



# British Baseball Federation Individual Player Registration Guide

Release Date: 21st December 2023



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## 1. BACKGROUND

In recent times, the British Baseball Federation and BSUK have been diligently working towards fortifying the safety and growth of our beloved sport. A significant milestone in this journey is the 'MET' status awarded by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) for the 2023-2024 year.

This achievement underscores our steadfast commitment to creating a secure and nurturing environment for all members of the British baseball community.

**Safeguarding** refers to the process of protecting children (and adults) to provide safe and effective care.

However, as we celebrate this success, it's crucial to address the recommended improvements by the CPSU regarding future safeguarding endeavours.

The heart of this matter lies in our player registration processes and the intricacies involved in providing detailed participant information, a challenge we are dedicated to overcoming for the sustained betterment of our sport.



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## 2. THE CURRENT BRITISH BASEBALL LANDSCAPE

### **BSUK Insights: Safeguarding Compliance Concerns**

BSUK, after a thorough internal review, has identified that as little as 27% of those who needed Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and safeguarding courses have completed them. This revelation serves as a crucial wake-up call, highlighting the urgency of addressing safeguarding compliance issues within our community.

### **Learning from Other Sports: The Whyte Report and Sheldon Report**

To further contextualise the importance of stringent safeguarding measures, we can draw parallels from recent reports in other sports. The Whyte Report for British Gymnastics and the Sheldon Report for The Football Association (The FA) shed light on the consequences of lax safeguarding practices and the critical need for comprehensive compliance.

The Whyte Report revealed systemic failings in British gymnastics, exposing the severe impact on the well-being of athletes due to a lack of proper safeguarding mechanisms. Similarly, the Sheldon Report in English football emphasised the importance of a robust and proactive approach to safeguarding, stressing the severe consequences of neglecting this crucial aspect.

### **The Challenge: Financial Constraints in Baseball Development**

Beyond safeguarding, the financial landscape of baseball development poses unique challenges.

Historically, the British Baseball Federation's financials indicate a turnover sufficient to keep the lights on but limited in terms of surplus for substantial development initiatives.

This financial constraint has restricted the NGB's ability to invest significantly in the growth and development of baseball in the UK.



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### 3. OUR FUTURE - THE PLAN FOR GROWTH

Early in 2023, we laid out a comprehensive 10-year plan titled 'Our Future.' This ambitious plan outlines strategic initiatives to expand and grow baseball, reaching new heights of popularity and competitiveness within the UK sports landscape.

#### **The Need for a Solid Base on which to Execute the Plan**

We have to be confident that the fundamental foundations of growth are underpinned by a well-governed organisation, mitigating the inherent risks that come with running a bat and ball sport across all age groups, with facilities needs that are not part of the staple British sports culture. This starts with knowing who our members are and their needs, and providing them with the tools to manage their leagues, clubs and teams.

#### **The Need for Funding to Achieve Our Goals**

The success of 'Our Future' plan hinges on securing the necessary funding. While our historical financials have kept the lights on, they fall short of providing the robust financial foundation required to achieve the expansive goals outlined in 'Our Future.' To transform our vision into reality, we must secure sufficient funding to invest in critical areas such as youth development programmes, coaching initiatives, facility upgrades, and outreach efforts. This can be achieved in multiple ways some of which are in place and others we are actively pursuing.



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## 4. THE ROLE OF ENHANCED PLAYER REGISTRATION

To help achieve 'Our Future' objectives as well as address the safeguarding needs, enhancing our IPR functionality is critical. In partnership with BSUK, SPORT:80 has been selected as our registration and membership management system and will serve as a catalyst for our ambitious growth plan.

**Increased Participation Revenue:** Through SPORT:80's streamlined registration process we will be able to efficiently administer player registrations and participation fees. It will bring reassurance to our participants that their membership is being managed professionally and also demonstrate to future participants, we are well-run sport.

**Attracting Sponsorship Opportunities:** An efficiently managed player registration system is attractive to sponsors and partners. SPORT:80's capabilities can enhance our appeal, opening doors to potential sponsorship and partnership opportunities that contribute directly to the funding needs of 'Our Future.'

**Operational Efficiency and Cost Reduction:** SPORT:80's user-friendly interface and automation capabilities streamline administrative processes, reducing operational costs and time associated with manual static data management, and any associated paperwork. These efficiency savings will enable us to better resource critical development projects outlined in 'Our Future.'

### **Exciting News: Webinars and Demo Rollout Over the Next Few Months**

To ensure that our community seamlessly adapts to SPORT:80, we are excited to announce a series of webinars and demo sessions over the next few months. These sessions will provide an in-depth exploration of SPORT:80's features and functionalities, offering you the opportunity to familiarise yourself with this cutting-edge platform.

**Better Communications:** Through SPORT:80 we, BSUK and all participants will be able to more effectively communicate from notification of courses, competitions, and events to person-specific requirements, ensuring qualifications and information are up to date and relevant.





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## 5. THE 2024 REGISTRATION PROCESS

### 2024 Registration Process for Baseball Player Membership

#### Stage 1:

##### Club Registration Deadline - January 31, 2024

Clubs are obligated to register their teams before the 31st of January 2024.

#### Stage 2:

##### Adult Individual Participant Registration via SPORT:80

Adult team players must complete their registration through SPORT:80. Once registered and the National Governing Body (NGB) fee is paid, they will be automatically listed on the associated club and team/s portal on Sports:80.

