



***GOLD COAST  
BASEBALL***  
*ASSOCIATION INC*

## **COUGARS BASEBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

Version 2023.1

<b>1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 FUNCTION OF GCBA.....	5
1.1.1 <i>The Board of Management of BQ empowers GCBA to administer all baseball activities in the Gold Coast region. GCBA officials meet regularly with the BQ Board of Management to ensure compliance with BQ’s requirements.....</i>	5
1.2 COMMITTEE & PERSONNEL.....	5
1.2.1 <i>GCBA shall put in place appropriate Committees and personnel to assist in the running of the competition. These shall include.....</i>	5
1.2.2 <i>Judiciary Chairman and Judiciary Committee for all age levels (Tee Ball to Adult).....</i>	5
1.2.3 <i>Event management coordinator and committee.....</i>	5
1.2.4 <i>Other committees and relevant personnel as required to meet specific needs.....</i>	5
1.3 COMMUNICATIONS.....	5
1.3.1 <i>While telephone contact may be appropriate on occasion, the preferred method of communication to and from GCBA is written notification, sent by e-mail.....</i>	5
1.3.2 <i>GCBA shall deem any notification forwarded by e-mail to have been received by the addressee.....</i>	5
1.3.3 <i>on the date of transmission (if sent by 4.00pm).....</i>	5
1.3.4 <i>the following business day (if sent after 4.00pm).....</i>	5
1.3.5 <i>All correspondence relating to GCBA in these Bylaws to be sent to: Email: secretary@goldcoast-baseball.com Other contact details of respective Committee positions are listed on the GCBA website.....</i>	5
1.3.6 <i>All payments to the GCBA can be paid to Gold Coast Baseball Association electronically into the Association’s account. Details of this account are:.....</i>	5
1.3.7 <i>Account Name: Gold Coast Baseball Association Inc.....</i>	5
1.3.8 <i>BSB: 484-799 (Suncorp).....</i>	5
1.3.9 <i>Account Number: 169 888 900.....</i>	5
1.4 FINANCE.....	5
1.4.1 <i>EXPENSES.....</i>	5
1.4.2 <i>COACHES &amp; TEAM OFFICIALS.....</i>	6
1.4.3 <i>REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS.....</i>	6
1.4.4 <i>HARDSHIP.....</i>	6
1.4.5 <i>UMPIRES.....</i>	6
1.4.6 <i>ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES.....</i>	6
1.4.7 <i>PLAYER FEES.....</i>	6
1.4.8 <i>EVENTS.....</i>	6
1.4.9 <i>FINES AND PENALTIES.....</i>	6
1.5 CLUB AFFILIATION.....	7
1.5.1 <i>Clubs wishing to remain affiliated with GCBA must complete a Club Information Form and provide a covering letter (on official club letterhead) signed by the club President. Clubs must forward the form and the covering letter accompanied by the relevant fee (refer Section 9) to the GCBA Secretary by September 31st each year.....</i>	7
1.5.2 <i>Applications from clubs affiliating for the first time must include:.....</i>	7
1.5.3 <i>a covering letter signed by the club President or nominated head of the proposed organization.....</i>	7
1.5.4 <i>a budget projection for the club.....</i>	7
1.5.5 <i>a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation.....</i>	7
1.5.6 <i>a submission for approval of the club’s uniform colours, design and sponsorship logos using the Club Uniforms Form.....</i>	7
1.5.7 <i>a three (3) year Operation Plan.....</i>	7
1.5.8 <i>Before clubs can present players in any approved GCBA competition, they must obtain GCBA approval of their club’s uniform colours and design. Applications from clubs renewing their affiliation, therefore, must include a Club Uniforms Form if they propose to change their authorised uniform colours, design or sponsorship logos. Clubs must also submit this form if they wish to change their uniform or introduce new logos during the season. 7</i>	7
1.5.9 <i>GCBA will evaluate all fields for the suitability of competition games.....</i>	7
1.5.10 <i>GCBA will review all affiliations which shall be valid for the ensuing 12 months.....</i>	7

1.5.11 GCBA may accept or reject any application for affiliation. GCBA may use its discretion to impose certain conditions in respect of a club’s application. These conditions may include the rejection of any club officer or member .....7

1.5.12 GCBA may use its discretion to cancel or suspend the affiliation of any club at any time. GCBA may use its discretion to impose certain conditions on club officers or members at any time.....7

**2. GAME ADMINISTRATION .....8**

2.1 GROUNDS & FIELDS .....8

    2.1.1 General.....8

    2.1.2 Field Size.....9

2.2 PLAYER TRANSFER & CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.....9

    2.2.1 General.....9

2.3 INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES .....9

    2.3.1 General.....9

2.4 OFFICIALS.....11

    2.4.1 Umpires.....11

    2.4.2 Scorers.....11

2.5 COMPLIANCE .....12

    2.5.1 Uniforms.....12

    2.5.2 Player Safety.....12

    2.5.3 Game Balls.....12

    2.5.4 Provision of Officials.....12

    2.5.5 Forfeits .....13

    2.5.6 Registration of players .....13

    2.5.7 Team Listings.....14

    2.5.8 Grading Procedures.....14

    2.5.9 Game Cards.....14

    2.5.10 Standings .....14

    2.5.11 Listing of Coaches & Officials .....14

    2.5.12 Injured Player List .....15

    2.5.13 Protective Equipment .....15

**3. PLAYING CONDITIONS/RULES/BYLAWS .....16**

3.1 ALL ADULT COMPETITIONS .....16

    3.1.1 Players.....16

    3.1.2 Designated Hitter/Courtesy Runner .....16

    3.1.3 Playing in other Grades.....16

3.2 A, B, C GRADE COMPETITIONS.....18

    3.2.1 Player qualification .....18

    3.2.2 Game Duration .....18

    3.2.3 Bat Rules .....19

3.3 MASTERS COMPETITIONS .....20

    3.3.1 Player qualification .....20

    3.3.2 Game Duration .....20

    3.3.3 Batting.....20

    3.3.4 Continuous Batting Order.....20

    3.3.5 Courtesy Runners .....21

3.4 JUNIOR COMPETITIONS .....22

    3.4.1 Players.....22

    3.4.2 Game Duration .....22

    3.4.3 Mandatory Participation .....22

    3.4.4 Maximum Run Rules.....22

    3.4.5 Pitching & Catching.....23

    3.4.6 Substitutions.....23

    3.4.7 Batting.....23

3.4.8	<i>Continuous Batting Order</i> .....	24
3.5	ROOKIE BALL COMPETITIONS.....	25
3.5.1	<i>Players</i> .....	25
3.5.2	<i>Game Duration</i> .....	25
3.5.3	<i>Field Size</i> .....	25
3.5.4	<i>Equipment</i> .....	25
3.5.5	<i>Batting</i> .....	25
3.5.6	<i>Maximum Run Rule</i> .....	25
3.6	T-BALL COMPETITIONS .....	27
3.6.1	<i>Players</i> .....	27
3.6.2	<i>Game Duration</i> .....	27
3.6.3	<i>Field Size</i> .....	27
3.6.4	<i>Equipment</i> .....	27
3.6.5	<i>Batting</i> .....	27
3.6.6	<i>Maximum Run Rule</i> .....	27
<b>4.</b>	<b>PREMEIERSHIPS &amp; FINALS</b> .....	<b>29</b>
4.1	ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS .....	29
4.1.1	<i>To be eligible for finals, players must have played in a minimum of one third (1/3) of available scheduled competition games for their club in their registered division/grade or league</i> .....	29
4.1.2	<i>Players who play in the Graded competitions and also the Masters Competition must qualify for both grades or league in terms of 2.5 7.2 above to be eligible for both finals series</i> .....	29
4.1.3	<i>Players will be deemed to have played in a game if</i> .....	29
4.1.4	<i>the player umpires for their registered team, they will be deemed to have played in that game. (To be noted on the game card or Game Changer results)</i> .....	29
4.1.5	<i>player is listed on the Injured List (IL) held by the GCBA Committee</i> .....	29
4.1.6	<i>player attends official representative commitments held at the same time as the game (to be noted on the game card or Game Changer results)</i> .....	29
4.1.7	<i>Players in a particular League must have played most games in that League or lower e.g. if a player is registered for B Grade that player cannot play in B Grade final if that player has played most of their games in A Grade.</i> 29	
4.1.8	<i>Players can play in any League above their registered League during finals. However, Masters players must meet the eligibility criteria to play in another grade. (4.1.12 refers)</i> .....	29
4.1.9	<i>Wash outs (before the game commences) shall not count as “games played” in determining a player’s eligibility for finals</i> .....	29
4.1.10	<i>In respect to forfeits, only the non-forfeiting team will be credited with eligibility</i> .....	29
4.1.11	<i>In the case of two (2) teams competing in the same League within a club, and for some reason the club has difficulty fielding these two (2) teams, and two (2) teams become one (1), the newly formed team will take the lowest position of both teams on the competition ladder. Penalties shall apply for the withdrawal of teams during the season</i> .....	29
4.2	FINAL SERIES GAMES/FORMAT.....	29
4.2.1	<i>Finals shall be played as determined by GCBA. The format of finals series will be determined during the season &amp; be based on team participation levels. Clubs will be advised well before the completion of the regular seasons’ games</i> .....	29
4.2.2	<i>Generally, the series will be conducted over 2 rounds. (Semi- Finals &amp; Grand Finals)</i> .....	29
4.2.3	<i>Should any two (2) or more teams finishing in the top four (4) positions after completion of fixtures be tied, the GCBA Committee shall allocate places using the following criteria</i> .....	29
4.2.4	<i>In a 4 team finals series the format will be based on final Ladder positions</i> .....	30
4.2.5	<i>In all Competitions the teams that are placed 1st and 2nd will be designated the home team In the Semi Finals and the Highest Winning team from the Semi Finals will be designated the home team in the Grand Finals</i> .....	30
4.2.6	<i>If this format cannot be followed (e.g., due to inclement weather/ Covid 19), the highest placed teams will advance to the Grand Finals</i> .....	30
4.2.7	<i>The GCBA shall meet the costs for finals games, e.g. baseballs, umpires (appointed by GCBOA), lights (if required)</i> .....	30

