



BASEBALL
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian Baseball League Inc.

2023-24 Addition to Bylaws

Preface

The following contains rules previously contained within the Local Playing Rules and Conditions which have been removed to be relocated to their proper place in the current SABL By-Laws. This will be undertaken during the season and these rules still apply as they have previously. If contradictions are found between these rules, the current ByLaws or the new Playing Rules and Conditions, Baseball SA reserves the right to provide clarification as to the correctness of such rule.

Changerooms and Toilets

Adequate changeroom and toilet facilities must be provided for male and female players and umpires at all grounds and be accessible. Any problems are to be reported to Baseball SA Operations & Introductory Programs Manager at giang.danh@baseballsa.org.au.

League Premiership Conditions

- 3.1.1 In the Minor Round, Clubs shall play the series of competition matches drawn up by Baseball SA's Competitions & Member Services Manager.
- 3.1.2 In Division One, two points shall be counted for a win and one for a draw.
 - 3.1.2.1 If, at the conclusion of the Minor Round, any two or more teams have obtained an equal number of points the final position of such teams shall be determined by the number of games won between the tied teams. In the event the teams are still tied, the third criteria shall be the runs for and against in contested games between the tied teams. In the event they are still tied, the final separation will be made on the basis of percentage runs for/against over the full Minor Round.
- 3.1.3 In all other grades, premiership tables will be sorted on the basis of win percentage.
 - 3.1.3.1 If, at the conclusion of the Minor Round, any 2 or more teams are tied, the final position of these teams will be determined on the basis of 1. Wins percentage 2. Runs against 3. Runs for, over the full Minor Round. 4. As a final resort, teams will be determined by the toss of a coin.

3.2 Team Numbers, Team Sheets, Game Starts & Participation Rules

- 3.2.1 No player, Senior or Junior, can start in two (2) Senior games during the weekend unless a permit has been obtained, however they may participate in two (2) games (a designated hitter counts as participation in a game but does not count as a start). The only exception to this Rule is a Division One double-header is considered two separate games and a Women's League Senior player may start in one (1) Women's League game and one (1) Open Senior game in a weekend (a 'weekend' refers to Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

No player, Senior or Junior, may participate in more than two (2) Senior games during the weekend.

Junior registered players may participate in up to three (3) games per weekend. A Junior player can start in one (1) Junior and one (1) Senior or Women's League game each weekend subject to all limitations in the Bylaws or these Local Playing Rules and Conditions.

A Senior or Junior registered player, who starts in a Senior game for a team must participate for a minimum of one plate appearance and three defensive outs before being replaced, unless the player is unable to satisfy

this requirement due to illness, injury, ejection etc. For Junior game participation requirements and penalties, please refer to the Mandatory Play Rule 4.4.

PENALTY: A Club found guilty of breaching Rule 3.2.11 will result in a monetary fine of \$275.00 (inclusive of GST) and having two Premiership Points being deducted from the highest ranked team the offending player played in.

If a Senior or Junior player without a permit does start in two (2) Senior games, the opposition can advise the plate umpire they are playing under protest and the Club will be required to follow the disputes and incident reporting process found in the SABL Bylaws.

Any Senior player, or qualifying junior player, playing Seniors must abide by the relegation and promotion rule whereby a player may be promoted more than one Senior Division at a time but can only be relegated one Senior Division lower than the Senior Division in which they last played.

Mandatory Play Rule

3.4.1 In Minor League, Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League and Senior League grades, all players participating in the game that have been written up on the Team Sheet must take part in the game for a minimum of three defensive outs and one plate appearance. Big League is exempt from the participation component of this rule, however must abide by only playing those players written up on the Team Sheet.

PENALTY: A determined breach of Rule 3.4.1 during the Minor Round, for a first offence, the offending Coach will receive one game suspension, second offence, offending team will receive a forfeit (7-0) and offending Coach will receive 3 games suspension. During the finals series the offending team will record a loss (7-0) and the offending Coach will be reported to the Baseball SA Disputes & Incident Reports Panel and receive an appropriate penalty.

Please click here for a copy of the [Official Results Sheet](#).

