



# SAWBA Baseball Playing Rules & Conditions

Updated: February 2025

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The SA WINTER BASEBALL COMPETITION shall be conducted under the following Playing Conditions and in accordance with the Rule book, "2022 Official Baseball Rules" (Rules of Baseball), as currently adopted.

**INTENT:** The SA Winter Baseball Competition was established in 1969 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 sportsperson like conduct and play in the spirit of baseball, at minimal cost.

**AFFILIATION:** The South Australian Winter Baseball Association (SAWBA) is an affiliated Association of Baseball SA (BSA) and as such all the Playing Rules and Conditions applicable to BSA also govern the South Australian Winter Baseball competition, unless specifically detailed otherwise (even if **NOT** detailed) under these Playing Conditions.

All ages specified in these Playing Conditions shall be applied according to specific ages **unless otherwise specifically defined** in these Playing Conditions.

**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. ("SAWBA").

**THE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION:** The Committee of the South Australian Winter Baseball Association Inc. ("SAWBA") is appointed by the members of SAWBA and shall consist of; a President; a Vice President; a Secretary; a Treasurer; and a General Committee of no more than 8 members.

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## 1. Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Division</b>	A category of teams organised based on skill level and location.
<b>BBCOR</b>	A standard for certifying wood, composite and metal bats used in baseball to ensure safety and fairness.
<b>Combined Division 1 Competition</b>	Division 1 and Division 2C teams combined under one 'combined' competition in the event of insufficient Division 1 teams nominating to play.
<b>Eligible Games</b>	Games played by a team that are played to a result, and count towards a player's qualification for finals.
<b>Games Played Definition:</b>	"Played" means being named on the relevant Team's Team Sheet and having taken the field during the relevant game, e.g., having 'entered the game.'
<b>Official Game Result Sheet</b>	The official document used to record the final score and key details of a game.
<b>Permit</b>	Written approval granted by SAWBA for players to participate under specific circumstances / conditions.
<b>Pitch Count</b>	Official record of pitches thrown, documented by scorers.
<b>RPI</b>	Runs Per Inning, the maximum number of runs a team can score in a single inning.
<b>SAWBA</b>	SA Winterball Association (SAWBA)
<b>Social Media Abuse</b>	Online communication that defames, harasses, or intimidates SAWBA members, as per the BSA Social Media Policy (2024).
<b>Tribunal</b>	A formal review panel convened to decide on disputes or penalties related to games.
<b>Umpire</b>	The official responsible for enforcing rules and maintaining order during a game.
<b>Unfinancial Team</b>	Any team which has not fully paid its Team Nomination Fee, or entered into a payment arrangement with the SAWBA treasurer, on the 1 <sup>st</sup> June.
<b>Unsporting behaviour</b>	Actions that undermine fair play, such as abusive language, aggression, or disrespect towards officials, players, the other team and its officials, or spectators.

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## 2. DIVISIONS

- a. **At least three (3) Divisions** will be played in the SAWBA Baseball Competition. with the SAWBA Committee **reserving the right** to expand to more than three (3) Divisions from the start of the season to cater for growth. The Divisions shall consist of those noted in the table below.

Division	Name	Special Notes
<b>Division 1</b>	Hugh Franke League	Plays under Division 1 rules <b>NOTE:</b> Division 1 combines with Division 2C if insufficient Division 1 teams subject to SAWBA Committee's instructions.
<b>Division 2</b>	Jim Beare League (North), Mick Beech League (Central), Martin Foster League (South) Southern Districts League	Separate finals for each subdivision.
<b>Division 3 (Central)</b>	Peter McGearey League	Plays under Division 3/4 Rules
<b>Division 4 (Central)</b>	Trevor Dunn League	Plays under Division 3/4 Rules

b. **Combined Division 1 & 2C Competition**

- In the event of insufficient teams nominating to play in Division 1 (Hugh Franke League), SAWBA reserves the right to combine the Hugh Franke League Division 1 nominated teams to play with the Division 2C Mick Beech League nominated teams. Thereby forming a Combined Division 1 competition. This combined Division 1 competition is to be played during the minor round competition under Division rules as determined by the SAWBA committee once the committee know how many teams have registered for each Division.
- The Combined Division 1 competition teams, at the end of the Minor Round Season, will split into their separate Divisions for Finals unless otherwise advised by SAWBA at the start of the season.
- Finals will be played under the respective Division rules (Division 1 rules for Division 1 teams and Division 2 rules for Division 2 teams) unless otherwise advised by SAWBA at the start of the season.

**NOTE:**

This condition will be subject to yearly review and alteration by the committee based on the number and quality of teams that nominate for Division 1 and Division 2 Central each year.

c. **Division 3**

Teams can nominate to play in the Division 3C (Peter McGearey League).

**Division 4**

Teams can nominate to play in the Division 4C (Trevor Dunn League).

**NOTE:**

- SAWBA reserve the right to have the final decision on what Division a team will be required to play in regardless of whether that team has nominated either Division 3 or Division 4 at time of registering their team, and
- SAWBA reserve the right to move any team up or down between Divisions 3 and 4 during the season based on ability should it be deemed necessary to make it fair for all teams.

d. **Finals & Qualification**

- SAWBA will determine the finals format for each Division during the regular season based on the number of teams that nominate for each Division.

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- ii. **To play finals** in each Division all players must have played the eligible number of games for that team during the season. (**RULE 24. QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS. a. to g.** inclusive below refers).
- iii. **Permit requests for players to play finals who have not met the finals qualification requirements of RULE. 24 QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS WILL** only be considered by the SAWBA committee for extenuating circumstances (recovery from long term injuries/illness and FIFO workers) qualify in this regard for consideration – refer **RULE 24. QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS**  
**NOTE:**  
All other requests **WILL** automatically be declined.
- iv. The SAWBA committee's decision on Player Permits **is FINAL** and no further correspondence will be entered into.
  - 1. All approved Permits **MUST** be shown to Opposing Team's Coaches and Officiating Umpire(s) at the plate meeting before the start of each game.  
**NOTE:** Penalties **MAY** apply for any breach of Permit conditions granted by the SAWBA Committee.
  - 2. Permits will **NOT** be approved by SAWBA under any circumstances for any Division 2 finals team to use any pitchers who fall under **RULE 3. a. Pitchers** below.

## 3. PLAYERS

- a. **Eligibility:** Players of any gender may participate in this competition.
- b. i. **Minimum Age:** 13 years of age is the minimum age preferred for players in the SAWBA Competition.  
**NOTE:**
  - 1. Registered youth players up to and including 13 years of age prior to the commencement of the season are only permitted to play as high as Division 3.
  - ii. For all players under 18 years old, Parental/Guardian consent in writing **MUST** be obtained by the competing Team- This is done via completion of a Player Registration Form signed by a Parent/Guardian and countersigned by a Club official.
  - iii. **For all intending players under 13 years of age prior written Parental consent MUST be obtained using the Permit Request Form located on the SAWBA website under "Forms/Downloads" and emailed to the SAWBA Secretary via [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) for approval by the committee prior to their participation in any game.**  
**NOTE:**  
Committee approval for players under 13 years of age to play is on the basis that they are only allowed to play outfield until they reach the age of 13 prior to the commencement of any new winter baseball season, and that at least one parent/guardian **MUST** be present at all games their child plays in, and **where possible** that parent/guardian is also a player.
- c. **Divisions 1,2 or 3 BSA State Summer League Competition Players:** Any player who has played in BSA State Summer League Competition Divisions 1, 2 or 3, or their equivalent in any of **the past three (3) summer seasons** is **NOT PERMITTED** to play any Division lower than Division 2 in the SAWBA competition unless a Permit request is submitted and approved by SAWBA. The SAWBA committee will only consider such permits for extenuating circumstances and the committee's decision **is FINAL**, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

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d. **Division 1 BSA Women's Summer League Competition Players:**

Division 1 BSA Women's Summer League Competition Players are **NOT PERMITTED** to play any Division lower than Division 2 in the SAWBA competition unless a Permit request is submitted and approved by SAWBA.

**NOTE: All decisions** by the Committee regarding Permit approvals **are FINAL** and no further correspondence will be entered into.

e. **Finals qualification:** To play finals, players **MUST** have played at least 50% of their **Nominated Team's** eligible games during the minor rounds – **refer RULE24: QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS a.**

**NOTE: i. 1,2 and 3.**

f. **Pitchers:** Pitching Rules have been adopted to ensure both 'Fair Play' and 'Protection' of both Pitchers and opposition team batters. Pitch counts, pitch types (dependant on age) and pitching innings limits are included within these rules.