4.2.8	All Finals series games will be played under normal competition guidelines .....	30
4.2.9	GCBA will allocate a maximum of 20 trophies or medallions to each team winning their respective Grand Final .....	30
4.3	CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP .....	30
4.3.1	The Club Championship in all leagues shall be awarded to the club gaining the highest aggregate points in A B & C & Masters in competitions during the Winter season only. Clubs must field teams in A, B C and Masters to be eligible.....	30
4.3.2	For clubs eligible for the Club Championship, they will be awarded.....	30
4.3.3	Points will only be recorded for the regular season; final series will not count.....	31
4.3.4	If clubs enter more than one (1) team in a division/grade, the highest ranked team at the end of the regular season will be the nominated team whose results will be recorded for the Club Championship .....	31
<b>5.</b>	<b>APPENDIX A - GCBA DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES.....</b>	<b>32</b>
5.1	COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR .....	32
5.2	GCBA DISPUTES PANEL.....	32
5.3	POWERS & DECISION MAKING .....	33
5.4	APPEALS.....	33
<b>6.</b>	<b>APPENDIX B – GCBA JUDICIARY PROCEDURES.....</b>	<b>34</b>
6.1	COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR .....	34
6.2	GCBA JUDICIARY .....	34
6.3	REPORTING PROCEDURE.....	35
6.4	PRE-HEARING PROCEDURE .....	36
6.5	TEMPORARY SANCTION .....	37
6.6	JUDICIARY HEARINGS.....	37
6.7	POWERS.....	40
6.8	RE-OPENING A HEARING .....	41
6.9	APPEALS.....	41
6.10	CHARGES AND RECOMMENDED TABLE OF PENALTIES.....	42

# 1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

## 1.1 FUNCTION OF GCBA

- 1.1.1 The Board of Management of BQ empowers GCBA to administer all baseball activities in the Gold Coast region. GCBA officials meet regularly with the BQ Board of Management to ensure compliance with BQ's requirements.

## 1.2 Committee & Personnel

- 1.2.1 GCBA shall put in place appropriate Committees and personnel to assist in the running of the competition. These shall include:
- 1.2.2 Judiciary Chairman and Judiciary Committee for all age levels (Tee Ball to Adult)
- 1.2.3 Event management coordinator and committee
- 1.2.4 Other committees and relevant personnel as required to meet specific needs.

## 1.3 Communications

- 1.3.1 While telephone contact may be appropriate on occasion, the preferred method of communication to and from GCBA is written notification, sent by e-mail.
- 1.3.2 GCBA shall deem any notification forwarded by e-mail to have been received by the addressee:
- 1.3.3 on the date of transmission (if sent by 4.00pm)
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- 1.3.6 All payments to the GCBA can be paid to Gold Coast Baseball Association electronically into the Association's account. Details of this account are:
- 1.3.7 Account Name: Gold Coast Baseball Association Inc.
- 1.3.8 BSB: 484-799 (Suncorp)
- 1.3.9 Account Number: 169 888 900

## 1.4 Finance

### 1.4.1 EXPENSES

- 1.4.1.1 All expenses incurred by a GCBA Committee member or person acting on behalf of GCBA shall be refunded in full the total amount of expenses incurred upon presentation of all relevant receipts to the Treasurer.
- 1.4.1.2 All expenditure is to be approved by GCBA Management Committee.

1.4.2 COACHES & TEAM OFFICIALS

1.4.2.1 The GCBA shall pay \$100 per day for all GCBA appointed accredited officials for approved tournaments.

1.4.2.2 The GCBA shall pay \$100 per day for each teams Executive Officer.

1.4.2.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1.4.2.4 All requests for financial assistance must be in writing and forwarded to the Secretary. The GCBA Management Committee shall consider said requests on a case-by-case basis.

1.4.3 REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

1.4.3.1 All representative players are required to purchase the remaining components of the representative uniform, which will be available prior to any tournaments.

1.4.3.2 Any representative player selected for representative duties at State or National level may apply for financial assistance. The GCBA Management Committee shall consider said requests on a case-by-case basis up to a maximum of \$200 per player.

1.4.4 HARDSHIP

1.4.4.1 The GCBA reserves the right to allocate funds to persons based on individual financial hardship.

1.4.5 UMPIRES

1.4.5.1 The GCBOA may apply for funding from GCBA for the development and training of umpires every 12 months. All applications for funding must be in writing and forwarded to the GCBA Secretary by the GCBOA President.

1.4.6 ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES

1.4.6.1 All clubs affiliated with the GCBA are required to pay an annual membership fee of \$300.00. This fee must be forwarded to the GCBA Treasurer before the 31st of September each year. Clubs that fail to pay the fee by the due date will be deemed to be unfinancial.

1.4.7 PLAYER FEES

1.4.7.1 All player fees are to be forwarded to the GCBA Treasurer by the nominated date as specified by the GCBA Management Committee

1.4.8 EVENTS

1.4.8.1 Any club hosting an event on behalf of the GCBA (finals and tournaments) may be required to make a maximum contribution of \$200.00 to host each event.

1.4.9 FINES AND PENALTIES

1.4.9.1 The GCBA Management Committee have the right to impose a fine and/or a penalty as per the Schedule of Penalties for any breach of the bylaws or general playing rules.

## 1.5 CLUB AFFILIATION

- 1.5.1 Clubs wishing to remain affiliated with GCBA must complete a Club Information Form and provide a covering letter (on official club letterhead) signed by the club President. Clubs must forward the form and the covering letter accompanied by the relevant fee (refer Section 9) to the GCBA Secretary by September 31st each year.
- 1.5.2 Applications from clubs affiliating for the first time must include:
- 1.5.3 a covering letter signed by the club President or nominated head of the proposed organization
- 1.5.4 a budget projection for the club
- 1.5.5 a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation
- 1.5.6 a submission for approval of the club's uniform colours, design and sponsorship logos using the Club Uniforms Form
- 1.5.7 a three (3) year Operation Plan
- 1.5.8 Before clubs can present players in any approved GCBA competition, they must obtain GCBA approval of their club's uniform colours and design. Applications from clubs renewing their affiliation, therefore, must include a Club Uniforms Form if they propose to change their authorised uniform colours, design or sponsorship logos. Clubs must also submit this form if they wish to change their uniform or introduce new logos during the season.
- 1.5.9 GCBA will evaluate all fields for the suitability of competition games.
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- 1.5.12 GCBA may use its discretion to cancel or suspend the affiliation of any club at any time. GCBA may use its discretion to impose certain conditions on club officers or members at any time.



## 2. GAME ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 Grounds & Fields

#### 2.1.1 General

- 2.1.1.1 All nominated fields must be available for the commencement of the GCBA competition.
- 2.1.1.2 Clubs must fully and accurately mark fields for every game to the satisfaction of the umpire. Markings must be to the correct dimensions as per the Rules of Baseball. Markings must include at least foul lines and should include batters' boxes.
- 2.1.1.3 Clubs must always keep all grounds/fields in a clean and tidy condition. Grounds must be free from dangerous objects e.g., rocks and glass, likely to cause injury to players, officials, and visitors.
- 2.1.1.4 Clubs must maintain all fields to GCBA standards. A GCBA official may inspect a club's fields at any time. The official may direct the club to rectify its fields and may prohibit games on those grounds until satisfied with the rectification.
- 2.1.1.5 Clubs must provide adequate toilet facilities at their grounds. The club must open these facilities during all games and training sessions at that ground. Clubs must keep these facilities in a clean and hygienic condition in compliance with local government regulations.
- 2.1.1.6 All grounds are to have a home run fence, i.e., properly enclosed, or a minimum of a clearly defined line marked with witches' hats. Tape or rope is not acceptable.
- 2.1.1.7 The host club must open a canteen during all games played at their ground. The canteen must make hot and cold drinks and a variety of food items available for purchase during all games played at the ground. Failure to provide adequate canteen facilities may result in no future home games for that club.
- 2.1.1.8 Clubs must not sell beverages of any type in glass containers.
- 2.1.1.9 Visiting teams and supporters must not bring alcohol to a host club's ground.
- 2.1.1.10 The host club shall provide a clearly defined dugout, seating, and shade cover for both teams, and seating and shade cover for scorers.
- 2.1.1.11 Clubs hosting finals are required to have a grounds crew on site to maintain the field throughout the day.
- 2.1.1.12 The canteen must make available for perusal copies of the Official Australian Rules of Baseball, the current GCBA Policies and Procedure Manual and BQ Junior Rules.

2.1.2 Field Size

<b>Grades/Leagues</b>	<b>Base Paths</b>	<b>Pitching Distance</b>
T-Ball	40 Feet	N/A
Rookie Ball	50 feet	38 Feet
Little League Minors & Majors	60 Feet	46 Feet
Intermediate League	70 feet	50 feet
Junior League	80 Feet	54 Feet
Womens League	90 Feet	54 Feet
9Senior League & Above	90 Feet	60 Feet 6 Inches

**2.2 Player Transfer & Clearance Requirements**

2.2.1 General

- 2.2.1.1 Player transfers between Clubs shall be initiated through the Gameday player Transfer software system.
- 2.2.1.2 Clubs should advise by email the Club that the player wishes to transfer from that they have received a transfer request.
- 2.2.1.3 Unfinancial players shall not be eligible to transfer between Clubs and should not be granted a clearance by the losing club.
- 2.2.1.4 Clubs receiving a transfer request must process that request within two weeks of date of receipt during the competition season. Clubs receiving a transfer request must process that request within four weeks of date of receipt during the competition off season.
- 2.2.1.5 All transfer and clearance requirements must be fulfilled before a player can take the field.
- 2.2.1.6 Refer to the 2019 Baseball Queensland Player Transfer Policy which has implications and restrictions for transferring player eligibility for regional teams.
- 2.2.1.7 No club or its representative is permitted to approach a junior player without the consent of the parents.
- 2.2.1.8 No club or its representative is permitted to approach a player on the grounds that they have better coaching, facilities etc.
- 2.2.1.9 No club or its representative is permitted to approach a junior player on the grounds that the move will ensure or assist them in being selected to representative honors.

