



# **BRISBANE SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION Inc**

## **MEN’S GROUND RULES**

*These Ground Rules should be read in conjunction with BSA Ground Rules.*

*The Brisbane Men’s Sub-Committee can amend these rules at any time, subject to BSA Board approval, during the season to ensure sportsmanship and the smooth running of the competition.*

## Contents

|     |   |    |
|-----|---|----|
| 1.  | Definitions .....                                   | 3  |
| 2.  | Ground Rule .....                                   | 3  |
| 3.  | Games .....   | 3  |
| 4.  | Finals .....  | 3  |
| 5.  | Bench .....   | 4  |
| 6.  | Game Ball .....                                     | 4  |
| 7.  | Uniform .....                                       | 4  |
| 6.  | Warm Up .....                                       | 4  |
| 7.  | Alcohol .....                                       | 4  |
| 8.  | Smoking .....                                       | 4  |
| 9.  | Scorecard .....                                     | 4  |
| 10. | Pick-Up Players .....                               | 5  |
| 11. | Eight (8) Player rule .....                         | 5  |
| 12. | Permanent Disability .....                          | 5  |
| 13. | Player Umpires .....                                | 5  |
| 14. | Protests .....                                      | 5  |
| 15. | Ejection from Game .....                            | 6  |
| 16. | Result of the Game .....                            | 6  |
| 17. | Injury .....  | 6  |
| 18. | Disputes .....                                      | 6  |
| 19. | Ground Use Conditions include .....                 | 6  |
| 20. | Wet Weather .....                                   | 6  |
| 21. | Meetings .....                                      | 6  |
| 22. | Association Award Voting .....                      | 6  |
| 23. | Competition grade definition .....                  | 7  |
| 24. | Catcher on Base .....                               | 7  |
| 25. | Underage players .....                              | 7  |
| 26. | Run Ahead Rule .....                                | 7  |
|     | Attachment 1: Schedule of Fines and Penalties ..... | 9  |
|     | Attachment 2: Junior Release form .....             | 11 |

## 1. Definitions:

- BOM:** BSA Board of Management
- BSUA:** Brisbane Softball Umpires Association
- Fixture Game:** A game played during the season but excludes the finals series
- Fixture Round:** Where all teams in a grade play a fixture game against each other
- Team withdrawal:** Where a team withdraws after commencement of fixtures
- Pick Up Player:** A registered, eligible player drawn from another club
- Suspension of Play:** Where the plate Umpire considers playing conditions deteriorate to the extent that it is not possible for play to continue safely and play is halted for a period of time.
- Suspension of Game:** Where play has been suspended for a period of time AND subsequently the plate Umpire considers it not possible to resume play and the game is suspended by the plate Umpire.

## 2. Ground Rule

All games conducted by the Brisbane Softball Association Inc. shall be in accordance with the SAL Official Playing Rules of the Australian Softball Federation Inc and the Brisbane Softball Association Constitution, By-Laws and Ground Rules with the exception of:

## 3. Games

- 3.1 All games will be played at Preston Road, Carina unless the diamonds are unplayable.
- 3.1.1 Inter-association games shall be alternated between Wynnum Softball Association, Elanora Park, Granada Street, Wynnum North and Brisbane Softball Association, Preston Road, Carina.
- 3.2 Fixture games will be played Saturday. Regulation time of one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes or seven (7) innings.
- 3.3 The Plate umpire shall keep the time.
- 3.4 All games shall finish on time.
- 3.5 A game suspended by the umpire shall be considered complete after three complete innings, should time in the scheduled time slot run out and the game cannot be restarted.
- 3.6 This rule shall apply to games suspended due to weather, light, injury or any other unforeseen circumstances, once a game as commenced.
- 3.7 Any game not considered complete (3 innings) shall be rescheduled and be played as per a new game.
- 3.8 In situations where the innings are even and there is five (5) minutes or fewer remaining until the scheduled finishing time, the Umpire may declare the game.