3.5.2 Clubs are responsible for populating their Team Lists 24 hours before a scheduled game.

3.5.3 HOME teams must enter the data instructed by Baseball SA (e.g. scores, umpires, metrics and ORS upload) into Game Day, for Friday, Saturday & Sunday games, by 12.00pm Mondays and AWAY teams must approve or dispute the data from 12.00pm Mondays until 9.00am Tuesdays. Baseball SA will process all disputes from 9.00am Tuesdays. Twilight data must be entered by 9.00am and approved/disputed by 12.00pm the day after the game.

PENALTY: Baseball SA will impose a monetary fine for Clubs who do not perform the duties outlined in Rule 3.5 within the specified time frames. First offence is a warning, second offence is a \$50.00 fine, third offence is \$100.00 and each and every offence thereafter will increase by \$50.00. Clubs who do not pay their fines within the invoice terms of payment may lose Prescribed Points for their Division One team.

3.14 Age Qualifications

3.14.1 The Age Matrix below stipulates the League Age requirements for athletes participating in SABL Grades.

2022/23 Baseball SA Age Matrix													
Find your birth month and scroll down to your birth year - your League Age will be displayed on the far right along with the grade you are eligible to play in.													
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	League Age	SABL Grades you are eligible to play
2018	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	4	Tball
2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	5	Tball
2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	6	Tball
2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	7	Pee Wee League, Mini League, Minor League
2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	8	Pee Wee League, Mini League, Minor League
2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	9	Mini League, Minor League, Little League
2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	10	Minor League, Little League
2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	11	Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	12	Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League
2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	13	Intermediate League, Junior League, Senior League, Women's D2
2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	14	Junior League, Senior League, Women's D2
2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	15	Senior League, Big League, All SABL Senior Divisions
2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	16	Senior League, Big League, All SABL Senior Divisions
2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	17	Big League, All SABL Senior Divisions
2004	2004	2004	2004	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	18	Big League, All SABL Senior Divisions
2003	2003	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	19	All SABL Senior Divisions
2002	2002	2002	2002	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	20	ALL SABL Senior Divisions
If your birth year is Red you are eligible to tryout for SA U16 State team													
If your birth year is Blue you are eligible to tryout for SA U18 State team													

3.14.2 To be eligible to qualify for a Charter Team a player must play in at least sixty percent (60%) of the Minor Round games (cancelled games are not included in the final count) of the Baseball SA competition. All Charter Rules, Regulations and Policies are listed in the Little League International Rule Book. You can find these online here: [Little League International Rules](#)

3.14.3 Junior players must not play in a League lower than that of their age unless a Permit has been granted by the Permits Committee. Refer to Permit Rules for exemptions. Refer to the Age Matrix for Junior player grade qualifications.

3.14.3.1 Selected Charter players and selected State Junior players must participate in the club's Division One team of the player's age group if the player's club has a Division One team in that age group.

PENALTY: A club in breach of Rule 3.13.3.1 will forfeit the lower League game or games in which the offending player took part, 7-0.

3.14.4 Only League Age 15 and above junior players are permitted to play in Senior Division 1 and below. Only League Age 15 and above female athletes are permitted to play in Women's League Division 1. Only League Age 13 and above female athletes are permitted to play in Women's League Division 2 and below.

3.15 Pitching Rules

3.15.1 Pitch limits and days rest are implemented to avoid overuse of the arm and ultimately to prevent injury. Senior and Junior players alike need to track and limit their pitching. Limits and days rest are extremely important in younger players because growing bones and joints are more susceptible to injury. Senior (League Age 19 and above) and Junior (League Age 9 to 18) pitch limits and days rest are listed in the Table on Page 13.

