



**MAJOR LEAGUE
PLAYING CONDITIONS & RULES 2008 / 2009**

as at 11/8/08

WARNING ABOUT INHERENT DANGERS OF BASEBALL

The rules and procedures issued by NSWBL Inc. are designed to maximize the enjoyment, fairness and safety of our game. Officials and players should be aware that baseball, just like all sports, will always have inherent dangers. Some of these dangers arise from batted balls and collision of players. Care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment (including protective equipment) proper training methods and awareness of the risks.

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RULES AND PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Rules and Procedures** – these rules and procedures will govern the Baseball NSW Major League Competition. They should be read in conjunction with the Official Australian Baseball Rules and if in conflict, these rules shall take precedence. The Major League Committee (MLC) will resolve any exemptions or queries arising from matters not included in these rules.
- 1.2 Eligibility** – Unless otherwise authorized by the MLC each affiliate Major League Club will have to enter four (4) teams (first, second and third grades plus an Under 18 team) to be eligible to compete in the Major League Competition.
- 1.3 Playing times** -
Various times as per draws.
The MLC may make alterations to game times where necessary.
- 1.4 The Scheduled Finishing Time** will be as indicated in Rule 1.3. However, during daylight saving in NSW and where the preceding game finished later than its scheduled finishing time, the **Scheduled Finishing Time** will be adjusted by adding the normal game time as per Rule 1.3 to the new start time of that game.
Following games will commence fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a previous game.
- 1.5** The top half of an inning will **NOT** commence ten (10) minutes or less before the **Scheduled Finishing Time** as indicated in Rule 1.4, however where an inning is NOT completed at the **Scheduled Finishing Time**, play shall continue until the bottom half of the inning is completed or the side batting in the bottom half has scored the winning run.
- 1.6** It shall be a regulation game, in first (1st) grade as defined by the **RULES OF BASEBALL 4.10 (c) (1) (2) (3), and** in all other grades, including midweek games, where the Umpire-in-Chief certifies that sixty (60) minutes or five (5) innings of play have been completed (4 1/2 innings where the team leading is batting last).
- 1.7** It shall be a regulation game as defined in the Rules of Baseball if one team leads by ten (10) runs after seven (7) innings.

ALTERATION TO DRAW

- 2.1** No alteration to the playing schedule or venues is permitted without the approval of the MLC.

GAME PRELIMINARIES FITNESS OF GROUND

- 3.1** The fitness of the ground for play will be decided by the authorities controlling the ground, the team managers, or in the event of the managers disagreeing, by the Umpire in Chief, in that order.
The safety of players, officials and spectators shall be the primary concern of the officials controlling either, the ground or the game. Games shall not commence or continue if there is a foreseeable risk of injury occurring to any player, official or spectator.
- 3.2** It is the HOME clubs' responsibility to notify the Wet Weather Contact on 0409 462 443 of the closure after 7:00 a.m. and if possible, before 8.30 a.m. on game day, otherwise the club responsible will be charged with the umpires fees.
- 3.3** Any game venue, closed because of unfitness of ground, may be changed with notice to the opposition club, umpires and ML Registrar by midday the day before the scheduled playing date.
- 3.4** When a game is NOT being played because of the ground unfitness, the result shall be declared "no game." The MLC shall retain the right to reschedule the game and such decision will be final

- 3.5** When an appeal has been made against poor light, the fitness of the light for play shall be in the hands of the Umpire-in-Chief for decision - an appeal may not be made with regard to this decision, refer to the **Rules of Baseball paragraphs 4.12 (a) (b) and 5.10 (b).**

POINT SCORE

- 4.1** For the purpose of determining semi finalists in all grades of the Major League Competition the percentages will be calculated on the results of games played and the number of games won, lost or forfeited. (*Note: a tied game is to be regarded as a half win and a half loss*)

Where teams are tied, the positions will be decided by;

- (i) Head to Head clashes in all games between the teams involved
- (ii) If still tied, the lowest ratio of (number of runs scored against them) divided by (defensive innings played) in the games between the tied teams.
- (iii) If still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team, then the second ranked team, and so on.

