

PLAYING CONDITIONS – 2017

The 2017 SA WINTER BASEBALL COMPETITION shall be conducted under the following Playing Conditions and in accordance with the Rule book, “2016 Official Baseball Rules”, as currently adopted by the Australian Baseball Federation.

INTENT

The SA Winter Baseball Competition was established in 1968 as a social competition for players to maintain their skills during the ‘off-season’ and for those people wanting to play baseball for the first time. The SA Winter Baseball Competition is for all players willing to play in a social competition, play in sportsman like conduct and play in the spirit of baseball – at a minimal cost.

PLAYING CONDITIONS ACCEPTANCE

These Playing Conditions were reviewed and approved by the duly convened Annual General Meeting of the South Australian Winter Baseball Association Inc. (“the Association”), held at Northern Districts Baseball Club, Walkleys Park on 29th March 2017.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Committee of the South Australian Winter Baseball Association Inc. (“the Association”) is appointed by the members of the Association and shall consist of:

- I. a President;
- II. a Secretary;
- III. a Treasurer; and
- IV. a General Committee.

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1. DIVISIONS

- a. The SA Winter Baseball Competition shall consist of at least two (2) Divisions; however the SA Winter Baseball Competition may be extended by the appointed Association to cater for growth. The minimum two (2) Divisions shall consist of;
 - i. Hugh Franke League (Division 1); and
 - ii. Division 2 - split into 3 Competitions Jim Beare League (Div2N), Mick Beech League (Div2C), Martin Foster League (Div2S).

2. PLAYERS

- a. Both Male and Female players may participate in this competition. It is recommended that all players should be at least 13 years of age – Parental consent must be obtained prior to the participation by any younger player.
- b. **Pitchers:**
 - i. Any player who has pitched in SABL Division 1 or 2 (or equivalent competition) during any of the past three seasons shall NOT be permitted to pitch in a Division lower than Hugh Franke League/ Division 1, and;
 1. Any player who has played Division 1 (or equivalent competition) in the past three (3) summer seasons shall NOT be permitted to pitch in a Division lower than Hugh Franke League/Division 1.
 2. **PENALTY:** Loss of all Premiership points accrued up to that round. The Association may, at its discretion and upon application by a Club, issue a permit for any player ineligible under this Rule to pitch in a different Division.
 - ii. Junior Pitch Limitations:
 1. Depending upon the age of the player, the following pitch limits apply:

Under 14	Under 16	Under 18
75 pitches	100 pitches	100 pitches
 2. A pitcher reaching his/her maximum number of pitches may complete the batter before being removed from the mound.
 3. 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".
 4. A "no pitch", e.g., batter steps out of the batter's box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count.
 5. A player once removed, as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
 6. The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule.
 7. Pitchers Under 14 years of age may only throw fast balls or straight change ups. Knuckle balls, split fingers, fork balls and curve balls are not permitted.
 8. If any other pitch is thrown, the Plate Umpire will call "Illegal Pitch". The illegal pitch call may also be made by a field umpire. If the ball is not batted then the pitch shall be called a "Ball". If the pitch is hit by a batter, then normal rules of Baseball will apply. Where the ball is batted and an out is made, or the batter strikes out, then the batter runner is not out and the illegal pitch rule and penalty will apply. The pitched ball will count towards the pitcher's count.
- c. **Pregnancy:** (All divisions) for insurance reasons, female players are not permitted to participate in this competition when they are more than 13 weeks (3 months) pregnant. Players participating in this competition during the first trimester of their pregnancy do so strictly at their own risk. The Association will not accept any liability for any injuries incurred by a player relating to a pregnancy. It is the responsibility of the player concerned to inform their team representative as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed – that team representative must then immediately advise the Association in writing.