## 4. Finals

- 4.1 Semi, preliminary and grand finals shall be two (2) hours or seven (7) innings, provided once the innings has commenced it must be completed.
- 4.2 In determining whether a new innings shall commence, the umpires will have the right to call time and game where there is five (5) or less minutes to go to complete the two (2) hour limit.
- 4.3 In the event of a tied game in finals, the tiebreaker rule will apply from completion of time and that innings.
- 4.4 A Grade will play as per the Rule Book

## 5. Bench

- 5.1 The first named side in the program will occupy first bench.
- 5.2 Prior to arrival of umpires, teams will toss a coin to determine which team fields or bats first.

## 6. Game Ball

- 6.1 Each team shall supply at least one ball per game as approved by ASF Rule Book.
- 6.2 BSA shall provide game balls in the final series.

## 7. Uniform

- 7.1 Players and coaches shall be in their correct player or club official uniform as per BSA By-Laws.

## 6. Warm Up

- 6.1 All catchers are to wear facemask with throat protector, chest protector and leggings when warming up or playing.

## 7. Alcohol

- 7.1 Drinking of alcohol is not permitted by officials and players during a game.  
*Penalty: Game ejection*
- 7.2 Alcohol is only to be consumed in areas specified by BSA Inc.
- 7.3 Alcohol is not to be brought to the grounds. Offenders will be asked to leave the grounds

## 8. Smoking

- 8.1 Smoking is only permitted in designated areas.

## 9. Scorecard

- 9.1 All details on scorecard to be completed in biro – team name, number, diamond, time, opposition team, player names, coach signature, game result, game officials and award votes.
- 9.2 Game officials must be completed on back of card – officials must be registered in Database to participate in any game.
- 9.3 Full name (as registered in Database) of team players to be entered on scorecard.
- 9.4 The registered grade of any Player playing in a higher grade must be recorded in brackets beside their name.
- 9.5 New registrations and permits must be completed in the online database prior to player/official participating in any fixture game. The penalty for playing an unregistered player/official or no permit request being visible in the on-line database for the player/official will be a forfeit to the non-offending team and \$100 fine for each infringement.
- 9.6 Each team shall be responsible for exchanging the Scorecard with the opposition prior to the game.
- 9.7 Each team shall be responsible for returning the Scorecard to the Office immediately on completion of the game.

*Penalty: See schedule of fines for any of the above infringements.*

- 9.8 Teams shall enter votes for awards on the reverse side of the Scorecard. BSA will tabulate votes for presentation of awards at season end, as detailed at Section 22. Association Award Voting.

## 10. Pick-Up Players

- 10.1 To avoid a forfeit any team in any club is allowed to use pick up players.
- 10.2 A team using pick up players must have at least five of its own registered players to avoid a forfeit.
- 10.3 Clubs with multiple teams in the same grade should have each team treated as individual entity for purpose of picking up players.
- 10.4 Any club with two or more teams in the competition can use players from the lower grades and shall be able to play up in the higher grades unlimited times.
- 10.5 Pick-up players may not be used in the finals series unless approval from BSA is granted.

## 11. Eight (8) Player rule

- 11.1 Any team may start a game with eight (8) players.
- 11.2 Whenever there is eight (8) players, each turn at bat the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player shall not be recorded as an out
- 11.3 All grades will be permitted to finish a game with eight (8) players only if there is no legal substitute available.
- 11.4 Should a legal ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player become available, the player may enter on arrival at the game. The plate umpire is to be notified prior to the player entering the game and the player is to be added to the scorecard at that time. The plate umpire will inform the opposition of the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player entering the game

*Penalty: Any infringement of the above will result in a forfeit to the team not at fault.*

## 12. Permanent Disability

- 12.1 A player with an identified permanent disability, who is approved in writing by BSA prior to playing their first game of the season, shall be entitled to use a replacement base runner, once they have reached base safely.
- 12.2 This replacement base runner must be another player listed in the batting line-up, not a bench player.
- 12.3 This replacement base runner cannot be one of the next four (4) batters scheduled to bat.
- 12.4 This replacement base runner is not deemed a substitute.

## 13. Player Umpires

- 13.1 Player umpires for senior games must be over 16 years of age.

