

A circular inset image showing a baseball game in progress. A player in a blue jersey and grey pants is sliding into a base. A catcher in a blue jersey and grey pants is crouching behind the base, ready to catch the ball. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

**BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION**

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**SENIORS HANDBOOK  
2024 EDITION**

[www.britishbaseball.org.uk](http://www.britishbaseball.org.uk)

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

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BBF adult baseball is governed by the "Major League Baseball Official Baseball Rules" for the preceding year, lagging one year behind the MLB. For example, the 2024 BBF season will be played to the [2023 MLB Official Baseball Rules \(OBR\)](#). Rules specified in this handbook are called the British Baseball Playing Rules and Bye-laws which supersede all other rules, e.g. if this handbook contradicts OBR in any way, the ruling in this handbook applies.

## **PLAYING RULES SPECIFIC TO BBF ADULT BASEBALL GAMES**

### **1. THE PLAYING FIELD**

The field of any BBF club should have a minimum home run distance of 250 feet. If any part of the home run fence does not meet this distance, any ball hit over the fence at a distance of less than 250 feet will be declared a two-base hit and not a homerun. Teams must notify the Seniors League Committee at the start of the season if any home game will be affected by the 250-foot limitation. Before games are played on a field below the minimum dimensions 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 which will be decided by the Seniors League Commissioner and no appeals are allowed.

The size of first, second, and third base bags should be 15 inches square. The new 18-inch base bag size as specified in OBR does not apply to BBF games.

The following minimum standards for fields on game days apply:

A foul line should be chalked/painted from the home plate all the way to the outfield fence on both the left-field and right-field sides. Each respective foul line should be in line with the back of Home Plate, to the left side of the third base bag (3B/LF line) and the right side of the first base bag (1B/RF line).

Two batter's boxes should be chalked/painted in line with the size as specified in the OBR.

Fields should be prepared and maintained to a reasonable standard at the start of a game and in-between games of a doubleheader.

A dead ball boundary should be marked using permanent or temporary fencing. Cones or chalked/painted lines are not an appropriate substitute for fencing. The fencing should make its way around the full perimeter of the field to ensure that the only entrances/exits to the field are by the backstop and the dugouts.

NBL and AAA only: An enclosed dugout using permanent or temporary fencing. Cones or chalked/painted lines are not an appropriate substitute for fencing. The fencing should make its way around the full perimeter of the dugout with one entry/exit point from the dugout to dead ball territory and at least one entry/exit point from the dugout to the field of play.

Any field deemed to have issues (dimensions, level of safety, poor maintenance etc.) should be reported to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk) along with photographic or video evidence if available. Penalties may apply to offending teams.

### **2. BATS**

All senior leagues are wood and/or bamboo composite bat, only, with the exception of:

- Women players and players aged under 16 in the Senior leagues may use aluminum or composite bats as long as they follow the BBCOR or USABAT certification standards, with no bat having a greater drop than 'drop 5'.
- The SWWBL A league teams can use aluminium bats in their intraleague games as long as the bats follow the BBCOR standard and are marked as such, and the drop is no greater than 'drop 3'. When SWWBL A league teams compete in games outside their division, including National Baseball Championships, aluminium bats are not allowed.

For one piece wood bats, a list of approved manufactures can be found [here](#).

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

Using or attempting to use a non-approved bat will be considered the same as using pine tar on bat as per rule 3.02(c) of the OBR. This is not grounds for ejection in BBF leagues.

It is important to note that BBF-specific approved bats might or might not be allowed in adult WBSC Europe competitions.

### 3. HELMETS

All helmets worn while batting or running the bases must have double ear-flaps.

All helmets must carry the CE mark.

### 4. BOX/CUP

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

### 5. THE OFFICIAL BASEBALLS

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 2024, 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')

All senior teams at all levels can use either of the above listed baseballs during BBF fixtures.

For all post season and all other competitions, the BBF will decide and supply 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.

Penalties apply for not adhering to the above at the discretion of the League Commissioner.

### 6. SHOES

Trainers are not suitable and Football studs/blades are not allowed. It is recommended that players under 18 wear shoes with molded cleats (rubber or plastic).

### 7. UNIFORMS

Uniforms must comply with the OBR specifications. Commercial advertising or patches are allowed. Teams do not need a different set of uniforms for home and away games. The BBF reserves the right to specify uniform recommendations or regulations for each league.