3. STANDARD OF DRESS AND REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- a. The wearing of conventional BASEBALL UNIFORMS is not compulsory in this Competition, however all teams are required to have their players wearing basically uniform attire, especially similarly coloured tops and caps to distinguish them as a team. Caps should be worn, except when batting.
- b. **Catchers** must wear a mask when warming up a Pitcher and a mask and helmets (helmets without ear protection may be used) whenever a batter is in the batting box. The mask must have either an attached throat protector or a throat protecting extension.
 - i. **Penalty-** Offending player may be removed from the game.
- c. **Bats**
 - i. All Divisions must play with wooden or composite wood bats only. In accordance with the requirements of the Australian Baseball Federation, bats used in this competition are restricted to the following sizes:
 1. Male Players – maximum of -3 (minus 3);
 2. Female Players – maximum of -8 (minus 8);
 3. Bat Size – is determined by subtracting the length of the bat (in inches) from the weight of the bat (in ounces) as stamped/printed on the bat by the manufacturer. [I.e. 34 in. length 31 oz. Weight = -3 (minus 3) size, i.e. 33 in. length 30 oz. Weight = -3 (minus 3) size – both permitted for males].
- d. **Batting Helmets** – All batters and runners **MUST** wear an approved safety helmet. Seniors **MUST** wear at least a leading edged-eared helmet. Damaged or cracked helmets **MUST** not be worn.
 - i. Youth - All youth participants (including batters runners and bat boys/girls) **MUST** wear an approved double-eared helmet. Damaged or cracked helmets are not to be worn.
 - ii. **Penalty** - If the person refuses to change or wear an approved helmet then the Umpire **MUST** eject the person from the game.

4. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- a. All persons participating in matches in this competition (including all players, reserves, coaches, managers, scorers and umpires) are required to comply with the following requirements:
 - i. All players must agree to and sign the player conduct agreement as part of their registration.
 - ii. **Indecent or abusive language or gesture** by participants or spectators toward any person present at a match will not be tolerated.
 - iii. **Audible obscenities** (whether directed at another person or not) will not be tolerated.
 - iv. Good relationships must be fostered between Clubs and their teams before, during and particularly after the games.
 - v. The authority and decisions of the Umpire must be respected. Any person must not direct abuse and/or intimidating language to any Umpire.
 - vi. The Coach of a team must insist that his/her player(s) behave in a sportsmanlike manner, especially towards members of the opposing team, at all times. The use of intemperate language or unseemly language by players or Coaches is absolutely forbidden.
 - vii. **Spectators** should not only support their own team but also show appreciation of good play by the opposition, and **never barrack against or belittle their opponents or their own players**. This is deemed to be unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - viii. Club representatives of each team, including Coaches and Managers, are required to draw the attention of their spectators and their own players to the above conditions regarding behaviour, if these conditions are being disregarded.
 - ix. **Penalty** - If the conditions continue to be disregarded, the Umpire shall abandon the game and award it 7-0 to the opposing team.

- x. **Smoking** is prohibited both on the playing field, in the coaches boxes and on the players benches (“Quit” is a major sponsor of the sport of Baseball in S.A.).

SA Government is a major sponsor of Baseball in this state.

Appropriately all personnel (Coaches, Managers, Team Officials, players etc.) should refrain from consuming alcohol before and during a game completion whilst in the vicinity of the playing diamonds.

In particular Coaches, Managers, and Team Officials are to refrain from consuming alcohol in the presence of Youth Players at training sessions and game venues.

All personnel (Coaches, Managers, Team Officials, players etc.) should refrain from smoking, “dipping” or chewing tobacco before and during a game completion whilst in the vicinity of the playing diamonds.

In particular Coaches, Managers and Team Officials are to refrain from smoking, “dipping” or chewing tobacco in the presence of Youth Players at training sessions and game venues.

Breach of this rule in a game situation will result in ejection from that game and possible further action.

- xi. The consumption of **alcohol** by all participants (particularly Players, coaches and umpires) is prohibited from 20 minutes prior to the start until 5 minutes after the conclusion of all matches.
- b. Visiting teams must obtain permission from the home team to take alcohol onto the premises where the ground is located – as this may not be permitted under an agreement for the use of the ground, and:
 - i. Any participant who disobeys this Rule shall receive one warning from the umpire – continued disobedience shall mean immediate expulsion from the game and a suspension as defined in Rule 22 of these conditions.
 - ii. The Association must be notified of all expulsions, and any other actions taken.
- c. It is the responsibility of all teams to control the behaviour of their supporters/spectators at all times. Failure to do so when directed by the umpire, (especially relating to obscene or abusive language and/or any form of threatening or violent behaviour) may result in the game being awarded to the opposition in accordance with the Rules of Baseball, and;
 - i. The Association shall be empowered to take whatever action it deems fit to deal with any reported infringement of this Rule by an umpire; or against any team which permits its supporters/spectators to behave in a manner which could reflect badly on the Association or the game of Baseball.

