

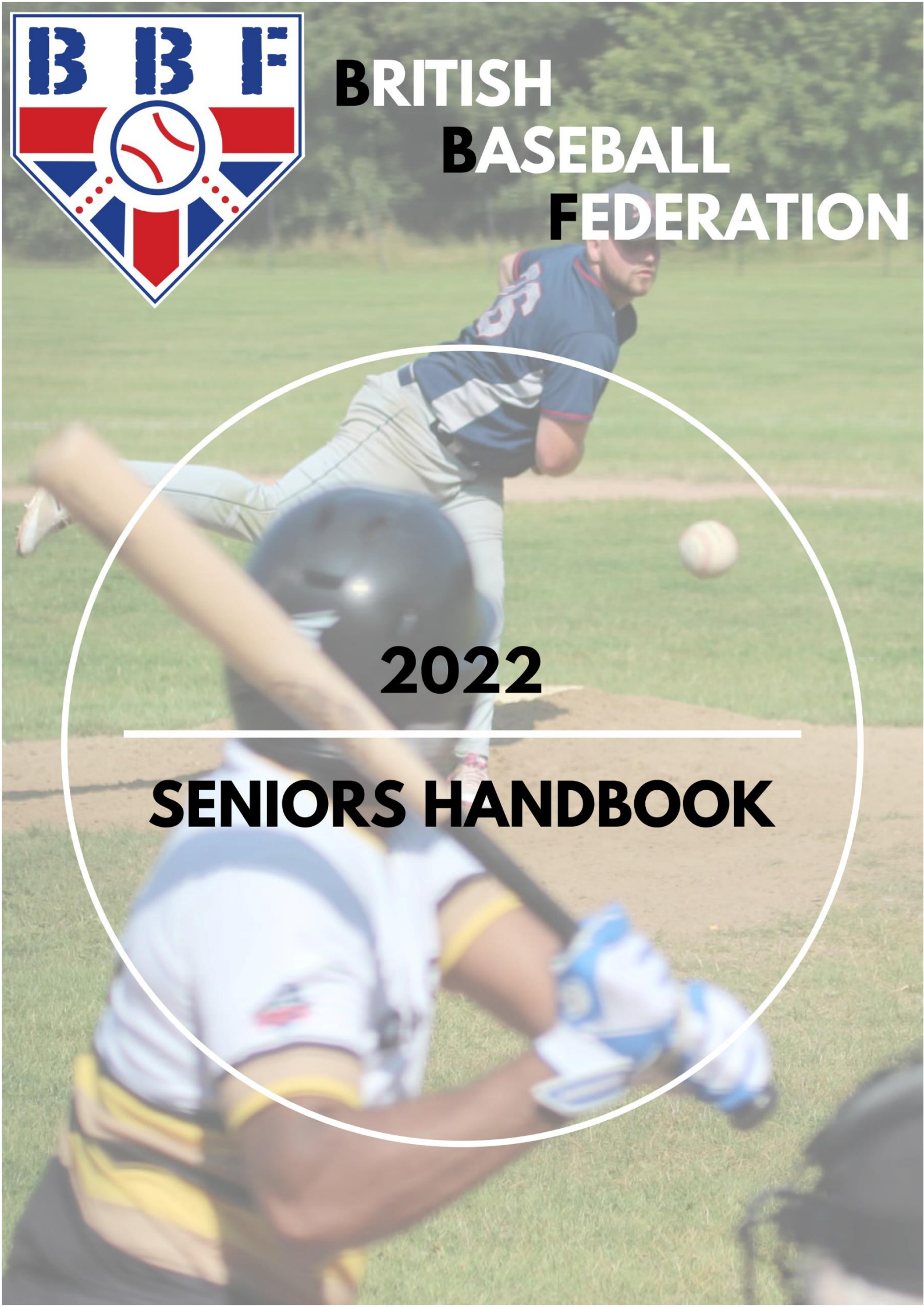


# BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

**2022**

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**SENIORS HANDBOOK**



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**For any questions or clarifications, please contact the Senior Affiliated Clubs Leagues Commissioner: Chris Carter – [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk)**

The British Baseball Federation (BBF) adopts a combination of the Official Rules of Major League Baseball (MLB), WBSC and Confederate European Baseball (CEB) for seniors' baseball unless otherwise noted. The MLB rules are those immediately before the current BBF season. For example, for the 2022 season, the MLB 2021 rules will be observed. Exceptions do apply to the mentioned, e.g., no instant replays, etc. For BBF youth tournament play, the rules adopted are those of Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League, Pony Baseball, etc. Local rules may be utilised for local youth league play to accommodate the particular needs of that league; however, rules around pitching, catching and bat sizes must not be changed without approval from the relevant BBF Youth Commissioner. For Women's Baseball League a separate set of rules will apply.

Additionally, as members of CEB, the BBF adopts elements of CEB tournaments rules where appropriate. Collectively, the below rules are called the British Baseball Rules and Bye-laws which supersede all other rules.

**IMPORTANT:** While COVID restrictions have been lifted, all rules to follow are subject to change without notice.

## **1. BACKGROUND -ABOUT THE GAME**

Baseball is a bat-and-ball game played between two opposing teams which take turns batting and fielding. The game proceeds when a player on the fielding team, called the pitcher, throws a ball which a player on the batting team tries to hit with a bat. The objective of the offensive team (batting team) is to hit the ball into the field of play, allowing its players to run the bases, having them advance counter-clockwise around four bases to score what are called "runs".

The objective of the defensive team (fielding team) is to prevent batters from becoming runners, and to prevent runners' advance around the bases. A run is scored when a runner legally advances around the bases in order and touches home plate (the place where the player started as a batter). The team that scores the most runs by the end of the game is the winner.

The first objective of the batting team is to have a player reach first base safely. A player on the batting team who reaches first base without being called "out" can attempt to advance to subsequent bases as a runner, either immediately or during team mates' turns batting. The fielding team tries to prevent runs by getting batters or runners "out", which forces them out of the field of play. Both the pitcher and fielders have methods of getting the batting team's players out. The opposing teams switch back and forth between batting and fielding; the batting team's turn to bat is over once the fielding team records three outs. One turn batting for each team constitutes an inning. A game is usually composed of nine innings, and the team with the greater number of runs at the end of the game wins. If scores are tied at the end of nine innings, extra innings are usually played. Baseball has no game clock, although most games end in the ninth inning.

The game is played on a field whose primary boundaries, the foul lines, extend forward from home plate at 45-degree angles. The 90-degree area within the foul lines is referred

to as fair territory; the 270-degree area outside them is foul territory. The part of the field enclosed by the bases and several yards beyond them is the infield: the area farther beyond the infield is the outfield. In the middle of the infield is a raised pitcher's mound, with a rectangular rubber plate (the rubber) at its center. The outer boundary of the outfield is typically demarcated by a raised fence, which may be of any material and height.

The fair territory between home plate and the outfield boundary is baseball's field of play, though significant events can take place in foul territory, as well.

There are three basic tools of baseball: the ball, the bat, and the glove or mitt.

The baseball is about the size of an adult's fist, around 9 inches (23 centimeters) in circumference. It has a rubber or cork center, wound in yarn and covered in white cowhide, with red stitching.[6] The bat is a hitting tool, traditionally made of a single, solid piece of wood. Other materials are now commonly used for non-professional games. It is a hard-round stick, about 2.5 inches (6.4 centimeters) in diameter at the hitting end, tapering to a narrower handle and culminating in a knob. Bats used by adults are typically around 34 inches (86 centimeters) long, and not longer than 42 inches (106 centimeters).

The glove or mitt is a fielding tool, made of padded leather with webbing between the fingers. As an aid in catching and holding onto the ball, it takes various shapes to meet the specific needs of different fielding positions.

At the beginning of each half-inning, the nine players of the fielding team arrange themselves around the field. One of them, the pitcher, stands on the pitcher's mound. The pitcher begins the pitching delivery with one foot on the rubber, pushing off it to gain velocity when throwing toward home plate. Another fielding team player, the catcher, squats on the far side of home plate, facing the pitcher. The rest of the fielding team faces home plate, typically arranged as four infielders—who set up along or within a few yards outside the imaginary lines (base paths) between first, second, and third base—and three outfielders. In the standard arrangement, there is at first baseman positioned several steps to the left of first base, a second baseman to the right of second base, a shortstop to the left of second base, and at third base man to the right of third base. The basic outfield positions are left fielder, center fielder, and right fielder. Except for the catcher, all fielders are required to be in fair territory when the pitch is delivered. A neutral umpire sets up behind the catcher. Other umpires will be distributed around the field as well.

Play starts with a member of the batting team, the batter, standing at home plate, holding a bat. The batter waits for the pitcher to throw a pitch (the ball) toward home plate and attempts to hit the ball with the bat. The catcher catches pitches that the-batter does not hit, as a result of either electing not to swing or failing to connect, and returns them to the pitcher. A batter who hits the ball into the field of play must drop the bat and begin running toward first base, at which point the player is referred to as a runner (or, until the play is over, a batter-runner). A batter-runner who reaches first base without being put out is said to be safe and is on base. A batter-runner may choose to remain at first base or attempt to advance to second base or even beyond—however far the player believes can be reached safely. A player who reaches base despite proper play by the fielders has recorded a hit. A player who reaches first base safely on a hit is credited with a single. If a player makes it to second base safely as a direct result of a hit, it is a double: third base, a triple.

If the ball is hit in the air within the foul lines over the entire outfield (and outfield fence, if there is one), or otherwise safely circles all the bases, it is a home run: the batter and any runners on base may all freely circle the bases, each scoring a run. This is the most desirable result for the batter. A player who reaches base due to a fielding mistake is not credited with a hit—instead, the responsible fielder is charged with an error.

Any runners already on base may attempt to advance on batted balls that land, or contact the ground, in fair territory, before or after the ball lands. A runner on first base must attempt to advance if a ball lands in play. If a ball hit into play rolls foul before passing through the infield, it becomes dead, and any runners must return to the base they occupied when the play began. If the ball is hit in the air and caught before it lands, the

batter has flied out and any runners on base may attempt to advance only if they tag up (contact the base they occupied when the play began, as or after the ball is caught). Runners may also attempt to advance to the next base while the pitcher is in the process of delivering the ball to home plate; a successful effort is a stolen base.

A pitch that is not hit into the field of play is called either a strike or a ball. A batter against whom three strikes are recorded strikes out. A batter against whom four balls are recorded is awarded a base on balls or walk, a free advance to first base. (A batter may also freely advance to first base if the batter's body or uniform is struck by a pitch outside the strike zone, provided the batter does not swing and attempts to avoid being hit.) Crucial to determining balls and strikes is the umpire's judgment as to whether a pitch has passed through the strike zone, a conceptual area above home plate extending from the midpoint between the batters' shoulders and belt down to the hollow of the knee.