## 8. LINEUP CARDS

Each team is expected to purchase, carry and use baseball line-up cards for all games (one copy to the umpire, one to the scorer, and one to the opposing team manager). Line-up cards come in different configurations. No one type of line-up card is required.

Each team should keep their copies of line-up cards after the game in case there is a challenge or protest.

Rules specifying how teams designate which players are eligible to play as a pitcher, position player or a "Two-Way Player" do not apply to BBF games, 4.03(c)(1) to 4.03(c)(4).

## 9. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A team in BBF NBL or AAA leagues must place a minimum of nine players on the field. The penalty to not field nine players in NBL or AAA is a forfeit of the game.

In AA and Single A, a team may start and/or complete a game with eight players without any penalty of a forfeit. A team starting with eight players has to leave the ninth spot in the batting order open and will incur an automatic out when the open ninth spot is up to bat throughout the game. If a ninth player arrives after the game has started, they may be added to the batting order in the open ninth spot. They must wait until the current batter has completed their time at bat before taking their position in the field. If a team starts a game with nine players but is forced to complete a game with eight players for whatever reason, the "open" spot in the batting order where the automatic out will be recorded is the spot where the ninth player was originally listed.

In Women's Baseball League, in order to promote the development of the game and ensure all fixtures are fulfilled, teams may add up to 3 players from another team's roster to their own to ensure they have 9 players. No additional player may be added to the roster if this would result in an existing player sitting on the bench except due to injury. None of the added players may pitch for the adopted team.

## 10. INFIELDER POSITIONING

New infielder positioning rules for 2024 apply as per OBR 5.02(c).

## 11. SUBSTITUTIONS AND RE-ENTRY

A player is not allowed to re-enter the game once substituted, except for during regular season A or AA league play where up to three players per team may re-enter the game once, as long as the player being substituted by a re-entering player has played on the defence during at least three consecutive outs and has had at least one plate appearance. A player can only re-enter at the start of a half-inning on which their team is on defence. The half-inning is deemed to start when the umpire puts the ball in play..

So called "courtesy runners" for the catcher, where a temporary and unlisted runner replaces the catcher on base with two outs in an attempt to speed up the game, are not allowed.

## 12. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

- In any BBF Seniors game, a pitcher may pitch a maximum of nine (9) innings in a single game.

- A pitcher is not allowed to pitch in more than one game per day.

- Pitchers under the age of twenty three (23) must follow the MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines in BBF Senior leagues. The link to these guidelines is:

<https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines>. This includes stipulations on pitch counts, rest periods, and workload management, aligning with contemporary best practices

to ensure the healthy development of young pitchers. A pitcher will be considered to have violated this rule when throwing one or more pitches above the prescribed limits.

Any violation of the above three pitching restrictions should be reported to the umpire by the opposing manager during the game. The penalty for any pitch count violation is automatic ejection of the pitcher and manager of the offending team.

### 13. THE BATTER'S BOX RULE

For a batter's second or subsequent violations of the Batter's Box Rule 5.04(b)(4)(A) in a game, the umpire shall award a strike without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch. The ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

### 14. WARM UP PITCHES

The pitcher will have eight warm up pitches the first time they take to the mound. For each subsequent inning that the pitcher returns to the mound, they will have five (5) warm up pitches. Warm up pitches should be completed as quickly as possible, and the umpire may reduce the number of warm up pitches if they feel that a team has taken an unreasonable amount of time to complete the warm up.

### 15. PITCH CLOCK

No formal pitch clock is applicable to BBF leagues. Rule 5.07(c) regarding the maximum allowed time to deliver a pitch still applies and will be timed and enforced by the umpire.

### 16. THREE CONSECUTIVE BATTER MINIMUM

Each pitcher must pitch to three consecutive batters. If any conflict with these BBF playing rules makes this impossible, the BBF playing rules shall prevail. For example, if pitch count restrictions mandates removal of a pitcher, this substitution will be allowed even if the three batter rule provisions as specified in 5.10(g) are not fulfilled.

### 17. MOUND VISITS

Starting in 2024, all BBF leagues will follow the mound visit rules as specified in OBR. In addition to the existing rule where a second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the game, each team is limited to five (5) free visits without a pitching change per nine or seven inning game. For any extra-innings played, each team shall be entitled to one additional non pitching change mound visit per inning.

Mound visits have no explicit time limit but should be concluded swiftly and at the umpires' discretion.