5. FEES

- a. **Nomination Fee:** The Association will advise the nomination fee per team at the Annual General Meeting of the Association each year.
 - i. The Association may offer a discount for early payment of this fee, such as at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- b. **Un-Financial Teams:** Any team which is un-financial more than two (2) weeks after the required date for payment (subject to any arrangement with the treasurer) will be expelled from the competition and forfeit any monies previously paid and any premiership points gained. Such expulsion shall apply for the remainder of the current season and expelled teams will not be considered for re-nomination in any subsequent season until all outstanding fees are paid in full.
- c. In the event of any team being expelled, any matches previously played shall be:
 - i. treated as a “bye” (if a bye is created due to the expulsion); or
 - ii. treated as a 5-all draw to all teams concerned (if a bye is eliminated by the expulsion).

6. WITHDRAWAL OF TEAMS

Should any Club with more than one team in the competition, withdraw a team, the team withdrawn shall be the team nominated by the Club.

7. GROUNDS

- a. Home run fence:
 - i. Clubs should provide at least the following as a minimum:
 - 1. Cones placed to mark a home run fence a minimum of 250 feet from home plate.
- b. Backstops:
 - i. Every endeavour must be made to have a backstop on all diamonds. Permanent or temporary back nets are recommended for use on all diamonds/grounds.
- c. Toilets:
 - i. Adequate toilet facilities must be provided at all grounds and be open for the duration of the game. If they are not, The Association is to be notified.
- d. Bases and plates:
 - i. Base areas MUST be flat and preferably hard, not soft like a sandpit. Appropriate bases are to be used by teams participating in this competition and shall not cause injury to participants of the Association.
 - ii. All pitchers' plates must be secured to the ground so that it does not move.

8. PLAYING DATES

- a. **Commencement Date:** First Saturday after Anzac Day each year.
- b. **Match Days:** All matches will be played on Saturday's, unless agreed between both teams at least one week prior to the scheduled game. The Association must be advised of any agreed change from the programmed matches, prior to play commencing.
- c. **Holiday Weekends:** Some matches may be played as required on Saturday of the June Long week-end (Queen's Birthday) to make up an even number of rounds in certain divisions – refer to the schedule of matches.

9. STARTING TIMES

Minor Rounds and Finals – Refer to the program for start times.

10. DURATION OF GAMES

- a. **Minor Rounds:**
 - i. Hugh Franke League/ Division 1: 110 minutes.
 - ii. All Other Divisions: 100 minutes.
 - iii. Umpires shall call GAME if less than three (3) minutes remain when an even innings is called, as a new innings could not commence within the prescribed time.
- b. **Run Limits: The 10 run Mercy Rule does not apply in this competition.**
 - i. Hugh Franke League/Division 1 – No run limit will apply;
 - ii. All other Leagues/Divisions – a maximum of 7 runs per team can be scored in any one innings.
 - iii. Run limits do not apply in any Finals games in any divisions.
- c. **Finals:**
 - i. Hugh Franke League /**Division 1:** Nine (9) Innings (no time limit) – if scores tied after 9 innings, play shall continue to a result. Mercy rule 10 runs after 7 completed innings.
 - ii. All **other Leagues/Divisions:** Seven (7) Innings (no time limit) – If scores tied after 7 innings, play shall continue to a result. Mercy rules 10 runs after 5 completed innings.

d. **Minimum Duration:**

- i. **Minor Rounds:** Every effort must be made to complete **at least 65 minutes** of play or 5 innings to constitute a result.
- ii. **Finals:** In the event of any Semi or Preliminary Finals Round game not completing a minimum of five (5) innings to constitute a game; the game shall be awarded to the participating team which finished higher at the end of the Minor Round.
- iii. **Umpires** may, at their sole discretion, terminate any game at any time should they consider conditions too dangerous for play to continue – due to bad light, heavy rain or un-safe ground conditions. Games must not be stopped solely due to light rain.

11. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- a. Only nine (9) players, per team, are permitted to participate in the game at any one time (in accordance with the Rules of Baseball).
- b. **Designated Hitters** are not permitted in this competition.
- c. **Re-entry is not permitted** for any player once removed from the line-up (other than for the “Bleeding Policy” (Rule 28) or the Replacement Policy (Rule 29)).
- d. **Courtesy Runners** for catchers after two outs are permitted in this competition in timed games only.