While the team at bat is trying to score runs, the team in the field is attempting to record outs. In addition to the strikeout, common ways a member of the batting team may be put out include the flyout, ground out, force out, and tag out. It is possible to record two outs in the course of the same play. This is called a double play. Three outs in one play, a triple play, is possible, though rare. Players put out or retired must leave the field, returning to their team's dugout or bench. A runner may be stranded on base when a third out is recorded against another player on the team. Stranded runners do not benefit the team in its next turn at bat as every half-inning begins with the bases empty.

An individual player's turn batting or plate appearance is complete when the player reaches base, hits a home run, makes an out, or hits a ball that results in the team's third out, even if it is recorded against a teammate. On rare occasions, a batter may be at the plate when, without the batter's hitting the ball, a third out is recorded against a teammate—for instance, a runner getting caught stealing (tagged out attempting to steal a base). A batter with this sort of incomplete plate appearance starts off the team's next turn batting; any balls or strikes recorded against the batter the previous inning is erased. A runner may circle the bases only once per plate appearance and thus can score at most a single run per batting turn.

Once a player has completed a plate appearance, that player may not bat again until the eight other members of the player's team have all taken their turn at bat in the batting order. The batting order is set before the game begins and may not be altered except for substitutions. Once a player has been removed for a substitute, that player may not re-enter the game. Children's games often have more lenient rules, such as Little League rules, which allow players to be substituted back into the same game.

If the designated hitter (DH) rule is in effect, each team has a tenth player whose sole responsibility is to bat (and run). The DH takes the place of another player i.e., for the pitcher only, in the batting order, but does not field. Thus, even with the DH, each team still has a batting order of nine players and a fielding arrangement of nine players.

## **2. THE FIELD**

BBF Seniors dimensions: 90 ft Diamond.

Major League Baseball mandates a minimum distance of 250 feet (76 m) and recommends a minimum distance of 320 feet (98 m) at the foul poles and 400 feet (120 m) at center field). Therefore, BBF club's fields should have a minimum home run distance of 250ft, however, on the basis that baseball fields are hard to come by in Britain, there is some leeway, therefore, if any part of the home run fence does not meet this distance, the below paragraph applies.

Any BBF club has a responsibility to notify the Seniors League Commissioner at the start of the season if any home game will be affected with the rule above. If a game is played on a field below the minimum dimensions (above) it must first be agreed by the League Commissioner in writing and the visiting team must be notified a minimum of seven (7) days before the date of the game. The visiting team has the option to protest to play the

game on a larger field. Hence, the League Commissioner has the last word (no appeals). If a game is played on the field with outfield fences less than 250 feet, any ball hit over the fence is declared an automatic double, not a homerun.

### 3. EQUIPMENT

#### 3.1 Bats

MLB Rule (3.02): The bat shall be a smooth, round stick not more than 2.61 inches in diameter at the thickest part and not more than 42 inches in length. The bat shall be one piece of solid wood. NOTE: (a) Wood and/or bamboo composite (laminated) bats shall be permitted in league play so long as each bat carries BBCOR accreditation - this is a BBF local rule as these types of bat are not currently permitted by MLB or CEB. No experimental bats may be used in a game (either championship, season or exhibition games) until the manufacturer has secured approval from the Rules Committee of his design and methods of manufacture. (b) Cupped Bats. An indentation in the end of the bat up to one inch in depth is permitted and may be no wider than two inches and no less than one inch in diameter. The indentation must be curved with no foreign substance added. (c) The bat handle, for not more than 18 inches from its end, may be covered or treated with any material or substance to improve the grip. Any such material or substance, which extends past the 18-inch limitation, shall cause the bat to be removed from the game. NOTE: If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to (c) above until a time during or after which the bat has been used in play, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out or ejected from the game. (d) No metals bats may be used in the BBF Seniors Baseball. Only under special circumstances may metal (BBCOR) bats be used with explicit permission by the BBF League Commissioner, only. All senior leagues are wood bat, only i.e., with the exception of:

- Under 16s in Single A or Double A, may use aluminum youth bats providing they are BBCOR or USABaseball bats.
- The SWWBL Single-A Division. The SWWBL Single-A division can use specific BBCOR metal bats which are BBF approved for their regular season intra divisional league only. For any games played outside of the division including the National Baseball Championship playoffs the wood bat only rule will apply.

For one piece wood bats, a list of (CEB) approved manufactures can be found here: [https://britishbaseballfederation.leaguerepublic.com/page/ceb\\_approved\\_bat\\_list.html](https://britishbaseballfederation.leaguerepublic.com/page/ceb_approved_bat_list.html)

For wood and/or bamboo composite (laminated) bats only, any bat carrying BBCOR accreditation is approved.

#### 3.2 Helmets

All participants in the BBF leagues (youth and seniors) shall use a baseball protective helmet while at bat, coaching in the coaches' box, in the on deck circle, catching, officiating (hockey helmets allowed) and while running the bases.

Safety is paramount to playing baseball, across all ages and leagues. As you begin to prepare for the 2022 season, we remind all clubs, teams and participants about the need to ensure you have the right equipment.

For example, in the UK baseball helmets fall under the category of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as it does for equipment outside of our sport, eye-shields and ear defenders. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is categorized as any equipment or clothing that is worn by persons to protect them against risks to their health and safety. Within

Europe (and the UK), all PPE placed on the market (baseball helmets) must carry a CE mark.

What is the CE Mark?

The CE mark is a European conformity mark which indicates that a product meets the essential requirements of the relevant EU directives and standards for that product. The mentioned is required even after Brexit.

NO EXCEPTIONS.

### 3.3 Cleats

Players playing in our senior leagues are allowed to wear either metal cleats or molded cleats (rubber or plastic). It is recommended but not mandated for players under 18 years to wear molded cleats (rubber or plastic). No football (soccer) studs are allowed. The shoe can be of any colour, however, if the shoe is a distraction (wording, there are other things attached to it), the player will be asked to remove the text or other items or use another shoe. If he or she cannot find a replacement shoe they cannot play. Players may wear shoes displaying, in any proportion: the colours black, white, or grey; any colours displayed on the player's uniform (and certain variations of those colours); and any additional colours designated by the player's club.

### 3.4 Box/Cup

All male players are required to wear a box (cup) at all times e.g., practices or play.

## 4. Uniforms

BBF rules adhere to MLB rules. All players must have a unique number on their shirts. The official MLB rules of baseball state that uniforms must be identical for all members of a team. The only mention of uniform number is that it must be on the back and a minimum of six inches tall. Each player must have their own unique number, but there is no rule requiring coaches to have unique numbers. Clubs which have teams in different divisions can have the same number. However, the uniform number rule applies automatically if the player moves up or down. Penalty: The player with the infraction can play but is automatically suspended from the next game (regular or postseason). If the game is in a championship game (e.g. semi-final) he or she will not be allowed to play. Sleeve length: The rules allow for minor variation in sleeve length, but they must be "approximately the same length" and the sleeves may not be "ragged, frayed or slit. "No attachments: Tape or other attachments of non-matching colour may not be used on uniforms. Pants may not be attached to the bottom of the shoe in any manner. No images of baseballs on the uniforms.

## 5. The Official Baseball(s)

(i) The BBF will inform clubs of the official ball to be used in league games and other BBF sanctioned games and events. Failure to adhere to the approved ball list will result in penalties as detailed in the Disciplinary Procedures.

(ii) The home team must provide a minimum of three new official balls for each game and if exhausted, provide further new or used (good condition) official balls (the umpire has the final say on which balls are in 'good condition' and may remove any ball from the game at their own discretion).

Note: In 2022, the official BBF baseballs for senior competition and/or league play will be:

- Baden 3B-NFHS
- Wilson A1010 ('S' or 'PRO')

- Rawlings ROLB1
- Teammate ('TM130', 'TM150', 'TM190')

For example,

- All senior teams at all levels (from NBL through Single -A) can use either of the above listed baseballs during BBF fixtures.
- At the plate meeting prior to a game, teams must advise the umpires as to which baseball will be used for the entire day (which includes doubleheaders) if requested by the umpire.
- For all post season and all other competitions, the BBF will decide the ball to use.
- Clubs cannot mix and match, i.e., teams can only use one type of ball for each game; Otherwise, you are subject to a penalty.
- The cost for supplying the baseballs is the responsibility of the home clubs.
- This policy is only applicable to senior (adult) teams i.e., it does not apply to youth teams.
- Penalties apply for not adhering to the above at the discretion of the League Commissioner.

## 6. Teams

Teams may have up to a maximum of 30 players on a roster. Any team with more than 30 players must still be rostered on-line and the BBF needs to be advised on the reasoning, by e-mail promptly to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk). Any overflow of more than 30 players on a team may be recorded. Afterwards, the BBF and club authorised representative needs to confer on the reasons for having more than 30 players on a team roster.

## 7. Participants Registration

The British Baseball Federation adheres to data protection rules. All participants are being asked to provide us your personal contact details for the following reasons (but not exhaustive):

- For our scoring app and stats.britishbaseball.org website.
- So we have a record of you in case of an insurance claim or query. Only players registered with the BBF are covered by our club and team participants insurance.
- We can keep better records of the numbers of players we have in each division. The mentioned allows us to analyze the data, and plan for the future.
- To cross reference in the future if there is an issue i.e., player eligibility for the post-season, enforcement action or if the participant (official, player, or coach) is allowed to take part in our leagues. Administrators, coaches, players and officials (participants) must register who are taking part in the BBF 2022 season or year only.
- Players playing in our seniors' divisions under the age of 18 should have their parent or guardian register for him or her. NOTE: players 14 years (in the calendar year) or older can play in the seniors' division. However, a thorough review of the players ability (emotionally, skill and physically) should be assessed by the team/club or parent before entering him or her into our senior leagues.

The BBF reserves the right to turn down any participants application for any reason.

All clubs are to ensure their players register each season and to have rostered their players on the BBF stats website before their first game of each season. Existing players must register individually once registration is open unless otherwise stipulated when registration opens.

Players are to individually register with the BBF by clicking the link:

<https://forms.gle/YGp5U7o4iKSvUPzCA>

Clubs may register new players (i.e. previously unregistered with any club that season) throughout the year.

Players that owe fees to an affiliated club may not register and/or play for any other club in BBF competitions until the debt of fees to the former club are cleared, without permission from the club that are the creditor. Any suspension request by a club (creditor) regarding a player's debt of fees should be submitted by email to the Seniors League Commissioner.