## 14. Protests

- 14.1 Protests will only be received on issues involving a misinterpretation of a rule, the failure of the umpire to apply the correct rule or failure to impose a correct penalty for the violation of the rule.
- 14.2 The umpire must be notified at the time of the incident and before the next pitch of the intention to protest.
- 14.3 The position of runner, the count, the batter, the innings and the number of outs and the time of the incident must be noted by the statisticians.
- 14.4 The protest must be filed as soon as possible after the completion of the game, or by the conclusion of the day's fixtures.
- 14.5 The protest will be ruled by the Protest Committee comprising one (1) umpire and one (1) BMSC member.

**15. Ejection from Game**

- 15.1 A player or official ejected from a game shall be reported to the BMSC Secretary by the umpire at the conclusion of the game by completing an Advice of Ejection of Player/Official form.
- 15.2 An Incident Report Form shall be submitted by the umpires to the BMSC Secretary within 24 hours of the ejection.
- 15.3 An Ejected Player/Official Incident Report Form shall be submitted to the BMSC Secretary by the ejected person within 24 hours of the ejection.
- 15.4 All documentation shall then be submitted to the BSA Secretary.

**16. Result of the Game**

- 16.1 In fixture games where the 90 minutes has expired, the score shall revert to that of the last even innings, except:
  - i. that if the team second at bat has more runs when time expires, or,
  - ii. in its incomplete innings has tied the score, the score shall stand.
- 16.2 Fixture games not completed within 90 minutes shall be regulation even though three (3) innings may not have been played.

**17. Injury**

- 17.1 All injuries should be reported to the on duty sports medicine person, even if the outcome does not require further action, and noted on the back of the scorecard including time of injury, innings and brief description of the incident and injury.
- 17.2 An Injury Report form and QSA Accident Report form (Form 1.9) shall be completed by the injured person or club official who witnessed the injury and submitted to BSA Secretary.

**18. Disputes**

- 18.1 Any dispute regarding registration etc shall be resolved by BSA Fixtures and Grading committee.

**19. Ground Use Conditions include**

- 19.1 Bench and surround areas are to be left clean and tidy by vacating teams.  
*Penalty: Fine of \$20 for offending teams*
- 19.2 Diamond 1 to be screeded by both teams between games

**20. Wet Weather**

- 20.1 In the event of wet weather BMSC members will inspect the grounds. Should a decision be made to postpone games, Club Delegates and the umpiring co-ordinator will be contacted by 10am.
- 20.2 The fixtures may be rescheduled by BMSC and played as required.

**21. Meetings**

- 21.1 Participating clubs must have a delegate attend the full duration of each Men’s Delegate meeting and all other compulsory meetings/working bees as advised by the Committee from time to time.
- 21.2 Non-attendance at these meetings will result in a fine to the offending club.

**22. Association Award Voting**

- 22.1 The Association will award the MVP Award for A, B and C grades at a Presentation Evening at the end of the season.

- 
- 22.2 Coaches are to nominate the MVP from the opposition team after each fixture game and record the nomination on the back of the Scorecard. Only players registered in the Grade are eligible to receive votes, no players filling in from lower grade or pick-up players can receive votes.
- 22.3 The Men's Registrar or nominate person will record these votes during the season.
- 22.4 Each team is responsible for noting the MVP opposition player votes on the back of the card as follows:
- i. Three (3) points to best player from opposition team
  - ii. Two (2) points to next best player from opposition team
  - iii. One (1) point to next best player from opposition team

### **23. Competition grade definition**

- 23.1 Where there are not enough teams to form distinct A, B and C grade competitions, some grades may be combined into a single competition for fixture rounds.
- 23.2 For Finals, competition will revert to the registered team grades.

### **24. Catcher on Base**

- 24.1 In any innings where there are two (2) out the catcher of the batting team, who is on base, may be replaced by another player listed on game card.
- 24.2 The replacement base runner cannot be one of the next 4 batters scheduled to bat.
- 24.3 This replacement base runner is not deemed a substitute.

### **25. Underage players**

- 25.1 A Junior Release Form must be provided for all players Under 18 years of age, as at 31 December in the year of the competition, before an underage player can participate in the Men's competition.
- 25.2 Players aged 12-13 years as at 31 December in the year of the competition, are permitted to play outfield positions in C grade only.
- 25.3 Players aged 14 years and older as at 31 December in the year of the competition, are permitted to play any position in C grade.
- 25.4 Players aged 14-15 years as at 31 December in the year of the competition, are permitted to play in outfield positions only in A and B grade.
- 25.5 Players aged 16 years and older as at 31 December in the year of the competition, are permitted to play in any position in A and B grade.
- 25.6 Any exceptions to the above must submit a detailed request for approval to Fixtures & Grading and Development committee prior to playing. The request must outline player capability, representative history and club expectations for consideration to be given. On-ground decisions can be made by Fixtures & Grading and/or Development Team for the purposes of ensuring the ongoing growth and development of underage players participating in the competition.