12. TEAM LISTS AND SCOREBOOKS

- a. Team Lists: All teams shall maintain a Team Sheet book, or a small duplicate copy book, in which shall be recorded the details of the match; the names of the players in starting batting order (with starting fielding positions indicated in brackets); together with the names of reserves and the umpire (home team Club Umpire only – refer Rule 19).
 - i. Names may be added to the team list during the game – provided the umpire and scorers are notified.
- b. Surnames (together with a given name) must be supplied and recorded on the Team Sheets and in the Scorebook at all games. These details are essential in case of any form of insurance or legal claim and to check player eligibility for finals, etc. The use of some knick-names or first names only on team sheets is not permitted. The umpire’s name shall be clearly recorded on both scorebooks.
- c. Both Team Lists shall be checked by the umpire at the conclusion of the game and the names of any persons who did not participate, or umpire, shall be crossed off. The umpire shall sign each Team List immediately after the last name; also both scorebooks after checking that the scores agree.
- d. Each team shall retain a copy of both team lists for every game until one week after the conclusion of the season. These Team Lists must be made available upon request from the Association to verify players’ eligibility to participate in a Finals series - refer Rule 24.
- e. Scorebooks: Each team shall record the game in an official scorebook. In the event of a disagreement or dispute, only an official score sheet shall be used to assist in resolving the matter, likewise in the event of a variance between scorebooks, the book of a C.A.B.S. accredited scorer will take precedence.
- f. Official scorebooks can be obtained from the SA Baseball Scorers Assoc. (through the SABL – phone 8331 2675). Official Team Sheets can be obtained from the through the SABL or from Emmsee Sports.

13. SCORERS

- a. Each Club shall supply one scorer for each match in which any team competes and such scorer shall:
 - i. During the course of such match be regarded as an official of the Association as prescribed in these Playing Conditions and score in accordance with Section 10 of the official rules of Baseball as recognised by this League.
 - ii. Shall render assistance to the umpire of the match by responding to requests for game information.
 - iii. Scorers are not required to sit together during their game, but if they do not, the umpire will only refer to the Home Scorer’s book only as the official record of the game.

- iv. In the absence of a scorer by the Home Team, then the Visitor's scorer will be used as the official record of the game.

14. FORFEITS

- a. No game can start unless there are at least five players.
- b. Any team which is unable to commence playing (with a minimum of 7 players) within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time shall forfeit that match.
 - i. The result shall be a 7-0 win to the opposing team.
 - ii. FORFEITS must be advised by the winning team – as directed under RESULTS (Rule 21). Refer also to "UMPIRES" (Rule 19).

15. CANCELLATION OF GAMES

- a. Individual games:
 - i. In the event of inclement weather:
 - 1. The umpire will be the sole judge as to whether a ground is fit for play to commence, as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions or an unfit playing field, and whether, and when, play will resume or be terminated.
 - 2. The Plate Umpire will not call the game until at least 30 minutes after he/she has suspended the game. He/she may continue the suspension as long as deemed necessary if there is a chance play may resume.
 - ii. **Abandoned games cannot be transferred** to another ground but could be changed to another diamond at the same ground.
 - iii. Abandoned games during the minor round will not be replayed.
 - iv. Games can be abandoned because the ground or equipment is **UNSAFE** in the opinion of the Umpire. In these circumstances the Umpire will request the home team to bring the ground up to safety requirements in a reasonable time.
 - v. **PENALTY** – 7-0, against the home team if the ground is their home ground. Neutral ground, then the game is abandoned.
- b. **Minor Rounds:** If the Association should consider that more than half the games scheduled for a division, for any day cannot be played due to unsafe ground conditions caused by extremely heavy rain in the preceding 24-36 hours, notification of cancellation will be sent out to all clubs with sufficient notice prior to the first game of that round.
 - i. Should any team not play in a minor round not cancelled due to unsafe ground conditions as a result of inclement weather, both teams will be awarded a nil (0) all draw.
 - ii. Any round cancelled by the Association will not be replayed.
- c. **Finals:** In the event of any Semi – or Preliminary Finals Round game having to be cancelled, or a minimum of five (5) innings not being completed to constitute a game (refer Rule 10); the game shall be awarded to the participating team which finished higher at the end of the Minor Round.
 - i. In the event of any Grand Final not able to be completed (minimum 5 innings) the game will not stand and will be replayed as a new game on the following Saturday. IF the game cannot be completed on the extra day, then the team finishing higher at the end of the Minor Round will be declared the winner of the premiership.
 - ii. Should no Finals games be played due to prolonged adverse conditions, the Minor Premier team shall be declared the winner of the Premiership.