Players may not appear in League games unless they have been added to the online roster of their team or exchanged with the BBF and opposing team, at least 24 hours before the game, e.g. a player must be activated in the team roster no later than Saturday at 12pm in order to be eligible to play on Sunday at 12pm. If a team fields an ineligible player, an automatic forfeit win will be awarded to their opponents. It shall be the responsibility of the opposing team to bring such violation of these rostering rules to the attention of the relevant BBF Senior League Commissioner not later than 48 hours after the game. The exception to this rule is the temporary call-up of a player already rostered on a lower league team within the club. As long as the player has been rostered on the lower league team 24 hours before the game, then such player can be added to the higher team's roster for stats purposes.

If you need guidance on any part of the registering process including obtaining the administration rights contact the BBF, who can administer the access to team pages contact [mywbscbbf@gmail.com](mailto:mywbscbbf@gmail.com). Once a player has played six times for a team in a higher league or where a club has two teams in the same league, they are rostered to that team for the purposes of applying player movement rules.

## **8. Minimum Age Requirement**

Any player aged 14 years or older in the calendar year of the occurring season may participate in the BBF Senior Leagues. For example, a player that turns 14 in any month of 2022 may participate in the leagues, but not a player that turns 14 in the following calendar year (2023). In line with child welfare guidelines, parental/guardian approval must be obtained prior to a player under the age of 18 years playing senior baseball. A form for this purpose is available on request to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk). It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure no player aged under 18 participates in baseball activity until the form has been completed by the parent/guardian and the club have a copy in their possession. Furthermore, a thorough review of the players ability (emotionally, skill and physically) should be assessed by the team/club or parent before entering him or her into our senior leagues. Proper consideration should be taken to ensure the under 18 player is in a safe environment. the parent/guardian should outline on the form that they are aware that their child is playing on a team that contains adults who may have better skills and that the player and parent/guardian recognise the risks implied and therefore waive their right to raise a claim against the other team members, the coach, the club or the Officials of the BBF.

## **9 . Admission to Games**

Visiting players and coaches shall have free admission to games.

## **10. Game and Competition Administration**

All competitions structure must be approved by the Senior Leagues Commissioner. A senior team shall participate in whichever league/division shall be designated by the Commissioner as determined, if necessary, through consultation with a club. All BBF senior games shall be played according to the schedules produced and published by BBF, unless the relevant Senior League Commissioner has given prior explicit agreement.



Each club is fully responsible for their own ground, traveling, accommodation and playing expenses. However, where either team fails to give more than 72 hours' notice of forfeiture, that team in breach of giving notice will be held liable for the non-offending team's incurred expenses, unless there are exceptional circumstances upon which the Seniors League Commissioner will decide the outcome.

Umpires shall submit a report of any disciplinary matter within 24 hours concerning members of either team, on or off the field of play using the link: When there is an ejection, the umpire should:

1. Report the disciplinary via the link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d2tR6OKL1WaguzqVpGKuWwj5Yz2xKMRnzWv-iSv96fU/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d2tR6OKL1WaguzqVpGKuWwj5Yz2xKMRnzWv-iSv96fU/viewform?edit_requested=true) within 24 hours of the incident.
2. Inform the League Commissioner ([senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk)) that a disciplinary report has been submitted, and attach any supporting evidence of the incident in question for consideration.

Each team is expected to purchase, carry and use a baseball line-up card for all games. Line-up cards come in different configurations. No one type of line-up card is required.

BBF Guidance on using line-up cards:

- Print block, and it should be legible.
- Line-up cards should have multiple copies. Line-up cards should include the full names of all of the players, i.e., full name, uniform number, position and batting order sequence for starting players (from one to nine). Also add the date, team names, substitutes and full name of the head coach or field manager for both sides.
- Each team should keep a copy of their line-up card after the game in case there is a challenge or protest.
- For each game a line-up copy for each team goes to the umpire-in-chief and opposing team.
- The umpire-in-chief shall make certain that the original and copies of the respective batting orders are identical, and then tender a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The copy retained by the umpire shall be the official batting order. The tender of the batting order by the umpire shall establish the batting orders. Thereafter, no substitutions shall be made by either manager, except as provided in the rules.

## **11. Risk assessment before each game**

Before each game, the home team should conduct a risk assessment of their grounds for safety and insurance purposes. For example, but not exhaustive:

Risk identification, assessment, and mitigation of the field (cars parked near the field should be kept far away from the fields, dugouts should be inspected, the fields should be inspected for any foreign object which may cause injury, field equipment check, and all fences should be checked).

Health and safety program design and responsibilities (especially when youths are involved). Event risk analysis (i.e., you should always try to mitigate your risks).

Contingency planning in case of an emergency (first aid kit, ice, contact details of the nearest hospital with A&E, emergency contact details for every participant in case who to contact for emergencies, and water on the field).

Venue safety (bathrooms) checks.

Incident notification and management report responsibilities should be assigned to one person. They should contact the BBF promptly of any incident or emergency occurring on the field.

Emergency response and evacuation planning. Weather check.

Know your responsibilities and liability under the BBF insurance i.e., check your club insurance certificate.

Cancellation/abandonment/postponement plan i.e. for whatever reason (weather) who to contact from opposing team, officials and BBF.

Contingency (non-appearance, adverse weather}, i.e. reschedule game(s). Lost and found responsibility.

Communication plan in case of an emergency, postponement, cancellation, emergency, or incident. For example, who, what and how to communicate.

Each home team should provide an L-Screen that affords reasonable protection and must be used to protect pitchers during batting practice. Where the home team is not playing at its regular ground, it remains the responsibility of the team acting as the home team to ensure an L-Screen is available. If no L-Screen is available. neither team will be allowed to take batting practice.

## 12. Scoring-keeping

Baseball score-keeping is the practice of recording the details of a baseball game as it unfolds. Scorers in the BBF are volunteers for either the home or away team. In special circumstances the BBF assigns scorekeepers to specific games. Score-keeping is usually done on a printed scorecard and, while official scorers must adhere precisely to one of the few different score-keeping notations, most fans exercise some amount of creativity and adopt their own symbols and styles.

In 2022, all teams will make use of the WBSC MyBallClub scoring app which will provide game day statistics for games on the BBF's game center website. The home team is responsible to ensure their game is scored in the baseball MyBallClub app. It is possible for games to be scored manually on pen and paper and inputted (re-scored) using the MyBallClub app within three (3) days of the game, e.g. if the game takes place on a Sunday, the game should be scored on the app and uploaded to the site by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Failure to do so may result in a penalty at the discretion of the League Commissioner, who will communicate with teams about scores not uploaded within the required timeframe. Teams are reminded of their record-keeping responsibilities as laid out in section 22 of this handbook.

**EXCEPTION:** In the BBF Senior Leagues, we promote development. We understand that in the lower leagues, teams do not have a large number of individuals that know how to efficiently score a baseball game. Therefore, for Single A and Double A only: there is an alternative for using the MyBallClub scoring app, in the form of a game report scorecard, which captures basic information which can track player's eligibility etc.

If you do not score a game in Single A or Double A using the MyBallClub app, the game report scorecard **MUST** be used and submitted to the Seniors League Commissioner: [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk) no more than 3 days after the game. E.g. if the game is played on Sunday, you have until Wednesday at 11:59pm to submit this sheet, or you may face a penalty.

You can download and/or print the scorecard from this page:

[https://britishbaseballfederation.leaguerepublic.com/page/game\\_report\\_scorecard.html](https://britishbaseballfederation.leaguerepublic.com/page/game_report_scorecard.html)

or alternatively on request to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk).

Some symbols and abbreviations are shared by nearly all score-keeping systems. For example, the position of each player is indicated by a number:

1. Pitcher (P)
2. Catcher (C)
3. First baseman (1B)
4. Second baseman (2B)
5. Third baseman (3B)
6. Shortstop (SS)
7. Left fielder (LF)
8. Center fielder (CF)
9. Right fielder (RF)

In general, scorecards vary in appearance but almost all share some basic features e.g., a record of general game information (date, team names, players' names, positions, uniform numbers, location, etc.); Batting line-up's, recording play by play action, tallying each player's total at bats, hits, runs at the end of the game. Listing the pitchers and their statistics for the whole game.

General knowledge:

- Print block legibly.
- Home team scorer is the official score and recorder for statistics for the game.
- In between innings, both scorekeepers should confer to ensure they are in sync with details.
- All teams should keep their score-book/scoring data/game report scorecards until the end of the season. If there is a query by the BBF, a respective team will be assumed to be able to recall their score-book/scoring data for reference.

### **13. Game length**

All adult double headers will be seven innings as allowed by OBR 7.01 (a) unless otherwise stipulated by the BBF League Commissioner (e.g., if games are time limited). For example, all double-header fixtures shall comprise of two games of maximum seven innings per game. See extra inning rule (page 37).

**For Single-A only:** Each inning of the game (except for the final inning) will be called complete when either three outs are called, or five runs are scored, whichever occurs first. In the case of five runs being scored, the inning will be deemed over when the runner makes contact with home plate to score the fifth run (the ONLY exception to this rule is that if a home run/inside the park home run is scored, all runners that touch the plate on the play count regardless of which one is the fifth run). The final inning will be open - called complete when the third out is made. The umpire will be responsible for all time keeping throughout the fixture. The umpires' decisions on timings will be unchallengeable. Each game will be limited by time in that no new inning will be started 1hr 45 mins after the start time of the game. To ensure that the last inning is played as open, the umpire will make the call at 1hr 30 mins that the next inning will be the last inning and it will be open. The gap between the finish of game one and the start of game two will be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers cannot agree on the length of time between games, there will be a gap of 20 minutes between games. The final inning will be open - called complete when the third out is made.

**For Double-A only:** In Double A, the schedule has been compiled with a mixture of single, nine-inning (untimed) games, as well as double-headers of seven-inning (timed) games. The umpire will be responsible for all time keeping throughout the fixture. The umpires' decisions on timings will be unchallengeable. Each seven-inning game will be

limited by time in that no new inning will be started if 2hr 15mins have passed since the start time of the game. The gap between the finish of game one and the start of game two will be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers can not agree on the length of time between games, there will be a gap of 20 minutes between games.

**For Triple-A only:** In Triple A, all games will be seven innings in length (untimed). Each game day will consist of one doubleheader unless specified by the League Commissioner. The gap between the finish of game one and the start of game two will be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers can not agree on the length of time between games, there will be a gap of 20 minutes between games.

**For NBL only:** In the NBL, all games will be seven innings in length (untimed). The number of seven-inning games per day may vary based on the format for 2022: twelve (12) doubleheaders plus some round robin days. The gap between the finish of game one and the start of game two will be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers can not agree on the length of time between games, there will be a gap of 20 minutes between games.

#### **14. Run Difference**

The CEB Run Difference Rule applies to all adult games as follows:

9 inning games: If after or any time after 7 (seven) complete innings for the visiting team or 6½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) run score difference between the teams, the game is called. If after or any time after 5 (five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 15 (fifteen) run score difference between the teams, the game is called.

7 inning games: If anytime after 5 (five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) run score difference between the teams, the game is called.