Pitching Rules	Details
<b>Minimum Pitcher Age</b>	15 years prior to commencement of current season.
<b>15YO Pitchers pitches</b>	May throw any type of pitch to a maximum of 50 pitches in Div 1 & 2 or three innings in Div 3 & 4, whichever comes first.
<b>BSA State Summer Division 1 or 2 or Equivalent Competition Players</b>	Any player who has played any part of a game in BSA Division 1 or 2 (or Equivalent Competition) during any of the past three (3) summer seasons <b>is NOT</b> permitted to pitch in a Division lower than Division 1.
<b>Max Innings (Div 3/4)</b>	Max 3 innings per game.
<b>Pitch Counts</b>	<b>Balk pitches</b> delivered to the plate <b>count</b> towards the pitch count. <b>Intentional walks</b> , pitches not thrown <b>do not</b> count towards pitch count. <b>Batter Steps out</b> of the plate, <b>"No Pitch"</b> <b>does not</b> count towards the pitch count.
<b>Penalties for Breach</b>	First offense: Warning; Subsequent offenses: Forfeit (9-0 Div 1, 7-0 other divisions).
<b>Pitching / Catching</b>	A Pitcher <b>CAN NOT</b> change to Catcher on completing their pitch count or innings limit in Divisions 3 and 4. A Catcher <b>CAN</b> change to Pitcher during the game in Divisions 3 and 4.

i. **Player Pitching Eligibility:** Any player who has played in BSA State Summer League Division 1 or 2 (or equivalent competition) during any of the past three (3) Summer Seasons **is NOT** permitted to pitch in a Division lower than Division 1. **PENALTY (for Breach of clause i above):**

ii. **Definition - Played:** Played means being named on the relevant Team's Team sheet and having taken the field during the relevant game, e.g., having 'entered the game.' **PENALTY (for Breach of clause I above):**

iii. **Division 3 and 4 Pitchers:** Pitchers in SAWBA Division 3 and 4 **CAN** only pitch a **MAXIMUM** of three (3) innings in any game. **If brought in at any stage of an innings**, that innings will constitute as one (1) of their three (3) innings maximum in each game.

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## NOTE:

Pitch Limits apply to all age groups and ages for all players under 19 relate to their current age at the commencement of each new season.

Age Grouping	15 Years old	16/ 17 Years old	18 years old	Seniors (19 & over)
Pitch Limit	50	80	90	125

## iv. Pitcher to fielder eligibility:

1. A Pitcher on reaching their pitch limit or at the completion of their three (3) innings (Div 3 & 4), **CAN** play any position on the field **EXCEPT** as Catcher.
2. A Player starting as Catcher **in Div 3 and 4 IS** permitted to then become a Pitcher.

## g. Pitch Counts and Pitch Types

A pitcher reaching his/her maximum number of pitches in any game may, upon their team Coach informing the Umpire, complete the batter before being removed from the mound. That player may stay in the game in any position player **EXCEPT** as Catcher.

- i. A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate whether it is hit safely or not, shall be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. An intentional walk, where pitches are not thrown, will not count towards a pitcher's pitch count.
  - iv. A Pitcher in Division 1, removed for any reason from the game, **MAY NOT** pitch again in the same game.
- PENALTY:**  
Forfeit rules apply if a team is found guilty of breaching this rule.
- v. The Umpire has the authority to police the pitching rule.
  - vi. Scorers and pitch count recorders, in Division 3 or 4, **MUST** provide pitch counts on request by the Umpire or any Coach/player from either team.
  - vii. Pitchers 15 years of age are allowed to throw any type of pitch up to a maximum of 50 pitches in Division 1 and 2 or three (3) innings in Divisions 3 and 4, if applicable, whichever comes first.

**Breach Procedure:** If any other pitch is thrown, the Plate Umpire will call "**Balk - Illegal Pitch**".

The "**Balk - Illegal Pitch**" call may also be made by a Field Umpire.

The Balk – Illegal Pitch rule **WILL** apply.

All runners on base at the time of the call will advance one base and the pitched ball will Count towards the pitcher's count.

On the first instance of such an illegal pitch, the pitcher will be warned of the penalty that may apply (see **PENALTY** below).

On the second instance, both the pitcher and the Coach/Team Manager will be warned. On the third instance, the penalty specified below shall be applied.

## PENALTY:

The Umpire will immediately abandon the game and award it to the opposing team 9-0 in Division 1, and 7-0 in all other Leagues/Divisions.

- viii. It is a team Coach's/Team Manager's responsibility to advise the officiating Umpire and both Scorers when a 15-year-old is going to pitch so the Umpire can police **RULE 3. PLAYERS g. vi and vii.** above.

## **PENALTY:**

Any Coach/Team Manager who does not pre-warn an officiating Umpire when a 15 year old player is about to pitch, and the Umpire becomes aware of it:

1. **during the game**, the Umpire will immediately eject the Coach/Team Manager from the Game.
  2. **after the completion of the game**, must immediately advise the SAWBA President via email, who will decide on any penalty to apply in addition to forfeiture of the game.
  3. The SAWBA President will then contact the President of the Club/Team concerned of the forfeiture and of their decision.
- ix. Coaches/Team Managers are responsible to ensure that the Age of all players under 19 years **are** noted in a circle **on the left side of their name** on the Team Sheet.
- x. All players **Under 15 prior to the start of a season, are NOT** permitted to pitch in Winter Baseball even if they turn 15 at any stage during the season.

## **PENALTY:**

The Umpire upon becoming aware of a breach of this Rule will immediately abandon the game and award it to the opposing team 9-0 in Division 1, and 7-0 in all other Leagues/Divisions.

The Umpire will also report the breach of this Rule to the SAWBA President via email **by no later than 5pm on the Sunday after the game**, who will report this breach to the President of the team's Club. The Coach/Team Manager of the offending team will face a mandatory one game suspension for a first offence in any season with further breaches in the same season will face suspension as determined by the SAWBA.

## **h. Visits to the pitching mound:**

For **ALL** Leagues/Divisions a second visit by the Coach/Team Manager to the same pitcher in the same innings automatically requires a pitching change, with the pitcher being replaced being able to play in any other position on the field **EXCEPT** catcher.

## **i. Pitch Count Breaches Procedure**

- i. If during a game the **officiating Umpire is made aware of a breach of the pitch count rules** and the offending pitcher is found guilty by the Umpire, the Umpire will **immediately cease the game** from that point and **advise the SAWBA President by email**, details of the **offence no later than 5pm on the Sunday following the game**.
- ii. If the **officiating Umpire is made aware of a breach of the pitch count rules after** the completion of a game, the Umpire must **advise the SAWBA President by email**, details of the **offence no later than 5pm on the Sunday following the game**.
- iii. The SAWBA President will contact the President of the Club concerned advising them of the applicable penalty:
  1. First Offence during the season: Individual warnings to both the Team Coach and the Pitcher concerned with the game forfeit.
  2. Additional Breaches during the season: One game suspension to the Team Coach and the Pitcher with the game forfeit.

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## Pitch count breach Penalties

Offence (During the season)	Applicable to	Penalty
1 <sup>st</sup> offence	Coach & Pitcher	<b>Warning to each Game forfeit</b> , awarded to opposition 9:0 (Div 1), 7:0 (all other Div's)
<b>Additional Breaches</b>	Coach & Pitcher	<b>Suspension of 1 game for each Game forfeit</b> , awarded to opposition 9:0 (Div 1), 7:0 (all other Div's)

### j. Catchers:

- Any player who has caught in BSA State Summer League Division 1 or 2 in **the previous summer season** is **NOT** permitted to catch in any Division lower than Division 1.
- Any catcher playing in Division 3 or 4 is permitted to Pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game or to their pitch limit as per **Rule 2. e. iv** above, whichever comes first.

#### **PENALTY:**

Breaches of the above conditions **WILL** result in the game being awarded to the Opposing team, 9:0 in Division 1 and 7:0 in all other Leagues/Divisions.

### k. Pregnancy:

#### **ALL DIVISIONS/LEAGUES:**

For insurance reasons, players are not permitted to participate in the 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 SAWBA will not accept any liability for any injuries incurred by a player relating to pregnancy.

### L Permits:

To request a player permit, teams must follow the process outlined below. This process ensures all requests are reviewed consistently and fairly:

#### i. Initiation:

- A permit request must be submitted in writing by the requesting team to the SAWBA Secretary using the Player Permit Request form, found on the SAWBA website.
- Requests must include the player's details, the specific reason for the permit, and any supporting documentation.

