

Baseball – Sport Rules & Regulations

TOURNAMENT PLAYING CONDITIONS

The event organisers anticipate all games will be played in the spirit of healthy competition – your cooperation is appreciated.

Game times will be under the control of the Tournament Director and game times are to be adhered to. Some games may be delayed if the prior game is not completed within the required time limit.

The umpires will be directed to keep the game moving. If time wasting tactics are observed by any umpire or the Tournament Director, the offending player(s) and manager are to be placed on report and a judiciary panel convened. Appropriate action may be taken against the person(s) involved and/or the associated team.

It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that they are at the correct diamond ready to commence play at the scheduled time. If a team fails to appear or are not ready to start the game within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled commencement time, a forfeit can be claimed.

On-field warm-ups are not allowed during this event - there are several areas throughout the park to facilitate team warm up.

Eligibility and Participation

All players must be registered within the Pan Pacific Masters Games registration and data base system. All players and officials will be issued with an accreditation pass, and this must be available for presentation during the event.

Accreditation checks will be conducted before play over the course of the event.

Any team playing with an unaccredited player will lose the competition points and the game will be ruled a forfeit.

All teams must take the field with a minimum of nine (9) accredited and eligible players.

Once registered with a team, players will not be allowed to transfer to another team permanently or temporarily unless one of the following exemptions apply:

1. Where a team has only eight (8) players as result of injury or player withdrawal during the event this team can “borrow” as age eligible player from another team. And

2. Where a club has a team in more than one division, up to two players who meet the age requirement for both divisions can be nominated as a floating player between the two teams.

Prior approval from the Tournament Director is required.

Scorers

It is a requirement of the event that each team supply a competent person to function as a scorer for their games.

Umpires

Each team is expected to supply an umpire for the event. In the event of an official plate or base umpire not being available, the home team will supply the plate umpire, and the away team will supply the base umpire.

Plate umpires (accredited/experienced to A grade standard), will be appointed when available. They will do their best to make every call 100% correct. In the interest of good sportsmanship, it is up to you to accept their decision.

Equipment and Uniforms

All teams must supply their own equipment.

All players while on the field must wear their team uniform. Uniforms will be of the baseball nature and caps must be worn. The exception will be that single participants who have been placed in a team will be allowed to play in the uniform they have, providing it is of baseball nature.

No restrictions shall apply to gloves or footwear, other than those that apply in normal baseball rules. All batters and runners must wear two (2) eared helmets.

Bats

The event is a wood bat competition. An exemption applies to the Women's competition to use approved Aluminium Bats.

Wood and wood composite bats must be used in ALL male divisions. Bats may be of any length or weight, within the allowable current official rules of baseball.

Home and Away Games

The team named first in the games scheduled will be the home team. They will field first and will occupy the third base dugout.

All players including designated & courtesy runners are to be included on the line up sheet at the commencement of each game.

Regulation Game

All preliminary games in all divisions are to be 110 minutes duration or a maximum of 7 innings whichever comes first. When a game is tied at the completion of 110 minutes, or 7 innings has

been played, a new tie breaker innings can commence, but no game is to continue past 120 minutes.

Any new inning commenced before 100 minutes from the start of the game shall be completed except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead at the bottom half of the inning. However, no game is to continue past 120 minutes. If the inning has not been completed by 120 minutes, the game score shall revert to the last completed innings.

If there is no clear result at the conclusion of the last innings or 120 minutes has lapsed, then a draw will be declared.

Tie Breaker rule

If both teams are equal on runs at the completion of even innings and the game is within the 10-minute window, one additional tie breaker inning is permitted. In this inning the last batter or substitute player (not previously removed from the game), shall commence the inning at second base with no outs against the batting team.

Batting

To support player participation, 3 additional players may be used as an Extra Hitter (EH) in any game. Therefore, teams may nominate 12 players on the batting line up, including the DH.

The Extra Hitter cannot take the field and is not allowed to take the place of a player who has left the game. A bench player must replace any player that leaves the game.

The EH can bat anywhere in the batting order and all batters must follow the specified order with normal procedures and penalties for batting out of order to apply. A blank in the batting order (and an associated automatic out) will be created if there is no player left on the bench to take the place of an extra hitter that leaves the game.

The Extra Hitter(s) will be credited with three (3) defensive outs for each plate appearance.

Designated Hitters will only be allowed for pitchers and will be credited with three (3) defensive outs for each plate appearance.

Run Limitation (in Age Divisions Men's 55+, 60+ & 65+ and Women's 35+ Competitions Only)

The maximum number of runs that can be scored in single games is six (6) per inning for the first Three (3) innings only.

If the batter hits the ball out of play (either a Ground Rule Double or a Home Run over the fence) that drives more than six (6) runs for an innings, all runs from that innings shall be added to the team's score.

NB: This does not include an in the park homerun.

Mercy Rule

A ten (10) run mercy rule will come into effect after five (5) completed innings or 80 minutes, whichever comes first. The team that is behind in the score will be given the opportunity to complete the batting innings before the game is called after 80 minutes.

Designated/Courtesy Runners

All divisions may substitute a designated runner for the catcher and pitcher at any time.