**2.3 Inclement Weather Procedures**

2.3.1 General

- 2.3.1.1 If in the opinion of the Umpire in Chief (in consultation with both coaches), the weather becomes potentially detrimental to any player’s health, the game will

- be abandoned.
- 2.3.1.2 In the case of wet weather, clubs must inspect the grounds and if unplayable:
  - 2.3.1.3 notify the opposing club via phone call or Text only, less than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled game starttime.
  - 2.3.1.4 advise the Competitions Administrator at least two (2) hours prior to the scheduled game start.
  - 2.3.1.5 notify the Umpire Coordinator at least two (2) hours prior to the scheduled game start.
  - 2.3.1.6 games are to be called off one (1) league at a time, unless it is obvious that the ground is unplayable for the entire day.
  - 2.3.1.7 If a game in progress is interrupted by rain, the umpires may delay the game as per the Official Australian Rules of Baseball. Timed games will still finish at scheduled time.
  - 2.3.1.8 If wet weather causes games to be cancelled, they will not be replayed. Games played during that round will be recorded as games played. The home team is responsible to notify the Competitions Administrator of any cancelled games.
  - 2.3.1.9 If a game commences but is rained out before it becomes a regulation game, the home team scorer must still complete the game card or Game Changer results and forward it to the Competitions Administrator. This will enable participants to be credited with game eligibility for finals
  - 2.3.1.10 In the case of HEAT AFFECTED WEATHER, the home Club Secretary (or their nominee) must monitor, on a half-hourly basis, current temperatures at the field's location via the Bureau of Meteorology website (or phone app). The following will apply:
    - 2.3.1.11 Should the current temperature reach the following, play must be suspended immediately:
    - 2.3.1.12 38° Celsius for Adult Competitions; or
    - 2.3.1.13 36° Celsius for Junior Competitions.
    - 2.3.1.14 During play suspension, the temperature shall be monitored every 10 minutes. Play shall not resume until the temperature falls below the following temperatures:
      - 2.3.1.15 37° Celsius for Adult Competitions; or
      - 2.3.1.16 35° Celsius for Junior Competitions.

## 2.4 Officials

The Gold Coast Baseball Officials Association is responsible for the recruitment and training of all umpires and scorers. Official scorers and umpires must be accredited and are entitled to the respect and dignity due to all game officials and shall be accorded full protection by the GCBA.

### 2.4.1 Umpires

- 2.4.1.1 An umpire must be 16 years of age or older to officiate an A, B & C Grade or Masters game. Junior umpires can only umpire leagues lower than which they play. For example; A Junior League player can officiate a Little League game but cannot officiate a Senior League game.
- 2.4.1.2 Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless they are injured or ill or have the agreement of both team coaches.
- 2.4.1.3 Umpires must be suitably dressed (not in club playing shirt or cap). Umpires must wear enclosed footwear and in the case of the plate umpire, the necessary protective gear. Accredited umpires must wear the appropriate shirts as supplied by BQ/GCBOA when umpiring.
- 2.4.1.4 All umpires must be accredited and there are 2 levels of accreditation available to be completed and must be registered with Baseball Queensland.
- 2.4.1.5 Community Umpire program.
- 2.4.1.6 Association Accredited Umpire programs.
- 2.4.1.7 At the end of each game the umpire in chief shall check and sign the official game card and note any ejections, cautions, incidents, or protests.
- 2.4.1.8 All umpires **must** complete an **Incident Report** for any ejection, or other incident they wish to report. Forms are available from the GCBA website.

### 2.4.2 Scorers

- 2.4.2.1 Each team shall have its own competent scorer. Official Baseball scorebooks can be used to score the game, but all GCBA games must be recorded in the Game Changer system. It is recommended that every scorer holds a minimum Accreditation
- 2.4.2.2 The scorers should not be approached by any person other than a team Coach or a game umpire without invitation, from the start of game until the score card is completed.
- 2.4.2.3 Scorers are to be competent and have the capacity to be accurate in recordings and scorebooks or game changer systems. The home team scorer shall be responsible for handing the game card to the host club/
- 2.4.2.4 Clubs are to provide scorers with the following items.
  - 2.4.2.5 an adequate supply of Incident Report Forms
  - 2.4.2.6 a blank game card for the relevant game
  - 2.4.2.7 a copy of the GCBA Bylaws
  - 2.4.2.8 a copy of the BQ Baseball Rules
  - 2.4.2.9 a scorebook or tablet device
  - 2.4.2.10a suitable timepiece

- 2.4.2.11 appropriate stationery
- 2.4.2.12 Official Australian Baseball Rules (current edition).

## 2.5 Compliance

### 2.5.1 Uniforms

- 2.5.1.1
- 2.5.1.2 All players and coaches must wear full club playing uniforms. Open faced shoes of any type are prohibited.
- 2.5.1.3 Coaches in junior competitions are permitted to wear Club, Cap, Club Polo and enclosed shoes as per LL Green Book
- 2.5.1.4 Open faced shoes of any type are prohibited.
- 2.5.1.5 Newly registered players have a maximum of three (3) weeks to obtain the correct uniform.
- 2.5.1.6 Each coach and at least the Umpire-in-Chief officiating in a game shall enforce the uniforms bylaw by making a note of any infringements on the back of the game card.

### 2.5.2 Player Safety

- 2.5.2.1 Batters and runners in all divisions must wear two (2) eared batting helmets.
- 2.5.2.2 Juniors 15 years and under must wear two (2) eared batting helmets when acting as a coach in any division, or as a bat boy / girl.
- 2.5.2.3 All catchers must wear a catcher's helmet. Any person warming up a pitcher between innings must wear a minimum of a catcher's helmet, catcher's mask, and protective cup.

### 2.5.3 Game Balls

- 2.5.3.1 The home team shall be responsible for the supply of two (2) new balls for the game. The exception is A Grade in the Winter competition where the home team shall supply three (3) new balls for each game. The home team shall provide additional suitable balls for game play if required.
- 2.5.3.2 Teams must supply only official standard baseballs.

### 2.5.4 Provision of Officials

- 2.5.4.1 Each team shall have its own competent scorer. Scorers of both teams must sit together during the game to assist with the accurate recording of details in scorebooks or Game Changer.
- 2.5.4.2 In all Competitions each team shall provide one (1) umpire each.
- 2.5.4.3 The home team shall provide the plate umpire and the away team shall provide the base umpire

- 2.5.4.4 In the event of a GCBOA umpire being appointed to a game then the Home Team must supply the second umpire unless otherwise nominated by GCBOA.
- 2.5.4.5 For all competitions, the umpire in chief must call from behind the plate.
- 2.5.5 **Forfeits**
- 2.5.5.1 A team that is unable to compete in a scheduled game in accordance with these bylaws shall notify the GCBA Committee by 8:00pm at least two (2) days before the scheduled game (e.g. All Saturday games need to be advised by 8:00pm Thursday). The Club forfeiting shall notify the opposing team of the forfeit by phone AND by email and cc the GCBA Committee. This will be considered a notified forfeit.
- 2.5.5.2 Notification of a forfeit after the deadline nominated above will be deemed a non-notified forfeit. A game card must be sent by the winning team to the GCBA Committee endorsing the forfeit.
- 2.5.6 **Registration of players**
- 2.5.6.1 Each player, coach and official that takes the field must have completed a registration through Sports HQ.
- 2.5.6.2 Clubs must register all Players through the Gameday database and then export the copy and email to the GCBA Committee no less than one (1) week prior to the commencement of the season. All queries to do with the Gameday database must be directed to the GCBA Committee.
- 2.5.6.3 On payment to the club of the affiliation component of the club fee, players are deemed to be affiliated for the purposes of GCBA competition and BA/BQ insurances. For this reason, players cannot enter the field for game purposes until they have paid the affiliation component. Players who register after the commencement of the competition must fill out a GCBA Registration Form and forward it to their Club Registrar who must then enter details into the Game database and notify the GCBA Committee no later than 8:00pm on the Thursday prior to their first game.
- 2.5.6.4 Only registered players competing in a sanctioned competition are eligible representative selection.
- 2.5.6.5 An import player must register and comply with clearance requirements (if necessary) in the same manner as all players.

## 2.5.7 Team Listings

- 2.5.7.1 Clubs must finalize their players for the respective levels of competition prior to the commencement of the third round of competition fixtures. Clubs must forward to the GCBA Committee a list of at least nine (8) active players for each team. On and from that date, the team in which those players are nominated becomes their “registered team”.
- 2.5.7.2 Players cannot be nominated for more than one (1) team at the same time unless they are a registered master’s player.
- 2.5.7.3 If a club has two or more teams in the same division, players may only play across until the end of the 3rd round of competition games. This does not apply in the master’s competitions.

## 2.5.8 Grading Procedures

- 2.5.8.1 The GCBA reserves the right to instruct a club to regrade a team or player.
- 2.5.8.2 Clubs must apply to the GCBA Committee to regrade a player. If permission for regrading is given all teams must maintain at least nine (9) players.

## 2.5.9 Game Cards

- 2.5.9.1 Home team representatives shall email the results to the GCBA Committee. These must include scores for the game, together with notice of any ejections, cautions, injuries or protests recorded on the game card.
- 2.5.9.2 The home team scorer shall ensure that:
- 2.5.9.3 the game card is fully completed, accurate and legible
- 2.5.9.4 team coaches sign in the appropriate place on the card
- 2.5.9.5 Umpires in Chief sign in the appropriate place on the game card noting any ejections, cautions, injuries or protests.
- 2.5.9.6 The home team scorer shall be responsible for handing in the game card (including any attachments if applicable) to the host Club. The host Club shall be responsible for returning the completed game card or Game Changer results to the GCBA Committee. by 8:00pm of the following Monday.

## 2.5.10 Standings

- 2.5.10.1 All competition tables shall use a win/loss ratio system to decide standings. Should teams have the same ratio, then Run percentage will be used to decide standings.
- 2.5.10.2 Games that are wash outs or byes are classed as no games.

## 2.5.11 Listing of Coaches & Officials

- 2.5.11.1 Clubs must register all Coaches, Scorers and Umpires (who are not registered as players) as volunteers through the Sports HQ database. Clubs must forward to the GCBA Committee a copy of these registrations no less than three (3) weeks

after the commencement of the season.

2.5.11.2 All queries to do with the database must be directed to the GCBA Committee.

#### 2.5.12 Injured Player List

2.5.12.1 If a player leaving the game due to injury or illness, Scorers must record on the official game card and Incident Report Form details of players injured in a game.