The last paragraph of rule 5.10(l) comment, specifying that replacing the pitcher shall constitute one trip to that pitcher that inning, shall not be in effect.

### 18. REGULATION GAMES

A game over seven (7) innings or less is considered a regulation game after four (4) innings have been completed, or after three and a half (3.5) innings with the home team leading, or if the home team scores one or more runs in their half of the fourth inning to tie the score.

Nine (9) inning games are considered regulation games as specified in 7.01(c).



## 19. RUN DIFFERENCE RULES

The following run difference rules will apply to BBF adult competitions, including National Baseball Championships.

Seven inning games (or less): If a team is losing by ten (10) or more runs after having batted at least in five (5) innings, or losing by fifteen (15) or more runs after having batted at least in four (4) innings, or losing by twenty (20) or more runs after having batted at least in three (3) innings, the game is ended at that point.

Nine inning games: If a team is losing by ten (10) or more runs after having batted at least in seven (7) innings, or losing by fifteen (15) or more runs after having batted at least in five (5) innings, the game is ended at that point.

## 20. EXTRA INNINGS

Any extra inning shall begin with a runner on second base at the start of each half-inning as per rule 7.02(b). The runner placed on second base at the start of each half-inning shall be the player (or a substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding that half-inning's leadoff hitter.

This is a change from 2023 where extra innings started with runners on first and second base.

Where there are more than two games scheduled on one diamond per day, extra innings will not be used to determine the winner of any of the games. Instead, the 'countback' rule will be used, where the team that was in the lead at the end of the last full inning where the game was not tied, is declared the winner.

## 21. SUSPENDED AND POSTPONED GAMES

At any time after line up cards have been exchanged at the plate conference, the decision whether to call or postpone a game for any reason, including weather or field conditions, is at the sole discretion of the umpire-in-chief.

MLB and Minor League-specific exceptions specified in 7.01 and 7.02 regarding games within these league structures (e.g. specifically during Division Series, Wild Card series, World Series etc) do not apply to BBF games.

Optional Rules 7.02(a)(7), 7.02(a)(8), and 7.02(a)(9) for the Minor Leagues do not apply to BBF league play. Provisions in rule 7.01(e) apply.

## 22. PROTESTS

Protests are allowed in BBF games. The BBF has established rules governing the procedure for protesting a game, and protests must be submitted to the relevant league commissioner or technical commissioner within a set time period, as detailed below:

- For National Baseball Championship (NBCs) games, protests must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commissioner within 5 minutes of the incident/potential rule misapplication/infringement. This submission must clearly detail the rule number and the reason for the protest. The decision of the Technical Commissioner is final.
- For regular season games, the manager wishing to submit a protest must inform the umpire-in-chief that they wish for the game to be played under protest, and must email [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk) no later than 48 hours after the scheduled start time of the game in question, clearly stating the rule number, the reason for the protest, and the name of the umpire(s) of the game. The decision of the League Committee is final.

For protests because of alleged misapplication of the rules, the protest will not be recognized unless umpires are notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch, play, or attempted play.

No protest will ever be permitted on judgment decisions, and there are no appeals for the decisions made following a protest submission.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND OTHER BYELAWS

### 23. PLAYER MOVEMENT RULES

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:

- 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:

- Players aged 14-17 can move freely between teams in the same club during the regular season only.
- Once a player (aged 18 and over) has played six times or pitched in 14 innings 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.
- Failure to notify the opposing scorer and manager and the umpire of players "playing down" may result in the game being forfeited.

Any violation of the player movement rules will incur a forfeit to the offending team, a disciplinary investigation may be triggered on the Team Manager, and the team will be barred from the NBCs.

ID	Rule
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 section 25.
2	Players can be added digitally to another of their club's team's roster in accordance with the player movement rules, as detailed in the below points.  Any player's registered level is held by the BBF and can be shared upon request.
3	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.  If a club has two teams in the same league, no player can pitch for both teams.
4	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 team.  Any player playing down can play a maximum of four games per season for lower teams.
5	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

	<p>team cannot play in the following positions and must not bat consecutively in the batting order: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pitcher</li> <li>- Catcher</li> <li>- 2nd base</li> <li>- Shortstop</li> <li>- 3rd base</li> </ul> <p>Any player playing down can play a maximum of four games per season for lower teams.</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 and the BBF 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 they are ultimately eligible for both – in such instances the player would need to choose which team they will play for in the post-season before 1 July.</p>
7	<p>No movement up, down or between teams in the same Club is allowed during post-season play.</p>
8	<p>To be eligible for post-season play, players of Single A and Double A teams must have participated in at least 20% of regular season games for that team.</p> <p>In Triple A, players must have participated in 33% of regular season games.</p> <p>In the NBL, players must have participated in 45% of regular season games and must be rostered for the NBL team no later than June 5th.</p>
9	<p>Teams may apply for waivers relating to postseason eligibility in special circumstances to the League Commissioner (<a href="mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk">senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk</a>)</p>

## 24. 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 and first approve the exceeded roster limit, 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.

