

# S. A. WINTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

Secretary: Ryan Barmby, 22 Trenoweth Close, GREENWITH SA 5125

Phone: 0401 248 352 Email: [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com)

## PLAYING CONDITIONS – 2011

The 2011 SA WINTER BASEBALL COMPETITION shall be conducted under the following Playing Conditions and in accordance with the Rule book, "Official Australian 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 Australia Winter Baseball Association Inc. ("the Association"), held at Glenelg Baseball Club, Anderson Avenue, Glenelg North, on 6th April 2011.

### 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 three (3) Divisions; however the SA Winter Baseball Competition may be extended by the appointed Association to cater for growth. The minimum three (3) Divisions may consist of;
  - i. Hugh Franke League (Division 1);
  - ii. Division 2 (split into 3 Competitions North, Central and South); and
  - iii. Margaret Ralston Division
- b. The Margaret Ralston Division is a division exclusively for female players shall be included in the program. This division shall be subject to these Playing Conditions generally, with minor variations where indicated. Female players may participate in other Divisions.
- c. The special conditions for the Margaret Ralston Division do not apply in the other divisions – except where otherwise noted.

## 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:** Any player who has pitched in SABL Division 1 or 2 during any of the past three seasons shall NOT be permitted to pitch in a Division lower than Premier Division/ Division 1, and;
  - i. Any player who has played Division 1 in the past three (3) summer seasons shall NOT be permitted to pitch in a Division lower than Premier Division/Division 1.
  - ii. **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.
- 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. **Batting Helmets** with leading-ear protection must be worn at all times when batting and base-running.
- c. **Catchers** must wear a mask when warming up a Pitcher and a mask and helmet (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.
- d. **Bats** – from the start of the 2011 Season the:

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- i. All Divisions must play with wooden or composite 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].

## 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. **Indecent or abusive language** by participants or spectators toward any person present at a match will not be tolerated.
  - ii. **Audible obscenities** (whether directed at another person or not) will not be tolerated.
  - iii. **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.).
  - iv. 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 18 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:** \$300.00 per team (includes statutory Public Liability Insurance Premium).
  - i. A discount fee of \$250.00 per team is offered to those who pay at the AGM. The Nomination Fee is to be paid at the AGM – unless otherwise arranged with the Treasurer.

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- 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

- a. 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. PLAYING DATES

- a. **Commencement Date:** The first Saturday after ANZAC Day. The 2011 season will commence on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
  - i. The Margaret Ralston Division may commence later – refer to the program.
- b. **Match Days:** All matches will be played on Saturday afternoons, 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.
- c. **Holiday Week-ends:** Some matches may be played as required on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Birthday long week-end) to make up an even number of rounds in certain divisions – refer to the schedule of matches.

## 8. STARTING TIMES

- a. **Minor Rounds:**
  - i. Double Headers: 12.30pm and 2.30pm
  - ii. Single Games: 12.30pm or 2.30pm – refer to the program
- b. **Finals:**
  - i. All Finals to commence at 1.30pm (all divisions)

## 9. DURATION OF GAMES

- a. **Minor Rounds:**
  - i. Premier Division/ Division 1: 110 minutes.
  - ii. All Other Divisions: 100 minutes.
  - iii. In all Divisions, **no** new innings to commence after the expiration of the time indicated.
  - iv. 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. Premier Division/Division 1 – No run limit will apply;

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- ii. All other Divisions – a maximum of 9 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. **Premier Division/Division 1:** Nine (9) Innings (no time limit) – if scores tied after 9 innings, play shall continue to a result.
- ii. All **other Divisions** (including the Margaret Ralston Division): Seven (7) Innings (no time limit) – If scores tied after 7 innings, play shall continue to a result.

## 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.

## 10. 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/Courtesy Runners** 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 19);
  - i. **Exception** – in the event of a team being reduced to less than nine (9) players due to injury or ejection, a player previously taken out of the line-up may return in the place of the injured/ejected player – with the strict provision that the returning player cannot pitch for the remainder of the game.

## 11. 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 17).
  - 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.

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- 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 19.
- 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 8347 4222). Official Team Sheets can be obtained from the through the SABL or from Emmsee Sports.
- g. All teams are required to submit their team scorebooks to the Association upon request by the Association to the team.

## 12. FORFEITS

- a. 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 9-0 win to the opposing team.
  - ii. FORFEITS must be advised by the winning team – as directed under RESULTS (Rule 17). Refer also to "UMPIRES" (Rule 16).

## 13. CANCELLATION OF GAMES

- a. **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 broadcast over radio station FiveAA (1395); between 11.00am and 11.30am on the day of the match.
  - 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.
- b. **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 9); 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, than 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.

## 14. 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.

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- 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.

## 15. 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.
- 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.

## 16. 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. \$30.00 per game (\$15.00 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. \$20.00 per game (\$10.00 per team).
- c. The Association will supply all teams with a list of Nationally accredited umpires as provided by B.U.A.S.A.
- 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 11).

## 17. RESULTS

- a. The WINNING TEAM must telephone results via SMS to the Association Secretary (number located in header above) 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 in the Tuesday edition of the Advertiser where possible.
  - 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 match to the Association's Secretary (number located in footer) or by email to [sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com](mailto:sawinterbaseball@hotmail.com).

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- 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 the Association’s Secretary”.
- c. Premiership tables and a summary of scores since the previous issue will be posted every three weeks to Clubs without access to email. All other Clubs will receive results every Tuesday evening by email. Teams have seven days to lodge an objection to the table if phoned or emailed in results are not correct.

## 18. 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 5pm on the following Monday of the game and report it to the President and or the Secretary of the Association.
- b. 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.
- 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 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 in accordance with the procedures laid down in the current By-Laws of the South Australian Baseball League.
- d. 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.
- 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.
- f. 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.

## 19. QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

- a. Players must participate in at least six (6) Minor Round games 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.

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- 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.

## 20. 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. Home run fence either a permanent structure or use of witches hats; and
  - 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 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 Premier 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. It is preference 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. 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.

## 21. TROPHIES

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

## 22. 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

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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.

## 23. 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).

## 24. 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.