#### ii. Review:

- The SAWBA Committee reviews all permit requests.
- The review includes verification of player eligibility and consideration of extenuating circumstances.

#### iii. Decision:

- All decisions** by the Committee regarding Permit approvals **are FINAL** and no further correspondence will be entered into.
- Approved:** If approved, the permit is issued with clearly defined terms. The approval will be communicated to the requesting team by SAWBA as well as opposing teams, Coaches, and Umpires.
- Rejected:** If rejected, the decision is final, and the requesting team will be notified by SAWBA with an explanation.

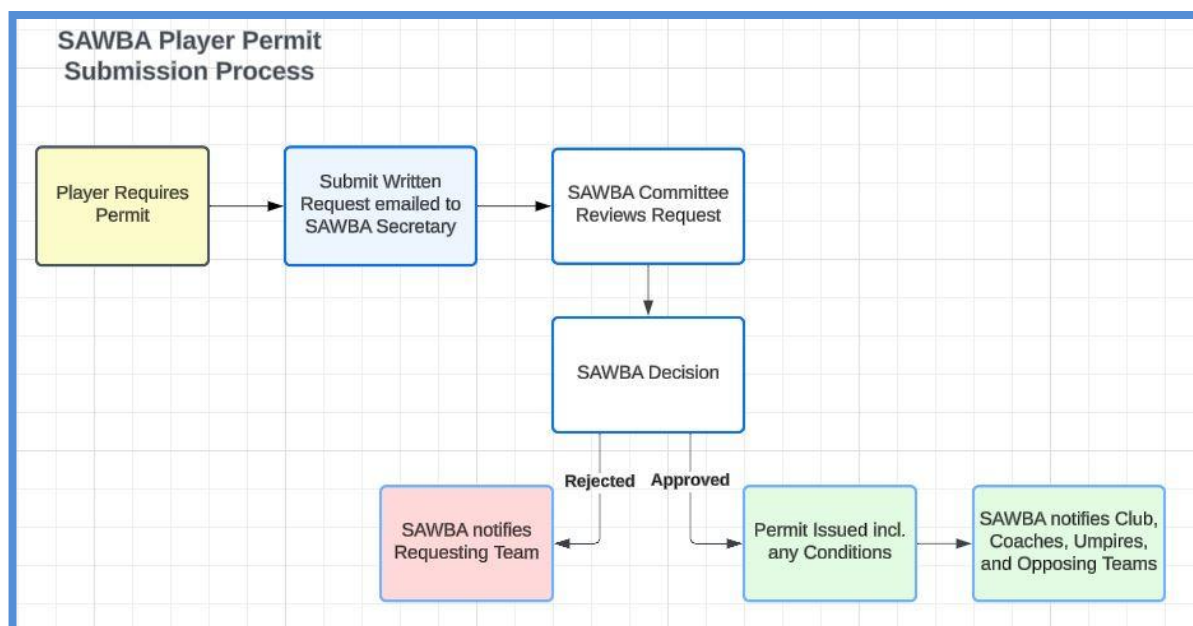
#### iv. Compliance:

- Approved permits **MUST** be presented at the pre-game plate meeting to the Umpire and opposing team.

## NOTE:

Penalties will apply for any breach/s of permit conditions granted by the SAWBA Committee, as outlined in these Playing Conditions.

## Permit Submission Process



## 4. 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 basic uniform attire consisting of:

- similarly, coloured tops.
- caps to distinguish them as a team.

## NOTE:

Caps must be worn, except when batting or as a catcher.

- b. Any person at home plate **MUST** at **ALL** times wear a mask when warming up a pitcher, as the rule does not change for standing, and a catcher **MUST** wear a mask and helmet (helmets without ear protection – skull caps may be used) whenever a batter is in the batting box.

## NOTE:

The mask **MUST** have either an attached throat protector or a throat protecting extension.

## PENALTY:

The offending player may be removed from the game.

- c. **Bats:** -

- i. **Divisions One and Two:**

All players **MUST** use wood or wood composite bats only, in accordance with the Australian Baseball Federation bat rules – metal bats are **NOT PERMITTED TO BE USED IN THESE DIVISIONS BY ANY PLAYERS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**.

## NOTE:

**ALL Permit Requests sought to use metal bats in these two Divisions will be declined by SAWBA.**

## PENALTY:

If any batter steps into the batter's box with a metal bat and refuses to change to a wood or wood composite bat, then the Umpire **WILL** eject the player from the game.

## ii. Divisions Three and Four

1. All female players and junior male players under Fifteen (15) years of age at the start of the season are permitted to use the same wood, wood composite or metal bats that they use in summer, or are approved to be used in summer for their age in accordance with the Australian Baseball Federation bat rules. However, we still encourage **ALL** players to use wood bats if they can.

### **PENALTY:**

If any Junior male player steps into the batter's box with a metal baseball bat that **does not meet the above standards** and refuses to change to a bat that **does meet the above standards** then the Umpire **WILL** eject the player from the game.

2. All male players fifteen (15) years of age and older at the start of the season **MUST** bat using wood or wood composite bats only in accordance with the Australian Baseball Federation bat rules – metal bats are **NOT PERMITTED TO BE USED WITHOUT A SAWBA PERMIT FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY**.

### **PENALTY:**

- (a) If any male batter Fifteen (15) years or older at time of stepping into the batter's box with a metal bat and at Umpire's request refuses to change to a wood or wood composite bat, then the Umpire **MUST** eject the player from the game.
- (b) If at any stage during or immediately after a game, it is discovered by the opposing team or the officiating Umpire that a male player fifteen (15) years or older used a metal bat during a game then the opposing team Coach can lodge a protest which is to be referred by the officiating Umpire to the SAWBA Secretary by email no later than 5pm on the Monday following the game. The protest is to be adjudicated by the SAWBA President and if upheld then where the offending team won the game the result will be reversed to a 7-0 forfeit to the protesting team and the Coach of the offending team will receive an official warning from the President for a first offence.

Any subsequent breaches of this bat rule by the same team during the season will result in a one (1) week suspension being applied to the Team Coach for each breach.

## d. Batting Helmets:

- i. All batters and runners **MUST** wear an approved double-eared safety helmet.
- ii. All base coaches **MUST** wear either an approved double-eared safety helmet or an approved catcher's skull cap.
- iii. Damaged or cracked helmets **MUST NOT** be worn.

### **PENALTY:**

If any batter, runner or base coach refuses to wear an approved **double-eared safety helmet** or catcher's skull cap then the Umpire **MUST** eject the person from the game.

## 5. CODES OF CONDUCT

- a. All persons participating in or watching matches in this competition (including all players, reserves, Coaches, Managers, Scorers, Umpires, and spectators) are required to comply with the following requirements:
  - i. All senior players and parent or guardian for all players under eighteen (18) **MUST** agree to and sign the **Player Conduct Agreement**, noted on the back page of their Player Registration Form, as part of their annual registration.
  - ii. Unsporting conduct by any individual, player or team at any stage during the season **WILL NOT** be tolerated by the SAWBA and **MAY** result in penalties issued by the SAWBA committee.

- iii. Indecent or abusive language or gestures by participants or spectators toward any player/official/committee member present at a match **WILL NOT** be tolerated and **MAY** result in penalties to be decided by the SAWBA committee.
- iv. Audible obscenities (whether directed at another person or not) **WILL NOT** be tolerated.
- v. Good relationships must be fostered between Clubs and their teams before, during and particularly after games, **including in all finals**.
- vi. The authority and decisions of the officiating Umpire(s) **MUST** be respected. **NO PERSON** may direct abuse and/or intimidating language to any Umpire.

**NOTE:**

Any Umpire that has abuse or intimidating language or gestures directed at them is to immediately:

1. issue a warning to those concerned and issue a warning to the team coach that any further infractions of this Rule will result in the **PENALTY** detailed below being applied.
  2. The Umpire(s) also have the ability and right to eject any player/Coach, and in the case of stopping a game or ejecting anyone **MUST** email all details to the SAWBA President no later than 5pm on the Sunday immediately following the game the details of the event, to enable the President to decide what further penalties will apply.
- vii. The Coach of a team **MUST** insist that their player(s) always behave in a sportsperson like manner, especially towards members of the opposing team and spectators. The use of intemperate or unseemly language by players or Coaches is **ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN**.
  - viii. 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 unsporting conduct and **WILL NOT** be tolerated.
  - ix. 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.