2.5.12.2 To prove eligibility for the Injured List, players must forward a medical certificate or a Statutory Declaration to the GCBA within three (3) working days of the injury occurring. The player will then be recorded on the Registrar's Injured List. (IL)

2.5.12.3 Players who are injured outside the field of play e.g., work injuries, training etc. must forward a suitable medical certificate to the GCBA to be eligible for the Injured List.

2.5.12.4 Players on the Injured List will continue to be credited with game eligibility for finals within their Grade.

#### 2.5.13 Protective Equipment

2.5.13.1 Any bat boy or girl under the age of eighteen (18) must be a minimum of eight (8) years old and must always wear a two-eared helmet.

2.5.13.2 Protective cups are mandatory for all players.

2.5.13.3 At all times - Junior Players must wear full protective equipment when catching or warming up a pitcher including mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector, leg guards and protective cup. Senior Players and coaches warming up a pitcher are only required to wear a mask and protective cup. This includes warming up before games and prior to pitching.

2.5.13.4 All batters and base runners must wear properly fitted, non-damaged two-eared helmets.

2.5.13.5 Base coaches must wear an approved helmet whilst on the field. Base coaches under eighteen (18) years of age must wear a two eared, baseball batting helmet. Base coaches eighteen (18) years or older, may opt to use either a two eared baseball helmet or skull cap style helmet.



### **3. PLAYING CONDITIONS/RULES/BYLAWS**

#### **3.1 All Adult Competitions**

##### **3.1.1 Players**

- 3.1.1.1 All teams may start a game with a minimum of eight (8) players and play an automatic out in the number nine (9) position in the batting line up. This bylaw does not apply to A Grade Winter competition.
- 3.1.1.2 Eligible players may participate in a game even if they are not listed on the team lineup sheet prior to the commencement of the game. If this occurs, the Umpires and Scorers must be notified as soon as that player enters the game.
- 3.1.1.3 If a player leaving the game due to injury or illness reduces the team to eight (8) players, another player previously replaced may re-enter the game. This can occur only if no new player is available and shall not take a place in the battery. Teams may continue the game with eight (8) players due to a shortage of players.
- 3.1.1.4 A player shall be listed on the game card only when that player enters the game.

##### **3.1.2 Designated Hitter/Courtesy Runner**

- 3.1.2.1 The designated hitter rule will apply for all adult games as per the Official Australian Rules of Baseball.
- 3.1.2.2 A courtesy runner MAY replace the offensive team catcher as a base runner at any time but MUST replace the catcher after two (2) outs. If no further players are available, the last player out will become the courtesy runner. If there are no outs, then the last player home will be the courtesy runner.
- 3.1.2.3 A courtesy runner shall be any eligible player not in the game, or a replaced player.
- 3.1.2.4 A courtesy runner cannot be replaced once on base except for injury or illness.
- 3.1.2.5 Only a courtesy runner who has played in the field or batted in the lineup shall be deemed to have played in the game for finals or other eligibility purposes. No running stats will be credited to the courtesy runner; they will be credited to the catcher.

##### **3.1.3 Playing in other Grades**

- 3.1.3.1 A player may play down not more than one (1) grade per round unless the Club does not have consecutively graded teams. A player may only play down three (3) times per season. Playing down more than three (3) times shall result in a forfeit being registered against the team in which the player played.
- 3.1.3.2 Players registered in the Masters are eligible to play in A B & C Grade without affecting their playing status in their respective Masters competition.
- 3.1.3.3 Players must not participate in more than 2 games per day.

- 3.1.3.4 Only two (2) players from A Grade are permitted to play down in B Grade per team per game. Players playing down from A Grade to B Grade can ONLY field in centre field or right field and bat eight (8) or nine (9) in the lineup.
- 3.1.3.5 Players playing in a higher Grade than their registered Grade can play anywhere in the field and bat in any position.
- 3.1.3.6 A lower Graded player shall not take the field if there are nine (9) higher Grade players available for that game. All appearances in higher Grades will be classed as games played and will count towards grading for finals eligibility.
- 3.1.3.7 If a club has two (2) teams in the one (1) Grade, players may play across until the end of the third round of competition games. After the third-round players must play in their registered teams.

## 3.2 A, B, C Grade Competitions

### 3.2.1 Player qualification

3.2.1.1 1 To play in Adult Competitions players must have reached the age of fifteen (15) years. The Club shall be responsible for ensuring a fifteen (15) year old is selected in any grade commensurate with the player's physical and technical abilities.

3.2.1.2 1.2 A Junior Player playing in Adult Competitions shall participate under the rules of that competition with the exception that junior pitching and catching restrictions prescribed under Junior Competitions continue to apply.

Daily Maximum Pitching Allowances are:

3.2.1.3 15 Years 95 Pitches

3.2.1.4 16 Years 95 Pitches

3.2.1.5 17 Years 105 pitches

3.2.1.6 18 Years 105 pitches

Any player 15-18 years who pitches 41 pitches in a game is not eligible to catch in that game or on that day.

Any player 15-18 years who catches more than 3 innings (including a single pitch in the 4<sup>th</sup> Inning) is not eligible to pitch in that game or on that day.

### 3.2.2 Game Duration

3.2.2.1 All games are nine (9) innings or time, whichever comes first, except double header games which shall be seven (7) innings or two (2) hours, whichever comes first.

3.2.2.2 **The A Grade Winter competition** shall be nine (9) innings or two (2) and a half hour. If an A Grade game is drawn at the end of the regulation nine (9) innings, the game shall continue to a result taking into consideration the time limit. If at the end of the time limit the score is still tied, a drawn game shall be declared. The umpires shall make the final decision regarding a light or weather affected game.

3.2.2.3 All other grades will be nine (9) innings or two (2) hours, whichever comes first.

3.2.2.4 The ten-minute rule will apply in all games. Therefore, no new inning may be commenced with less than 10 minutes of scheduled time remaining. An inning started before 10 minutes to the scheduled finish time shall be completed unless the home team is in the lead during their turn at bat. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.

3.2.2.5 Should a game start later than the scheduled start time, the scheduled finish time will still apply. A team will have 10 minutes after the scheduled game start time to place a team on the field or supply the required umpire. If a team is unable to do this, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.

3.2.2.6 In all games, four (4) innings or 65 minutes shall constitute a regulation game. Three and a half (3 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is winning. In **A Grade Winter Competition** game's, five (5) innings shall constitute a regulation game. Four and a half (4 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is winning.

3.2.2.7 In the event of wet weather, a game of fewer than the required minimum

number of innings or minimum time shall be declared a washout.

- 3.2.2.8 A regulation game that is called with an inning in progress shall revert to the previous completed inning score only if the visiting team has tied or taken the lead in the incomplete inning.
- 3.2.2.9 In the absence of a BA/BQ/GCBOA accredited umpire, the scorers will be the official timekeepers.
- 3.2.2.10 In all games including A Grade Winter Competition games double header games, if either team is leading by 10 runs or more after Five (5) equal innings, or four and a half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is leading, then the game will be called as a complete game. In single A Grade Winter Competition game the 10-run rule will apply after Seven (7) innings or Six and a half (6 1/2) innings if the home team is leading. For the purpose of recording stats and the final score, the game will end as soon as the winning run crosses the plate (i.e. the 10th run ahead in mercy rule games) unless it is scored by an 'out of the park' home run, at which time all runs shall count.

### 3.2.3 Bat Rules

- 3.2.3.1 All players competing must use an BA or BQ approved bat. Players competing in the A Grade Winter competition are not permitted to use aluminum bats.

### **3.3 Masters Competitions**

#### **3.3.1 Player qualification**

3.3.1.1 Players must turn 40 years of age or older (Men) and aged Thirty (30) years or older (Women) prior to 31st December of the year the competition begins.

#### **3.3.2 Game Duration**

3.3.2.1 All Masters grades will be nine (9) innings or two (2) hours, whichever comes first.

3.3.2.2 The ten-minute rule will apply in all games. Therefore, no new inning may be commenced with less than 10 minutes of scheduled time remaining. An inning started before 10 minutes to the scheduled finish time shall be completed unless the home team is in the lead during their turn at bat. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.

3.3.2.3 Should a game start later than the scheduled start time, the scheduled finish time will still apply. A team will have 10 minutes after the scheduled game start time to place a team on the field. If a team is unable to do this, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.

3.3.2.4 In all games, four (4) innings or 65 minutes shall constitute a regulation game. Three and a half (3 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is winning.

3.3.2.5 In the event of wet weather, a game of fewer than the required minimum number of innings or minimum time shall be declared a washout.

3.3.2.6 A regulation game that is called due to inclement weather with an inning in progress shall revert to the previous completed inning score only if the visiting team has tied or taken the lead in the incomplete inning.

3.3.2.7 In the absence of a BA/BQ/GCBOA accredited umpire, the scorers will be the official timekeepers.

#### **3.3.3 Batting**

3.3.3.1 All players competing must use an BA or BQ approved bat.

3.3.3.2 The maximum number of runs that can be scored is six (6) per inning for the first two (2) Innings.

3.3.3.3 A ten (10) run mercy rule will come into effect after 5 completed innings or 90 minutes whichever comes first.

#### **3.3.4 Continuous Batting Order**

3.3.4.1 If teams have more than 9 players present for the game, teams may use a continuous batting order whereby up to 12 players may bat.

3.3.4.2 Players in the batting order who are not designated a defensive position:

3.3.4.3 may appear in any batting position,

3.3.4.4 must stay in the same batting position for the complete game.

3.3.4.5 When a player is injured ejected or must leave the game before then end of the game and there are no players available to replace them, the team will skip over their batting position without penalty providing nine or more players remain.

3.3.5 Courtesy Runners

3.3.5.1 A courtesy runner may substitute as a designated runner for the catcher at any time.

3.3.5.2 A courtesy runner may substitute as a designated runner for one other player who is disabled and playing in the game. The substituted players must be identified and made known to both Umpires and the Opposition team manager at the commencement of the game. This substitution can occur for one player in the team.

## 3.4 Junior Competitions

### 3.4.1 Players

- 3.4.1.1 All players must play in their respective eligible/natural age group before any PONAG requests are submitted for consideration by the Regions Regional Development Officer.
- 3.4.1.2 All teams may start and play the game with a minimum eight (8) players. There is no automatic out rule in GCBA Junior Baseball Games.