#### **15. Designated Hitter**

The designated hitter (DH) rule is optional for either team in any game. Rule 5.11 of the OBR still applies. IMPORTANT: The DH is only allowed for the pitcher and a DH can not be inserted into the lineup once the game has already begun.

#### **16. Team composition (start and during the game)**

Except for the National Baseball League and Triple A, teams may start and complete the game with only eight players and do so without any penalty of forfeit. The team with eight players must record an out in the ninth spot (it must be the ninth spot only) in the batting order and play with only two (2) outfielders (LF, CF) throughout the game unless an additional (ninth) player arrives.

If a ninth player arrives they may be added into the batting order only in the 9th batting position. They may take their position in the field if their side is the fielding team when they arrive but must wait until the current batter has completed their time at bat.

If nine players are available, a team must start with all nine players and are not permitted to hold one back.

A team starting with nine players may end a regulation game with eight players and if they do so for whatever reason, must record an out in the spot of the batting line up where the ninth player was listed and has come out of the game.

## **17. Player substitutions**

In Single A and Double A leagues, up to three substituted players may re-enter the game once subject to the following:

- a player being replaced by a substituted player must have played at least three consecutive defensive outs and had at least one plate appearance.
- a player can only re-enter at the start of an inning.

## **18. Pitching restrictions**

### **For NBL, Triple A, Double A only:**

- (i) A pitcher may pitch any number of innings in one single seven or nine inning game.
- (ii) If a pitcher pitches in both games of a doubleheader, he/she shall not accumulate more than nine full innings over two games, however distributed.

### **For Single A only:**

- (i) A pitcher may pitch up to five innings across a doubleheader. The only exception to this rule is: a pitcher can pitch in 7 innings of one game to ensure they can pitch in a full game.

### **For all divisions (NBL, Triple A, Double A, Single A):**

(i) It shall be the responsibility of the opposing manager to bring violations of these pitching rules to the attention of the home plate umpire during the game. A pitcher shall be considered to have violated these rules if they throw one pitch in an inning above the prescribed limits. The minimum penalty for violating these rules is automatic ejection from the game for the pitcher and their manager.

(ii) Clubs must ensure that the pitching restrictions which apply to youth players are adhered to whenever a player aged 18 or under plays for a senior team. This includes the "rest requirements".

(iii) Pitchers aged 18 and under must adhere to the pitching restrictions for their age and also the mandatory rest requirements driven by the number of pitches in a day. The restrictions are those detailed in MLB Pitch Smart which also are adopted by Little League and other youth baseball organizations. Coaches are strongly encouraged but not mandated to adhere to pitcher restrictions listed for their player aged 19-23 years of age.

(iiii) In addition to following the MLB PitchSmart Guidelines for all players aged 18 and under, the BBF recommends:

- PitchSmart Guidelines also be followed for players aged 19-23
- Any pitcher aged 18 and under does not pitch on back-to-back days regardless of how many pitches thrown. This may not be practical in all scenarios such as playoffs and tournament play, but caution is still advised because pitching whilst tired is one of the leading causes of serious injury.
- Any player aged 18 and under does not pitch and catch on the same day
- Players should avoid pitching and playing high impact positions such as short stop, third base and centre field where possible
- Should a pitcher throw 30 pitches or more in a single inning they are removed from the game regardless of their pitch limit for the day

- Should a pitcher throw 50 or more pitches across two innings they are removed from the game regardless of their pitch limit for the day

## **19. Club affiliation**

Clubs affiliate to the BBF under Article 4.3 of the BBF Constitution. An annual club registration process which takes place prior to each season and is notified to clubs who were affiliated to the BBF in the prior season.

Note: Clubs may request to apply for membership mid-season to the BBF.

All payments for club affiliations and insurance premiums shall be made electronically and or as detailed in the registration process published each year on the BBF website.

Clubs wishing to change their name must seek explicit approval to do so from the BBF by writing to the Seniors League Commissioner and copy the Secretary.

New clubs and their team(s) affiliating to the Federation shall not be permitted to use a name or logo, which is currently used by an existing affiliated club.

Clubs who wish to enter a single team into BBF leagues must register and sustain a minimum of 11 registered players for that team.

## **20. NBL representation in the CEB Federations Cup**

The top NBL team at the end of the regular season is declared one of the two teams representing the BBF in the CEB Federations Cup (next year). The winner of the NBL National Baseball Championship is the other team to represent the BBF in the Federations Cup. The exception to the mentioned is that if the top team at the regular season and NBC's is the same top team then the runner up to the NBC's is declared the other team headed to the Federations Cup. Further, the team placed first at the end of the regular season will be declared the first seed out of the two teams i.e., the winner of the regular season is the first seed and winner/runner up in NBC's is the second seed.

## **21. Rain-outs**

By way of background, a rain-out is a game which is either canceled, postponed or suspended because of weather conditions. A rain-out can also occur after the game has started; at this point, the game is "called". Current BBF rule: If the weather forecast and/or field conditions indicate that a game could be rained off, the home team is responsible for updating the visiting team and scorers and umpires (if applicable) of the conditions the evening prior to game day. The decision of declaring a game unplayable due to weather should be established by the home team manager in consultation with an umpire (if available). Team contact details can be accessed via the League Contacts section on the BBF website or by request to the BBF Seniors Commissioner. For rainouts, If conditions improve, the game is resumed as soon as conditions permit and played until its conclusion; this is also called a rain delay. If the game cannot be resumed, the following rules apply: 1) A game is considered to be a regulation game (also called an "official game") if 4½ innings have been played and the home team is leading, or if 5 innings have been played. 2) If a rain-out prevents the completion of a game that has become a regulation game, the result stands, and the remaining portion of the game is not played. If the game is not yet a regulation game, it is considered not to have started; all statistics are wiped out and the game is replayed in its entirety. 3) If the game is a regulation game but the score is tied when called, or if the visiting team has taken the lead in its last-half inning at-bat and the home team has not had a chance to complete its own turn at bat, the game is a suspended game and is resumed at a later date. 4. If a suspended game cannot be resumed because of the end of the season, the result is allowed to stand, either as a tie or as a win for the visiting team.

**IMPORTANT:** All scheduled games must be completed by the end date of the regular season (For NBL: 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2022. For Triple A, Double A, Single A: 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2022), unless stipulated by the Senior Leagues Commissioner.

## **22. Record-keeping**

A member club or team is expected to keep orderly and legible records (player statistics, game reports, scoring and game records) which may be provided promptly to the BBF upon request. Further in particular to ascertain that the club, team, or participant (player, official, or volunteer) has complied with all obligations with respect to the BBF rules, UKAD doping rules, insurance terms and guidelines.

## **23. General Transfer Rules**

For a player transfer request, the following rules apply:

- May do so once per season.
- Must not have been approached by another club or any of its members or representatives enticing him or her to transfer away, without that club first contacting the player's current club and seeking their agreement.
- Can do so without restriction if they are a free agent defined as a player who has not participated in any BBF games for a full season and or they do not owe any money to a former or current club.
- Can only do so during the playing season when there are no transfer restrictions as follows: In the National Baseball League (NBL), during two-week transfer window which is two weeks immediately before the 45% completion point of the scheduled season, which is notified to clubs. A player can move outside of these two weeks, but can only practice not play for the new club.
- A transfer request shall be sent by email to Chris Carter - BBF Seniors Commissioner ([senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk)) Copies of the transfer request will be sent to the original club, the new club and the BBF. It is the responsibility of the new club to contact the current club management (President, Secretary or similar) prior to the transfer request is completed to the BBF. If the original club does not respond to the transfer request within 14 days, the transfer request will be reviewed by the BBF League Commissioner. If the new club does not follow the above process a penalty fee of £30 might be levied by the BBF.
- When a registered participant owes money to any BBF affiliated club then their transfer request will not be accepted until the debt is repaid in full.

Players can only transfer once in the same season between affiliated clubs. The exception to this is where a player transfers to or from an overseas club.

Note: Other federations may require a player to obtain a release form from their former club and from the BBF Office. They must allow at least 14 days for this to occur to avoid being prohibited from playing in another federation's league. There will be no transfer fee.

## **24. Player Movement Rules within Clubs and Inter Club Affiliations**

The rules on player movement are intended to stimulate growth in British baseball. These rules should not be enough to affect the outcome of a game, but should provide the following advantages:

- Simplifying the player movement regulations.
- Allowing clubs to have some movement of players within their teams.

- Deterrence against abuse.
- Allowing development of new talent, particularly pitchers.
- Allowing clubs to deal with unforeseen injuries.
- Stimulating the growth of clubs with more than one team (teams that are not sure if they have enough players to develop a second team are more likely to set up a second team if they know they can call down a few of their first team players when short).

The points and the table below give the full details:

Failure to notify the opposing scorer and manager and the umpire of players "playing down" may result in the game being forfeited.

Players aged 14-17 can move freely between teams in the same club during the regular season only. Adult players (aged 18 and over) can move freely between teams of the same club until they have played six (6) league games or pitched 14 innings for one of the higher-level teams in the club. After that point, they can no longer play for a team in a lower League unless they officially transfer, or if they are in accordance with the player movement rules of "playing down". They are however free to play on a team in a higher League.

ID	Rule	Consequence
1	From the start of each season, players may only appear in official BBF league games if they are rostered in accordance with the provisions in the BBF rostering Requirements section.	<p>If a team fields an ineligible player in a game after the start of the season, an automatic forfeit win will be awarded to their opponents. It shall be the responsibility of the opposing team to bring such violation of these rostering rules to the attention of the relevant</p> <p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>
2	Players may not be moved from one roster to another during the course of a season (except where stipulated in below).	One game forfeit for each game played when players have illegally moved from one team to another.