**PENALTY:**

If the conditions continue to be disregarded, the Umpire shall abandon the game and award it 9:0 to the opposing team in Division 1, and 7:0 to the opposing team in all other Leagues/Divisions.

- x. Use of any form of social media to abuse any player/official/committee member/SAWBA **IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** as per the Social Media Policy.

**PENALTY:** Person(s) in breach of the unsporting behaviour rules and or Social Media Policy **WILL** face immediate disciplinary action from the SAWBA committee.

**NOTE:** Any suspension administered by SAWBA also carries over to the summer season and will be applied by BSA should the penalty handed down not be completed before the end of the winter season and vice versa.

- xi. **Smoking/Vaping/"Dipping" or Chewing Tobacco is prohibited:** Both on the playing field, in the coach's boxes and on the players' benches.

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

Appropriately all personnel (Coaches, Team Managers, Team Officials, Scorers, players etc.) **MUST** refrain from smoking, **vaping**, "dipping" or chewing tobacco and consuming alcohol before and during a game and/or training session whilst in the vicinity of the training area, playing diamonds or youth players.

**PENALTY:**

Breaking this rule in a game situation **WILL** result in ejection from that game and possible further action.

- xii. The consumption of alcohol by all participants (particularly players, Coaches and Umpires) **IS PROHIBITED** from **Forty-Five (45) minutes** prior to the start until **Five (5) minutes** after the conclusion of their 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 contravene the relevant Club's Liquor License and may not be permitted under an agreement for the use of the ground, and:
  - 1. Any participant who disobeys this Rule shall receive one warning from the Umpire – **RULE 22. INCIDENTS, AND SUSPENSION OF PLAYERS/TRIBUNAL** of these playing conditions **will take effect**.
  - 2. The President of SAWBA **MUST** be notified of all expulsions, and any other actions taken.
- c. It is always the responsibility of all teams to control the behaviour of their supporters/spectators. **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, 9:0 in the case of Division 1 and 7:0 for all other Leagues/Divisions.
- i. Where an Umpire reports any infringement of this rule to the SAWBA President, 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 SAWBA or the game of Baseball.

## 6. FEES

### a. Nomination Fee:

SAWBA will advise the nomination fee per team at the Annual General Meeting of the Association each year.

- i. SAWBA may offer a discount for early payment of this fee, as decided at the Annual General Meeting of SAWBA.

### b. Un-Financial Teams:

Any team which is un-financial on 1<sup>st</sup> June (subject to any arrangement with the SAWBA 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 subsequent season until all outstanding fees are paid in full.

- c. In the event of any team being expelled, results and Premiership points gained up to the offence stand and:
  - i. Any team then impacted by the expulsion shall have their effected game treated as a "bye", no score, and Premiership points allocated.
  - ii. If the team dropping out evens up the competition, the impacted team, and the team that already had a bye are to play each other for Premiership points and finals participation.

#### **NOTE:**

In both cases above – finals participation will be **DETERMINED ON WIN/LOSS RATIO**.

**NO CORRESPONDANCE** will be accepted by SAWBA regarding this rule.

## 7. WITHDRAWAL/ADDITION OF TEAMS

- a. Should any Club with more than one team in the competition, withdraw a team, the team withdrawn shall be nominated by that Club.
- b. Should any Club wish to nominate a new team after the start of the season they will need to submit a request with full details of what League/Division they wish to play in by email via the SAWBA website [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) to allow the SAWBA committee to discuss the impact that a new team will have on the existing draw for their requested League/Division before making their decision **which will be FINAL and no further correspondence will be entered into.**
  - i. Requests to enter a Division which already has an unequal number of teams will be considered by the SAWBA committee and **IF approved** then the teams that have already had a bye and the new team's finals qualification eligibility will be calculated on **WIN/LOSS RATIO.**
  - ii. The new team will be programmed to play the original bye team for the remainder of the program as a home game for the original bye team, where possible, or on the new team's home ground, if available or programmed on a neutral ground, if available in that order.
  - iii. Any request received for a Division which already has an even number of teams **WILL BE declined** by the SAWBA committee due to the impact on the existing draw. The committee's decision **is FINAL** and no correspondence will be entered into.

## 8. 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 for all games, at **all grounds.**

### 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 one hour before the start of the first game of the day until half an hour after the completion of the final game of the day to allow players/Umpires to change, and for (players and spectators) **ALL** attendees to use the toilet facilities.

If they are not, SAWBA is to be notified, and **PENALTIES** may apply.

### **PENALTY:**

1. For a first offence the away team is to advise the President of SAWBA, who is to issue an official warning to the offending Club.
2. For any further offences by the same Club, they **MAY** be stripped of all further home games for the remainder of the season.

### **NOTE:**

All Clubs **MUST** report to SAWBA prior to the start of the season to confirm that their toilet facilities will be available and up to standard for all games.

## 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 **MUST be pegged in place to prevent movement and where** possible shall not cause injury to participants of SAWBA.
- ii. Pitching Mounds in accordance with 'BSA' standards are preferable, and where used **MUST** be maintained and kept to a safe standard including the pitchers' plate, but not mandatory, especially where Clubs require games to be played in reverse on main diamonds due to ongoing ground repairs following the completion of the "BSA" Summer Season.
- iii. **ALL** pitchers' plates **MUST** be secured to the ground so that they do not move during the game.

## e. Pre-game Plate Meetings:

- i. Umpire and team Coaches plate meetings should review and agree on the following matters:
  1. playing conditions of the ground on the day.
  2. any special player needs of either/both teams.
  3. **details of** permits granted to players and conditions thereof.
  4. junior players included in team line-up(s),
  5. warnings regarding novice players included in team line-up(s), and
  6. any other matters that either team Coach wishes to discuss.

## 9. PLAYING DATES

- a. **Commencement Date:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday after Anzac Day each year or other date as determined by SAWBA.
- b. **Match Days:** **ALL** matches will be played on a Saturday, unless agreed between both teams at least one week prior to the scheduled game. SAWBA must be advised of any agreed change from the programmed matches, 1 day prior to play commencing.
- c. **No GAMES** will be scheduled on the King's Birthday Holiday weekend in June.

## 10. STARTING TIMES

**Minor Rounds and Finals:** – Refer to the SAWBA website program for each League/Division for start times.

## 11. DURATION OF GAMES

### a. Minor Rounds:

- i. **All games in ALL Leagues/Divisions are played to a maximum of 110 minutes.**
  1. Division 1: Nine (9) innings to a maximum of 110 minutes.
  2. All other Leagues: Seven (7) innings to a maximum of 110 minutes.
- ii. In all Leagues/Divisions, an innings commencing within that Division's time limit shall be completed unless the home team scores more runs than the away team prior to the completion of the inning.
- iii. **NO MERCY RULE applies** in any Division for Minor round games.
- iv. **Runs Per Innings (RPI):**
  1. Division 1: **No RPI** limit applies.
  2. Division 2: **No team may score more than seven (7) RPI.**
  3. All other Leagues/Divisions: **No team may score more than five (5) RPI.**
- v. A team cannot bat again if it cannot score the required runs to at least tie the game within the remaining time/innings. The Umpire shall be the sole judge in determining time remaining versus the number of possible innings available to score the required number of runs.

**NOTE:**

Where a result cannot be determined under the Official Baseball Rules because an inning is not completed then the game final score to be recorded on the Official Game Result Sheet, will revert back to the score as recorded for both teams at the end of the last (completion of the previous) completed innings.

**b. Final Rounds:****i. All Divisions play to innings completion, not time.****1. Division 1:**

- (a) A game is Nine (9) innings to a result.
- (b) Where extra innings are required to determine a result, tie-breaker rules will apply.
- (c) **A Mercy Rule** of Ten (10) runs ahead after Seven (7) innings or Six (6) and a half innings if the home team is ahead shall apply.
- (d) There is **no Runs Per Innings (RPI) limit** in Division 1.