### 3.4.2 Game Duration

- 3.4.2.1 All junior baseball games within the Big League, Senior League Junior League, Intermediate League and Little League Majors & Minors competitions will be 7 innings for 1 hour 45 minutes whichever comes first in duration.
- 3.4.2.2 The 10-minute rule will apply in all games. Therefore, no new inning may be commenced with less than 10 minutes of scheduled time remaining. An inning started before 10 minutes to the scheduled finish time shall be completed unless the home team is in the lead during their turn at bat. An inning starts immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- 3.4.2.3 Should a game start later than the scheduled start time, the scheduled finish time will still apply. A team will have 10 minutes after the scheduled game start time to place a team on the field or supply the required umpire. If a team is unable to do this, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.
- 3.4.2.4 Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit, shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first.
- 3.4.2.5 The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.
- 3.4.2.6 Four (4) innings or half of the total game time plus five (5) minutes shall constitute a regulation game. Three and a half (3 1/2) innings are sufficient if the home team is leading.
- 3.4.2.7 In the event of wet weather, a game of fewer than the required minimum number of innings or minimum time shall be declared a washout.
- 3.4.2.8 A regulation game that is called with an inning in progress shall revert to the previous completed inning score only if the visiting team has tied or taken the lead in the incomplete inning.
- 3.4.2.9 In the absence of a BA/BQ/GCBOA accredited umpire, the scorers will be the official timekeepers.

### 3.4.3 Mandatory Participation

- 3.4.3.1 In All junior baseball games, the players must have one at Bat plus six (6) defensive outs for game participation to be counted/registered.

### 3.4.4 Maximum Run Rules

- 3.4.4.1 For all Junior games, the maximum runs allowed per inning in the Pre- Christmas Restriction period is four (4) runs. In the Post-Christmas Restriction period, the maximum runs allowed per inning is six (6) runs.
- 3.4.4.2 In all junior games there is no 10-run or mercy rule. In the event of an over the

fence/cone home run all runs will be recorded.

3.4.5 Pitching & Catching

3.4.5.1 Pitching and Catching restrictions for all Junior competitions will be documented and advised to all clubs at the commencement of the season if there are any changes to the tables below.

3.4.5.2 A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. A player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

3.4.5.3 Pitchers who have been removed from the mound CAN NOT return as a pitcher later in the game.

3.4.5 Batting Little League Minors competitions:

3.4.5.1 there is no “dropped third strike rule” in Little League Minors (i.e if the catcher drops the third strike the batter is automatically out). If the count on a batter reaches ball four (4), the batter shall utilise a batting tee to hit the ball in play.

3.4.5.2 When the tee is used the following shall apply:

(a) The batter cannot bunt. Any ball that fails to travel at least fifteen (15) feet from home plate shall be called foul.

(b) The catcher must take up position in the catcher’s box.

(c) The pitcher must stand behind the pitcher’s plate.

(d) The coach/Umpire shall place the ball on a tee.

(e) The batted ball shall remain in play with all regular rules in effect.

(f) When the tee is in use, the runners are not permitted to advance until the ball has been batted.

(g) The batter continues their turn at bat until they hit the ball in play – The batter cannot be struck out.

(h) When using the tee, the hitter and any base runners may not advance more than two bases unless the batted ball is deemed to be a homerun (hit past or over the outfield boundary on the full), in which case it will be awarded a homerun.

For the purposes of scoring, scorers will add ball four (4) into gamechanger and if the player gets out from their hit off the tee, drag them off the base to out and select ‘other’ and touch the glove of players involved in the out. If the player moves to second base (or a home run over the outfield boundary on the full), the scorer will drag the player to the base and select ‘other’ and the fielder who picked up the ball.

3.4.5.1 Pitching

3.4.5.1 Pitch Counts.

Junior Competitions	Pre-Christmas	Post- Christmas
Little League Minors	35 per day	50 per day
Little League Majors	35 per day	50 per day
Intermediate League	50 per day	50 per day
Junior League	50 per day	50 per day
Senior League	50 per day	50 per day
Big League	50 per day	75 per day

3.4.6 Substitutions



- 
- 3.4.6.1 In Junior Competitions, a batter cannot be substituted during their at bat, except in the case of an injury.
  - 3.4.6.2 Defensive changes. Must be made as the team takes the field or while the team is in the field.
  - 3.4.6.3 Offensive changes. Must be made as a player comes to bat or while a player is on base.
  - 3.4.6.4 Scorers must only be made aware of the following changes:
  - 3.4.6.5 When a pitcher is replaced.
  - 3.4.6.6 When a catcher is replaced and when a Hitter is replaced.
  - 3.4.6.7 Defensive changes outside of the battery and pinch runners do not need to be recorded.
- 3.4.7 Batting
- 3.4.7.1 Bat Requirements

<b>Junior Competitions</b>	<b>Bat Requirements</b>
Little League Minors	Any Bat with maximum barrel diameter 2¼ inches or any 2 5/8 Barrel Bat with the USA Bat Label
Little League Majors	Any Bat with maximum barrel diameter 2¼ inches or any 2 5/8 Barrel Bat with the USA Bat Label
Intermediate League	Any Bat with maximum barrel diameter 2¼ inches or any 2 5/8 Barrel Bat with the USA Bat Label
Junior League	Any Bat with maximum barrel diameter 2¼ inches or any 2 5/8 Barrel Bat with the USA Bat Label
Senior League	Any 2 5/8 Barrel Bat with the USA Bat Label or BBCOR label or any wood or wood composite bat
Big League	Any 2 5/8 Barrel Bat with the USA Bat Label or BBCOR label or any wood or wood composite bat

**3.4.7.2 Throwing the Bat**

3.4.7.3 Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence.

3.4.7.4 A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied base.

**3.4.8 Continuous Batting Order**

3.4.8.1 If teams in all junior competitions have more than nine (9) players present for the game, teams may use a continuous batting order whereby all players (up to twelve (12) players) may bat.

3.4.8.2 Where players arrive to the game late, they can be added to the batting order immediately (unless there are already twelve (12) players present). This Bylaw does not apply to Substitute Players; however, a Substitute Player may be included in a team's continuous batting order at the discretion of that team's coach.

\*See Green Book Rule 4.04

3.4.8.3 Players in the batting order who are not designated a defensive position:

3.4.8.4 may appear in any batting position.

3.4.8.5 must stay in the same batting position for the complete game; and

3.4.8.6 must enter the game in defence at the halfway point.

3.4.8.7 This Bylaw does not apply to:

3.4.8.8 Substitute Players.

3.4.8.9 When a player is injured, ejected, or must leave the game site before the end of the game and there are no players available to replace them, the team will skip over their batting position without penalty providing Eight or more players remain.

### **3.5 Rookie Ball Competitions**

#### **3.5.5 Players**

3.5.5.1 Teams will consist of a minimum of 8 players for a game to be played. All teams agree to undertake whatever lengths necessary to ensure every scheduled game is played.

3.5.5.2 Generally, a team of nine (9) is preferred and players are to occupy all positions

3.5.5.3 Players must alternate positions every inning. (Mandatory)

3.5.5.4 A team coach will act as the umpire/Machine feeder/or pitcher for their team.

#### **3.5.6 Game Duration**

3.5.6.1 Games will be 6 innings for 1 hour & 15 Minutes whichever comes first in duration.

3.5.6.2 No new inning may commence with less than 10 minutes of the scheduled time remaining.

3.5.6.3 No scores are recorded for Rookie Ball baseball games.

#### **3.5.7 Field Size**

3.5.7.1 50 ft Bases with a safety base placed at 1st Base

3.5.7.2 38 ft for Pitching machine or plate.

#### **3.5.8 Equipment**

3.5.8.1 9-inch RBI baseballs are to be used for all Rookie Ball games

3.5.8.2 Any bat with a maximum barrel diameter of 2 ¼ inches.

3.5.8.3 All batters must wear two (2) eared batting helmets

#### **3.5.9 Batting**

3.5.9.1 Players will receive up to 3 attempts to put the ball into play from the coach pitcher/machine.

3.5.9.2 On the 3rd attempt if they miss or hit the ball into foul territory they will move to the tee and have a maximum of three (3) attempts to put the ball in play. If they are not able to put the ball in play, they will take their position at first base to develop their base running skills.

3.5.9.3 Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied base.

#### **3.5.10 Maximum Run Rule**

3.5.10.1 The maximum runs allowed per inning in the Pre-Christmas Restriction period is four (4) runs.

3.5.10.2 In the Post-Christmas Restriction period, the maximum runs allowed per inning is six (6) runs.

### **3.6 T-Ball Competitions**

#### **3.6.5 Players**

3.6.5.1 Teams will consist of a minimum of 5 players for a game to be played. All teams agree to undertake whatever lengths necessary to ensure every scheduled game is played.

3.6.5.2 Generally, a team of six (6) is preferred and players are to occupy all infield positions and two outfield positions

3.6.5.3 Players must alternate positions every inning. (Mandatory)

3.6.5.4 A team coach may play first base for their team during the fielding innings.

#### **3.6.6 Game Duration**

3.6.6.1 Games will be 5 innings for 1 hour whichever comes first in duration.

3.6.6.2 No new inning may commence with less than 10 minutes of the scheduled time remaining.

3.6.6.3 No scores are recorded for T-Ball baseball games.

#### **3.6.7 Field Size**

3.6.7.1 40 ft Bases with a safety base placed at 1st Base

#### **3.6.8 Equipment**

3.6.8.1 9inch RBI baseballs are to be used for all T ball games

3.6.8.2 Any bat with a maximum barrel diameter of 2 ¼ inches.

3.6.8.3 All batters must wear two (2) eared batting helmets

#### **3.6.9 Batting**

3.6.9.1 Players will receive up to 3 attempts to put the ball in play from the batting tee.

3.6.9.2 On the 3rd attempt if they miss or hit the ball into foul territory, they are encouraged to still run to first base while the fielding team attempts to make the play.

3.6.9.3 Batters are prohibited from throwing the bat. Offenders and their coaches are to be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence by the same batter shall result in the batter being called out and all other runners returned to the bases that they last legally occupied base.