The Senior Leagues Committee reserve the right to impose any restrictions deemed necessary on players rostered to a team where the league level is lower than the player's known level of ability. This is to ensure fair competition and to prevent abuse.

## 25. PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION AND ROSTERING REQUIREMENTS

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

- For reasons as laid out in our privacy policy.
- 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 analyse 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, officials and volunteers must register.
- Players playing in our seniors' divisions under the age of 18 must have their parent or guardian register for them.

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 only rostered their BBF registered 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.

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 is cleared, without permission from the club that is the creditor. Any suspension request by a club (creditor) regarding a player's debt of fees should be submitted by email to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk) alongside evidence of owed fees.

Players may not appear in League games unless they have been added to the online roster of their 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 Senior League Committee not later than 48 hours after the game.

If you need guidance on any part of the registration process, contact the BBF, at [registrations@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:registrations@britishbaseball.org.uk). If you need any help with rostering players in MyWBSC please email [mywbsc@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:mywbsc@britishbaseball.org.uk) .

## 26. 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 2024 may participate in the leagues, but not a player that turns 14 in the following calendar year (2025). 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. 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 must understand 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.

## 27. ADMISSION TO GAMES

Visiting players and coaches shall have free admission to games.

## 28. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION, RESCHEDULING AND FORFEIT PROCEDURE

All competitions structure must be approved by the Senior Leagues Committee. A team shall participate in whichever league/division shall be designated by the Committee 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.

The cut-off for notification that a team cannot play a scheduled game (forfeit) 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.

Any team that forfeits four or more scheduled games per season is automatically disqualified from National Baseball Championships (NBCs).

## 29. RAIN-OUTS AND POSTPONED GAMES

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". 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 Seniors Leagues Committee. 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.

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 completed by the end date of the regular season unless otherwise stipulated by the Senior Leagues Committee.

## 30. INCIDENTS AND EJECTIONS

Umpires shall submit a report of any disciplinary matter within 24 hours concerning members of either team, on or off the field of play.

When there is an incident or ejection, the umpire should:

- Report the incident via the [link](#) within 24 hours of the incident.
- Inform the League Committee ([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.

## 31. RISK ASSESSMENTS 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.

## 32. SCORE-KEEPING AND RESULTS OF GAMES

Baseball score-keeping is the practice of recording the details of a baseball game as it unfolds. Scorers in the BBF are typically volunteers for either the home or away team. In special circumstances the BBF assigns scorekeepers to specific games.

In 2024, all teams will make use of the WBSC 'Ballclubz' scoring app which will provide game day statistics and results for games on the BBF's game center website. The home team is responsible to ensure their game is scored in the baseball Ballclubz app. It is possible for games to be scored manually on pen and paper and inputted (re-scored) using the Ballclubz 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 will result in a forfeit loss to the violating team. The home team is responsible to ensure the scheduled game is scored by a competent person through the Ballclubz App. The BBF reserve the right to penalise any team in any manner for not scoring their respective game(s) to a sufficient standard.

General knowledge:

- Print block legibly.
- Home team scorer is the official score and recorder for statistics for the game.
- All teams should keep their score-book/scoring data 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.

### 33. GAME LENGTH

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

**For Single-A and Women's League 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 (excluding inside the park home runs) 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 more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers and umpires so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers and umpires cannot agree on the length of time between games, the umpires will decide the length of time. The final inning will be open - called complete when the third out is made.

**For Double-A only:** 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 more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers and umpires so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers and umpires can not agree on the length of time between games, the umpires will decide the length of time.

**For Triple-A and NBL 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 more than 30 minutes, mutually agreed by the team managers and umpires so long as it does not impact on the published schedules. If the team managers and umpires can not agree on the length of time between games, the umpires will decide the length of time.