Ranking of the final two tied teams will be determined by the Head to Head process.

- 4.2** The Club Championship shall be determined by multiplying the 1st Grade percentage points by 20, 2nd Grade by 10, 3rd Grade by 5, U18 Grade by 5 and then take the aggregate.

UNIFORMS

- 5.1** All affiliated clubs shall register the colours, logos and design of its uniform and warm-up jackets with Baseball NSW. Only these shall be worn whilst on the field of play. Any changes will NOT be made to the colours of the uniform unless approval is given by the MLC.
- 5.2** Each uniform is required to have an individual number (no duplications) not less than 150mm in size that can be clearly seen from outside the field of play.
Baseball caps will form part of the uniform and must be worn at all times excepting when the batting helmet is worn.
- 5.3** Only warm-up jackets of the players' registered club shall be worn on the field of play. Pitchers and relieved pitchers shall be allowed to wear warm-up jackets (as defined by rule 5.2) in the batting box or on the field of play and, where circumstances warrant. Other players may be allowed to wear warm up jackets (as defined in Rule 5.1) at the Umpire- in- Chiefs' discretion.
- 5.4** Clubs may add only three sponsor patches to the uniform. The patches can only be applied to one sleeve, the back of the uniform and the left breast. The maximum diameter allowed for such logo on the sleeve is 65mm in diameter – or 65mm in height if lettering is affixed to the uniform. Alcohol and Tobacco advertising is not permitted. MLC reserves the right to refuse other advertising which it considers to be not in the best interest of the sport. Its decision will be final.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 6.1** All clubs and players are required to provide safety and playing equipment as required by the MLC.
- 6.2** Only two (2) ear flap batting helmets in solid or clubs' colours may be worn by batter/runners and bat persons, who are required to wear same at all times when on the field of play.
- 6.3** All catchers are required to wear a protective helmet and appropriate protective throat guard. The throat guard need not be added to the 'hockey mask' style helmets. Any person warming up a pitcher is required to wear an approved facemask.
- 6.4** Clubs that have bat persons are to ensure that they wear appropriate fitting protective equipment, including a two-eared batting helmet and protector.

DRUGS

- 7.1 The anti doping policy that has been adopted by the ABF Inc will be enforced.
- 7.2 Any player who is required by doctor's prescription to treat a medical problem with proscribed drugs as defined by ASDA guidelines shall be registered with Baseball NSW and or the ABF Inc. Players are to forward details accompanied by a letter from the player's doctor to Baseball NSW.

Clubs are to ensure that all players who have queries re prescribed drugs are advised to consult the ASDA website www.asda.org.au and if further information is required, contact the drug advisory hotline on 1800 020 506.

SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

- 8.1 A player, team official or umpire participating in a game shall not use tobacco products whilst on the field of play. This prohibition shall also apply to the "warm up" areas, batting practice areas, dugouts or surrounding areas.
- 8.2 A player, team official or umpire whilst in uniform shall not consume liquor in or near the playing field where a game is in progress or is about to commence.

PENALTY: The offending club will be fined \$100 and the offending person removed from the game.

LEGISLATION

- 9.1 The Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and the NSW Anti Discrimination Act 1977 (as amended) particularly Section 221 now includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual harassment in sport have been accepted by the ABF Inc and the Baseball NSW. Reports on any matter of this nature are to be referred immediately to the Member Protection Officer of Baseball NSW for attention.
- 9.2 Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 – the working with children check requires that all clubs with players under the age of 18 require that coaches and managers (whether paid or unpaid) to declare whether they are a prohibited person under the terms of the act.
- 9.3 Any suspected breach of Baseball NSW Policy in regards to inappropriate behaviour (e.g. harassment, discrimination) should be referred to the Member Protection Officer of Baseball NSW. Details of the resolution process can be found in the Baseball NSW Member Protection Policy (June 2003).