#### **3.6.10 Maximum Run Rule**

3.6.10.1 The maximum runs allowed per inning in the Pre-Christmas Restriction period is four (4) runs.

In the Post-Christmas Restriction period, the maximum runs allowed per

## 4 PREMEIERSHIPS & FINALS

### 4.4 Eligibility for Finals

- 4.4.5 To be eligible for finals, players must have played in a minimum of one third (1/3) of available scheduled competition games for their club in their registered division/grade or league.
- 4.4.6 Players who play in the Graded competitions and also the Masters Competition must qualify for both grades or league in terms of 2.5 7.2 above to be eligible for both finals series.
- 4.4.7 Players will be deemed to have played in a game if:
  - 4.4.8 the player umpires for their registered team, they will be deemed to have played in that game. (To be noted on the game card or Game Changer results)
  - 4.4.9 player is listed on the Injured List (IL) held by the GCBA Committee
  - 4.4.10 player attends official representative commitments held at the same time as the game (to be noted on the game card or Game Changer results)
  - 4.4.11 Players in a particular League must have played most games in that League or lower e.g. if a player is registered for B Grade that player cannot play in B Grade final if that player has played most of their games in A Grade.
  - 4.4.12 Players can play in any League above their registered League during finals. However, Masters players must meet the eligibility criteria to play in another grade. (4.1.12 refers)
  - 4.4.13 Wash outs (before the game commences) shall not count as “games played” in determining a player’s eligibility for finals.
  - 4.4.14 In respect to forfeits, only the non-forfeiting team will be credited with eligibility.
  - 4.4.15 In the case of two (2) teams competing in the same League within a club, and for some reason the club has difficulty fielding these two (2) teams, and two (2) teams become one (1), the newly formed team will take the lowest position of both teams on the competition ladder. Penalties shall apply for the withdrawal of teams during the season.

### 4.5 Final Series Games/Format

- 4.5.5 Finals shall be played as determined by GCBA. The format of finals series will be determined during the season & be based on team participation levels. Clubs will be advised well before the completion of the regular seasons’ games.
- 4.5.6 Generally, the series will be conducted over 2 rounds. (Semi- Finals & Grand Finals)
- 4.5.7 Should any two (2) or more teams finishing in the top four (4) positions after completion of fixtures be tied, the GCBA Committee shall allocate places using the following criteria:
  - 4.5.7.1 head-to-head for the teams for the season
  - 4.5.7.2 the runs for and against, head-to-head for the season

4.5.7.3 the runs for and against overall for the season

4.5.8 In a 4 team finals series the format will be based on final Ladder positions:

4.5.8.1 Week One Semi Finals 1v 4 and 2 v 3

4.5.8.2 Week Two Grand Finals Winners of Week One will play off.

4.5.9 In all Competitions the teams that are placed 1st and 2nd will be designated the home team In the Semi Finals and the Highest Winning team from the Semi Finals will be designated the home team in the Grand Finals

4.5.10 If this format cannot be followed (e.g., due to inclement weather/ Covid 19), the highest placed teams will advance to the Grand Finals.

In the event of the rescheduled Grand Final then being called off, the game shall be declared in favor of the highest placed team as determined by GCBA.

4.5.11 The GCBA shall meet the costs for finals games, e.g. baseballs, umpires (appointed by GCBOA), lights (if required).

4.5.12 All Finals series games will be played under normal competition guidelines.

4.5.12.1 The A Grade Winter Season Grand Final shall be nine (9) innings with no time limit.

4.5.12.2 All other Grades A (Summer) B, C & Masters Grades Finals shall be seven (7) innings with a time limit of two (2) hours, whichever occurs first. The 10-minute rule will apply.

4.5.12.3 All Junior Grand Finals will be played under normal competition guidelines.

4.5.12.4 All Grand Finals shall be played until a result is achieved.

4.5.12.5 Games which remain tied after the stipulated number of innings but before the expiry of the time limit, shall continue until a result is reached or an inning concludes after the time limit expires, whichever comes first. The inning need not be completed if the home team is ahead.

4.5.12.6 At the conclusion of the regulated game which remains tied the game shall continue until a result is achieved by following the Tie Breaker Rule.

**TIE BREAKER (INTERNATIONAL)**

4.5.13 Extra innings shall be played in all GCBA Grand Final games. which either:

- a. must be played to a result and remain tied at the completion of the stipulated game duration.
- b. or remain tied after the completion of the game as stated in rule (above).

4.5.14 For each extra inning, the offensive team for every half-inning shall commence with a runner on 1st base, being the batter immediately preceding the batter leading off the half-inning in the batting order.

4.5.15 and No pitcher shall be charged with an earned run if either of the runners described at Rule 2 score (prior to their next at-bat)

4.5.15.1 In the event of inclement weather, three (3) innings shall constitute a complete



game.

4.5.15.2 If the game is called off due to inclement weather, the GCBA will attempt to reschedule the game for the following week.

4.5.15.3 In the event of the rescheduled Grand Final then being called off, the game shall be declared in favour of the highest placed team as determined by GCBA.

4.5.16 GCBA will allocate a maximum of 20 trophies or medallions to each team winning their respective Grand Final.

#### **4.6 Club Championship**

4.6.5 The Club Championship in all leagues shall be awarded to the club gaining the highest aggregate points in A B & C & Masters in competitions during the Winter season only. Clubs must field teams in A, B C and Masters to be eligible.

4.6.6 For clubs eligible for the Club Championship, they will be awarded:

4.6.6.1 3 points for a win

4.6.6.2 1 point for a draw

4.6.6.3 0 points for a loss and

- 
- 4.6.6.4 -3 points for a forfeit.
  - 4.6.7 Points will only be recorded for the regular season; final series will not count.
  - 4.6.8 If clubs enter more than one (1) team in a division/grade, the highest ranked team at the end of the regular season will be the nominated team whose results will be recorded for the Club Championship.

## 5 Appendix A - GCBA DISPUTES PANEL PROCEDURES

### 5.4 COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

- A.** The Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The Competition Administrator shall:
- i.** abide by these Procedures.
  - ii.** be the point of contact for all Dispute Forms.
  - iii.** allocate a dispute number for each matter.
  - iv.** refer the dispute to the GCBA Disputes Panel.
  - v.** keep a register of decisions.
  - vi.** issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
  - vii.** enforce the penalties where appropriate.

### 5.5 GCBA DISPUTES PANEL

- A.** The GCBA Disputes Panel shall be appointed by the GCBA Committee and shall consist of a minimum of two (2) GCBA Committee members.
- B.** The roles of the GCBA Disputes Panel include:
- i.** hearing administrative disputes and game protests arising under the GCBA Bylaws.
  - ii.** making recommendations to the GCBA Committee for determination of administrative disputes and game protests; and
  - iii.** providing advisory opinions on the GCBA Bylaws.
- C.** The GCBA Disputes Panel must:
- i.** identify the parties to the dispute or protest.
  - ii.** provide reasonable opportunity for all interested parties to present their written arguments and evidence.
  - iii.** determine whether interviewing parties is necessary and, if so, communicate the date and time to the parties.
  - iv.** review the arguments and evidence; and
  - v.** make a recommendation to the GCBA Committee for determination of the dispute or protest.
- D.** The GCBA Disputes Panel shall appoint a Chairperson from one of its own for conducting any interviews and communicating with parties in accordance with these Procedures.
- E.** The GCBA Disputes Panel may seek guidance from the GCBA Committee and/or external sources where it deems appropriate.

## 5.6 POWERS & DECISION MAKING

- A. The GCBA Disputes Panel may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- B. After receiving a recommendation from the GCBA Disputes Panel, the GCBA Committee shall make a determination.
- C. The GCBA Committee may make any order or impose any penalty as may be required and as it sees fit.
- D. If agreement by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a GCBA Committee meeting (or, in the absence of a meeting, a two-thirds majority of the membership with voting rights at the time) cannot agree to a determination, the matter may be referred to an independent adjudicator for determination.
- E. Where a decision under dispute was made by the GCBA Committee as a whole, an independent adjudicator (acting as Chairperson) shall definitively determine the dispute.
- F. The Chairperson of the GCBA Disputes Panel shall communicate the decision of the Committee to all interested parties, together with notice of any order made or penalty imposed and reasons for the determination.

## 5.7 APPEALS

- A. There is no right of appeal from a decision of the GCBA Committee relating to administrative disputes or game protests.

## 6 APPENDIX B – GCBA JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

### 6.4 COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR

- A. The Competition Administrator is a BQ employee that has administrative responsibility (only) in the dispute resolution process. The Competition Administrator shall:
- i. abide by these Procedures;
  - ii. be the point of contact for all References or Incident Reports.
  - iii. allocate a Referral number for each matter.
  - iv. refer any judiciary references to the GCBA Judiciary.
  - v. keep a register of decisions.
  - vi. issue penalty notices to relevant parties; and
  - vii. enforce the penalties where appropriate.

### 6.5 GCBA JUDICIARY

- A. The GCBA Committee shall appoint a pool of judiciary members available to hear breaches of Section 8.1 of the *GCBA Bylaws* arising from the GCBA Competition as the GCBA Judiciary.
- B. The GCBA Committee shall appoint a Chairperson who is responsible for conducting any hearings set down in accordance with these Procedures.
- C. The Judiciary shall be selected by the Chairperson to consist of any three (3) of the pool of members appointed by the GCBA Committee (inclusive of the Chairperson). At least one member shall be independent of the GCBA Committee.
- D. Where the Chairperson is unavailable, an acting Chairperson shall be appointed by the Chairperson or by the GCBA Committee where the Chairperson is unable to do so. The acting Chairperson shall have all the same authority and obligations of the Chairperson under these Procedures.
- E. The jurisdiction of the GCBA Judiciary shall be that where conduct described in a Referral occurs at or in the vicinity of a game within the GCBA Competition, or otherwise relates to the GCBA Competition and is not referred to the BQ Judiciary under subsection (G).
- F. The Judiciary may refer a Referral to the BQ Judiciary in the following instances:
- i. the reported conduct is not within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary.
  - ii. the reported conduct amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern BQ.
  - iii. the reported conduct may impact qualifications or accreditations of the Reported Person that are administered by BQ; or
  - iv. the Judiciary otherwise deems it appropriate.
- G. Failure to abide by any time limits stipulated in these Procedures will not necessarily invalidate a Referral. The fault of any delay (be that of the GCBA, the Complainant or the Club) may be considered in determining:
- i. whether a Referral should be dismissed.
  - ii. whether a Temporary Sanction should be imposed; and/or
  - iii. whether the penalty should be increased or decreased, as the case may be.