##### Adult Fee Structure:

- Adult Team Players: £25
- Volunteers (non-playing coaches, administrators, and club umpires): £25

Note: Individual Participant Registration is mandatory for all teams/clubs within the BBF affiliate leagues, irrespective of having teams outside of a BBF affiliate league.

##### Youth Individual Participant Registration via SPORT:80

Players under 18 require a parent or guardian to complete the registration process through SPORT:80. Similar to adult teams, once registered and the NGB fee is paid, they will be populated on the associated club and team/s portal on SPORT:80.

##### Youth Team Fee:

- Youth Team Players: £12.50



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## 6. THE BENEFITS

### **Benefits of IPR:**

- Access to the BSUK Development Charter
- Free DBS/Safeguarding Services
- Free Safeguarding courses
- Free or discounted regional umpire, player, and coaching clinics
- Personal accident insurance
- Your club gains access to SPORT:80 Club Management Software - basic functionality
- You are eligible to play in the National Teams Baseball Programme or any BBF sanctioned event i.e. BBF Summer Cup.





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## **Benefits of Registering with BBF League/Affiliate League or as an Independent Club.**

**Tier One - £75 Per Team (applicable to Leagues and their teams as a whole) includes:**

- All Tier Two benefits
- National Championships (subject to the BBF's Senior Leagues Committee)
- Schedule Creation Schedule creation (BBF Leagues Only)
- Grievance and Disciplinary Handling

**Tier Two - £50 Per Team includes:**

- BBF Club Insurance
- Club Management Software (SPORT:80) - full functionality
- WBSC Membership/recognition
- League Management and Scoring Website & Application
- Discount on BBF Competitions and Tournaments
- Access to Youth programs – First Pitch & T-Rex T-Ball
- Voting and Nomination Rights (one per team) as per the BBF Constitution
- Recognition of your Organisation and its jurisdiction
- Special offers and opportunities on Public Events from MLB
- Grievance and Disciplinary Appeals Handling
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## 7. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: What does IPR refer to?**

A: Individual Participant Registration

**Q: I am a non-player coach; am I required to register?**

A: Yes, registration is mandatory for all volunteers involved in club operations, training, or game-day activities. This includes, but is not limited to, non-player coaches, administrators, non-player scorers, and officials. Clubs may choose to offset this cost with their volunteers.

**Q: I play/coach for more than one club; do I need to register for each one?**

A: No, you only need to register once. Through the registration process, you can select all the clubs and organisations you are associated with.

**Q: Do I need to register twice if I am a player and an umpire?**

A: No, during registration, you can indicate the various roles you fulfil within your club or environment.

**Q: Can a Club affiliate to the BBF and not register their players?**

A: No, clubs are obligated to register all players to access Tier 1 or 2 Club registration benefits.

**Q: My club has teams in different leagues, BBF and non-BBF. Do I register only the players in the BBF team?**

A: No, all players and volunteers have to register to the Individual Participant Registration and link their membership to your club.

**Q: Is player registration mandatory for all clubs?**

A: No, however, a club would not be able to access or receive benefits from BBF and BSUK.

**Q: My club is not currently registered with the BBF; how will things change for us in 2024?**

A: Starting in 2024, clubs can access the BSUK Development Charter only by registering their players under BBF individual participant registration and affiliating your team/s under tier one or tier two. Without the Charter, clubs and leagues will need to arrange their own safeguarding provisions, DBS checks, and governance. Additionally, access to funding and grants will be limited without NGB affiliation.



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**Q: Can I access the BSUK Development Charter without registering our players?**

A: No, registration of all players and volunteers is required.

**Q: Is there a maximum number of players I can register?**

A: No.

**Q: What are the funds from Individual Participant Registration used for?**

A: Primarily they will fund community growth and development, including targeted grant pots, coaching and officials' development, facility development, and support for National Teams. A small part of the fee is used to cover the administration of the scheme.

**Q: Can I play/coach for a National Team if I am not involved with a BBF affiliate club or league?**

A: Yes, but registration through Individual Participant Registration is required.

**Q: Can clubs pay for their players' registration fees?**

A: The system is designed to process payment at the player's registration point, making it logistically challenging for a club to administer payment.

**Q: When does a player/volunteer need to register?**

A: The moment they become involved in club activities. The system allows for a one-month deferral for new players attending training, with payment required after one month or when they are rostered to play games.

**Q: Can a player/volunteer be involved in playing a game without paying the registration fee?**

A: No, a player/volunteer cannot be rostered or participate unless they have paid the registration fee in full.

If you have any further questions, please email [registrations@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:registrations@britishbaseball.org.uk)



# BBF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION



A flow diagram that illustrates the new Individual Participant Registration process.

## CLUB AFFILIATION TO BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION



### CLUB BENEFITS

- All Tier Two benefits
- National Championships
- Schedule Creation (BBF Leagues Only)
- Grievance and Disciplinary Handling

### CLUB BENEFITS

- BBF Club Insurance
- SPORT:80 - full functionality
- WBSA Membership/recognition
- League Management
- Scoring Website & Application
- Discount on BBF Tournaments
- First Pitch & T-Rex T-Ball
- Voting and Nomination Rights
- Organisation Recognition
- Special offers on Public Events from MLB
- Grievance and Disciplinary Appeals Handling



### INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

- Access to the BSUK Development Charter
- Free DBS/Safeguarding Services
- Free Safeguarding courses
- Free/ discounted regional Umpire, player, and coaching Clinics
- Personal accident insurance
- SPORT:80 - basic functionality
- Eligibility to play in the National Teams Baseball Programme



## INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATION TO BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION





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