**2. Division 2:**

- (a) A game is Seven (7) innings to a result.
- (b) Where extra innings are required to determine a result, tie-breaker rules will apply.
- (c) **A Mercy Rule** of Ten (10) runs ahead after Five (5) innings or Four (4) and a half innings If the home team is ahead shall apply.
- (d) **NO** team may score more than Seven (7) RPI

**3. All other Leagues:**

- (a) A game is Seven (7) innings to a result.
- (b) Where extra innings are required to determine a result, tie-breaker rules will apply.
- (c) **A Mercy Rule** of Ten (10) runs ahead after Five (5) innings or Four (4) and a half innings If the home team is ahead shall apply.
- (d) **NO** team may score more than Five (5) RPI

**c. Tiebreaker rules:**

The team next to bat shall commence its half of an extra inning with:

- i. runners on first and second base and **NO** "outs".
- ii. the batter who leads of an extra inning shall be the batter (or substitute batter) who would have normally led off the inning,
- iii. The runner on first base shall be the batter (or substitute batter) immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning and,
- iv. The runner on second base shall be the batter (or substitute batter) immediately preceding the runner on first base.

**NOTE:**

Any runner or batter removed from the game for a substitute shall be ineligible to return to the game, as would be the case with any substituted player (in accordance with the **Rules of Baseball**).

**d. Minimum Duration:**

- i. **All Games:** Every effort must be made to complete at least **five** (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes of playing time to constitute a regulation game.
- ii. 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.

**NOTE:**

Games **MUST NOT** be stopped solely due to light rain.

**12. 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 (DH)** are **NOT PERMITTED** in this competition under any circumstances.  
**PENALTY:**  
Forfeit by way of Officiating Umpire immediately stopping the game or by way of opposition team protest where the Officiating Umpire allows a team to use a **DH**, either of which will result in the opposing team being awarded the game 9:0 in Division 1, and 7:0 in all other Leagues/Divisions.
- c. **Re-entry is not permitted** for any player once removed from the line-up (other than for **RULE 28. BLEEDING POLICY** or **RULE 29. REPLACEMENT POLICY**).
- d. **A Courtesy Runner (CR)**, in **ALL timed games**, **IS** mandatory for the Catcher who reaches any base when two (2) batters are out and is optional at any other time.

**13. TEAM LISTS AND SCOREBOOKS****a. Team Line-up Sheets:**

All teams shall maintain a Team Line-up Sheet book, or a small duplicate copy book, in which shall be recorded:

- i. **The details of the match.**
- ii. **The names of the players** in starting batting order with First Surname only for those players with hyphenated Surnames and those with two Surnames, listed first followed by their Christian name, as per the name used on their **Player Registration Form**, to maintain consistency and to ensure ease of reference during the season, with starting fielding positions indicated in brackets together with the names of **ALL** reserves as detailed above.  
**NOTE:**
  - 1. **Team Line-up Sheets MUST be legible, preferably written in BLOCK Capital print, but Team Line-up sheets completed in cursive writing are still acceptable provided they are legible.**
  - 2. **Team Line-up Sheets NOT legible are to be handed back to the Coach / Manager to be redone.**
- iii. **Permit Players are to be recorded with a "P" in a circle** on the lefthand side next to their name if they have been granted a Permit by the SAWBA Committee.
- iv. **Players under eighteen (18) years of age are to have their age at the start of the season recorded in a circle on the lefthand side next to their name and,**
- v. **The Umpire Name (home team Club Umpire only) - refer to RULE 19. UMPIRES.**

**NOTE:**

- 1. **Players MAY be added to the Team Line-up Sheet** during the game subject to **RULE 13. a. ii., iii. and iv.** above, provided the Umpire, Scorers and the opposing Coach/Team Manager are notified and **MUST** be legible, as per **Rule 13. a. ii. NOTE 1.** above.
- 2. Surnames (together with a given name or English equivalent for international players) **MUST** be supplied and recorded on the Team Line-up Sheets and in the Scorebook for all Division 1 and Division 2 teams, for all games. Home teams, without a Scorer, playing In Division 3, or 4 if applicable, may keep records on the Official Game Result Sheet **which is to only include those players that actually take part, enter, in the game.** v **Note: 1.** above. The Umpire's name shall be clearly recorded in both Scorebooks in Division 1 and 2, and in any Scorebooks used, or alternatively the Official Game Result Sheet in Division 3 or 4 if applicable, where the Home Team has no Scorer.

3. Both White Team Line-up Sheets shall be checked by the Umpire at the conclusion of the game **and the names of any persons who did not participate shall be crossed off**. After checking that both Scorers/Official Game Result Sheet keeper have the same final score the Umpire **MUST** sign all Scorebooks used for the game, and then check all details on the Official Game Result Sheet against the White Team Line-up Sheets and any Scorebook(s) used for the game to ensure that only those players that participated in the game are recorded on the Official Game Result Sheet before signing it
- b. **Scorebooks:**
  - i. Each team in Division 1 and 2 **MUST** have an Official Scorer who is to record the game in an official Scorebook, and the Home Team Scorer is also required to complete an Official Game Result Sheet whilst teams in Division 3, or 4 if applicable, can in the absence of an official Scorer and Scorebook record the game using the Official Game Result Sheet and a separate Official Pitch Count Sheet. In the event of a disagreement or dispute, only an official Score Sheet/Official Game Result Sheet shall be used to assist in resolving the matter.
  - ii. Official Scorebooks can be obtained from the **SA Baseball Scorers Association – Ph: 8331 2675**.
  - iii Official Team Sheets can be obtained from **Emmsee Sports, 779A Port Rd, WOODVILLE – Ph:82681155**.
  - iv. Official Game Result Sheets can be downloaded from SAWBA website:  
<http://www.sawinterbaseball.com.au/forms.php> and then select the appropriate subheading under “Forms”.
  - v. Official game Pitch Count Sheets can be downloaded from SAWBA website:  
<http://www.sawinterbaseball.com.au/forms.php> and then select the appropriate subheading under “Forms”.

## 14. SCORERS

- a. Each Club **MUST** supply one Scorer for each match in which any of their teams compete in Divisions 1 and 2, and shall supply, where possible, one Scorer for each match in which any of their teams compete in Divisions 3 or 4 if applicable, and such Scorer shall:
    - i. During such match be regarded as an official of SAWBA as prescribed in these Playing Conditions and score in accordance with the official Rules of Baseball as recognised by SAWBA.
    - ii. An **Official Pitch Count MUST** be kept by each Scorer in their Scorebook except for in Division 3 and 4, where a Team does not have an official Scorer, a responsible person **MUST** record each team’s Pitchers Pitch Counts in compliance with the pitcher’s pitch limit.
- NOTE:**  
Official Pitch Count Sheets are available for download on the SAWBA website via [sawinterbaseball.com.au/forms](http://www.sawinterbaseball.com.au/forms).
- iii. Shall render assistance to the Umpire of the match by responding to requests for game information.
  - iv. Scorers are not required to sit together during their game, and if they do not, the Umpire will refer to the Home Scorer’s book only as the official record of the game.
  - v. The Home team Scorer is responsible for the completion of the Official Game Result Sheet, but in the absence of a Home team Scorer the visiting team’s Scorer will be used as the official recorder of the game and either/or is to only record the starting players for each team and then add any reserves for each team **who actually take part** in the game as they enter the game.
  - vi. All junior players and those players who have had Permits approved **MUST** have the appropriate denotation placed next to their name as shown on the Official Game Team Line-up Sheets.

- vii. If neither team in a game in Division 3 or 4 if applicable, has a Scorer, the Home Team is to nominate a responsible person, or persons, to compile an Official Game Result Sheet **with only the names of those players from each team that actually participate in the game** together with the name of any Club Umpire on the Home Team side of the sheet, the innings by innings score for each team, the final score of the game and each pitcher's pitch count during the game.
- viii. The Umpire is to be notified who the designated person will be, and they are to advise the designated Official Game Result Sheet person when each run is scored, and for which team.
- ix. At the completion of the game the designated Official Game Result Sheet person is to advise the Umpire of the result, and this is not to be disputed by either team.
- x. All Official Game Result Sheets completed by either the Home team Scorer or the visiting team Scorer or the Official Game Records Keeper in the absence of an Official Scorer in Division 3 or 4, if applicable, **MUST** be emailed by the Home Team to the Secretary of SAWBA via the SAWBA website [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) **prior to 8.00pm on the day of the game as a priority, but no later than 5:00pm on the Sunday following each game** then results will be accepted.