## 6.6 REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A.** Any person may be reported (**Reported Person**) to the GCBA Judiciary for breaching the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 or Section 9 of the *GCBA Bylaws* in the following ways:
- i.** By an umpire in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball (OBR) Section 8.00 (**Umpires Referral**).
  - ii.** By any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring at or in the vicinity of a GCBA game, through an Incident Report ("**Witness Referral**");
  - iii.** By any individuals and/or Club, if relating to conduct occurring outside a GCBA game, through a written referral ("**Other Referral**"); or
  - iv.** By the GCBA Committee, upon its own investigation through a written referral ("**GCBA Referral**").
- B.** A person who submits a Referral shall be referred to as a "**Complainant**".
- C.** Incident Reports must be submitted to the Competition Administrator as follows:
- i.** for an Umpire's Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following the game;
  - ii.** for a Witness Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following the game;
  - iii.** for Other Referrals, as soon as practicable; and
  - iv.** for a GCBA Referral, at any time.

### Umpire's Referral

- D.** Following a game involving an ejection, the umpire responsible for the ejection (Reporting Umpire) must ensure:
- i.** the scorers have recorded the ejection on the Official Game Card;
  - ii.** an Incident Report is submitted to the QBUA no later than 10 am the next business day following the game for review;
  - iii.** they, or a representative from the QBUA, inform the GCBA Competition Administrator the name and Club of the ejected player as soon as practicable;
- E.** The QBUA or the Reporting Umpire shall forward the GCBA Competition Administrator the Incident Report by 3 pm the next business day following the game.

### Urgent Referrals

- F.** Any of the Referrals made under subsection (A) may, if sufficiently serious, be made urgently to the Competition Administrator to be dealt with as soon as practicable.

**Note:** The intent of this rule is to allow serious conduct to be dealt with temporarily where the procedure set out in section 5 cannot be followed prior to the Reported Person's next scheduled game (e.g. conduct at a Division 1 Friday night game which may warrant suspension from the Sunday game).

- G.** Where an Urgent Referral is made, the Competition Administrator shall contact the Chairperson for the purpose of determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6. If the Chairperson is unable to be contacted within a reasonable time, the Competition Administrator may, at their discretion, contact an alternative judiciary member or, failing that, the GCBA Committee Chairperson, for determination.

- H. In determining the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction for an Urgent Referral, the Chairperson (or other judiciary member) may treat the Referral as prima facie evidence of the Reported Person's conduct and otherwise inform themselves in any way they consider appropriate.

## 6.7 PRE-HEARING PROCEDURE

- A. As soon as practicable after receiving a Referral, the Competition Administrator shall forward all relevant material to the Chairperson and then notify the Reported Person's Club Secretary by email:
- i. that a Referral has been made against the Reported Person;
  - ii. the nature of the complaint/allegations; and
  - iii. that the Chairperson may dismiss the Referral, refer it directly to a judiciary hearing or lay a charge against the Reported Person and propose a penalty.

The email shall attach any Incident Reports provided to the Competition Administrator.

### Reported Person Incident Report

- B. The Reported Person must complete and submit an Incident Report through their Club Secretary as follows:
- i. for an Umpire's Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary; or
  - ii. for a Witness Referral, Other Referral or GCBA Referral, by 3 pm the next business day following notification to the Club Secretary.

If the Reported Person fails to submit an Incident Report and contests the charge and/or penalty, that person will be suspended from participating in any form in the GCBA Competition until the judiciary hearing unless otherwise directed by the Chairperson.

### Chairperson Determination

- C. Where the Chairperson is satisfied with the information provided, within one business day following the receipt of both the Referral and the Reported Person's Incident Report (if provided), the Chairperson shall consider the Referral, Incident Reports and any other material submitted as prima facie evidence and shall:
- i. identify the relevant charge(s) to which the conduct relates.
  - ii. dismiss the Referral where there is insufficient evidence to sustain a charge.
  - iii. determine the severity of any charge.
  - iv. propose a penalty based on, **but not limited to**, the Recommended Table of Penalties listed in section 0 or require the Reported Person to attend a judiciary hearing;
  - v. determine whether a Temporary Sanction is necessary (see section 6); and
  - vi. communicate the above information with the Competition Administrator.

The Chairperson may delay making a Determination under this section where he or she determines further investigation is necessary.

- D. The Chairperson may, at any time, form the Judiciary pursuant to section 3C and consult other members of the Judiciary in their decision making under this section.

### Penalty Offer

- E. The Competition Administrator shall notify the relevant Club Secretary as soon as practicable by email of the any charge(s) laid against the Reported

Person, the proposed penalty (“**penalty offer**”) and/or any requirement for the Reported Person to attend a judiciary hearing.

**Plea**

- F.** If charges are laid and a penalty offer is made, the Club must notify the Competition Administrator by 3pm the day after receiving the penalty offer whether the Reported Person:
  - i.** pleads guilty to the charges and accepts the penalty offer.
  - ii.** pleads guilty to the charges but contests the penalty offer; or
  - iii.** pleads not guilty to the charges.

If the Club fails to notify the Competition Administrator under this subsection, the Reported Person is deemed to have pleaded guilty to the charges and accepted the penalty offer.

- G.** If the Reported Person accepts the penalty offer or fails to notify the Competition Administrator before the stated deadline, the penalty shall stand, and the suspension shall be served from the date provided in the “Notice Form for Reported Person”.
- H.** If the Reported Person rejects the penalty offer or pleads not guilty, a hearing shall be set down in accordance with section 7.

**Other Matters**

- I.** In all cases, the Club shall be responsible for notifying the Reported Person of any correspondence it receives related to the conduct and the duties the Reported Person has under these Procedures.

**6.8 TEMPORARY SANCTION**

- A.** Where the Chairperson has laid charges against a Reported Person under section 5, or otherwise received an Urgent Referral, a Temporary Sanction may be imposed pending notification of a plea and accepting a penalty offer, attending a judiciary hearing or as otherwise ordered by the Chairperson.
- B.** A Temporary Sanction can include, but is not limited to, the following orders:
  - i.** Suspension – to stop a person from participating in the GCBA Competition in all or specified capacities.
  - ii.** Exclusion – to stop a person from entering any GCBA Club facility.
  - iii.** Non-Contact – to stop a person from contacting specified persons; or
  - iv.** A combination of the above.
- C.** On direction from the Chairperson, the Competition Administrator shall notify the Reported Person’s Club Secretary of the imposition of a Temporary Sanction and reasons for its imposition.
- D.** A Temporary Sanction shall be effective from the date of notification until such time as there is another order made by the Chairperson or the GCBA Judiciary.
- E.** A person the subject of a Temporary Sanction may appeal to the BQ Appeal Tribunal for a stay of the Temporary Sanction.

**6.9 JUDICIARY HEARINGS**

- A.** This section applies if a hearing is required under section 5.



**Date & Time**

- B.** The Chairperson shall form the Judiciary pursuant to section 3C and determine a date and time for the judiciary hearing, ordinarily within four (4) business days of receiving the Referral.
- C.** The judiciary hearing is fixed and cannot be changed, except at the discretion of the Chairperson.

**Attendance**

- D.** The Competition Administrator shall confirm the details of the judiciary hearing to the Report Person's Club Secretary, the Complainant, and the Judiciary members.
- E.** The Complainant is not required to, but may, attend the judiciary hearing.
- F.** If the Reported Person is unable to attend the judiciary hearing, their Club Secretary must notify the Competition Administrator and state the reason. The Judiciary shall:
  - i.** reschedule the hearing and determine the appropriateness of a Temporary Sanction under section 6; or
  - ii.** in the absence of a reasonable excuse, proceed with the hearing notwithstanding the absence of the Reported Person (if there are witnesses) or determine the matter based on the written evidence.
- G.** If the Reported Person does not appear at the scheduled time nor after a reasonable period of grace, the hearing shall go ahead in their absence with their written evidence taken into account.

**Advocates**

- H.** The Reported Person, or the Complainant if they are under 18 years of age (e.g., a junior umpire), may have an advocate speak on their behalf at the judiciary hearing. The advocate shall assume control of the Reported Person's defense and the Reported Person will not be permitted to speak unless to give evidence on their own behalf. The Competition Administrator must be notified by 3 pm the day before the judiciary hearing of any advocates.

**Evidence**

- I.** The Judiciary may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate.
- A.** The Chairperson may, in their discretion, anonymise names of witnesses or the Complainant if they are satisfied it is necessary to prevent undue prejudice to:
  - i.** the Reported Person.
  - ii.** any victim.
  - iii.** any witness.
  - iv.** a child; or
  - v.** the proper administration of the Referral.
- B.** It is the sole responsibility of the parties to provide any evidence they wish to rely on to the Competition Administrator within the time allowed under this section.
- C.** All evidence the Reported Person wishes to adduce at the judiciary hearing must be sent to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day before to the judiciary hearing.
- D.** All evidence provided to the Competition Administrator shall be provided to the Reported Person and the Complainant at least 24 hours prior to the judiciary hearing.

- E. Evidence adduced later than the times stipulated in this section may be taken into account by the Judiciary at its discretion. The Judiciary shall provide sufficient time for all parties who attend the judiciary hearing to read or see any evidence not provided beforehand.
- F. The Reported Person or the Judiciary may call any witness they desire, however no person has any obligation to provide a statement or give evidence to the Judiciary. Notification of all witnesses attending the judiciary hearing must be sent to the Competition Administrator by 3 pm the day before the judiciary hearing.
- G. The Reported Person, the Complainant and any witnesses detailed in subsection (O) shall be given reasonable opportunity to provide evidence at the judiciary hearing.
- H. All evidence given at a judiciary hearing is on a confidential and “without prejudice” basis.
- I. Judiciary members may ask questions of any party or witness at the judiciary hearing. In the event that a party wishes to ask a question of another party or witness in the hearing, they must submit that question to the Judiciary who may then ask that question on their behalf.
- J. The Chairperson has the sole discretion to request any person to remove themselves from the judiciary hearing at any time.
- K. The hearing may be recorded using a recording device at the discretion of the Chairperson or at the request of the Reported Person. If a recording device is used, all attending parties will be notified. That recording must be made available to the BQ Appeals Tribunal on request if an appeal is lodged.