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- 3.15.2 Pitch limits are related to a player's League Age, not the Grade to which they are playing.
- 3.15.3 The official count must always come from the scorer's scorebook.
- 3.15.4 The scorer may alert the umpire or coaches if a player is coming to the end of their pitch count to avoid any breach of the pitch count limit rule and to prevent excess pitches that may help with prevention of arm injury.
- 3.15.5 A pitcher reaching their maximum number of pitches in an assignment may complete the batter before being removed from the mound.
- 3.15.6 A balk pitch delivered to the plate whether it is hit safely or not shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the number of pitches in Junior grades (Intermediate, Junior, Senior & Big League), however a balk pitch of any type in Senior and Women's grades, whether it is delivered to the plate or not, shall not be recorded in the number of pitches. An intentional walk, where pitches are not thrown, will not count towards a pitcher's pitch count in Junior, Women's or Senior grades.
- 3.15.10 Minor Round pitch count regulations apply in finals, however, for Senior Division One three game finals series, a pitcher may pitch a maximum of 150 in total over the series.
- 3.15.11 Exceptions to the pitch count table are:
- League Age 9 & 10 pitchers must pitch either a maximum of 40 pitches or for 6 outs.
 - Athletes participating in Women's League Division 3 or lower may pitch 85 pitches or for 9 outs, whichever comes first.
- 3.15.12 A Temporary Recruit may only pitch in one game of a double-header and in only one game of a three game Finals series.
- PENALTY: Do not stop the game if a breach is alleged, play the game out and enter a protest. If a breach is verified, a forfeit will be recorded against the offending team, this includes Minor Rounds and finals games; Senior Grades 9-0, Junior grades 7-0.**
- 3.15.13 Baseball SA currently does not allow underage Pee Wee League players of League Age 7 or 8, playing higher in a Mini or Minor League Grade, to pitch without prior application to Baseball SA.

Baseball SA Pitch Count Rules

PRIMARY GRADE	League Age	Daily Maximum	Required Rest Days				
			0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
Mini	8 & 9	1 Inning	1-20	21-35	35-40	-	-
Minors	9 & 10	40	1 - 20	21 - 35	35 - 40	-	-
Little League	11 & 12	65	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51+	-
Intermediate League	12 & 13	75	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51 - 65	66+
Junior League	13 & 14	85	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51 - 65	66+
Senior League	15 & 16	95	1 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 60	61 - 75	76+
Big League	17 & 18	95	1 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 60	61 - 75	76+
Women's Div 3	13 & above	85	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51 - 65	66+
Women's Div 2	13 & above	75	1 - 20	21-35	36 -50	51 - 65	66+
Women's League Div 1	15 - 18	95	1 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 60	61 - 75	76+
Women's League Div 1	19 & above	95	1 - 60	-	61+	-	-
State League Divisions	19 & above	105 until Dec 31 - 125 from Jan 1	1 - 60	-	61 - 80	81 - 105	106 +
State League Divisions	19 & above	Weekly Maximum	135				

5. Bat Regulations

Grade	Bat Regulations
PeeWee League	USA Baseball Logo 2 5/8" barrel maximum
Mini League	USA Baseball Logo 2 5/8" barrel maximum
Minor League	USA Baseball Logo 2 5/8" barrel maximum
Little League	USA Baseball Logo 2 5/8" barrel maximum no more than 33" in Length
Intermediate League	USA Baseball Logo 2 5/8" barrel maximum or 2 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR CERTIFIED logo no more than 34" in Length
Junior League	USA Baseball Logo 2 5/8" barrel maximum or 2 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR CERTIFIED logo no more than 34" in Length
Senior League	All bats have BBCOR CERTIFIED logo, Wood bats are permitted no more than 36" in Length
Big League	Wood/Wood Composite
Senior Division 1-5	Wood/Wood Composite
Senior Division 6 and below	2 5/8" barrel with BBCOR CERTIFIED logo or wood/wood composite

A baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and colour tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat).

Non-wood and laminated bats used in Junior League and below shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard. Additionally, starting in 2019/20, the bat diameter shall not exceed 2⁵/₈ inches for these Grades.

All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited in the SABL competition.

Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard may be used in the Intermediate and Junior League Grades, Senior Division 5 and below, Masters and Women's League.

Additional bat regulation information is available at LittleLeague.org/batinfo.

PENALTY: If a batter enters the batter's box and the coach of the fielding team asks the umpire to check the bat and it is deemed an illegal bat, the batter is out. If the batter has their turn at bat and then the bat is discovered as being illegal, the coach of the fielding team may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. If a bat is discovered to have been used throughout the game undetected and is reported to Baseball SA, a resolution will be made via a protest process. If the team is guilty of using an illegal bat, the game in which the bat was used will result in a forfeit in favour of the opposition and an appropriate fine will be issued to the Club in breach.