16. Wasting Time

In all time limit games the time continues to run regardless of delays or hold-ups due to any reason. Umpires are hereby instructed to take all necessary steps to prevent such malpractice, and those in charge of teams are to be warned that The Association will not tolerate such tactics.

17. Time Delays

- a. In all games, with the exception of finals, game time commences and continues to run REGARDLESS of delays or hold ups due to any reason.
- b. All starting and finishing times are taken from the Umpire's watch.

18. MATCH BALLS

- a. **Minor Rounds:** Each team shall supply a ball which must be in sound condition and uniformly light in colour (not necessarily new) and must have at least one reserve ball available at all times.
- b. **Finals:** The Association will supply two (2) new balls for each Finals game. Each team must have at least one reserve ball at all times.

19. UMPIRES

- a. As required by the Federal Government, Club umpires (with less than ABF Level 1 accreditation) must be attired in an approved lime green shirt (supplied by the Assoc. – 1 per club), long trousers, a neutral dark cap (not a club/team cap) and must wear solid shoes (shorts and/or thongs are not permitted).
- b. Nationally accredited umpires (Level 1 and above) must wear the standard umpires' uniform as required by the ABF, or approved for use by the Baseball Umpires Association of South Australia (BUASA).
- c. Minor Round: The team named first in the program shall provide a suitable umpire of at least 18 years of age – preferably with some level of SABL accreditation. This person shall officiate for the entire game unless otherwise agreed by both teams.
- d. Finals: The Association will arrange and pay umpires for all Finals games.

20. UMPIRES FEES

- a. Nationally accredited umpires (Level 1 and above) are to be paid to the umpire by each team coach/manager prior to the start of the game and shall be paid:
 - i. \$40.00 per game (\$20.00 per team);
- b. Club umpires (with less than ABF Level 1 accreditation) are to be paid to the umpire by each team coach/manager prior to the start of the game and shall be paid:
 - i. \$30.00 per game (\$15.00 per team).
- c. The Association will supply all teams with a list of Nationally accredited umpires as provided by BUASA.
- d. **The game may not commence until the prescribed umpire's fee has been paid by BOTH teams.**
- e. Forfeited Games - Where the umpire has not been previously advised, an umpire arriving to officiate a game which has been forfeited, the home team shall pay the umpire the appropriate full fee (as indicated above). In the event of the forfeit being from the visiting team, that team shall reimburse the home team for the umpire's full fee.
- f. The game shall NOT start until the umpire has been provided with a correctly completed TEAM SHEET – (refer Rule 12).

21. RESULTS

- a. The WINNING TEAM must submit results via the winterball website if that fails please telephone results via SMS to operations (Matt Miles on 0439 184 020) prior to 8.00 pm on the day of the match.
 - i. If you call and voice mail has been deactivated or if the line is engaged keep trying. Remember there is only one line and many teams will be trying to get through at about the same time. Please keep calls as brief as possible to avoid delays to others.
 - ii. Results will be published on the Association's website address by each Tuesday following the completed round.
 - iii. Late Results: If it is not possible to get through during the period indicated above, results will be accepted for Premiership Points up to 5.00 pm on the Monday following the round on the above number or by email to sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com.

- b. **Penalty:** As this is the only means of collecting results, it is essential that they be phoned promptly. The result will be recorded as a scoreless draw for games that are not “registered with operations”.
- c. Premiership tables and a summary of scores will be uploaded to the Association’s website by Tuesday evening after each round. Teams have seven days to lodge an objection to the table if phoned or emailed in results are not correct.