REGISTRATIONS

- 10.1 The minimum age of players registering is 14 years of age on 31st December in each competition year. The minimum age of bat persons is to be 12 years of age.
- 10.2 All Under 18 Grade players must be under 18 years of age on 31st December in each competition year.
- 10.3 Players who are under 16 years of age on 31st December in each competition year shall be classified as Under 16 players.
- 10.4 Each Major League club shall register the name and address and date of birth of every player, coach (including registration number), manager, bat person and scorer using the prescribed form.

The block registration form must be returned to the ML Registrar and entered into the *My Club* database no later than **Tuesday 2nd September 2008**.

- 10.5 Late registrations (i.e. any player/official not listed on the original block registration) may be accepted providing that the following procedures have been followed;
- Player's details must be entered into the *My Club* database.
 - Player's names must be noted on the Result Sheet for the first game they appear in.
 - A copy of the player's Registration Form must be forwarded to the ML Registrar within 7 days of the player participating for the first time..
- 10.6 All clubs shall register their players, coaches and managers. The minimum number of players being registered is to be not less than equal to ten (10) players per team entered into the competition.
- 10.7 Registrations will not be accepted after **Wednesday 31st December 2008**, except by decision of the MLC, which shall be final.
- 10.8 Only persons whose registrations have been approved by the MLC may participate in any competition games, the MLC retains the right to refuse registrations, or any registration in a particular grade, at their discretion and this decision will be final.
- 10.9 A team shall be debited with a forfeit of nine (9-0) to nil for any game in which an unregistered player, coach or manager participate.

TRANSFERS

- 11.1 Any player, coach or manager registering with a ML Club who has previously played for another ML Club, will secure a clearance from their previous ML club stating that they had cleared all obligations to that club.

Before such a person can participate in a game for the new ML Club, the previous ML club must have been contacted and no notification of outstanding obligations has been received.

Clearances given to a player to play for another club before transferring to a new ML Club does not negate the responsibility of the new ML Club to obtain a clearance.

It is the new club's responsibility to check the most recent default list produced by Baseball NSW and ensure that any person from their club that appears on the list does not participate in a game until the matter has been resolved.

Note: Once a problem has been notified, the player, coach or manager CANNOT take part in any game until the matter has been resolved. PENALTY: forfeit of nine to nil (9-0) to the non-offending team.

- 11.2 Any players, coaches etc. registered in another State will NOT participate in any competition game until they have been cleared by that State's controlling body, under penalty of the games in which they participated in being declared a forfeits of nine (9-0) to nil to the non offending team.
- 11.3 A player, coach etc may not play or coach with more than one Major League club during the same season without the approval of the MLC. No change may be made after **Tuesday 18th November 2008**.
- 11.3 When any registered person changes their address, the club is required to notify the ML Registrar of the new address and update the *My Club* database within fourteen (14) days.

MEDICAL

- 12.1 Before registering to play all people should notify their club officials and the Baseball NSW of any condition that may affect their performance or participation in the sport of baseball, such conditions may include, for example, pregnancy, epilepsy, diabetes etc.

- 12.2** Players or Officials with such a condition shall seek medical advice in relation to their continuing participation in the sport.
- 12.3** Information relating to an individual's medical condition shall be held confidentially (unless this is not required) but may be used by the organisation for administrative, insurance, legal or related purposes.
- 12.4** All people who register with Baseball NSW agree that they shall NOT contravene any medical advice in relation to their continued participation and when required to provide a medical certificate approving their continued participation in the sport.
- 12.5** Baseball NSW will NOT be held responsible for the players or an individual's failure to seek and follow appropriate medical advice.