**NOTE:** Any breach of the above condition will result in the game being recorded as a 0:0 draw.

## 15. FORFEITS

### a. Advised **Prior To Game Day:**

In the event that a Team from any League/Division informs SAWBA that they intend to forfeit their next game:

- i. In the first instance all efforts are to be made to contact the Coach of the opposing team via the Club Group Messenger service and then to advise SAWBA who is to immediately notify the opposing team Coach so that they can warn their team. The opposing team Coach is to then complete an Official Game Result Sheet **listing only** those players that were available to play in the forfeited game and record the score as 9-0 for Division 1 and 7-0 for all other Divisions, diagonally across the Result Sheet record "FORFEIT by opposition with Team Name, sign the Result Sheet in Scorer's Box and submit to the SAWBA Secretary as directed under **RULE 21. RESULTS.**
- ii. Those players on the non-forfeiting team listed on the Official Game Result Sheet will have that game recorded as a game played towards achieving their 50% minimum participation in order to qualify to play finals.  
**NOTE:**  
SAWBA are relying on the honesty and integrity of the Team Coach to only list on the Official Game Result Sheet those of their players from their team squad that are actually available to play that particular game.
- iii. For the team that forfeits the forfeited game **WILL NOW** count as a game played by the team, **BUT ALL** players from the Team that forfeits will **NO LONGER** have the game recorded as a game played.

### b. **On Game Day:**

- i. A team **MAY** start a game with five (5) registered players and **MUST** have at least seven (7) registered players within twenty (20) minutes of the scheduled start time and **maintain** that number of players for the remainder of the game to avoid forfeiting the game.

#### **NOTE:**

1. **In Division 1 automatic outs APPLY** to the position/s in the batting line-up not filled due to this clause being applied.
2. **In Divisions 2 and below NO "automatic out"** shall apply to the position/s in the batting line-up not filled due to this clause being applied.

- ii. A team that is unable to comply with **RULE: 15. b. i.** above shall in Division 1 forfeit the game 9:0 to the opposing team **UNLESS** that other team is also unable to comply, and in all other Leagues/Divisions forfeit the game 7:0 to the opposing team **UNLESS** that other team is also unable to comply.
- iii. **FORFEITS** must be advised by the winning team – as directed under **RULE 21. RESULTS**. Refer also to **RULE 19. UMPIRES**.
- iv. If in a game neither team can comply with **Rule 15. b. i.** above then the Umpire is to immediately terminate the game with **NO** score to be recorded, and **NO** premiership points are to be allocated.

**NOTE:**

- 1. Regardless of whether or not the game can be completed or terminated by the Umpire -refer **RULE 15. b. ii., iii. and iv.** above an Official Game Result Sheet is to be completed by the Home Team with all players present throughout to have their names recorded thereon and signed by the Officiating Umpire. It is then to be submitted by the Home Team to the SAWBA Secretary as directed under **RULE 21. RESULTS** so those players present throughout can have the game count towards their games played for finals qualification.
- 2. For any teams effected by **Rule 15. b. iv.** above finals participation will be **DETERMINED ON WIN/LOSS RATIO**.
- 3. **NO COMPLAINTS** will be tolerated by SAWBA regarding this Rule.

## 16. 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 thirty (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 during the allocated game time for timed games during the minor round.

#### ii. Abandoned games **CANNOT** be transferred to another ground but can be changed to another diamond at the same ground, if available, and considered safe to play on by the Umpire.

#### 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.

**NOTE:** In the opinion of the Umpire if the home team does not make all reasonable effort to bring the ground up to a playing standard in a reasonable time then a penalty shall apply.

**PENALTY:**

9:0 forfeit against the home team in Division 1, and 7:0 forfeit against the home team in all other Leagues/Divisions if the ground is their home ground.

If a neutral ground, then the game is to be abandoned.

### b. Minor Rounds:

- i. If SAWBA 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 extreme heavy rain in the preceding hours, notification of cancellation will be sent out to all Clubs with sufficient notice prior to the first game of that round, and the whole round is to be cancelled with no results to be recorded and no points to be allocated to any team.

**NOTE:** Any round cancelled by SAWBA **will not** be replayed.

- li If individual games in any League/Division in the minor round are **cancelled by a Home Team or an Umpire** for any reason, but more than 50 percent (50%) of the games in the round in that League/Division are played, the games that are not played **will be** deleted from the round and those Teams impacted will receive no points for that game. Finals participation is then calculated on **Win/Loss Ratio**.

**No Correspondence will be entertained regarding this rule.**

**NOTE:**

- 1) If any game in a minor round is cancelled for any reason, other than due to inclement weather, then both teams involved will be awarded a **NIL (0)** all draw.

**c. Finals:**

- i. In the event of a semi-final or preliminary final game being cancelled by SAWBA, **OR** such a game not reaching regulation status – refer **RULE 11. DURATION OF GAMES**, the game shall be awarded to the participating team which finished higher at the end of the Minor Rounds.
- ii. In the event of a Grand Final not reaching regulation status – refer **RULE 11. DURATION OF GAMES**, it will be rescheduled **as a new start** 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 Rounds will be declared the winner of the premiership.
- iii. Should no Finals games be played due to prolonged adverse conditions; the Minor Premier team in each League/Division shall be declared the winner of the Premiership.

## **17. WASTING TIME**

- a. In all games, **EXCEPT** for finals, game time commences and continues to run **REGARDLESS** of delays or hold ups due to any reason.
- b. It is contrary to the spirit of Baseball to engage in the practices of time wasting, particularly in the closing minutes of time limited games.
- c. Umpires are-instructed to take all necessary steps to prevent such malpractice, and those in charge of teams **ARE** to be warned that SAWBA **WILL NOT** tolerate such tactics.
- d. All starting and finishing times are taken from the Umpire's watch / timekeeping.

## **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 always have at least one reserve ball available.

**b. Finals:**

SAWBA will supply two (2) new balls for each Finals game. Each team **MUST** in addition always have at Least one reserve ball.

## **19. UMPIRES**

- a. As required by the Federal Government, Umpires with less than ABF Association accreditation **MUST** be attired in an approved lime green shirt supplied by SAWBA – 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 Association and above (**MUST** wear the standard Umpires' uniform as required by the ABF or approved **by Baseball Australia**).

## c. Minor Round:

The team named first in the program shall provide a suitable Umpire as per either Clause a. or b. above, preferably with some level of accreditation. This person shall officiate for the entire game unless otherwise agreed by both teams.

## d. Finals:

- i. SAWBA will **make every effort to** arrange **and pay accredited** Umpires for **ALL** Finals games.
- ii. In the event that accredited Umpires or Green Shirt Umpires are not available, SAWBA will make every effort to organise Umpires for each finals game.
- iii All Finals Umpires will be paid for by SAWBA in line with current standard Baseball SA payment rates for State Level accredited and volunteer umpires.

## 20. UMPIRES FEES

- a. For minor round games, a match fee of \$40.00 per game (\$20.00 per team) shall be paid to the Umpire, regardless of level of experience, prior to the commencement of the game.  
Also refer to **Clause 20. e. - Forfeited Games** below.
- b. On request SAWBA will supply all teams with a list of nationally accredited Umpires as provided by BUASA.
- c. The game **MUST NOT** commence until the prescribed Umpire's fee has been paid by **BOTH** teams and the Umpire has been provided with a correctly completed **TEAM LINEUP SHEET** by both participating teams – refer **RULE 13. TEAM LISTS AND SCOREBOOKS**.
- d. Where an Umpire attends a venue as scheduled and **EITHER** determines that a game cannot proceed due to the condition of the ground **OR** commences a game that does not reach Regulation Game status, then Fifty (50%) **percent** of the total match fee of \$40.00 will be paid to the Umpire, \$10.00 by each team.
- e. **Forfeited Games:**
  - i. Where an Umpire has not been previously advised, an Umpire arriving to officiate a game which has been forfeited, shall be paid the appropriate **FULL FEE** by the home team (as indicated in **RULE 20. a.** above).
  - ii. In the event of the forfeit being from the visiting team, that team shall reimburse the home team for the Umpire's **FULL FEE** (as indicated in **RULE 20. a.** above).

## 21. RESULTS

- a. **The HOME TEAM MUST** submit results using the Official Game Result Sheet which is to be emailed to SAWBA via email: [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) **prior to 8.00pm on the day of the match.**

### i. Late Results:

If it is not possible to submit the Official Game Result Sheet by the time indicated above, results will be accepted for Premiership Points by emailing the Official game Result Sheet to [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) **no later than 5 pm on the Sunday following the game** for receipt by SAWBA by the following Monday.

### NOTE:

If emailed, proof of a successful delivery of the email may be requested by SAWBA where a dispute as to the submission of the results occurs.

### PENALTY:

This is the only means of collecting results and as such it is essential that Official Game Result Sheets are received by SAWBA by the deadlines as detailed above.-

- ii. **Game results** will be recorded as a **NIL all draw** for games that are **NOT** “advised to SAWBA” within the time frames outlined in **RULE 21. a. i. Late Results** above.

