

2023 Playing Rules & Conditions



BASEBALL
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



XIX AUSTRALIAN
MASTERS GAMES
ADELAIDE

For the Australian Masters Games

The Playing Rules – The Friendly Game

The playing rules for the Australian Masters Games to be held in Adelaide from Sat 7th Oct - Thursday 12th Oct, 2023 will be the same as the Official Rules of the game of baseball with the exception of the following:

1. POINTS

1.1. Points will be awarded as follows:

1.2. Two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and no (0) points for a loss.

2. TEAM BENCHES

2.1. The first named team is the Home Team, and they occupy First Base bench.

2.2. The second named team is the Away Team, and they occupy Third Base bench.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION

3.1. The maximum number of team members for any one team will be 25 and made up as follows:

- 1 Coach (playing or non-playing)
- 1 Assistant Coach(es) (playing or non-playing)
- 1 Manager (playing or non-playing)
- 18 Players (includes all people playing)
- Scorer (playing or non-playing)
- Bat/Ball Person (non-playing)
- Umpire (non-playing)

3.2 Team uniform numbers MUST be displayed on the back of each player that can go on the field.

3.3 All on field personnel must also be appropriately dressed in team apparel; team colours (no variations of shades), same style of top and hat and appropriate baseball pants.

3.4 Bat/ball persons must be of minimum age 10 years and always wear a double-eared helmet. Persons must remain in the dugout, and only when retrieving bats/balls is deemed safe, is allowed to enter the field. Baseball SA does not accept responsibility for any injuries pertaining to this position.

3.5 No players that arrive to play after Monday's games are completed can play without prior Baseball Organising Committee approval. A submission may be made, in writing, to the Baseball Organising Committee, fully detailing the reasons for requesting an exemption and approval to this rule.

4. PLAYING TIME

4.1 All games are to be of 100 minutes duration or 7 innings, whichever comes first.

4.2 Any new inning commenced before 100 minutes from the scheduled commencement of the game shall be completed except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the inning at which time the game will end immediately.

4.3 At the completion of the game, if the teams are tied, the game is considered a draw with each team receiving one point. No tie breaker rules will be used, however,

should teams be tied at the completion of the 7th innings and the 100-minute time limit has not yet been reached, then the game will continue until the time limit is reached.

5. OFFICIAL RESULTS SHEET

5.1 An Official Results Sheet must be completed by both teams and signed off by both Scorers and Umpires and submitted to the Baseball SA Staff / Committee by the home team immediately after the game.

5.2 The Official Results Sheet must include the following:

- Player's Surname
- Player's First Name
- Player's official Australian Masters Games Registration Number
- Positions of starting 9 players
- Number of defensive innings played for each player
- A tick (✓) next to a player's name who substitutes into the game and a cross (X) next to the player's name who the substitute came into the game for.
- Umpire's name and signature
- Scorer's name and signature
- Coach's name
- Date, Division, Team names and Game timing
- Box Scores and Final Score

6. BAT REGULATIONS

6.1 Only wood and composite bats may be used by players in Open 35+, 40+ & 50+.

6.2 Wood, composite and metal bats can be used in Womens 35+ and Open 60+.

6.3 If a person is wanting to use metal in an Open 35+, 40+ and 50+, they must apply for an exemption in writing. The exemption request should be sent to events@baseballsa.org.au with:

- Reason for wanting the exemption.
- Bat type you are wanting to use e.g BBCOR, USSA approved etc.
- Weight, length, and barrel measurements of said bat.

6.4 A player caught using a non-compliant bat will be ejected from the game immediately and if caught again the team will forfeit the game 9 – 0.

7. MERCY RULE

7.1 A ten (10) run mercy rule will come into effect after five (5) completed innings.

8. MAXIMUM RUNS PER INNINGS

8.2 For Open 40+ & 50+ and Women's 35+ there will be a maximum of 9 runs per innings. When the 9th run comes across the plate, the defensive team and offensive team will swap over immediately.

9. WHAT CONSTITUTES A GAME

9.1. Four (4) completed innings or 65 minutes of game time constitutes a game.

10. POSTPONED / ABANDONED GAMES

- 10.1. In the event of games being postponed due to rain or light, where possible, the Baseball Organising Committee will endeavour to reschedule those games where a minimum of four (4) completed innings or 65 minutes has not been played except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the final inning.
- 10.2. However, if those games are not able to be rescheduled prior to the commencement of the finals, the games will be declared a draw except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the fourth (4th) or later innings and, for determining medal playoff positions, no runs will be added to either the runs for or against and no innings added to either the number of batting or fielding innings, i.e., the game will be considered a nil all (0 - 0) draw.