COACHES

- 13.1** All 1st Grade and/or Head Club Coaches involved in the Major League Competition must have a current Level Two accreditation. All other coaches must have a current Level One accreditation. Exemptions to this requirement may be granted by the Baseball NSW Operations Committee
PENALTY: the offending club shall be fined \$350.
- 13.2** Any coach registered with a Club, but not listed on the lineup, may assume the role of the coach during the game however they may not participate as a player.

SCORERS

- 14.1** Clubs playing in this competition are required to provide an official scorer for each grade. Each Club should have at least one scorer who is a financial member of the NSW Baseball Scorer's Association, or a CABS accredited scorer.
- 14.2** Scorers shall be seated together in the designated area behind home plate, where possible.
- 14.3** The home team is required to provide a table, chairs and shelter that provide adequate cover from all forms of weather.
- 14.4** Venues for night games should have adequate lighting in the designated scorer's area for scorers to be able to see their scorebooks.
- 14.5** Club scorers are to ensure that all relevant details (injuries, ejections etc) are recorded on the game result sheet presented to the Umpire/s for signature.

UMPIRES

- 15.1** Official umpires will be appointed to all games by the NSW Baseball Umpires Association Inc. ML Clubs will not interfere in any way with appointments.
- 15.2** In the event of an Official Umpire not attending at the time set down for the game to commence, or being unable to continue, an umpire or umpires shall be appointed by the managers of the opposing sides and the game shall proceed. Every effort shall be made to appoint accredited umpires by the NSWBUA who shall receive payment
- 15.3** Umpires officiating in a game are required to sign the Baseball NSW official result sheet, which the scorer will complete and endorse with the result of the game and any ejections or injuries.

- 15.4** An umpire shall contact the Baseball NSW office on Monday informing them of any player ejections and forward the report of an ejection / citing to the **Baseball NSW office** by 9.00am on the Tuesday after the incident. The Umpire's Report is to be sent by email or fax to the Baseball NSW office.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 16.1** Each home ML Club shall telephone game details to AAP (9322 8000) and SMS/telephone the ML Registrar (0409 462 443) by 7:00 p.m. on Sundays.
Midweek game results should be SMS/telephoned to the ML Registrar (0409 462 443) at the conclusion of the game.
- 16.2** Each ML Club is required to forward to the MLC by fax to both 9896 8776, by 11.00 a.m. on the Monday following the game, (Midweek games should be faxed the following day), a completed result sheet showing the names and initials (first names where there is more than one player with the same name and initial) of all participating players.
- 16.3** Where a wash out occurs a result sheet, indicating that the game was washed out, is required to be submitted to the MLC.
- 16.4** Penalty: Failure to comply with these rules is a monetary fine of Fifty (\$50) Dollar fine per team
- 16.5** Results of all games will be available on Baseball NSW's Major League web page: www.nswml.baseball.com.au

FINAL SERIES

- 17.1** A separate set of rules and procedures will be issued each year for the conducting of the final series.
- 17.2** To be eligible to play in the Final Series a player;
- (i) has to be registered on the club's player list held by the ML Registrar.
 - (ii) unless authorised by the MLC, is to have participated for that club in any grade for at **least 8 games** of the competition played during the current season.
- 17.3** The grade in which a player shall be eligible to participate in the Final Series shall be determined according to the following criteria.
- (i) Each round a player's grade will be deemed by the highest grade in which the player formed part of the starting line-up (or was used as a fresh reserve **AND** participated in the game), i.e. they had not played in any other game in the round already.
 - (ii) The midweek 1st grade game shall only be included for the purpose of this rule if it is the only game the player participates in for the round.
 - (iii) For a player to be eligible to participate in the Final Series, a player must not have been deemed in a higher round more than three times in the players last eight FULL COMPETITION rounds.
 - (iv) Forfeits and washouts are not included in the games used to calculate qualifications.
- 17.4** A player qualified in a lower grade is eligible to play in a higher grade in the final series.
- 17.5** Players who, through extenuating circumstances, do not meet the qualification criteria for the Final Series may be considered for qualification at the MLC meeting immediately prior to the Final Series.