6. Finals

6.1 Finals Structure

6.1.1 Finals will be structured using the following guidelines:

- 6.1.1.1 All Junior Grades, Little League and above, will play a top six finals structure unless there are 5 or less teams in a Division, whereby a top four finals structure will be implemented. Minor League finals format is negotiable each season.
- 6.1.1.2 All State League Divisions with 11 or more teams will play a top six finals structure. All State League Divisions with 10 or less teams will play a top 4 finals structure.
- 6.1.1.3 All Women's League Divisions with 11 or more teams will play a top six finals structure. All Women's League Divisions with 10 or less teams will play a top 4 finals structure.

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- 6.1.1.3 In the event there are extraordinary circumstances surrounding the shortage or abundance of teams in a Division, the Competitions & Member Services Manager may choose to refine the above guidelines.
- 6.1.2 Unless determined otherwise by the Competitions & Member Services Manager, finals games will be played over 2 or 3 weeks. State League Division 1 finals rounds are a three game series finals format, all other Grades will be a single game.
- 6.1.3 Top six finals structure will be (unless deemed otherwise by Baseball SA):
Round One: (Semi Finals) 1v6, 2v5 and 3v4
The three winning teams advance to Round Two and the highest ranked losing team will advance as a wildcard entry.
Division 1 three game finals series will be played as follows:
1v6 – Saturday 3:00pm, Sunday 11:30am and (if required) Sunday 3:00pm
2v5 – Saturday 3:00pm, Sunday 11:30am and (if required) Sunday 3:00pm
3v4 – Saturday 11:30am, Saturday 3:00pm and (if required) Sunday 11:30am

Round Two: (Preliminary Finals) highest ranked winner v wildcard and second highest ranked winner v third highest ranked winner. The two winners advance to the Grand Final.
Division 1 three game finals series will be played as follows:
Saturday at 3:00pm and Sunday at 11:30am and (if required) 3:00pm.

Round Three: (Grand Final) highest ranked winner v lowest ranked winner
Division 1 Grand Final three game series will be played as follows:
Game 1 – Friday evening under lights at Diamond Sports
Game 2 – Saturday at Diamond Sports
Game 3 (if required) – Sunday at Diamond Sports
- 6.1.4 Top four finals structure will be (unless deemed otherwise by Baseball SA):
Round One: (Semi Finals)
Game 1 – 1v2: winner advances to Grand Final (Round Three) and loser moves to Round Two.
Game 2 – 3v4: loser is eliminated and winner advances to Round Two.

Round Two: (Preliminary Final)
Game 3 – loser Game 1 v winner Game 2, loser is eliminated and winner advances to Round Three.

Round Three: (Grand Final) winner of Game 1 v winner of Game 3

6.2 Participation in Finals

Refer to Bylaws.

6.3 Abandoned Finals Games

- 6.3.1 An abandoned game is explained in Section 3.6.
- 6.3.2 Baseball SA will endeavour to reschedule any abandoned games during the finals series for Senior Division 1 (best of three (3) finals series format).
- 6.3.2.1 If no games out of the three scheduled games are able to be played then the highest ranked team will be deemed the winner of that finals series. If only one game out of the three scheduled games are able to be played, then the winner of that game will be deemed the winner of that finals series. If only two games out of the three scheduled games are able to

be played, and it is locked together at one game all, then the highest ranked team will be deemed the winner of that finals series.

6.3.3 Baseball SA will endeavour to reschedule any abandoned games during the finals rounds for Senior Division 2, and below, Big, Senior, Junior, Intermediate, Little, Minor League, and Mini League.

6.3.3.1 In the event that circumstances beyond Baseball SA's control (e.g. inclement weather), prevents the scheduled finals game(s) being played, and cause game(s) to be abandoned then the highest ranked team will be deemed to be the winner of that final. In week 3 of finals this would mean that the highest ranked team becomes the Premier.

6.3.4 Baseball SA will endeavour to reschedule any abandoned games during the Women's League finals rounds.

6.4 Junior Finals Games

6.4.1 All Junior finals are played to the innings listed for each grade in the Appendix Consolidated Rules section, not to time.