**NOTE:**

It is the responsibility of each team to check the results from each round are recorded correctly on the website. This can be done from the following Wednesday each week.

- b. Results and updated Premiership Tables will be uploaded to SAWBA’s website by Tuesday evening after each round.
  - I. Teams have **SEVEN (7)** days from the completion of a game to lodge an objection to the Table if results for that game have not been recorded or are deemed incorrect.
  - II. It is each Teams responsibility to ensure that game scores are correct before the officiating Umpire signs the Official Game Result Sheet. Once signed and the Result Sheet has been submitted to the SAWBA Secretary, the SAWBA Committee will decline any query in regard to an incorrectly recorded game score.

## 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 any SAWBA competition game at any level until after having served at least one (1) week’s suspension in the Division in which the original penalty was incurred. **Under no circumstances** are they allowed to play for any other team in any other Division/League until that one (1) week’s suspension is served.

- i. The home team **MUST** notify the President or the Secretary of SAWBA of any player/s who have been ejected from a game **by 5pm on the day immediately following the game via the SAWBA email address: [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com)**
- b. Umpires **are required** to report any incident, including ejections, that may have occurred pre-game, during or post-game, between players and or spectators that may warrant further investigation and potential action by the Association to the President or Secretary of **SAWBA by 5pm on the following Monday of the game via the SAWBA email address: [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com)**
- c. **Tribunal:**

Where the offence committed by an ejected or reported player or official is deemed to be of such severity, the President may, at their 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 BSA as a guide.
- d. Any person who considers they have been unjustly ejected or reported by an Umpire contrary to the Rules of Baseball, or these Playing Conditions, may make a request to the President for the matter to be referred to a Tribunal for deliberation. The calling of an Association Tribunal under these circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of the President.
- e. 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.**

### 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 and Fifty Dollars (\$150 AUD) to be paid to SAWBA 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 Teams shall play a series of competition matches as drawn up by SAWBA.
- b. Two points shall be counted for a win and one for a draw.
- c. In all Leagues/Divisions, Grades Premiership Tables will be based on a **WIN/LOSS RATIO**, regardless of number of teams in each League/Division, Grade.
  - i. If, at the conclusion of the minor round, any two (2) or more teams in any League/Division, Grade are drawn on win/loss ratio the final position of these teams will be determined by the team with the best runs for/against overall percentage.

## 24. QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

- a. Players **MUST** be listed on the Team Sheet, **using the same First Surname and Christian name as detailed on their Player Registration Form**, and an Official Game Result Sheet and, participate in a minimum of Fifty Percent (50%) of any given team's **ELIGIBLE** Minor Round games played during the season.

### NOTE:

- i. SAWBA recognises the following Minor Round games as **ELIGIBLE** games that any team:
  1. has played to a result.
  2. players listed on an Official Game Result Sheet for the team that wins a game due to an opposition team forfeiting prior to the day the game is scheduled to be played – refer **RULE: 15. FORFEITS a. i., ii. and iii.**

### NOTE:

For the team that forfeits any game prior to game day it **is NOT** considered as an eligible game towards qualification for playing finals, but it **IS** considered as a game played towards qualification requirements.

3. all players listed on an Official Game Result Sheet for both teams where the Officiating Umpire allows a game to commence but then declares a **FORFEIT** against one team who has not seven (7) players available to continue the game twenty (20) minutes after commencement of the game. – refer **RULE:15. FORFEITS b. i. and ii.** All players listed **MUST** remain in the game from commencement to the time the Officiating Umpire declares a **FORFEIT**.
4. all players listed on an Official Game Result Sheet for both teams where the Officiating Umpire allows a game to commence, but then neither team has seven (7) players twenty (20) minutes after commencement of the game and the Officiating Umpire terminates the game – refer **RULE: 15. FORFEITS b. iv.** . All players listed **MUST** remain in the game from commencement to the time the Officiating Umpire terminates the game.
5. All players listed on an Official Game Result Sheet for games that are completed to a result, but the Round in that League/Division is cancelled on the basis that in excess of Fifty Percent (50%) of the games in that round were unable to be played due to inclement weather/unplayable grounds – refer **RULE:16. CANCELLATION OF GAMES b. i.**
- b. Where all games in a League/Division cannot be commenced or completed due to adverse weather conditions ie: round is cancelled - refer **RULE 16. CANCELLATION OF GAMES b. i.,** or ground conditions – refer **RULE 16. CANCELLATION OF GAMES a. iv.** and are terminated by Umpires are **NOT** considered to be eligible games for the purposes of qualifying for finals.

- c. Rain out rounds are to be cancelled in full if less than Fifty Percent (50%) of games are played in that round in any single League/Division. **No** results are to be recorded, **and the** round is to be wiped out. and games **WILL NOT** be counted as eligible games for players towards Final's qualification in those games that did not start or were terminated by the Officiating Umpire prior to meeting the requirements of an official eligible game.
- d. If for example any team has played all fifteen (15) eligible Minor Round games players need to have played eight (8) games during the Minor Round to qualify for finals to achieve the fifty percent (50%) qualifying requirement.
- e. If for example any team has only played ten (10) eligible Minor Round games players need to have played five (5) games during the Minor Round to qualify for finals to achieve the fifty percent (50%) qualifying requirement.
- f. If any player has been playing for two (2) different teams in different Divisions for the same Club during the Minor Round, the team they have played the **MOST** eligible games for percentage wise will be the only team they can play for in finals if both teams qualify in the season (refer **RULE 24. a. iii.** and **24. a. iv.** above).
- g. If any player has played exactly the same percentage of eligible games in two (2) different teams for the same Club during the Minor Round then they will only be eligible to play in the team that plays in the higher Division, but if both teams happen to be in the same Division they will only qualify to play for the lowest ranked team during the finals if both teams qualify.
- h. Any team member who Umpires a match shall be deemed as having participated as a player for that game.

**NOTE:**

**Any player who umpires a home game for one of his Club teams MUST be recorded/highlighted on the Official Game Result Sheet to enable SAWBA to accurately record this towards that players eligible games played to qualify for finals for his regular team. It is the Club Umpire's responsibility to ensure his name has been included on the Official Game Result Sheet as a participating player for the Home Team before he signs the Official Game Result Sheet.**

- i. Any player, who plays (umpiring excluded) in any of the last four Minor Round matches in any other team in any League/Division, shall **NOT** be eligible to change back unless granted permission by SAWBA.

**NOTE:**

Such permission will only be granted by SAWBA in extenuating circumstances.

- j. Any team which forfeits three (3) or more games in a particular League/Division in any season shall **NOT** be eligible to participate in the Finals of that League/Division for that season. However, such team may continue to participate in games to the end of the Minor Round. The next eligible team/s shall move up the table accordingly to make up the composition of the Finals series in that season if necessary.
- k. SAWBA requires **ALL** teams to be honest in only playing their players who have played sufficient eligible games during the minor round to automatically qualify to play finals. Should any team eligible to play finals **NOT** have sufficient players that have automatically qualified to make a team for any finals game they will need to immediately submit a Permit request to the SAWBA Secretary via the SAWBA email address: [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) for consideration by the Committee.

**NOTE:**

- 1. Permit requests **WILL** be considered for extenuating circumstances only (recovery from long term injuries/illness and FIFO workers) qualify in this regard for consideration, and if approved **MAY** be applicable for multiple games. The Committee's decision regarding Permits **IS** final and **NO** disputes in this regard will be tolerated.

2. ALL approved Permit requests need to be designated on the applicable Team's Team Line-up Sheet and the Official Game Result Sheet and produced to the Opposing Team's Coach/Team Manager and the Officiating Umpire(s) at the pre-game plate meeting.
3. SAWBA will **NOT** be responsible for maintaining all players eligible games played during the Minor Round and advising all teams who have qualified to play finals a full list of their qualified players prior to the commencement of the final's series.
- l. Any team who feels an opposing team during a finals game is playing one or more ineligible players has the right to immediately advise the Officiating Umpire(s) either at the plate meeting or as soon as they become aware during the game that they want to lodge a protest. The Umpire(s) **MUST** then record the details of the protest on the Score Books being used and finally on the Official Game Result Sheet prior to signing it. The Plate Umpire **MUST** then advise the full details of any protest to the SAWBA President or Secretary via the SAWBA email address: [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) no later than 5pm on the Sunday following the game.
- m. The SAWBA Committee will then adjudicate on each Protest received and the President will then advise both teams of the Committee decision and Penalty to apply – refer below. The Committees decision is final and **NO** disputes in this regard **WILL** be tolerated.  
**NOTE:**  
Any Protests lodged after the Plate Umpire has signed off on the Official Game Result Sheet will automatically be declined by the SAWBA Committee.
- n. Any team to be found playing any player who has not met the finals qualification games played requirements by way of a protest by an opposing team will automatically be penalized under review by SAWBA.  
**PENALTY:**  
The game will be awarded 9-0 to the opposing team in Division 1, and 7-0 to the opposing team in all other Leagues/Divisions.