Extenuating circumstances would include, but not limited to; late registrations who through washouts or opposition forfeits could not play the required number of games, or players who through injury could not play the required number of games.

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 18.1** Only registered players of the NSWBL are eligible to compete and it is the intention that any player shall NOT appear in more than one (1) Major League starting line-up in the same Round **UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (ACCEPTABLE TO THE MLC)** occur.
- (i) 3rd grade substitutes must be 3rd grade reserves or U18 players in the same weekend.
 - (ii) 2nd grade substitutes must be 2nd grade reserves, 3rd grade or U18 players in the same weekend.
 - (iii) 1st grade reserves may be any player registered with the club.
- 18.2** If an Under 18 player starts, (or is used as a fresh reserve), six (6) 2nd Grade games, or higher, they may not participate in any Under 18 game for the remainder of the season.
NOTE: Midweek games are not included for the purpose of this rule.
- Dispensations to this rule may be requested at the next available MLC Meeting, however the player may not play Under 18's until the dispensation request is heard and allowed.
- 18.3** The names of fresh reserves and starting team must appear on the original team line-up sheet, and any player who is scheduled to play in a higher-grade game on any day in the same weekend will not be permitted to enter a game in progress. To be eligible they must be listed as being on the bench, or have played in a lower grade in the same round.
- 18.4** In the event of an injury occurring or an ejection of a player/s, and no other player available, a replaced player/s may return to the field of play. However they may not return to be a part of the battery and any ejected player will NOT be allowed to return under this rule.
- 18.5** Any player who has participated or will participate in a lower grade game in same round shall not enter a game in progress until after three (3) innings of play have been completed **UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES** occur under the conditions outlined in paragraph 18.5
CLUB PENALTY – the game in which the player participates will be declared a forfeit and a nine (9-0) to nil win recorded to the non-offending team.
- 18.6** Where a Club does not have enough players to have four fresh starting lineups in a weekend, players may be allowed to “double up” subject to the following conditions;
- (i) If 28 fresh players, (10 1st Grade/9 2nd Grade/9 3rd Grade), are available for the Sunday games, clubs may not double up.
EXCEPTION: If a club uses more than one signed pitcher in 1st Grade, one must start the game and any others shall be permitted to enter the game as fresh relief pitchers
 - (ii) Players may only double up in consecutive grades.
 - (iii) If an Under 18 player is used to double up, then 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade and Under 18's may not use a designated hitter and no Grade may use a fresh reserve.
 - (iv) If no Under 18 player is used to double up, then only 1st Grade and Under 18's may use a designated hitter and only Under 18's may have a fresh reserve.
 - (v) The reason for doubling up must be submitted to the ML Registrar for discussion at the next MLC Meeting.
 - (vi) If “doubling up” is necessary due to attendance at an approved representative event, then no penalty shall be applied.
 - (vii) Should a Club be missing five or more players at an approved representative event, lower grades may be permitted to have a squad of ten starters, including players who may be “doubling up” should no fresh players be available.
 - (viii) Other instances of “doubling up” shall incur a \$50 fine per grade where doubling up occurred.
 - (ix) Failure to comply with conditions (i) to (v) will result in the game in which the “doubling up” occurred being declared a forfeit and a nine to nil win recorded to the non-offending team.
- 18.7** A player who is unavailable for, or withdraws from, a representative team cannot play for his club or any team during the period that such representative games are being played without the permission of the MLC.

BLOOD RULE

- 19.1** Players who are injured and require treatment to stem the flow of any body fluids may leave the game without penalty and may re-enter once treatment is completed.
- 19.2** A courtesy player may be used for the player if removed for treatment. The courtesy player may be any registered player, whether or not they have already participated in any game, except for pitchers who are unable to take a defensive position due to their rest period.
- 19.3** If the player is unable to return to the game by the completion of six defensive outs from the time of injury, then they shall be replaced, subject to the normal replacement rules, and may take no further part in the game.
- 19.4** Soiled clothing shall be replaced.
- 19.5** Any player that has been removed from any game for misconduct etc by the Umpire will NOT be eligible to re-enter any game under this rule.

PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

- 20.1** **UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES** occur, that are acceptable to the MLC, a pitcher's game contribution will be classified as follows.

Assignment	Under 16	Under 18	Senior Players
MAJOR	65 pitches and not to exceed 80 pitches	80 pitches and not to exceed 100 pitches	100 pitches and not to exceed 125 pitches.
SUBSTANTIAL	30 - 64 pitches	40 – 79 pitches	60 - 99 pitches
MINOR	Less than 30 pitches	Less than 40 pitches	Less than 60 pitches

- 20.2** A pitcher may complete the batter when an assignment limit is reached and still be credited for the lower assignment.
- 20.3** A pitcher reaching his maximum number of pitches for a major assignment is to be removed from the game once he has completed the batter. However, if the pitcher retires that batter as the 3rd out of an inning, then that pitcher shall be entitled to take his place as a batter in the next half inning.
- 20.4** A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate whether it is hit safely or not shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".
- 20.5** Any player pitching a major assignment will be required to complete one days rest before any playing participation except for designated hitter, pinch hitting and pinch running. Senior players require a two days rest before commencing any further (pitching/catching) assignments; all other players require a three days rest.
- 20.6** For a substantial part played, a player is no longer eligible to play any other position, (other than DH in accordance with Rule 21), and must be removed from the game once his pitching assignment has been completed, 2 days rest from pitching / catching is required.
- Participation in any subsequent game on the same day may only be as a DH, pinch hitter or runner
- 20.7** An Under 18 player who pitches between 40 and 59 pitches inclusive, may be moved to a defensive position. All other conditions of a Substantial Assignment must be adhered to.
- 20.8** Any player pitching a minor followed by a substantial the next day will be required to complete one days rest before any playing participation except for DH, pinch hitting and pinch running and three days rest before commencing any further pitching / catching assignments. **Note: No pitcher may throw a major assignment directly following a minor assignment.**

20.9 No days rest is required after a minor part played. However, for two successive minor assignments, 2 days' rest is required from pitching/catching if the total number of pitches thrown in those two assignments equals or exceeds 60 pitches. 1 day's rest is required if the total number of pitches is less than these amounts.

20.10 If a player completes a second minor assignment on the same day, he shall leave the game and not have any further participation on that day.

- (i) For teams participating in 'double headers' a pitcher may only throw two minor assignments on the same calendar day.
- (ii) If any pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, he shall be charged for one (1) assignment.
- (iii) The word assignment means that each game in which a player pitches is considered one assignment.
- (iv) A player once removed, as a pitcher, may not pitch again in the same game.

20.11 Any breach of these rules may result in a fine being levied and the loss of the game.

20.12 Monetary fines for breaches of this rule are:

- 1) first breach \$300
- 2) any subsequent breach will result in an additional fine and the suspension of the coach.

20.13 These rules are designed to protect pitchers from overuse and also to encourage clubs to develop more pitchers.

DEFENSIVE VISITS

21.1 On a second visit in the same innings to the pitcher, coaches may directly approach the Umpire In Chief and have the pitcher moved to another position. Should the coach cross the foul line, the pitcher is to be removed from the game.

21.2 There is no restriction on the number of players who may approach the mound conference during a visit.

DESIGNATED HITTER

22.1 A designated hitter may be used in accordance with the Rules of Baseball (Rule 6.10) but will form part of that grade line-up on the day of play.

Designated hitters may **ONLY** be used where there are ten (10) fresh players available in the starting line-up of any game.

22.2 A team may move the starting pitcher to the designated hitter's role and introduce a new game pitcher anytime in the game subject to Rule 22.4.