		<p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>
3	<p>Any player who has pitched more than 14 innings or in 6 games or more in a higher League game may not pitch in any lower League game.</p> <p>If a club has two teams in the same league, no player can pitch for both teams.</p>	<p>One game forfeit for each game played when players have illegally moved from one team to another.</p> <p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>
4	<p>Three players who are rostered to a higher League team may be on the field during a lower League game a maximum of one League lower. At least one of three or two players making use of this rule must be used as an outfielder. In addition, no more than two players from the higher league team may be placed in consecutive positions in the batting order. If a club has two teams in the same league, the same rules apply once the players are rostered to a</p>	<p>Game forfeited if more than three players from a higher league (or same league) are on the field at any time during a League game. Game forfeited if any of the three players from more than one League higher are used. Manager warned on first occasion if players from a higher league are not positioned defensively or offensively correctly. On the second occasion the player from the higher league that is due next in the batting order (whether the team is on offence or defence) and the</p>

	<p>team in that only three players can play across for the other team.</p>	<p>manager are ejected from the game and no further action is taken.</p> <p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>
5	<p>Two players who are rostered to a higher League team more than one league apart may be on the field during a lower League game. Any players rostered to the higher team cannot play in the following positions and must not bat consecutively in the batting order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Catcher</li> <li>- 2nd base</li> <li>- Shortstop</li> <li>- 3rd base</li> </ul>	<p>Game forfeited if more than two players from a higher league (or same league) are on the field at any time during a League game. Manager warned on first occasion if players from a higher league are not positioned defensively or offensively correctly. On the second occasion the player from the higher league that is due next in the batting order (whether the team is on offence or defence) and the manager are ejected from the game and no further action is taken.</p> <p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>

6	<p>University players may nominate a team close to their University and a team where they live when not at university and have freedom of movement between the two teams in the regular season up until 1 July. To be eligible under this rule, the player must be able to provide their University email address and their student ID number. Both designated clubs have to be in agreement with this arrangement and only relates to regular season games. The player will need to be mindful of minimum game requirements for postseason eligibility and can only play for one team during the post-season even if he/she is ultimately eligible for both – in such instances the player would need to choose which team they will play for in the post-season before the roster lock date on 1 July.</p>	<p>Game forfeited if there is a breach of this rule.</p> <p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>
7	<p>No movement down or between teams in the same division is allowed during post-season play.</p>	<p>Game forfeited if there is a breach of this rule.</p> <p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>
8	<p>To be eligible for post-season play, players must have participated in at least 20% of regular season games for that team. In the NBL, players must have participated in 45% of regular season games to be eligible for post-season play and must be rostered for the NBL team no later than June 5th.</p>	<p>Game forfeited if there is a breach of this rule.</p> <p>Note: a) Forfeit (baseball) In rare cases, baseball games are forfeited, usually when a team is no longer able to play. In the event of forfeiture, the score is recorded as 9-0 or 7-0. The 9-0 or 7-0 score equates to the number of innings in the specific game. b) For an NBL</p>

		<p>Game the first-time breach of the above rule does not disqualify the team from the playoffs. However, the team is fined £100 which must be paid on or before five business days from the breach to the BBF. If not, the NBL team is barred from the playoffs.</p> <p>Any subsequent NBL breach of the rule means the team is barred from the playoffs. No exceptions.</p>
9	<p>Teams may apply for waivers in special circumstances to the League Commissioner  <a href="mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk">senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk</a></p>	

## 25. Inter club affiliation

BBF Club members can form affiliations with other BBF clubs only, concerning player movement. If two clubs with teams in different divisions wish to develop an official affiliation and are approved by the BBF in writing by the League Commissioner, players in the club in question can move up and down by the current intra-club player movement rules. Clubs wishing to form such affiliation must do so by e-mail application to their respective BBF League Commissioner. For example, Club X has only one team in its organisation, playing in AA. Club Y has two sides, one in AAA and one in Single A. If the clubs form an official affiliation, players from Club X can play for Club Y's AAA and Single A teams, Club Y's single A players can play for Club X's AA team and Club Y's AAA players can play for Club X's AA team. Both BBF clubs must register their teams separately with the BBF, and for the avoidance of doubt, the affiliation does not confer any rights or liabilities on the other club. The teams must play under their existing and separate names. Fees separately apply.

## 26. Game and Competition Administration

The League Commissioner must approve the competition structure. A senior team shall participate in whichever league shall be designated by the League Commissioner as determined, if necessary, through consultation with a club. All BBF senior games shall be played according to the schedules produced and published by BBF unless the relevant Senior League Commissioner has given prior agreement (in writing).

Each club is fully responsible for its ground, traveling and playing expenses. However, where either team fails to give more than 72 hours' notice of forfeiture, they will be held liable for the non-offending team's incurred expenses, unless there are exceptional circumstances upon which the Seniors League Commissioner will make a decision.

Umpires shall submit a report of any disciplinary matter concerning members of either team, on or off the field of play.

Before the scheduled start time of the game, the scorers will swap team line-ups. The line ups shall contain both first and surnames as listed on the team's roster on the BBF website. Both managers will also provide team line-ups to the umpire, and the home team shall also provide the necessary quantity of game balls. The umpire and both managers will discuss ground rules.

At the home plate conference, the manager must declare any players:

- Playing down from a higher league team within the club.

- Playing across from a team within the same league.
- Players subject to a pitch count limit.
- Aged under 18.

If notification of a player playing under the player movement rules is not made, the opposing team can request a forfeit by email to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk).

## **27. International competitions**

All International games and European competitions shall be run by the rules of the WBSC or Confederation of European Baseball (CEB). Note: Youth baseball tournaments by the applicable local international tournament organisers. International teams playing in the UK must seek their insurance and are not covered by the BBF insurance. The UK host organisers are liable for any breach to the mentioned (in case of an injury or damage to property). Further, when a BBF club travels abroad, they should seek additional travel insurance as the BBF insurance will not cover the mentioned. No BBF team or affiliated person may play, organise or sanction a game against an international team without the written permission of the BBF. The mentioned is for insurance purposes and for the BBF to have a record.

## **28. Results of games**

In 2022, the BBF has adopted the use of the WBSC MyBallClub App, to be used by all teams to score games. The MyBallClub App has the most advanced and easy to use score-keeping application for Baseball and Softball, built from the ground up to be easier for the scorekeeper. The MyBallClub App is the official score-keeping platform of the World Baseball and Softball Confederation and is used for every pitch of every WBSC World Championship from the U12 level to the Professionals at the Premier12. Reporting of results must be carried out by all teams to ensure that standings on the website are kept up to date. Keep score and do more with the MyBallClub App for Android and iOS. *See Section 12. Scorekeeping for details on an exception to this rule.*

## **29. Team Statistics**

After each game is scored with the MyBallClub App, its results will populate the new BBF micro-site [stats.britishbaseball.org](http://stats.britishbaseball.org) which can be viewed by anyone.

The home team is responsible to ensure the scheduled game is scored through the MyBallClub App. Note: See Section 12. Scorekeeping for details on an exception to this rule. The BBF reserve the right to penalise any team in any manner for not scoring their respective game(s).

## **30. Game Change and Forfeit Procedure**

It is the responsibility of each team in each division before the start of and during (updates) of the season to exchange contact details with the opposing head coach of all of the teams in their respective division. The mentioned ensuring every team has someone to contact if there is a change to a game. Any changes to a teams contact details should be promptly notified to all of the teams and the BBF.

The cut-off for notification that a team cannot play a scheduled game is 12 noon on Thursday, or 72 hours before the start time (whichever is earlier). Failure to adhere to this timing could result in the team canceling the game being liable to cover the expenses of the other side and could result in a forfeit being awarded.

If the weather forecast might prevent play, the home team is responsible for keeping the visiting team informed about potential postponement issues and including the Seniors Commissioner and umpires in such communication. Fixture rescheduled changes are to be

made between teams; however, both teams must mutually agree. The relevant League Commissioner must be informed in advance of the rescheduled game taking place. Where the teams concerned cannot agree on a date to reschedule a game, the respective BBF Senior Commissioner can be approached to make a final decision, but only as a last resort.

**IMPORTANT: All scheduled games must be played before the end of the regular season, including rained out/postponed fixtures, unless stipulated by the League Commissioner.**

When an agreement to reschedule a game(s) is reached, both teams must notify the League Commissioner ([senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk)) in order for the schedule to be altered. The Commissioner will then ensure the information on the BBF website is changed accordingly and that all affected teams are informed of the change. If an agreement can't be reached, then the League Commissioner will decide when the game will be played or make a ruling on the outcome of the game including but not limited to a forfeit result.

### **31. Rained out games**

If the weather forecast and field conditions indicate that a game could be rained off, the home team is responsible for updating the visiting team and scorers and umpires (if applicable) of the conditions the evening before game day. The decision of declaring a game unplayable due to weather should be established by the home team manager in consultation with an umpire (if available). Team contact details can be accessed via the League Contacts section on the BBF website or by request to the BBF. Common sense must be used at all times, games should not be postponed casually due to weather or impending weather, but proper consideration must be given to traveling teams.

**IMPORTANT: All scheduled games must be played before the end of the regular season, including rained out/postponed fixtures, unless stipulated by the Senior Leagues Commissioner.**

### **32. Resolving Ties in League/Divisional Standings**

The BBF will apply the following criteria for resolving final positions in the league or divisional standings in situations where two or more teams finish in a tie.

a) Higher winning percentage: For example, (i) if a team's season record is 30 wins and 20 losses, the winning percentage would be 60% or 0.600. (ii) If a game ends up in a tie (e.g., after eight innings the game is called because of rain or darkness, it is considered a tie game and will be recorded as such). The number of wins plus half the number of ties, divided by the total number of games.

Example:

Team A: 3-0-1 (one tie) = .875 winning percentage

Team B: 3-1-0 (one loss) = .750

Note: If two teams are tied on Winning Percentage and have played a different number of games, the Games Back tiebreaker is used as a mini-breaker. Thus, a team at 4-0 will be placed ahead of a team at 3-0, because the team at 3-0 is considered .5 games back.

b) The team that has forfeited the fewest number of games during the season is placed first; the team that has forfeited the next fewest number of games is placed second and so on.

c) If still level, then the head-to-head results between the tied teams should be used to establish placing.

d) If still level, then the team that has conceded the fewest runs in games between or among the tied teams is placed first, the team that has conceded the next fewest number of runs in those games is placed second, and so on.

e) If still level, then the average number of runs per game conceded excluding games involving forfeits, by the tied teams across the whole of the league season should be used to determine to place.

Any instance not specifically covered in this section would result in a decision made by the League Commissioner.

### **33. Managers Game Reports**

We encourage all Managers to complete a report promptly (within 24 hours of the game) and as often as required as the feedback will help the league and umpires to understand and address the needs of teams.

### **34. Start Times**

Unless otherwise notified:

For the NBL, the start times are as follows:

- Single Game: 12:00pm
- Doubleheader 12:00pm first game and second game 15:00

For Triple A, the start times are as follows:

- Doubleheader 11:00am first game and second game 14:00

For Double A, the start times are as follows:

- Single Game: 11:30am
- Doubleheader 11:30am first game and second game 14:00

For Single A, the start times are as follows:

- Doubleheader 12:00pm first game and second game 14:30

For all divisions:

The interval between the finish of game one and the start of game two will be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers cannot agree on the length of time between games, there will be a gap of 20 minutes between games.

Team managers can liaise to alter the start times where convenient. However, if there is a dispute, then the start times that have been assigned shall prevail.

As many teams share grounds, a number of game start times will need to be adjusted. In most cases, alternative start times will already be part of the schedule and are therefore set. Where this is not the case, an attempt should be made to agree start times between the teams involved. This may also involve time-limiting games.

If the teams cannot agree, the matter should be referred to the League Commissioner for a decision as a last resort.