## 25. QUALIFICATION FOR HOSTING FINALS

### a. Mandatory Ground Specifications for Finals:

- i. Pitching Mound to be at appropriate "BSA" specifications.
- ii. Toilet facilities for players and spectators.
- iii. A cyclone chain mesh, or similar type, fenced backstop.
- iv. All foul lines and dead ball lines clearly marked.
- v. A Home Run Fence or Cones defining the Home Run Line as detailed under **RULE 8. GROUNDS**.
- vi. 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 team's 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 in game time occurs due to a team from a higher Division, but the same Club hosting a final at the same ground as a team from the same Club, but in a lower Division, the higher Division team of that Club will have the right to host the final.
  - v. All Division finals will be conducted as a single game.
  - vi. SAWBA has final discretion over all final's 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 enough time to allow both warm up and games starting on time.

## 26. FINALS

- a. In all Leagues/Divisions finals games shall consist of the top four (4) teams, over three (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 – refer **RULE 11. DURATION OF GAMES**, the cancellation policy applies – refer **RULE 16. CANCELLATION OF GAMES c.**

## 27. TROPHIES

### a. SAWBA will Provide:

- i. A Premiership Trophy for the winning team in each League and Division Grand Final.
- ii. A Medallion for the player voted the MVP by SAWBA representative at the Grand Final in each League/Division.
- iii. A Medallion for all players, Coaches, Scorer and Bats Person from the winning team in the Grand Final in each League/Division.

## 28. BLEEDING POLICY

- a. Each team **MUST** always have a current First Aid Kit with them during all games.
  - b. The kit **MUST** contain suitable bandages and disposable gloves.
  - c. The game **MUST** be stopped when a player is bleeding on the field.
    - i. The bleeding player **MUST** be attended to using appropriate First Aid procedures. The bleeding **MUST** be stopped before 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 – (this is at the Umpire's direction).
    - ii. A temporary replacement can be made under normal Rules of Baseball, i.e., the player cannot already be an 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.
- NOTE:**  
The intent here is to ensure that the bleeding is stopped without jeopardizing the players or disadvantaging the team.
- iv. Should a more serious injury occur, i.e., suspected fracture, un-consciousness, etc., and the player would be in jeopardy of suffering further injury by being moved, do not move the patient – suspend the game and call an ambulance immediately!
  - d. The SAWBA Secretary **MUST** be notified via the SAWBA email address [sawinterbasball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbasball@hotmail.com), as soon as possible, but no later than 5pm on the Sunday following the injury occurring of any serious situation as outlined in **RULE 28. c. iv.** above as soon as possible, but not later than 5pm on the day following the injury occurring.

## 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, **and there are no other substitutes available**, 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, **and there are no other substitutes 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, **and there are no other substitutes available**, 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 again.

## 30. INSURANCE AND PLAYER / OFFICIAL REGISTRATION

- a. All persons participating as a player, Coach, Scorer, 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 SAWBA.
- b. Prior to the start of the season Team Coaches are to email to the Secretary of SAWBA via address: [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com) a Team Spreadsheet detailing Player Full Names and their English equivalent if International Players, their email addresses, their Date of Birth and current player insurance prior to start of the current season to allow SAWBA to maintain consistency and to ensure ease of reference during the season and in the event that SAWBA have to check-up player finals qualification in the event Protest(s) are received during finals.

### NOTE:

Should any players join the Team after the start of the season then their details are to also be immediately emailed to the SAWBA Secretary to allow SAWBA records to be updated.

- c. At the start of each season a SAWBA **PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM must be completed in legible print, ideally BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS** by all senior players, parents/guardians for players under eighteen (18) years of age, Club Umpires, Scorers, Coaches and Team Officials, countersigned by a Club Official, and **forwarded by the Club to the SAWBA Secretary no later than 1<sup>st</sup> June** in the current season to ensure consistency.
  - i. All forms are to show the persons **Full Name** and if different, their English equivalent in brackets, to provide SAWBA and Umpires with the upmost clarity.
  - ii. **Team Coaches of Players with hyphenated or dual Surnames are to ensure that their first Surname only is listed on Team Line-up Sheets, in Score Books and on Official Game Result Sheets throughout the season to ensure consistency.**
- d. When a player, Club Umpire, Scorer, Coach or Team Official commences participation at any time following the 1<sup>st</sup> June in the current season, they **MUST** complete in legible writing a Player Registration Form which their Club **MUST** countersign and provide to the SAWBA Secretary within two weeks of their first participation.

### PENALTY:

Loss of Premiership points gained in all games in which **any** offending player(s) participated after the specified period.

- e. A Player **WILL NOT** be permitted to play beyond the timelines as detailed in **Rule 30.b.** and **30.c.** above if a Registration Form is not submitted to the Association.

- f. All persons specifically attending any game or practice session connected with this competition as a team supporter shall recognise that injuries **MAY** occur and should be adequately covered by Health/Medical and Third-Party Property Insurance.
- g. Participants and Officials, **MUST** acknowledge **RULE 33. RISK WARNING!** which is also included on the back of the Registration Form.

## 31. INTEGRITY AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- a. The SAWBA as a subsidiary of BSA adopts and adheres to Baseball Australia's Policies in relation to Member and Child and Young People Protection.
- b. All Club personnel with roles of authority, access to children's contact details or in coaching and or team management & assistance roles are required to complete the Working with Children Checks.
- c. Policies and resources can be found @ [baseballsa.com.au](https://baseballsa.com.au) / Integrity
  - i. **Member Protection Policy**
    - 1. Download @ [baseball.com.au](https://baseball.com.au) / Integrity / Member Protection Policy
  - ii. **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy**
    - 1. Download @ [baseball.com.au](https://baseball.com.au) / Integrity / Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
  - iii. **Working with Children Checks**
    - 1. Free checks are available @ [sa.gov.au](https://sa.gov.au) / topics / rights-and-law-and-responsibilities / screening-checks / screening-wwcc
  - iv. **Child Environment Policy**
    - 1. Each Club is to ensure that they Monitor Compliance that all people in a position of authority and or work with children hold a current WWWC as specified in state legislation.

## 32. SOCIAL MEDIA

- a. SAWBA adopts the Baseball Australia Social Media Policy, effective June 2024, enacted by the South Australian Baseball League Inc. (SABL).

**NOTE:**

The Policy may be updated from time to time at the discretion of Baseball Australia or Baseball SA.
- b. A copy of the current BA Social Media Policy is available at;
  - i. [baseball.com.au](https://baseball.com.au) / Integrity / BA Social Media Policy or
  - ii. [baseballsa.com.au](https://baseballsa.com.au) / Integrity / BA Social media Policy

## 33. RISK WARNING!

- a. Persons attending any match or practice session connected with the SAWBA Competition do so at their own risk and **MUST** be aware:
  - i. that there are risks of injury associated with playing Baseball, as there are with most sports.
  - ii. that risks will arise in the context of the activities of batting, pitching, catching, running, fielding, and spectating, and.
  - iii. that while each Club aims to minimise risks, it is not possible to eliminate them all.

**NOTE:**

SAWBA has paid to have signs erected at all Winter grounds warning spectators of the potential hazards of watching Baseball.

- b. The insurance cover currently held by this Association relates specifically to the statutory cover required (by law), Public Liability Insurance, to be taken out by all bodies involved with any form of public participation in sporting, or similar, activities.

The protection provided is against possible Public Liability claims (\$5,000,000 maximum per claim); with a separate associated limited Personal Accident cover, particularly related to long term disabilities.

- c. In the event of injury, or other damage sustained by any player, Scorer, Coach, Umpire, Official or spectator during the normal course of any game, preceding warm-up period, or following cool down period, neither SAWBA, and or its Officers, nor Baseball SA, nor the Australian Baseball Federation will accept any responsibility or liability.

**NOTE:**

All Parents watching a game need to always ensure the safety of their young children during the periods mentioned in **Rule 33. c.** above.

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