### 34. NBL REPRESENTATION IN WBSC EUROPE CUP COMPETITIONS

The top NBL team at the end of the regular season is declared one of the two teams representing the BBF in the relevant WBSC Europe Cup Competition (next year). The winner of the NBL National Baseball Championship is the other team to represent the BBF in WBSC Europe Cup Competition. 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 WBSC Europe Cup Competition. 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.

### 35. RECORD KEEPING

A member clubs and teams are 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.



## 36. 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.
- Players may not transfer whilst they 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 [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 submitted to the BBF. The original club may either reject or approve the transfer request. If the transfer request is approved by the original club, the BBF must then also approve the transfer request. If the original club does not respond to the transfer request within 14 days, the transfer request will be reviewed and decided upon by the Senior Leagues Committee. 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 considered until the debt is repaid in full.

Players can only transfer once in the same season between affiliated clubs.

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.

## 37. 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. Players of both clubs may wear their respective club's jersey during regular season and postseason games, providing it is the first year of such inter-club affiliation between the two clubs. 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.

## 38. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

All International games and European competitions shall be run by the rules of the WBSC.

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 this is not part of the standard BBF club and player insurance. No BBF team or affiliated person may play, organise or sanction a game against an international team without the written permission of the BBF.

### 39. PRE-GAME RULES

Before the scheduled start time of the game, the scorer(s) will receive team line-up cards from each manager. 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, each manager must declare any players:

- Playing down via player movement rules from a higher league team within the club.
- Playing across via player movement rules from a team within the same league.
- Players subject to a pitch count limit (aged under 23).
- Players subject to permitted use of specific bats (e.g. women/under 16s).

If notification of any of the above four declarations are not made, the opposing team can request a forfeit by email to [senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:senior.leagues@britishbaseball.org.uk).

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 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.

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	Team managers to hand lineups to scorer.	11:45am	N/A
6	Groundskeeping	11:45am-11:55am	10 minutes
7	Home plate meeting (team managers and umpires); See guidance notes below.	11:55am-12:00pm	Maximum 5 minutes
8	Game Time	12:00pm	Play Ball!

### 40. HOME PLATE MEETINGS

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.
- 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.

#### 41. START TIMES

Unless otherwise notified or scheduled, each first game of a doubleheader, or a single game, will have a start time of 12pm.

The interval between the finish of game one and the start of game two will be 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 30 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 may 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 Committee for a decision as a last resort.

#### 42. RESOLVING TIES IN 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 Committee.

#### 43. 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. When an ejection takes place, both team managers should complete a report within 48 hours of the incident. The relevant forms can be found in the Forms section of the BBF website

#### 44. 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.

#### 45. UMPIRES (SEE UMPIRE 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 provide a minimum of one umpire where no BBF-appointed umpire is available, whether this is a player or an independent umpire. Where only one umpire is provided, this umpire must be a home plate umpire, and not umpire from behind the pitcher's mound (see OBR rule 8.03(a)).

**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 WBSC 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.

Technical Commissioners 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 should report their umpire assignments to the league's respective Assistant Umpire Director, or by emailing [umpiring@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:umpiring@britishbaseball.org.uk)

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.

#### 46. TECHNICAL COMMISSIONERS

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.

#### 47. MEDIA OR PUBLIC RELATIONS

Any registered participant or person or persons representing a club or affiliated organisation should notify [marketing@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:marketing@britishbaseball.org.uk) 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.

#### 48. BBF 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 [info@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:info@britishbaseball.org.uk) 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!

#### 49. GREAT BRITAIN NATIONAL TEAMS

The Great Britain Baseball national team programmes are overseen by the BBF's National Teams Programme Official (Gavin Marshall – [gavin.marshall@britishbaseball.org.uk](mailto:gavin.marshall@britishbaseball.org.uk)) who manages GB Baseball's structure and operational matters separately. Where a BBF league team has five (5) 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.

#### 50. 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 [here](#).

#### 51. 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, processes, and standards we require. We take any misconduct or abuse on any official, player, coach, fan, very seriously. This is not intended to provide an exhaustive explanation of our actions, investigation and the enforcement process (if warranted). Click [here](#) to see our enforcement process.

Note: The BBF reserves the right to make public any 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). If 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.

#### 52. 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)

## **OTHER INFORMATION, GUIDELINES AND RULES**

### **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 to 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 against 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, 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>

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. The BBF as the NGB of our sport, are designated to control and regulate the environment of the game of baseball.