### **35. Pre-Game Rules**

NOTE: The following times are a guide based on the start time of the game. For example, if a game is scheduled to begin one hour before the standard start time, each topic below should begin/finish one hour earlier, as appropriate.

Where more than two games are scheduled on one diamond in one day, there will be no assigned times for batting practice.

Below is the pre-game schedule for the NBL:

ID	TOPIC	TIMES	DURATION
1	Home team batting practice	10:15am-10:50am	35 minutes
2	Away team batting practice	10:50am-11:25am	35 minutes
3	Home team fielding warmup	11:25am-11:35am	10 minutes
4	Away team fielding warmup	11:35am-11:45am	10 minutes
5	Groundskeeping	11:45am-11:55am	10 minutes
6	Home plate meeting (team managers and umpires); See guidance notes below.	11:55am-12:00pm	Maximum 5 minutes
7	Game Time	12:00pm	Play Ball!

Below is the pre-game schedule for Triple A:

ID	TOPIC	TIMES	DURATION
1	Home team batting practice	09:45am-10:05am	20 minutes
2	Away team batting practice	10:05am-10:25am	20 minutes
3	Home team fielding warmup	10:25am-10:35am	10 minutes
4	Away team fielding warmup	10:35am-10:45am	10 minutes
5	Groundskeeping	10:45am-10:55am	10 minutes
6	Home plate meeting (team managers and umpires); See guidance notes below.	10:55am-11:00am	Maximum 5 minutes
7	Game Time	11:00am	Play Ball!

Below is the pre-game schedule for Double A:

ID	TOPIC	TIMES	DURATION
1	Home team batting practice	10:15am-10:35am	20 minutes
2	Away team batting practice	10:35am-10:55am	20 minutes
3	Home team fielding warmup	10:55am-11:05am	10 minutes
4	Away team fielding warmup	11:05am-11:15am	10 minutes
5	Groundskeeping	11:15am-11:25am	10 minutes
6	Home plate meeting (team managers and umpires); See guidance notes below.	11:25am-11:30am	Maximum 5 minutes
7	Game Time	11:30am	Play Ball!

Below is the pre-game schedule for Single A:



ID	TOPIC	TIMES	DURATION
1	Home team batting practice	10:45am-11:05am	20 minutes
2	Away team batting practice	11:05am-11:25am	20 minutes
3	Home team fielding warmup	11:25am-11:35am	10 minutes
4	Away team fielding warmup	11:35am-11:45am	10 minutes
5	Groundskeeping	11:45am-11:55am	10 minutes
6	Home plate meeting (team managers and umpires); See guidance notes below.	11:55am-12:00pm	Maximum 5 minutes
7	Game Time	12:00pm	Play Ball!

### 36. Guidance for pre-game Home Plate Meeting

(Important: Government and BBF Covid restrictions may apply).

Things to cover:

- Managers should exchange a copy of their line-up to the umpire (in duplicate) and confirm there are no final changes. If there are changes to the line-up card, ensure the change gets onto both managers' copies and also that the changes go to the scorekeeper. Then, ensure that line-ups are exchanged. At this point the line-ups are official.
- As a courtesy, each line-up card presented to the umpire-in-chief should list the fielding positions to be played by each player in the batting order. If a designated hitter is to be used, the line-up card shall identify which hitter is to be the designated hitter.
- Coaches should confirm that their players are properly equipped and that all equipment is regulation.
- The umpire-in-chief shall make sure that the original and copies of the respective batting orders are identical, and then tender a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The copy retained by the umpire shall be the official batting order. The tender of the batting order by the umpire shall establish the batting orders. After that, no substitutions shall be made by either manager, except as provided in the rules. boundaries for the field of play, and where dead-ball territory begins. before doing so.
- As soon as the home team's batting order is handed to the umpire-in-chief, the umpires are in charge of the playing field, and from that moment the umpire-in-chief shall have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, suspended or resumed on account of weather or the condition of the playing field.
- Go over ground rules for the field. Typically, the home team manager will go over the ground rules. In some cases (for example, at tournaments on neutral fields), the umpires may receive the ground rules in advance from the tournament director. In this case, you should go over the ground rules yourself at the plate meeting. If your field is not fully enclosed, be sure to clarify boundaries for the field of play, and where dead-ball territory begins.
- Cover special rules, if any (for example, define tournament rules, league rules, etc., if any apply).
- Insist that both teams play with the highest regard for sportsmanship. Remind the coaches that they, and only they, can call on the umpire to discuss a call and that they should wait for the action to stop and then ask for time before doing so.

### 37. Special Event Costs

When special events occur in the schedules - i.e. league games scheduled for multiple teams on the same day or weekend at the same venue - this is how the costs should be split by the teams involved:

- The Host Team is responsible for the cost of the field(s). If there is no host team (where the venue is neutral), all teams share the cost of the field(s).
- The Visiting Teams are accountable for their travel costs.
- All teams will be responsible for dividing up equally the cost of umpires officiating throughout the weekend.
- The Host Team will be responsible for paying each umpire and recouping the charges from the Visiting Teams.
- Each Visiting Team is responsible for paying its share of the umpire costs to the Host Team.
- Each Team will be responsible for providing the required amount of official game balls to the umpire for the game they are the home team and must also ensure that enough game balls are available to complete the game.
- The Official Scorer shall be paid by his or her Team.

### **38. Speed up-rules and game tie breaker**

38.1 The need to speed up the play of games must be constantly enforced in an effort to keep the game moving quickly: The 12-second rule for the pitcher must be enforced (5.07(c)). The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless he makes a request for time and the umpire judges that the request is in accordance with the rule 5.04 (b)(2) Only then shall the umpire grant time out. The pitcher shall be allowed eight warm-up pitches to start the first inning and on any pitching change, or five pitches between innings and the plate umpire shall ensure that the pitches are thrown without undue delay and if there is a delay. If a team fails to complete the warm-up pitches in a reasonable length of time; the umpire may terminate them and call 'Play Ball'.

38.2 **Game tie breaker for all senior leagues:** If the game is tied at the end of the final (open) inning for all senior leagues, further innings will be played under CEB Europe/WBSC tie-break rules. In the top of the eighth and bottom of the inning for both teams at-bat, select runners (two in total) will be placed on first and second base at the start of each extra inning. with no outs. The mentioned will continue throughout the game until a win/loss result is reached. See attachment page 37, "Extra Inning rule to get a result" for a complete explanation.

### **39. Umpires (also see Umpires Handbook if applicable)**

The BBF is responsible for appointing umpires for select BBF league games and competitions. Where only one BBF-appointed umpire is present, the home team shall endeavor to provide a base umpire. Home teams shall give a minimum of one umpire where no BBF-appointed umpire is available, whether this is a player or an independent umpire.

**IMPORTANT:** Umpires are external contractors, not employees of the BBF. Umpires charge a fee and pass-through costs (travel) to officiate games.

Dress for BBF appointed umpires should be by CEB rules: Black shoes/boots; black socks; grey slacks; black shirt (secondary colour powder blue) - also, other colour shirts may be worn to avoid clashes with player's uniforms; black/navy cap; black jacket, as required.

Umpires shall submit a report of any disciplinary matter within 72 hours concerning members of either team, on or off the field of play using the link: When there is an ejection, the umpire should:

1. Report the disciplinary via the link:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d2tR6OKL1WaguzqVpGKuWwj5>

[Yz2xKMRnzWv-iSv96fU/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](#) within 72 hours of the incident.

2. Inform the League Commissioner ([senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk)) that a disciplinary report has been submitted, and attach any supporting evidence of the incident in question for consideration.

Technical officers appointed for games shall be given full co-operation by the appointed umpires.

Umpires' classifications shall be graded on an ongoing basis by the Umpire Director/Officials Commissioner.

All Clubs shall register persons who will umpire for their team by emailing [umpiring@britishbaseball.org](mailto:umpiring@britishbaseball.org)

Umpiring is one of the most thankless jobs in British baseball. The BBF works to recruit, encourage, and educate umpires to the highest standards. All clubs are strongly encouraged to support the BBF in growing the number of umpires in baseball through the development plan, details of which will be provided from time to time.

#### **40. Technical Commissioner (TC)**

Where a Technical Commissioner (TC) is appointed to a game or a tournament (thereafter "event") by the BBF, they will ensure adherence to the UK Sport procedure for effective anti-doping regulations and to resolve protests on the spot and ensure that the matter is dealt with at that point.

The TC is expected to be at the venue of the event at least 75 minutes prior to the start and should hold a meeting at least 60 minutes before the beginning with the umpire and the official representative of each team.

During the event, the TC should be seated at the scorers' table in such a position as to be able to view the score sheet easily.

The TC should ensure the event is conducted in accordance with all of the rules and byelaws. To this end, the TC should encourage the full co-operation of the officials and the participating clubs or teams.

The TC report should contain a reference to:

- a. General arrangements made by the home club.
- b. Specific provisions concerning hosting.
- c. Details concerning spectators and programmes.
- d. Playing and changing facilities, including accommodation for the game officials.
- e. Any post-game reception.
- f. The general conduct of participating teams.
- g. The general performance of the officials.
- h. Equipment and technical aspects of the game.

As a nominated representative of the BBF, the TC will be expected to handle any dispute, excluding items covered under the rules of the game, and advise those involved of their responsibilities about the regulations concerning the submission of reports, etc.

The TC will receive traveling and subsistence expenses, to be agreed in advance.

#### **41. Media or Public Relations**

Any registered participant or person or persons representing a club or affiliated organisation should notify [infobritishbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:infobritishbaseball@gmail.com) of an appearance on a television or radio broadcast in any connection with baseball.

The BBF Board shall have the sole and exclusive right to negotiate on behalf of each league, club or team, the television coverage of baseball games, played in the United Kingdom by clubs or persons affiliated to or registered with the BBF. The right may be delegated to a league, club or team at the absolute discretion of the BBF, but no league, club or team shall have the right to grant to any other person or organisation whether or not they be affiliated to the BBF, the authority to negotiate television coverage. The BBF reserves all rights to the videotaping or filming of all games under its jurisdiction. All benefits related to the sale of rights to broadcasting, (radio, television, internet, videotaping or filming, cable TV), or any other media-related rights to any baseball game played under the jurisdiction of the BBF belong wholly and exclusively to the BBF.

#### **42. British Baseball Federation use of images and recordings**

The BBF has exclusive rights to broadcast, take images and recordings of all practices, games, or events throughout the year. Each club is required at the beginning of the year to adhere to allow the BBF the above and to ensure all of their participants agree.

The British Baseball Federation (BBF) reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at any event involving its members or organised (directly or indirectly), without the expressed written permission of those included within the photograph/video. The BBF may use the photograph/video in publications or other media material produced, used, or contracted by the BBF including but not limited to brochures, invitations, books, newspapers, magazines, television, websites, etc.

