligible to participate in (Cavalry Academy or Club) until the suspension is completed.

10 REFERENCE – APPENDIX 3 – 1st GRADE

Cavalry Academy is eligible for the finals