There are five Senior Leagues in the BBF:

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

## 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 but are not guaranteed league play.

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 13 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 and 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 Ballclubz App and tests it. Check the rosters are uploaded.
- Follow-up pre-game batting practice and fielding time-lines.
- 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 Ballclubz 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.uk](https://stats.britishbaseball.org.uk)
- Complete and submit your post game report.

## BBF DISCIPLINARY MATRIX 2024

**IMPORTANT:** The Disciplinary Matrix has been updated for the 2024 season, which aims to combat the level of abuse directed towards officials and to protect the integrity of the game. The matrix contains a range of incident examples that have been split into one of two categories. Category One relates to a minor incident where no physical or verbal abuse has taken place, and no participant is at risk. Category Two relates to a major incident where someone has been put at risk through any type of verbal or physical abuse, or where the integrity of the league and/or its members have been put in jeopardy.

Refer to the [BBF Enforcement Process](#) and [BBF Code of Conduct](#)

- All penalties to take effect immediately.
- All penalised persons have the right to appeal.
- 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 fine not paid by the offending participant within 7 days of the Final Enforcement Notice being served will be passed onto the club that the participant is affiliated to and all teams within the club will not be eligible to play any scheduled league games until the fine is paid and the BBF confirm receipt of payment. League games affected by failure to pay fines will be assigned as forfeit losses.

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

ID	Type of Offense	Offender	Consequence	Category
1	Intentional throwing at batter in the head area	Pitcher	Ejection from the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
2	Intentional throwing at batter in the head area (warnings issued)	Head Coach / Manager	Ejection from current game.	2
3	Charging the mound (not fighting)	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 2 game suspension.	1
4	Charging the mound (fighting)	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
5	Confrontational physical contact (e.g. shoving)	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 4 game suspension.	2
6	Fighting	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
7	Intent to injure (not specifically covered by this matrix)	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
8	Throwing equipment/debris	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game.	1

9	<b>Actions causing benches to empty</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 2 game suspension.	1
10	<b>Leaving position to participate in a fight</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
11	<b>Throwing equipment/debris in opponent's direction</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
12	<b>Restrained from confronting umpire / player</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 2 game suspension.	2
13	<b>Throwing equipment / debris in umpire's direction</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
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 the current game. 2 game suspension.	2
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	2
16	<b>Verbal Abuse - balls / strikes / safe / out / balks</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 2 game suspension.	2
17	<b>Prolonged arguing after point of ejection</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	2 game suspension.	2
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 the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
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 the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
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 the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
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 the current game. 6 game suspension.	2
22	<b>Not leaving dugout after ejection</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	2 game suspension.	1
23	<b>Returning to playing field / dugout after an ejection</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	2 game suspension.	1
24	<b>Returning to playing field / dugout after an ejection and participation in fight or bench clear</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	6 game suspension.	2
25	<b>Causing a forfeit game</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 2 game suspension.	1
26	<b>Ejection for tobacco use (includes smokeless and e-cigarettes)</b>	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game.	1

27	Ejection for alcohol during a game.	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game.	1
28	Throwing equipment/ debris onto field from dugout	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 2 game suspension.	2
29	Contacting an umpire (non-violent)	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Ejection from the current game. 2 game suspension.	2
30	Contacting an umpire (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. 10 game suspension.	2
31	Use of altered bat or non-approved bat	Player	Ejection from the current game.	1
32	Foreign substance / doctored baseball	Player	Ejection from the current game.	1
33	Team playing an ineligible player, suspended or player not on official roster	Team	Loss of game and disqualification from postseason (NBCs)	2
34	Team playing an ineligible player, suspended or player not on official roster	Head Coach / Manager	Two (2) game suspension	2
35	Displaying bad sportsmanship (not specifically covered by this policy)	Player / Coach / Manager or Team Personnel	Decision of Examiner	Decision of Examiner
36	Abuse by an official on a player or coach	Official (umpire, scorer, TC etc.)	Decision of Examiner	Decision of Examiner

### **BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION DISCIPLINARY FINES**

<b>League</b>	<b>Category One Incident</b>	<b>Category Two Incident</b>
National Baseball League	£40	£100
Triple A	£40	£120
Double A	£40	£120
Single A	£40	£120
Women's Baseball League	£40	£120

**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)

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

END OF BBF HANDBOOK