It is mandatory to substitute the catchers at two (2) out.

Additionally, courtesy runner (s) may be a substitute for an injured or disabled player participating in the game. The substituted players must be identified and made known to both the umpires and the opposition Team Manager at the commencement of the game.

Any player on the team's roster can be a designated or courtesy runner but no one player can do both in the same game.

This substitution can occur for one player in the team in 35+, 40+, 45+ & Woman's 25+ Divisions.

This substitution can occur for two players in the team in 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ & Woman's 35+ Divisions.

Pitchers – No Pitching Restrictions

Normal common-sense rest periods should be observed for pitchers.

Wet Weather Procedure

In the event of poor/wet weather, the following conditions will apply:

1. Games may be rescheduled at the sole discretion of the Games Director in the event of games declared a wash out.
2. The Games Director in consultation with the Chief Umpire (if appropriate) will allow for a 30-minute delay in proceedings before declaring the game a wash out. This will be allowed once only during a game.
3. If a game is delayed past the scheduled commencement time, the 30-minute time delay allowance will be invoked.
4. In all games including medal rounds, 3 innings (or 2 ½ if the home team is ahead) or 60 minutes, will constitute a regulation game and points will be allocated accordingly.

Medal Rounds Games.

To qualify to play in the medal rounds, each player must participate in at least 30% of innings played in preliminary games. Exceptions to this rule must be pre-approved by the Games Director. An inning is defined as three (3) defensive outs, and therefore one (1) defensive out equals 1/3 inning, etc.

All medal round finals in all divisions are to be 120 minutes (2 hours) duration or a maximum of seven innings whichever comes first. No new inning is to commence if the game has been in progress for 110 minutes.

In the event of the game being tied, one additional tie breaker inning is permitted. In this inning, the last batter or substitute player (not previously removed from the game), shall commence the inning at second base with no outs against the batting team.

If there is no clear result at the conclusion of this inning, then the result will be determined by the Games Director based on final preliminary round standing (the highest ranked team will be awarded the gold medal and so on).

Please note that medals will be presented without engraving. This service is available throughout the Gold Coast and at the Games Village, but the cost is not provided by either the host club or Pan Pacific Office.

Banned Substances

Smoking, consumption of alcohol, and the use of chewing tobacco or drugs (unless prescribed by a physician), will not be permitted within the playing area, and will result in automatic ejection and potentially subject to further action by the Tournament Tribunal (Schedule of Penalties refer).

Blood Rule

Upon direction of an umpire, a player shall immediately leave the playing area where the umpire believes the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing area, a player shall not return or take any further part in any baseball game until and unless:

1. The cause of the bleeding has abated, and the bleeding has stopped.
2. The injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from.
3. Any blood-stained article or uniform has been removed and replaced; and
4. Any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.

Any player leaving the playing area under the Blood Rule may be replaced by a substitute player (in the field and batting line up), until they are able to return to the field of play. The substitute player must be a player on the bench that is not already in the offensive line up. The substitute can be a player that has been removed from the game (temporarily re-enter), providing there are no others on the team sheet that have not participated offensively. On returning to the game the player **MUST** occupy the same position in the batting line up. The substitute player can enter the game at any time and at any spot in the batting order once the injured player has returned. All defensive outs during the time the injured player is missing from the game, shall be considered for finals eligibility for the injured player and not the substitute player.

Disputes, Breaches & Procedures

- The Judiciary process is controlled and administered by the Games Director.
- All disputes, breaches and offences are to be detailed on the game cards provided for each game and delivered to the games director within 30 minutes following the completion of the game.
- The Games Director will be required to countersign the game card and note the details of the dispute breach or offence.
- The Games Director shall decide on the appropriate course of action - which may include convening a judiciary hearing, applying a penalty, taking no further action, or dismissing the action.
- Should a judiciary hearing need to be convened the panel will consist of the Games Directors, Umpires Coordinator and up to three other independent persons with the appropriate skills and understanding of judiciary related matters.

- Any judiciary hearing will be undertaken at a convenient time during the day of following the close of the day's proceedings.
- If a hearing proceeds, the Games Director will cite the relative parties to attend.
- All relevant parties including Team Managers will be advise of the outcomes after the conclusion of the hearing.
- The decision of the Games Director and or the Judiciary Panel will be final, and no appeal will be allowed.

Schedule of Penalties

(Please note that these penalties are a guide only)

<u>Breach/Offence</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Possible Penalty</u>
1. Player Accreditation	1 st Removal from event	Removal from game 2 nd
2. Delay Start of Game	Immediate	Forfeiture of game.
3. Time Wasting	1 st	1 game suspension for manager or player
4. Equipment Abuse	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Official warning Ejection from game Removal from event
5. Banned Substances	Immediate	Removal from event.
6. Offensive Behaviour		
Disputing an Umpires Judgement call, Audible Obscenity, Bringing the game into disrepute	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Official warning 2 game suspension Removal from event
7. Dangerous & Violet Behaviour		
Personal Intimidation, Illegal Personal Contact,	1 st	3 game
suspension from event	2 nd	Removal
8. Illegally leaving the dugout or playing position to participate in a melee, Fighting.	Immediate	Removal from event