22.3 Where the designated hitter has started the game, a once only switch in roles between the game pitcher and the designated hitter is allowed subject to Rule 22.4.

22.4 Where a game pitcher is moved to the designated hitter role under Rule 22.2 or 22.3, the manager may initiate the change at any time directly with the plate umpire, on the first visit to the pitcher during a defensive innings or during an offensive innings.

22.5 A designated hitter who was in the game as a pitcher or a pitcher who was in the game as a designated hitter must leave the game when they are substituted. They are prevented from moving to a defensive position.

22.6 Once a player comes from a defensive position to the mound, a designated hitter may not be used for the remainder of the game.

EQUIPMENT

23.1 Home clubs will provide match balls of the same brand (as approved by the Baseball NSW) in any game under the control of the MLC.

23.2 Only non-metal bats, i.e. wood or wood composite, may be used in 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade and Under 18's Major League Competition games.

ON FIELD BEHAVIOUR

24.1 Wilfully violent or unsportsmanlike action, including unnecessary body contact, abuse of playing equipment or facilities, fighting or other behaviour considered by an umpire to be dangerous, injurious or to bring the game into criticism or disrepute, will result in the player or team official responsible being ejected from the field and/or cited to appear before the Judiciary Committee.

24.2 All registered members are responsible to Baseball NSW for their conduct and behaviour at games and events conducted by the League, whether playing or not.

24.3 All clubs are required to make their players aware that SPORTING COMPETITORS OWE A DUTY OF CARE TO ONE ANOTHER. There is a fine line between an error in judgment on the field and negligent conduct. Competitors should endeavour to exercise **reasonable care** not to injure other players in playing out a game or match (Refer Rule 25.1).

DELIBERATE COLLISION

25.1 Clubs are to ensure that the players are aware that intentional contact, under certain circumstances, will NOT be tolerated.

Provision for game situation contact between players should be taken into consideration when an umpire makes any interpretation of this requirement. Any player adjudged by the umpire to have deliberately or recklessly caused a collision to occur should be ejected from the game.

PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

26.1 The provisions of the RULES OF BASEBALL will apply to all competition games of Baseball NSW and in the event of an umpire giving an erroneous decision on a point of law and refusing to alter his decision, although his attention was drawn to the fact at the time on the field, by the coach/manager of the team which has suffered such wrong decisions.

26.2 The team so suffering shall have the right to protest to the MLC, provided that the intention to protest is indicated to the Umpire in Chief at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched or before any intervening play occurs.

26.3 The final protest is made to the Umpire in Chief within fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game.

26.4 A **JUDGEMENT** decision by an **UMPIRE** will **NOT** be accepted as grounds for a protest.

26.5 Any club wishing the MLC to adjudicate on any dispute arising from any game shall forward to the ML Registrar a clear statement on the matter in dispute. The report along with a \$100 fee shall be received within three (3) days of the game. The \$100 fee shall be forfeited should the protest be considered frivolous.

26.6 Failure to observe the CORRECT PROCEDURE above shall render any protest invalid.

26.7 The MLC, or persons appointed by it, shall be the authority as to whether or not a protest is to be upheld and any subsequent decision. They may call upon any person to assist them in any way they consider appropriate.

26.8 The MLC will make the necessary rulings where penalties are not stipulated for rule infringements, they may include, loss of a game involved in protest, monetary fine or no penalty.

It should also be understood that loss of a game does not always award a win to the opposing team.

26.9 Any club that commits a breach of the rules that cannot be reasonably identified by the umpire during the game such as, but not restricted to, playing of an illegal player or pitchers going over their pitch limit, can be issued a Breach Notice.

The ML Registrar is to be notified of any such breach, and upon notification the following procedure will be followed;

- (i) ML Registrar will prepare a Breach Notice listing the offence and the penalty to be imposed if the breach is found to be correct, within seven days of receiving notification.
- (ii) The offending club may choose to accept the breach and pay the penalty, or contest the breach at the next MLC meeting.
- (iii) If contesting a breach, a written explanation of the incident must be sent to the ML Registrar, prior to the next MLC meeting.