A person attending a BBF event who does not wish to have their image recorded for distribution should make their wishes known to the photographer, and/or the event organizers, and/or contact the BBF at [infobritishbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:infobritishbaseball@gmail.com) Subject line: IMPORTANT NO IMAGES.

By participating in a BBF event or by failing to notify BBF, in writing (but with a confirmation reply), your desire to not have your photograph used by BBF, you are agreeing to release, defend, hold harmless and indemnify BBF from any and all claims involving the use of your picture, or recording or likeness.

Any person or organisation not affiliated with BBF may not use, copy, alter or modify BBF photographs, graphics, videography or other, similar reproductions or recordings without the advance written permission of an authorised designee from the British Baseball Federation (BBF). Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

[BBF Privacy Policy Link](#)

#### **43. Great Britain National Teams**

The Great Britain Baseball national team programmes are overseen by the BBF's National Teams Programme Official (Erik Gustafson – [erik.gustafson@britishbaseball.org](mailto:erik.gustafson@britishbaseball.org)) who manages GB Baseball's structure and operational matters separately. Where a BBF league team has three (3) or more players unavailable for a BBF league game because of national team duty, then the team may apply to their League Commissioner to have their games rescheduled. Every effort will be made to ensure that national team duty will not negatively impact regular season games, but re-scheduling cannot be guaranteed, and the decision of the League Commissioner will be final.

#### **44. Codes of Conduct**

All participants in British baseball are to adhere to the codes of conduct set out from time to time. Codes of conduct exist for players, coaches, officials and other club members and supporters and will be published on the BBF website. It is the responsibility of everybody involved in your club to ensure it remains a safe place, free from discrimination, fear and where possible, risk. If not, the club is subject to enforcement action. See Code of Conduct later in the handbook.

## **45. Enforcement Process**

We have an extensive range of disciplinary and enforcement powers to take action against a member and non-members clubs and individuals who are failing or have failed to meet the BBF rules, code of conduct, policies, Covid-19 safety guidelines, processes, and standards we require. We take any misconduct or abuse on any official, player, coach, fan, very seriously. This BBF below guide is not intended to provide an exhaustive explanation of our actions, investigation and the enforcement process (if warranted):

- Withdraw a club's or teams authorisation or membership to take part in the BBF, related activities or leagues.
- Prohibit an individual from operating in the BBF.
- Prevent or suspend an individual from undertaking a specific club or teams activities (player, officiate, coach, manage or volunteer).
- Suspend a club, Team or entity from undertaking specific baseball activities.
- Censure clubs, teams and individuals through public statements.
- Impose financial penalties.
- Combination of the above.

How the Enforcement Process works:

A. Appointment of Examiner(s): The BBF appoint investigated examiner(s) of an incident and, if appropriate (optional), send or advise a Notice of Appointment of Examiners to the club, team or individual as soon as practicable. In some cases involving both general and specific concerns, the BBF reserves the right to appoint or refer the matter to an outside party or law enforcement.

B. Scoping: Our initial probe with the club, team or individual(s) are intended to provide a clear indication of why we have appointed Examiners; the scope of the review; how the process is likely to unfold and an indication of the possible timing of the key milestones and next steps in the review.

C. Review work: The appointed Examiner(s) carry out the review of the incident. The mentioned may include, for example, requests for documents, images, recordings or information and interviews from witnesses or persons under review. Information may also be provided to the BBF voluntarily. For example, clubs or teams may at times organise an internal investigation or a report.

D. Preliminary Findings: If appropriate (optional), the Examiner(s) send a document to the club or individual summarising the case as they find it, and giving a period in which the club, team or individual may provide a written response. They can apply for extra time to complete their answer.

E. Final Enforcement Notice and Options: When the Examiner(s) have a sufficient understanding of the case to make a reasonable assessment of the appropriate sanction, a club, team, or individual will be informed; However, the club, team or individual will be allowed to appeal (with a £50 non-refundable fee).

Note: The BBF reserves the right to make public the Enforcement action as a matter of disclosure. Any lack of co-operation by the person(s) involved will be considered in our

review and subsequent enforcement action (if warranted). In your club, team or yourself is under an Enforcement review, we ask you to refrain from any statements publicly (direct or indirect) relating to the above while our review is taking place. We further, remind you any further misconduct will be considered and added to any of our Enforcement actions.

## **DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**

The organisers of an event or game (e.g., home team) are liable for any damage caused to the property, field, or venue where the game or event is taking place.

## **FIRE - SAFETY - HEALTH**

The organiser or home team agrees to accept full responsibility for compliance with local, council, and city, Fire, Safety, and Health Ordinances regarding the installation and operation of equipment.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

All cancellations must be received in writing for the event and copied the BBF.

## **BBF INSURANCE**

You agree to read and adhere to all terms of the BBF insurance. Any breach of the terms you hold the BBF, its officials, volunteers not liable for any damages, liability, or costs. The BBF insurance only covers affiliated clubs, teams, and their registered participants. If you play against other unaffiliated clubs or teams, their participants are not covered by the BBF insurance. Thus, always check the other affiliated clubs, teams, and participants have their own insurance. If you are hosting international participants, teams, coaches again the BBF insurance will not cover them. Visiting international clubs, teams, participants, coaches, etc., should carry their own insurance.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

BaseballSoftballUK is the lead contact for any Safeguarding issues for the 2022 season, including DBS checks, training and support for the BBF and all other chartered clubs. If you have any specific Safeguarding support concerns or questions, please contact BSUK at [welfare@bsuk.com](mailto:welfare@bsuk.com) or visit <https://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/safeguarding>

## **46. UK-AD Anti Doping Rules**

The anti-doping rules of British Baseball Federation are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UK Anti-Doping Limited (or its successor), as amended from time to time. Such rules shall take effect and be construed as rules of the British Baseball Federation.

To view Anti-Doping Rules, click the following link [www.ukad.org.uk/anti-doping-rules](http://www.ukad.org.uk/anti-doping-rules)

Sources (not exhaustive):

- MLB rule book
- Pony Baseball rule book
- Little League rule book
- CEB rule book
- WBSC rules
- UK-AD Anti-Doping rules
- Wikipedia

## **ABOUT THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION**

The British Baseball Federation (BBF) is the National Governing Body (NGB) of baseball in Great Britain. We promote equality in our sport, accept players from different age groups, cultures, orientation, nationalities, and skills.

The BBF is a proud member to the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) [www.wbsc.org](http://www.wbsc.org). The WBSC is the world governing body for the sports of baseball and softball. WBSC's members hold the rights to organise and select National Teams. The WBSC has 193 National Federation Members in 133 countries and territories across Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania. In addition, we are a member to the WBSC - Europe (CEB).

The BBF as the NGB of our sport, are designated to control and regulate the environment of the game of baseball. The British Baseball Federation KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- The most number of baseball clubs.
- The most number of baseball players.
- The most number of baseball teams.
- The most number of youth players.
- The most number of baseball leagues (NBL, Triple-A, Double-A, Single-A, Women's).
- Oversees the most number of baseball games in a normal year (e.g. approximately 1,000).
- Manages the Great Britain Baseball National Team Programme (only one of 21 countries to have a team at every age division).

There are four Senior Leagues in the BBF, e.g.,

1. National Baseball League (NBL) which is our top league.
2. Triple-A
3. Double-A
4. Single-A

In addition, there is a Women's League run separately by Women's Baseball UK (WB-UK). WB-UK set the rules and standards (in line with BBF rules and standards) when it comes to playing our sport.

## **CLUB AFFILIATION TO THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION**

Clubs affiliate to the BBF under Article 4.3 of the BBF Constitution. An annual club registration process which takes place prior to each season and is now public link. All payments for club affiliations and insurance premiums shall be made electronically and or as detailed in the registration process published each year on the BBF website. Clubs wishing to change their name must seek explicit approval to do so from the BBF by writing to the League Commissioner/Secretary. New clubs and their team(s) affiliating to the Federation shall not be permitted to use a name or logo, which is currently used by an existing affiliated club. Clubs who wish to enter a single team into BBF leagues must register and sustain a minimum of 11 registered players for that team.

## **HOW CLUBS ARE EVALUATED AGAINST THRESHOLD CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Each club application is assessed on a case-by-case basis. In doing so, the BBF considers the following factors list (which is not exhaustive):

- Location of club and participants: the club must be located and the participants must be domiciled in the UK (for insurance purposes).
- Appropriate resources: this includes a club or its team wanting to take part in our leagues, to having access to a baseball playing field, capital adequacy requirements to pay your annual fees and run your clubs, as well as skilled individuals to run your club and teams. If you take part in our leagues, you must have access to officials who understand the rules.

- Ability for clubs to be supervised effectively: we make it clear that we expect firms to be open and honest in their dealings with us. We take very seriously any non-disclosure of information that could impact our assessment and risk your insurance coverage, all participants of your club, need to adhere to our rules, terms, constitution and conditions. Provide us details about your club and participants, so we can have a record for insurance purposes, assess the number of participants per club/team, adhere to safeguarding standards, and UK-AD Anti Doping Rules. It is important that you fully disclose to us any information that we ask for.
- Clubs will need to carry out the necessary risk assessments for insurance purposes when required.
- Adhere to and pay our fees on time.
- Conduct: Individuals of the club to carry themselves to an appropriate manner i.e., both on and off the field (includes social media). Please refer to our Code of Conduct.
- Club model: this refers to how the firm is run. For example, member clubs are expected to have a constitution, a proper way to communicate to their participants our terms and rules, to ensure everyone understands their responsibilities and is accountable for their actions. If your club does not have a constitution click here for a template.
- Fitness and propriety of the Club and its individuals to perform the activities for which they seek membership on an annual basis.

### **Before, During and Post Game Guidelines (but not limited to):**

#### BEFORE THE GAME

- Assign responsibilities
- Ensure you follow BSUK safeguarding policies and procedures where applicable.
- Check for any BBF or opposing team updates.
- Ensure all players are registered with the BBF.
- Ensure there is an umpire for the game.
- Inform umpire of any material information.
- Check the weather.
- Check the condition of the field.
- Bring three or more new official baseballs for each game if you are the home team.
- Grounds-keeping.
- Communicate rosters and lineups to scorekeeper and opposing team.
- Take any corrective, marketing the game and communication actions.
- Check for eligible bats only.
- Ensure you are only playing against BBF clubs/teams/participants; Otherwise insurance coverage may be limited.
- Scorekeeper downloads MyBallClub App and tests it. Check the rosters are uploaded.
- Follow-up pre-game batting practice and fielding time-lines.
- Single-A/Double A league: Check for special rules

#### DURING THE GAME



- Communicate changes to scorekeeper and umpire(s) to umpire.
- Once game starts the umpire takes full control of the game (rain delay, calling the game, etc).
- Game timings are at the sole discretion of the umpire(s).
- Check if there are any youth pitchers? If so, they need to be identified as they have pitching limits for the game.
- Scorekeeper scores the game in the MyBallClub app. Check scores are going in properly.
- Follow BBF Code of Conduct and Handbook.
- Check rosters and batting orders are correct and lineups.
- Follow safeguarding policies and procedures where applicable.
- Check the scores between every half-inning.