11. WARM UP

- 11.1. Twenty (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of a game the Away Team shall be entitled to an in-field/out-field warm up on the playing field, not to exceed five (5) minutes.
- 11.2. Ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game the Home Team shall be entitled to an in-field/out-field warm up on the playing field, not to exceed five (5) minutes.
- 11.3. Five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of a game, the playing field must be vacated for the plate meeting.
- 11.4. Any catcher warming up the pitcher on the diamond must wear a mask for safety purposes.

12. PITCHES BETWEEN INNINGS

- 12.1. No more than five (5) warm up pitches on the diamond may be used between innings.
- 12.2. A relief pitcher must be warmed up prior to entering the game and will be allowed no more than five (5) warm up pitches on the diamond except where the pitcher being replaced leaves the game through injury.

13. PITCH COUNT RULES

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. The official count must always come from the scorer's scorebook.
- 13.3. 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.
- 13.4. A pitcher reaching their maximum number of pitches in an assignment may complete the batter before being removed from the mound. The number of pitches they finish the batter on will be their count, NOT what count they started the batter on.
- 13.5. Once the pitcher is removed and placed directly on the bench, the player may not pitch again in the same game but may stay in the game as a position player except as

catcher. If a team thinks they may need to use the pitcher as a catcher, they should write for an exemption to the Baseball Organising Committee and email to events@baseballsa.org.au.

13.6. The pitcher can pitch again in the same game or day if they remain in the game as another position player and have not met the Daily or Weekly Max stipulated in 12.7 below.

13.7. For all grades, pitchers must adhere to the table below in regard to rest days:

DAYS REST	DAILY MAX	WEEKLY MAX	0 Days	1 Days	2 Days
Number of pitches	110 pitches	180 pitches	1-40 Pitches	41-60 Pitches	61+ Pitches

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; 9-0 Forfeit.

14. PLAYING FIELD

14.1 Opens 35+, 40+, 50+, 60+ will have a Pitching Distance of 60 feet & 6 inches or 18.45 meters and Diamond Paths of 90 feet or 27.44 meters

13.2 Women's 35+ will have a Pitching Distance of 54 feet or 16.46 meters and Diamond Path of 80 feet or 24.39 meters

15. INNINGS CHANGEOVER

15.1 The changeover between innings shall be no more than two (2) minutes from the time the final out is made in the previous half inning until the first pitch to the first batter in the next half inning.

16. RE-ENTRY & PLAYER ROTATION

16.1. To allow players the best opportunity to get game time, teams are allowed to have an active batting lineup of up to (12) twelve players if they choose.

16.2. If a team decides to bat through (12) twelve players, they will need to notify the Chief Umpire and the opposition Team Coach at the commencement of the game at the plate meeting.

16.3. The Team will not be allowed to change the number of batters in their active lineup during the game unless injury occurs.

16.4. All players in the active lineup must be allocated a position from 1-9 including EH or DH

16.5. Any player who has been removed from the active lineup for a bench player (e.g not in the active batting lineup) may re-enter the game only in the same position in the batting order.

16.6. Defensive positions may be changed at any stage within the active batting order.

16.7. Players can be swapped in any position except for the rule outlined in 12.5.

17. DESIGNATED HITTER

17.1. The Designated Hitter (DH) rule may be used, but is not mandatory, provided both the Chief Umpire and the opposition Team Coach are notified prior to the commencement of the game at the plate meeting.

18. DESIGNATED RUNNER & COURTESY RUNNER

- 18.1. A Designated Runner (DR) may be used for the catcher or pitcher at any time, but it is mandatory for the catcher with two outs in the inning.
- 18.2. One (1) Courtesy Runner (CR) can be used for any one (1) nominated player in a game. The person who needs the CR will need to be marked by an asterisk or CR on the lineup sheet presented at the plate meeting.
- 18.3. Where possible, the Designated Runner (DR) and Courtesy Runner (CR) shall be a player who is not currently in the active batting lineup. If there is no bench players, then the DR or CR will be the last batter who was out.
- 18.4. The runners must be positioned in such a way as to allow for a quick changeover of players.
- 18.5. The DR or CR runner role does not help qualify the person in regards to finals participation.

19. PLAYER TRANSFERS

- 19.1 Players can only play with the team for which they were originally nominated except where approval has been received from, firstly, Australian Master Games office, secondly, the Baseball Organising Committee.