22. INCIDENTS AND SUSPENSION OF PLAYERS / TRIBUNAL

- a. Automatic Suspension: Any player, who is ejected from a game by the umpire in accordance with the “Rules of Baseball” or these Playing Conditions, is automatically suspended and shall not participate in either of the next two (2) scheduled Winter Competition games in any division.
 - i. The home (or first-named) team must notify the Association of any player/s who have been ejected from a game by 12pm on the day immediately following the game and report it to the President and or the Secretary of the Association.
- b. Umpires are required to report any incident to the President or Secretary by 6pm following the game, that may have occurred pre-game, during or post a game between players and or spectators that may warrant further investigation and potential action by the Association.
- c. Umpires are required to report any ejections to the President and or the Secretary of the Association by 5pm on the following Monday of the game.
- d. Tribunal: Where the offence committed by an ejected or reported player or official is deemed to be of such severity, the President may, at his/her sole discretion, call for a Tribunal to be convened to hear the matter and adjudicate whether any additional penalty shall be administered. Such Tribunal shall be constituted and conducted (using the procedures in the current By-Laws of the South Australian Baseball League as a guide).
- e. Any person who considers they have been ejected or reported by an umpire contrary to the Rules of Baseball, (or these Playing Conditions), may request of the President for the matter to be referred to a Tribunal for deliberation. The calling of a Tribunal under these circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of the President.
- f. A duly convened Tribunal shall be empowered to impose or vary any penalty at its sole discretion. All findings of a Tribunal shall be final and binding, with no further right of appeal.
- g. Reconvening Tribunal: In the event of a reported/ejected person failing to attend a properly convened tribunal hearing, nor advising the President (or the President’s delegated representative) of their inability to attend – for health or work related reasons only – the Chairman of the Tribunal may, at his/her sole discretion (following an aborted hearing), agree to reconvene the Tribunal at another time with the following proviso:
 - i. In the event of a request for the reconvening of the Tribunal, the reported/ejected person shall provide a surety of one hundred dollars (\$100 AUD) to be paid to the Association and distributed to the Tribunal members and other persons required to re-attend from the original aborted hearing.

23. PREMIERSHIP CONDITIONS

- a. In the Minor Round, Clubs shall play the series of competition matches drawn up by the Association.
- b. Two points shall be counted for a win and one for a draw.
- c. In all grades, Premiership tables will be sorted on the basis of a win/loss ratio.
 - i. If, at the conclusion of the minor round, any 2 or more clubs are drawn the final position of these clubs will be determined by the runs for/against overall.

24. QUAILFICATION FOR FINALS

- a. Players must participate in at least 6 Minor Round games for one single team to be eligible to participate in Finals. A team member who umpires a match shall be deemed as having participated as a player.

- b. Any player, who plays (umpiring excluded) in any of the last four Minor Round matches in a higher division, or other team in the same division, shall not be eligible to change back unless granted permission by the Association – such permission will only be granted in extenuating circumstances.
- c. Any team which forfeits 5 or more games in a particular division (in any one season) shall not be eligible to participate in the Finals of that division for that season - however such team may continue to participate during the Minor rounds. The next eligible team/s shall move up the table accordingly to make up the composition of the Finals series.

25. QUALIFICATION FOR HOSTING FINALS

- a. Ground Specifications for Finals
 - i. Pitching Mound at appropriate SABL specifications
 - ii. Toilet facilities for players and spectators
 - iii. A cyclone-fenced backstop
 - iv. All foul lines and dead ball lines clearly marked.
 - v. If teams cannot meet these minimum standards then they will not be permitted to host finals.
- b. Ground Allocations for Finals will have the following priorities:
 - i. The highest ranked team of the two teams playing in the final will have the right to host the final.
 - ii. If the highest ranked teams home ground does not meet the minimum standards for hosting finals the lower ranked team will have the rights to host the finals; or
 - iii. The teams entered in the Hugh Franke League will have priority over teams in lower division in hosting finals.
 - iv. If a conflict due to a higher division hosting a final at the same ground as a lower division, the lower ranked team of the lower division will have the right to host the final.
 - v. The Hugh Franke League finals will be conducted as a single game.
 - vi. A ground may host a double header during finals subject to approval of the Association.
 - vii. The Association has final discretion over all final venues.
- c. For all games it is the responsibility of the hosting club/team to set up and prepare the diamond. Both teams are encouraged to cooperate towards ensuring the diamond is prepared in sufficient time to allow both warm up and games starting on time.

26. FINALS

- a. In all leagues, finals games shall consist of the 4 top teams, over 3 weeks and played as follows:
 - i. Week 1 – Qualifying Finals:
 - 1. Game A - 1v2 – double chance
 - 2. Game B - 3v4 – elimination.
 - ii. Week 2 – Preliminary Final:
 - 1. Game C - Loser of Game A v Winner of Game B.
 - iii. Week 3 – Grand Final:
 - 1. Game D - Winner of Game A v Winner of Game C.
- b. In the event a finals game is not a constituted game (Rule 10), the cancellation policy applies (refer Rule 15c).

27. TROPHIES

The Association will provide a Premiership Trophy for the winning team in each division.

28. BLEEDING POLICY

- a. Each team must have a First Aid Kit with them at all times. The kit must contain suitable bandages and disposable gloves.