#### AFTER THE GAME

- Show good sportsmanship e.g., exchange post game thank you's to opposing team, umpires and others.
- Pickup your equipment.
- Throw away rubbish.
- Follow-up on payment to umpire(s).
- Ensure your scores went into stats.britishbaseball.org
- Complete and submit your post game report.

#### **Extra Inning rule to get a result:**

SITUATION: After seven innings the game is tied. The extra inning rule for all senior leagues is automatically triggered. For example,

- Each team will begin the first extra inning (8th and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.
- The batting order in any extra inning will be determined by how the previous inning ended. That is, if the 7th inning ends with the #6 hitter having the last plate appearance (PA), then the 8th inning begins the #7 hitter at bat, and the #5 hitter at second base and the #6 hitter at first base.
- With the exception of beginning the inning with runners on first base and second base with no one out, all other baseball rules will remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.
- No player re-entry is permitted during extra innings.
- The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning (if needed) will remain in effect until a winner is determined.

## **BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION DISCIPLINARY FINES**

First offence:	£30
Second offence:	£70
Third offence:	£150

**IMPORTANT:** Please note it is important that you pay your fine on time. If you fail to do so, you may face additional penalties or charges. The BBF does not grant deferment of payment i.e., all payments need to be paid in full. The BBF only accepts online wire transfers. For banking information please contact [finance@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:finance@britishbaseball.org.uk)

# BBF CODE OF CONDUCT

## FOR PARTICIPANTS

- Please stick to the rules and play by them.
- Respect every one of the participants.
- You have a responsibility to protect children and vulnerable people.
- You should report promptly any concerns about children and vulnerable persons to the designated safeguarding officer, the BBF, or the authorities (where applicable).
- Work with your team mates, coaches, and umpires to achieve your goals.
- Keep in mind that you are participating in order to have fun with the game.
- Do not judge others based on their abilities, errors, or losses.
- Accept everyone, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, ethnicity, and racial or national origin), religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
- Avoid using abusive language, bullying, cyberbullying, or excessive physical contact in any way.
- Always practice awareness of all situations and follow all safety precautions.
- Ensure that the game is played fairly.
- You must communicate to the BBF transparently and cooperatively.
- Your conduct cannot be disgraceful, prejudicial to the interests of the BBF or the game of baseball.
- Don't disgrace the reputations of others, your club, the Great Britain Baseball National Team Programme, the BBF (its board members), or baseball itself.
- Encourage a positive environment in which competence, team work, and safety can be developed.
- Reject the use of performance-enhancing drugs (Anti-Doping) and illicit drugs.
- Create a sense of social cooperation and engagement based on high standards and values.
- Provide precise and timely information to league, event, club, and BBF organisers

## BBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Wherever they operate, they conduct BBF business honestly and ethically.
- Maintain a reputation for fairness, respect, responsibility, integrity, trust, and sound business judgement by continually improving the quality of our members' experiences, organised events, and operations.
- They must exercise due caution, consideration, and diligence in their actions.
- They must take appropriate steps to ensure that proprietary, confidential, or BBF-sensitive information is strictly protected and is confidential when they come into contact with it or have it in their possession.
- Report all information accurately and honestly.
- To ensure that the BBF's interests, assets, strategic goals, policies and procedures, and constitution are always put first and protected.

- Oppose and prevent discrimination based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and racial or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- They require BBF suppliers and agents, their employees, volunteers, senior management and sub-suppliers to operate in accordance with the principles and ethical standards of good governance (transparency, fairness, accountability, and responsibility).
- Encourage DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) throughout the Federation.
- Create an environment free of bullying, harassment, and illegal discrimination, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. - In all of their dealings, act with respect and responsibility toward those involved in our sport.
- Accept full accountability for your actions

# BBF DISCIPLINARY MATRIX 2022

ID	Type of Offense	Offender	Consequence for 1 <sup>st</sup> offense	Consequence for 2 <sup>nd</sup> offense	Consequence for 3 <sup>rd</sup> offense
1	<b>Intentional throwing at batter in the head area</b>	Pitcher	Ejection from the current game, plus application of intent to injury Penalty. (Five (5) games)	Ejection from the current game, plus next five (5) games scheduled, plus application of intent to injury Penalty. (Ten (10) games)	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
2	<b>Intentional throwing at batter in the head area</b>	Head Coach / Manager	Ejection from current game	Ejection from current game	Ejection from current game
3	<b>Charging the mound (not fighting)</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the Current game, plus the next game the team plays. Penalty for Actions causing benches to empty may apply.	Ejection from the Current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays. Penalty for Actions causing benches to empty may apply.	Ejection from the Current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays. Penalty for Actions causing benches to empty may apply.
4	<b>Charging the mound (fighting)</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays. Penalties for actions causing the benches to empty and / or aggressive fighting - intent to injure may apply)	Ejection from the current game, plus the next ten (10) games the team plays. Penalties for actions causing the benches to empty and/ or aggressive fighting - intent to injure may apply)	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
5	<b>Confrontational physical contact (e.g. shoving)</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays. Penalties for actions causing the benches to empty and / or aggressive fighting - intent to injure may apply)	Ejection from the current game, plus the next ten (10) games the team plays. Penalties for actions causing the benches to empty and/ or aggressive fighting - intent to injure may apply)	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
6	<b>Fighting/aggressive fighting</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Five (5) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.	Ten (10) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
7	<b>Intent to injure</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Five (5) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.	Ten (10) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
8	<b>Throwing equipment / debris in opponents Direction</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.	Ten (10) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.
9	<b>Actions causing benches to empty</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Three (3) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.	Five (5) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.	Ten (10) game Suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed.
10	<b>Leaving position to participate in a fight</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays. Penalties for actions causing the benches to empty and / or aggressive fighting - intent to injure may apply)	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays. Penalties for actions causing the benches to empty and / or aggressive fighting - intent to injure may apply)	Ejection from the current game, plus the next ten (10) game Suspension. Penalties for actions causing the benches to empty and / or aggressive fighting - intent to injure may apply)
11	<b>Violently throwing equipment</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays. Intent to injure may apply	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays. Intent to injure may apply	Ejection from the current game, plus the next ten (10) games the team plays. Intent to injure may apply
12	<b>Restrained from confronting umpire / player</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next ten (10) games the team plays.
13	<b>Throwing equipment / debris in umpire's direction</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.

14	<b>Verbal abuse / bench jockeying</b> - Actions and/or words directed towards an opponent or umpire for the purposes of (Not limited to) embarrassment, bullying, taunting and baiting	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from current game	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.
15	<b>Verbal abuse / bench jockeying</b> – Actions and/or words directed towards an opponent or umpire for the purposes of (Not limited to) embarrassment, bullying, taunting and baiting (Warnings issued)	Head Coach / Manager	Ejection from current game	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.
16	<b>Verbal Abuse - balls / strikes / safe / out / balks</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from current game	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.
17	<b>Prolonged arguing after point of ejection</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	An additional one (1) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional three (3) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional five (5) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.
18	<b>Threatening an umpire, before, during or after a game.</b> (I.E. ((not limited to)) "I will get you after the game", "see you in the parking lot", "You'll get yours")	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next fifteen (15) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
19	<b>Threatening an opponent, before, during or after a game.</b> (I.E. ((not limited to)) "I will get you after the game", "see you in the parking lot", "You'll get yours")	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next fifteen (15) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
20	<b>Threatening a spectator before, during or after a game.</b> (I.E. ((not limited to)) "I will get you after the game", "see you in the parking lot", "You'll get yours")	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next fifteen (15) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
21	<b>Any person who behaves in a manner deemed to be objectionable based upon another's race, religion, country of origin, disability, sexual orientation or some other factor.</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next fifteen (15) games the team plays. Additional penalties may apply.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
22	<b>Not leaving dugout after ejection</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	An additional one (1) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional one (1) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional Five (5) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.
23	<b>Returning to playing field / dugout after an ejection</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	An additional one (1) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional Five (5) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
24	<b>Returning to playing field / dugout after an ejection - participation in fight or bench clear</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	An additional three (3) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional five (5) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
25	<b>Causing a forfeit game</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	An additional one (1) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional one (1) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.	An additional one (1) game suspension to be added to any other penalties assessed.

26	<b>Ejection for tobacco use (includes smokeless and e-cigarettes)</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays.
27	<b>Ejection for alcohol during a game.</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays.
28	<b>Throwing equipment/ debris onto field from dug-out</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next three (3) games the team plays	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
29	<b>Contacting an umpire (intentionally or by accident non-violent)</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next six (6) games the team plays.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection	Suspended for five (5) Calendar years from date of second offense.
30	<b>Contacting an umpire</b> (Physical contact by bumping, pushing, tripping, punching, shoving, spitting on, or striking an umpire with equipment / debris)	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next six (6) games the team plays. Intent to injure may apply	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection. Intent to injure may apply	Suspended for five (5) Calendar years from date of second offense. Intent to injure may apply
31	<b>Use of altered bat or non-approved bat</b>	Player	Ejection from the current game.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next one (1) game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.
32	<b>Foreign substance / doctored baseball</b>	Player	Ejection from the current game.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next one (1) game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.
33	<b>Team playing an ineligible player, Suspended or player not on official roster</b>	Team	Loss of game and removal of any medals from team	Loss of game and removal of any medals from team. Additional penalties may apply as detailed in section 24 of the Handbook.	Loss of game and removal of any medals from team. Additional penalties may apply as detailed in section 24 of the Handbook.
34	<b>Team playing an ineligible player, Suspended or player not on official roster</b>	Head Coach / Manager	Two (2) game suspension	Suspension for one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.	Suspension for one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
35	<b>Displaying bad sportsmanship (not specifically covered by this policy)</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays.	Ejection from the current game, plus the next five (5) games the team plays.	Suspended one (1) Calendar year from the first day of ejection.
36	<b>Abuse by an Umpire on a player or coach</b>	Investigation hearing by BBF			

**NOTE:**

Refer to the [BBF Enforcement Process](#)

All penalties to take effect immediately.

All penalised persons have the right to appeal.

All penalties are considered per season except for those otherwise stated.

Any suspension issued and not served in the playing year will be held over until the following season. It is the responsibility of the team's coach to make sure all suspensions are enforced. A record of all games played after the suspension is announced must be made available to BBF on request.

Any questions on disciplinarys can be directed to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk)

**END OF BBF HANDBOOK**