26.10 Clubs will have the right to appeal any decision of MLC to the ML Appeals Committee.

26.11 Any club wishing to appeal to the ML Appeals Committee shall forward to the ML Registrar a clear statement on the grounds of the appeal. The appeal along with a \$100 fee shall be received within three (3) days of the MLC's original decision. The \$100 fee shall be forfeited should the appeal be dismissed.

26.12 In extenuating circumstances, such as when several ML Clubs are involved in the dispute, the MLC may chose to refer the matter to the ML Appeals Committee.

26.13 The decision of the ML Appeals Committee shall be **FINAL**

26.14 Clubs who are found to breach the Playing Rules more than five times in a season will be asked to show cause for continuation in future seasons. Conditions may be imposed on such a club should they continue in the competition.

FORFEITS

27.1 A forfeited game is a game declared ended by the Umpire-in-Chief in accordance with the **RULES OF BASEBALL**. All infringements are to be reported to Baseball NSW for its adjudication.

27.2 Clubs whose team(s) forfeit will be responsible for the payment of the umpires' fees for that game/round. In addition the club responsible for the forfeit will be fined;

- (i) \$50 for the first breach
- (ii) \$100 for the second breach
- (iii) \$200 for each subsequent breach

27.3 Clubs who forfeit more than five games in a season will be asked to show cause for continuation in future seasons. Conditions may be imposed on such a club should they continue in the competition.

JUDICIARY

28.1 All participants in games under the control of Baseball NSW will abide by and be subject to the Rules of Baseball, these Playing Rules and any instruction regarding the conduct of the game of baseball by the MLC.

A player or team/club official who contravenes these requirements may be:

- Ejected from a game by the umpire
- Cited by an umpire for an incident that occurs after the game has been 'called'.
- Cited by Baseball NSW or the MLC.

28.2 When a person is ejected from a game of baseball or cited, he/she will:

- Conform strictly to the Rules of Baseball
- Not participate in another game of baseball with a Club, League or Association affiliated with Baseball NSW until such time as the matter has been heard by the Judiciary Committee (or as otherwise determined by the JUDICIARY CHAIRMAN), and
- Appear before the Judiciary Committee at the next schedule meeting unless otherwise advised by Baseball NSW.

The Judiciary Committee meets each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm at Blacktown Olympic Park, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill.

28.3 Should the ejected / cited person not be able to attend the Judiciary Committee meeting as required, they are to notify the Baseball NSW office by 11.00am on the Monday following the incident. The person can elect to:

- (i) Request that the matter be heard in their absence, or
- (ii) Appoint a representative to appear on their behalf, or
- (iii) Enter a plea of guilt and accept any penalty given.

All requests are to be submitted in writing to the Baseball NSW office by fax or email..

Should the Judiciary Committee not meet for whatever reason the Judiciary Chairman will determine the eligibility of ejected players to participate in games.

28.4 A person who fails to attend a Judiciary Committee meeting as scheduled will not be eligible to participate in a further game/s (in any capacity) until he/she attends the next meeting of the Committee.

28.5 The Judiciary Committee may fine Clubs and/or suspend any player, team/club official or umpire for any violation of the Rules of Baseball, these Playing Rules or any directive of Baseball NSW, at their discretion.

MLC shall mean Major League Committee

Results telephone through to AAP 9322 8000 and SMS/telephone to ML Registrar 0409 462 443
Results faxed through to ML Registrar 9896 8776

Wet Weather: Check the website www.nswml.baseball.com.au

Baseball NSW
PO Box 142
Mt Druitt
NSW 2770
Telephone: 9675 4522
Facsimile: 9675 4533
Email: bballnsw@bigpond.net.au
Website: www.nsw.baseball.com.au