- b. The game must be stopped when a player is bleeding on the field.
 - i. Attend to the bleeding player using appropriate First Aid procedures. Stop the bleeding so that play may re-start. If unable to stop the bleeding within a reasonable time, then the bleeding person **MUST** be removed from the field so that play can resume – (at the Umpire's direction).
 - ii. A temporary replacement can be made under normal Baseball Rules, (i.e. cannot be an already active participant).
 - iii. When bleeding has been controlled, the player can return to their original position in the line-up, with the replacement player available to enter the game in the normal manner. (The intent here is to ensure that the bleeding is stopped without jeopardising the players or disadvantaging the team).
 - iv. Should a more serious injury occur, i.e. suspected fracture, un-consciousness, etc., do not move the patient – suspend the game and call an ambulance immediately!
- c. The Association must be notified of such situation as soon as possible.

29. REPLACEMENT POLICY

- a. In a game, when all available players have entered the game, and the umpire is satisfied that a player is incapacitated due to injury, the following rules will apply:
 - i. If the injured player has been a substitute, then the player, for whom he/she substituted, if he/she is available, can re-enter the game, in that spot in the batting line-up;
 - ii. If the player for whom he/she substituted is not available, then any player who has previously been substituted can re-enter the game, in that spot in the batting line-up;
 - iii. If the injured player has not been a substitute, then any player who has previously been substituted can re-enter the game, in that spot in the batting line-up;
 - iv. In these situations, the player who re-enters the game, if he/she has previously pitched during that game, cannot pitch.

30. INSURANCE AND PLAYER / OFFICIAL REGISTRATION

- a. All persons participating as a player umpire or club/team official in any game or practice session connected with this competition shall be adequately covered by health/medical and Third Party Property Insurance to the approval of the Association.
- b. An Association PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM must be completed and forwarded to this Association prior to any active participation by the player, umpire or official. An indication of the participant's current medical/health insurance cover must be provided on the Registration Form, together with any current sporting insurance cover provided through either a SABL Club, University Sports Association, or other approved body.
- c. Participants, and officials, must cover themselves for any medical treatment and transportation costs that may arise from any personal injuries sustained by them resulting from participating in baseball activities connected with the Winter Competition – including both at training and at matches.
- d. All persons specifically attending any game or practice session connected with this competition as a team supporter shall recognize that injuries may occur and should be adequately covered by health/medical and Third Party Property Insurance.
- e. All clubs must provide a player registration form to the Association Secretary within two weeks of the players first game. A Player will not be permitted to play if a registration form is not submitted to the Association.
- f. Participants, officials, and supporters/spectators must acknowledge the following Risk Warning (also included on the Registration Form).

31. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- a. The Association adopts sections 6.1 through to 6.2 of the Member Protection Policy version Six, enacted by the Australian Baseball Federation effective of August 2013. The Policy may be updated from time to time at the discretion of the Australian Baseball Federation.
- b. A copy of the Member Protection Policy can be downloaded from <http://baseball.com.au/Portals/27/Policies/BA%20MPP%20Version%20Six%20Aug%202013.pdf>

32. SOCIAL MEDIA

- a. The Association adopts the Social Media Policy enacted by the Australian Baseball Federation effective of 6 July 2013. The Policy may be updated from time to time at the discretion of the Australian Baseball Federation.
- b. A copy of the Social Media Policy can be downloaded from http://baseball.com.au/Portals/27/Policies/Social%20Media%20Policy%20July%202013_NewLetterhead.pdf

33. RISK WARNING!

- a. Persons attending any match or practice session connected with this competition must be aware that there are risks of injury associated with playing baseball, as there are with most sports. Risks will arise in the context of the activities of batting, pitching, catching, running, fielding and spectating. While we aim to minimise risks, it is not possible to eliminate them all.
- b. The insurance cover currently held by this Association relates specifically to the statutory cover required (by law) to be taken out by all bodies involved with any form of public participation in sporting, or similar, activities. The principal protection provided is against possible Public Liability claims (\$5,000,000 maximum per claim); with an associated limited Personal Accident cover – particularly related to long-term disabilities.
- c. In the event of injury, or other damage sustained by any player, umpire, official or spectator during the normal course of any game or preceding warm-up period; neither the Association, nor the S. A. Baseball League Inc., nor the Australian Baseball Federation will accept any responsibility or liability.