#### Order of Proceedings

- L. Unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson, the order of proceedings shall be:
  - i. Introduction  
The Chairperson shall introduce the Judiciary and inform all parties of the order of proceedings.
  - ii. Complainant  
The Complainant or their advocate, if they choose to attend, shall provide their evidence. That person may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
  - iii. Reported Person  
The Reported Person and/or their advocate shall provide their evidence.
  - iv. Witnesses  
Witnesses shall provide their evidence. Witnesses may leave the judiciary hearing once their evidence is given.
  - v. Consideration  
The Judiciary shall consider the evidence in private and determine the Reported Person’s guilt or innocence and/or penalty if applicable.
  - vi. Judgment  
The Chairperson shall either inform the Reported Person of the outcome of the Judiciary’s deliberations or reserve its decision. Once advised, the Chairperson shall provide a completed “Notice Form for Reported Person” to the Reported Person to confirm their penalty and its effective date. A copy of the completed form shall also be forwarded to the Club, the Competition Administrator and the QBUA (in the case of Umpire’s Referrals). Should a decision be reserved, the Reported Person will not be subject to any immediate penalty unless a Temporary Sanction has been imposed.

## 6.10 POWERS

- A.** The GCBA Judiciary may make any order or impose any penalty against the Reported Person as may be required and as it sees fit, including but not limited to:
- i.** Reprimand – with the offence being recorded.
  - ii.** Suspension – may be applied as a complete or partial suspension from participation in the GCBA Competition in all or specified capacities for a definite period of time or until a definite pre-set goal is reached.
  - iii.** Expulsion – from participation in any capacity in the GCBA Competition as a response to a very serious offence.
  - iv.** Fines – imposed in such amounts as the Judiciary deems fit; or
  - v.** A combination of the above penalties.
- B.** The GCBA Judiciary may order a GCBA Club to refuse entry to a Reported Person to give effect to a penalty under these Procedures. The GCBA Judiciary may refer any failure to comply with an order under this rule to the GCBA Committee.
- C.** The GCBA Judiciary may, at its discretion, suspend all or a component of an order for a specified operational period (i.e., if a Reported Person is charged with a further offence during the operational period, the suspended order will come into effect in addition to any other orders made for the further offending).
- D.** In determining the penalty, the following may be taken into account:
- i.** The Recommended Table of Penalties listed in section 0;
  - ii.** Whether the person pleaded guilty or not guilty (and whether a hearing took place);
  - iii.** The nature and circumstances of the conduct.
  - iv.** Any harm done to another person.
  - v.** The extent to which the person is to blame for the conduct.
  - vi.** Any damage caused.
  - vii.** The person's age and previous character, including previous offending history.
  - viii.** Previous penalties imposed on the person.
  - ix.** Any disciplinary action taken by the person's Club relating to the same conduct.
  - x.** Any time served under a Temporary Sanction;
  - xi.** Any remorse or lack of remorse.
  - xii.** Any cultural or other specific circumstance relevant to the person.
  - xiii.** Any comparative penalties imposed for similar offending; and
  - xiv.** Any other matter the Judiciary considers relevant. Voluntary intoxication by alcohol or other drugs is not a mitigating factor.
- E.** The Judiciary must give reasons for the penalty it imposes. If these are given orally, they must also be given in writing on request of the Reported Person, the GCBA Committee or the BQ Appeals Tribunal within a reasonable time after the hearing.
- F.** Suspended players, the Club they play for and the date for the last day of the suspension penalty will be listed on the Baseball Queensland website for the duration of the suspension penalty to allow. This allows all members of the baseball community to check to ensure that a suspended and therefore an illegal player is not listed to play for a Club. The penalty for playing an illegal player is loss of game.

### 6.11 RE-OPENING A HEARING

- A. A party may make an application to the Judiciary to re-open a Referral after a determination only on the basis that there has been an error of fact.
- B. If the Judiciary decides in its discretion that there was an error of fact that led to a substantial error having been made, it may re-open the Referral, correct the error, and amend its decision if necessary.

### 6.12 APPEALS

- A. A Reported Person or the Complainant may appeal to the BQ Appeals Tribunal against a decision of the Judiciary.
- B. An appeal must be made to the Competition Administrator no later than 28 days after the original decision was communicated to the parties.
- C. If the appeal is not lodged with the Competition Administrator within 28 days, an explanation for the delay must accompany the appeal.
- D. An appeal lodged after 28 days may only be heard with the leave of the BQ Appeals Tribunal Chairperson and only if the BQ Appeals Tribunal Chairperson is of the view that the appeal has reasonable prospects of success.
- E. An appeal must be based on at least one of the following grounds:
  - i. A denial of natural justice.
  - ii. A denial of procedural fairness.
  - iii. An error in the exercise of a discretion (including acting on a wrong principle, relying on extraneous or irrelevant matters, mistake of fact, failing to take a material consideration into account or the decision was otherwise unreasonable or plainly unjust); or
  - iv. The penalty imposed was manifestly excessive or manifestly inadequate.
- F. The BQ Appeals Tribunal will abide by the *Baseball Queensland Dispute Resolution Rules*.
- G. If the BQ Appeals Tribunal determines that one of the grounds in subsection (E) has been established, it must proceed to reconsider the matter afresh and may:
  - i. Confirm the decision of the Judiciary.
  - ii. Set aside the decision of the Judiciary and make its own decision; or
  - iii. Make any other order that it deems appropriate.
- H. The BQ Appeals Tribunal must give reasons for its decision.

**6.13 CHARGES AND RECOMMENDED TABLE OF PENALTIES**

**A.** The following charges may be laid against a Reported Person:

<b>Class E – General Misconduct</b>	
Unsportsmanlike	Any conduct not otherwise covered in this section that is not in the conduct spirit of the game or is otherwise unbecoming of a GCBA Club member or official, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliberately breaching rules or taking unfair advantage of a situation</li> <li>• Deliberately distracting or provoking another person</li> <li>• Insulting or otherwise deliberately offending another person</li> <li>• Unreasonably refusing to cooperate with a coach, player or official</li> <li>• Failing to display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat</li> <li>• Disrespecting the rights, dignity and worth of any participants</li> <li>• Encouraging others to act in an unsportsmanlike manner</li> <li>• Otherwise bringing the game into disrepute</li> </ul>
Consuming alcohol or tobacco	Where a person either consumes alcohol, tobacco or any illicit substance (including, but not limited to, smoking, chewing or dipping) within the on-field confines of any baseball facility, or smokes tobacco within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at any Junior Competition game.
Audible obscenity	Any obscene language or swearing in a game that is loud enough to carry to the spectators but not directed at any person. Language that cannot be heard by the spectators, or otherwise constitutes verbal abuse, is not conduct covered by this charge. A coach may be charged under this section if an audible obscenity comes from an unidentifiable person in that coach’s dugout.
Equipment Abuse	An act of aggression directed at, or utilising, playing equipment or facilities (e.g., throwing a helmet or bat, damaging the dugout, or kicking dirt in anger).
<b>Class D - Dissent</b>	
Dissent	Any conduct that undermines the umpire’s ability to officiate and control a game, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arguing an umpire’s judgment calls (e.g. balls and strikes)</li> <li>• A player (who is not also the team’s coach) disputing an umpire’s technical game ruling</li> <li>• Disobeying an umpire’s direction (unless constituting a “failing to leave” charge)</li> <li>• Discourteous or disrespectful behaviour directed at the umpire</li> </ul>
<b>Class C – Offensive Behaviour</b>	
Verbal abuse	Any comments directed to another person that could reasonably be construed as abusive or harassing. Comments need only be audible to the Complainant. Taunting, baiting, abusing or ridiculing an opponent or official verbally
Racial Abuse	Any comments based on racial issues directed to another person that could reasonably be construed as abusive, insulting and/or harassing. Comments need only be audible to the Complainant. Racial discrimination involves any act where a person is treated unfavourably because of their race, nationality, colour, descent or ethnic origin.

<b>Class B – Intimidation</b>	
Touching an umpire	Any intentional, unwanted physical contact with an umpire or physical contact incidental to a confrontation.
Failing to leave	Where, after being ejected, a person does not leave the playing field (including the dugout) within a reasonable time, returns to the playing field (including the dugout), attempts to manage or influence the game from outside the field, or can be heard by an umpire from the playing field.
Intimidation	Physical or verbal conduct that could reasonably be construed as intimidating including, but not limited to, circumstances where a person leaves their designated position (e.g. as a fielder, batter, coach or from the dugout) to confront another person in an aggressive manner. Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent.
<b>Class A – Dangerous Act</b>	
Intentional or reckless	Where, outside the rules of the game, a person engages in intentional dangerous play or reckless conduct that could cause injury to an opposing player or official (e.g. intentionally throwing at a batter, intentionally sliding into a player).
Attempting to strike	An intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike another person. This includes engaging in a melee.
Striking	Intentionally striking another person in any way.
Equipment abuse	An act of aggression directed at, or utilising, playing equipment or facilities (e.g. throwing a helmet or bat, damaging the dugout, or kicking dirt in anger) whereby a player is hit or injured as a result of the equipment abuse
Spitting	Spitting on or at an Umpire or on another Person
<b>Breach of Judiciary Order</b>	
Breach of Judiciary	Where a person breaches an order previously given by the Judiciary order

- B.** Conduct which, in the opinion of the Judiciary, amounts to unfair discrimination, sexual harassment or vilification or is otherwise deemed sufficiently serious to concern BQ, may be referred directly to the BQ Judiciary.
- C.** Where the same conduct constitutes more than one offence, the more serious offence (based on the Class) shall be laid.
- D.** Recommended Table of Penalties

The following table sets out recommended penalties for the charges defined in this section. These penalties represent a **recommendation only** and the Judiciary shall take into account all factors included in these By-Laws and retain the power to penalise the Reported Person in any of the ways outlined in section 6.10.

<b>Class of Charge</b>	<b>Recommended suspension range (weeks)</b>
Class E – Misconduct	1 - 2
Class D – Dissent	2 - 4
Class C – Offensive Behaviour	3 - 6
Class B – Intimidation	4 - 8
Class A – Dangerous Act	10 - 20
Breach of Judiciary order	20