20. BLOOD RULE

- 20.1 A player shall immediately, upon a direction of an umpire, leave the playing field where the umpire is of the opinion that the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing field, a player shall not return or take any further part in any baseball game until and unless:
 - The cause of the bleeding has abated, and the bleeding has stopped;
 - The injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from;
 - Any blood-stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced; and
 - Any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.
- 20.2 Any player leaving the playing arena under the Blood Rule may be replaced by a substitute player until such time as they can return to the field of play. On returning to the game the player MUST occupy the same position in the batting line up.

21. FINALS PLACING

- 21.1. To determine medal playoff positions where two or more teams have the same number of points at the end of the Round Robin competition, the positions will be determined on a head to head basis - points then percentage. The percentage basis being, total runs for divided by number of batting innings, divided by total runs against divided by number of fielding innings.
- 21.2. Finals will be conducted between the top four teams after the Round Robin competition taking into account Rule 20.1 in the case of two or more teams finishing with the same number of points.
- 21.3. The finals format will be:

- Bronze Medal Game 3rd v 4th
- Gold/Silver Medal Game 1st v 2nd

22. FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- 22.1. To qualify for finals, all players must have played at least one quarter (25%) of the defensive innings their team has played during the Round Robin competition. However, if extraordinary circumstances occur, such as injury, illness, etc, a submission may be made, in writing, to the Baseball Organising Committee (events@baseballsa.org.au), fully detailing the reasons for requesting an exemption to this rule.
- 22.2. In the case where the Blood Rule has been used, the player will only be eligible to play in the finals provided that the player qualifies under Rule 18.1.

23. FINALS GAMES DURATION

- 23.1. All finals games are to be of 100 minutes duration or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
- 23.2. The Gold/Silver and Bronze Medal Games are to be of 100 minutes duration with no new inning to commence after 100 minutes from the commencement of the game. Any new inning commenced before 100 minutes from the commencement of the game shall be completed except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the inning.
- 23.3. At the completion of any finals game, if the teams are tied, the game will continue with a tie breaker being used whereby the last batter or a substitute player shall commence the inning at second base with no (0) outs. The game will continue in this manner until a winner is determined.
- 23.4. In the event of inclement weather, finals games will be considered to be completed where play has been underway for a minimum of four (4) completed innings or 65 minutes, whichever is the lesser of the two. Games where a minimum of four (4) completed innings have not been played will be declared a 'no game' except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the fourth (4th) inning.
- 23.5. Where finals games are unable to be completed due to inclement weather, the medals will be awarded on the basis of the team's final placing at the end of the completion of the Round Robin competition.

24. DISPUTE RESOLUTION & DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 24.1. Masters Games are the FRIENDLY GAMES and should be played in the spirit of goodwill. If the need arises, the Baseball Organising Committee will convene a tribunal to resolve any dispute or disciplinary matter.
- 24.2. The Baseball Organising Committee shall use the South Australian Baseball League Tribunal Panel for the Judiciary Panel.
- 24.3. In the event of an ejection from the game the Umpire responsible for the ejection will submit a written report of the incident via the Baseball Organising Committee.

- 24.4. After examining the incident report, the Baseball Organising Committee may make a decision where the incident is straight forward and impose a penalty, otherwise, the Baseball Organising Committee may decide a Judiciary Panel is to be convened to look further into the incident and/or its consequences.
- 24.5. If the Baseball Organising Committee deems it necessary to convene a Judiciary Panel, the panel will convene as soon as possible but no later than the night following the completion of the game and prior to the next scheduled game for the team of the ejected individual, excluding a double header. If the game is a Medal Round and the tribunal cannot physically convene, the process may be completed by email after the game is completed.
- 24.6. The Judiciary Panel will examine the Umpire's report and hold a hearing in which the Umpire, the ejected individual and any witnesses the Judiciary Panel deems necessary will be free to give evidence.
- 24.7. When all evidence has been heard, the Judiciary Panel will determine whether further penalties are to be imposed. The results of the Judiciary Panel's deliberations will be made known immediately to the affected parties, the Protest Committee and to the Baseball Organising Committee.
- 24.8. Written documentation of the hearing, including any penalties imposed, will be presented to the Baseball Organising Committee as soon as possible after the completion of the hearing.
- 24.9. The Baseball Organising Committee will prepare written documentation relating to any case called before the Judiciary Panel where the suspension of an individual occurs. The documentation prepared by the Baseball Organising Committee will be forwarded to the Australian Masters Games Organising Committee, Baseball Australia, the South Australian Baseball League Inc, and the State Body where the suspended individual is either a registered member or domiciled.
- 24.10. No appeal against a Judiciary Panel's determination will be heard at the Australian Masters Games.
- 24.11. Individuals who feel they have a grievance against the procedure should take up the matter with their State Body which will then be at liberty to enforce or review penalties awarded by the Judiciary.