### **26. Run Ahead Rule**

- 26.1 All grades will play the International and National Championship Run Ahead rules:
- i. 15 runs after 3 completed innings
  - ii. 10 runs after 4 completed innings
  - iii. 7 runs after 5 completed innings

### **Attachments**

1. Schedule of Fines and Penalties
2. Junior Release form



**Attachment 1: Schedule of Fines and Penalties**

| <b>Non Compliance</b>  | <b>Penalty</b>   |
|--|--|
| <b>Forms</b>   |  |
| On-line database registration not completed before new player/official' first game | \$100<br>Loss of points for games played unregistered  |
| On-line permit not submitted in database before player/official's first game       | \$100<br>Loss of points for games played unregistered. |
| <b>Attendance</b>  |  |
| Working Bee minimum of two (2) per Club  | \$100 / person   |
| Advertised meeting one (1) per club  | \$100 / person   |
| <b>Teams</b>   |  |
| Withdrawn team after acceptance before grading                                     | \$25   |
| Withdrawn team after grading before draw completed                                 | \$100  |
| Withdrawn team after draw completed before first fixture                           | \$150  |
| Withdrawn team after start of fixtures within 30 days                              | \$200  |
| Withdrawn team after start of fixtures after 30 days                               | \$300  |
| <b>Players/Coaches/Score Cards</b>   |  |
| Unregistered Player/Official   | \$10 per player/official<br>Loss of points if game won |
| Scorecard initials instead of name   | \$5 per player   |
| Scorecard unreadable   | \$10   |
| Scorecard grade not on card  | \$10   |
| Scorecard not received within 48 hrs   | \$50   |
| Scorecard not received within 7 days   | \$100 additional                                       |
| Scorecard pickup player club/grade not shown                                       | \$20 per player  |
| Players / coaches not in uniform   | \$20 per person  |
| Use of hard balls in warm up   | \$100  |

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Smoking or consumption of alcohol outside of designated areas                                     | \$50 per person                    |
| <b>Forfeit</b>  |                                    |
| Forfeit 1st offence   | Warning                            |
| Forfeit 2nd offence and thereafter  | \$150 per game<br>Loss of 3 points |
| <b>Umpiring</b>   |                                    |
| Non-attendance at lectures  | \$20 per attendee                  |
| Umpiring non-attendance Senior Games  | \$50 per player<br>Loss 3 points   |
| Umpiring non-attendance Junior Games  | \$50 per player                    |
| Umpiring not in club uniform  | \$20                               |
| Umpiring not wearing a mask and or chest plate  | \$20                               |
| Umpiring incorrect footwear   | \$20                               |
| Umpiring late 15 mins (unless late due to playing commitments)                                    | \$20                               |
| <b>Protest</b>  |                                    |
| Protest   | \$20 (refunded if upheld)          |
| <b>Fees &amp; Fine payments: Where fines are not paid by due date \$100 +10%/week until paid.</b> |                                    |

**Attachment 2: Junior Release form**

## Junior Release Form

Clubs and parents/guardians are to consider the following criteria when selecting juniors to play in a competition above their age level and/or for a girl to play in the boy's competition. This is to ensure that the player can effectively compete in the relevant competition:

1. The maturity level of the player
2. The physical strength of the player
3. The skill level of the player
4. The positions to be played
5. The players level of game knowledge

Note: The parent/guardian of a player Under 18 years of age must sign the BSA Junior Release Form, in addition to the Clubs Secretary, in order for an underage player to participate in a competition above their age.

Form to be submitted to BSA Secretary after completion

Participants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants Club: \_\_\_\_\_

By Signing below, I confirm that the person named on this form meets the age guidelines listed above on the form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature                      Print Name                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Club Secretary Signature                      Print Name                      Date