25. PROTESTS

- 25.1. Protests can only be made on the basis that a misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules has occurred. No protest can be made on the basis that a judgment call was incorrect.
- 25.2. In the event a team wishes to protest, the requirement will be for the Coach of the aggrieved team to notify the Plate Umpire of their intention to protest the game at the time of the incident before the next pitch, play or attempted play and that it be noted on the Official Results Sheet which will be forwarded to the Baseball Organising Committee (along with further evidence in writing).
- 25.3. The Baseball Organising Committee shall hear the protest as soon as practicable following the presentation of evidence and adjudicate thereon. That decision will be

explained to the Coaches of both teams and any action necessary to correct the game result will be taken.

25.4. When the Protest Committee determines that a protest has absolutely no merit and is merely trivial and time wasting, a 9-0 penalty will apply to the offending team.

26. DISPENSATIONS / PERMITS

26.1. Two players participating in the Open: 35+, 40+, 50+, 60+ and Women: 35+ competition is permitted to play outside of their age group with a dispensation

26.2. The two players must be within one year of the age qualification for 35+ (open and women's) 40+, or two years for 50+ and 60+ with a dispensation.

26.3. All players playing under a dispensation are restricted to not pitching or catching.

26.4. Dispensation can be approved on a case-by-case basis for extraordinary circumstances. All dispensation applications must be emailed to the Baseball Organising Committee through Molly Brown (BSA Convenor) events@baseballsa.org.au prior to competition and must include a brief outline of the circumstances and player (including date of birth and playing history). The case will be overseen by the Baseball Organising Committee and may be referred to the Baseball SA Permit Committee in extreme circumstances and advised in writing reply email to the applicant.

APPENDIX A – INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Inclement Weather Policy refers to the management of extreme hot weather and rain situations. These situations will include, but are not limited to, training, games, selection trials and Baseball SA events. The policy will outline the process to be enacted when conditions are such that training, trials or games should be modified or should not be conducted to protect players from potential heat associated conditions.

REFERENCES:

All **forecast** and **actual** temperatures in relation to the Baseball SA Inclement Weather Policy are to be found on the website of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au . **Forecast** temperatures are found at www.bom.gov.au > SA > Adelaide Forecast

Actual temperature is found at www.bom.gov.au > Adelaide Observations > Adelaide (West Terrace / ngayirdapira) > Temp °C column

HEAT POLICY FOR EVENT DAY WITH A FORECAST TEMPERATURE OF 37° 38° 39°:

This includes any training, trials, games or events.

If the **forecast** temperature at 6:00PM the **evening prior** to the event is 37, 38 or 39 degrees, as per the **BOM Adelaide Forecast**, then the following will apply:

- Innings or 65 minutes – NO new innings after 65 mins
- 5 run limit
- 6 runs in front during, or at the completion of, the 4th innings

COMMUNICATION: Baseball SA will announce that the Hot Weather Policy is in effect soon after 6:00PM on the Baseball SA Website (via a scrolling banner on the home page) and Baseball SA Facebook Page which we encourage all Clubs to share. We will also endeavour to reach out to all team managers.

NEW INNINGS: No new innings to start after the time limit listed above, with the time being the moment the third out of the previous innings occurs.

TIED GAMES: If, after the designated number of innings, teams are tied and the allotted time has not been reached at the time of the 3rd out, the game may continue to a result until time is reached. If this still results in a tie then points will be split.

HEAT POLICY FOR EVENT DAY WITH A FORECAST TEMPERATURE OF 40° OR ABOVE: This includes any training, trials, games or events.

If the **forecast** temperature at 6:00PM the **evening prior** to the event is 40 degrees or higher, as per the [BOM Adelaide Forecast](#), then the following will apply:

- All games in the round will be cancelled and not rescheduled.

RAIN POLICY FOR EVENT DAY: This includes any training, trials, games or events.

- The plate umpire will be the sole judge as to whether a ground is fit for play to commence, or when play will resume or be terminated in the event of inclement weather or an unsafe or unsuitable playing arena. This includes, but is not limited to, extreme heat conditions, rain, lightning or lack of daylight.
- The plate umpire will request the Baseball SA Organising Committee to bring the ground up to safety requirements in a reasonable time. Abandoned games cannot be transferred to another ground but can be changed to another diamond at the same ground.
- A game cannot be called until 30 minutes after the scheduled start time. Games that do not commence or are not constituted as a game and points for the game will be split.
- Abandoned games will not be rescheduled.
- If an innings is not complete due to inclement weather, the score reverts back to the end of the previous innings.