**SQWBL Winter Baseball By-Laws**

 **( Effective May 2024 )**

**1. Participation.**

**1.**1) All teams may start a game with a minimum of 8 players and play an automatic out in the number nine (9) batting position ( unless agreement is reached at the plate meeting between coaches ) **note: see 1.2 & 1.3** this will help to avoid the issue.

**1.2)** Players can ( and are encouraged to ) fill in for teams on game days where other teams are short players. This can include players from the direct opponent on the day.

**1.3)** Eligible players may participate in a game even if they are not listed on the team line up sheet prior to the commencement of the game. **R.E. 1.1)** if this occurs with eight (8) players the umpire must be informed of the extra player taking up the nine (9) spot.

**1.4)** If a player leaving the game due to illness, ejection or injury reduces a team to less than SEVEN (7) players, this will constitute a forfeit. To assist with avoiding this issue, **please note : 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.**

**1.5)** Home team allocation will be determined by the season draw with the 2nd team listed being the home team.

**1.6)** Players may be substituted as desired. If a player chooses to sit out an innings or two, they can re-enter the game at any point. However, they must maintain their place in the batting line-up.

**1.7)** Pitchers may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings, this is also considered to be nine (9) outs.

**1.8)** Any player who by GBL definition is considered to be a junior player must adhere to GBL rules in regard to Pitching restrictions and any and all safety guidelines.

**1.9)** There are no rules for players playing higher grade games ( with due consideration of the appropriate skills ). Players playing down in grade **can do so** but are expected to only take outfield positions and bat at the bottom of the order. **Note : 9.1, 9.2, 9.3.**

**1.10)** A maximum 12 batter continuous line up will apply.

**2. Uniforms.**

**2.1)** All players are expected to wear full baseball related uniforms and can wear alternate caps if desired.

The expectation of the league is that teams will where possible reflect the team uniform as accepted by the SQWBL committee. The committee will assess uniform suitability on a case-by-case basis and “club” uniforms are acceptable.Shorts, singlets, thongs are not acceptable playing wear.

**3. Registration and Payment.**

**3.1)** Each player that takes the field must have completed the registration and payment process as per “Gameday” registration portal.

**3.2)** Registration fees and game fees are published on the SQWBL, Baseball Queensland website and Facebook page.

**4. Team listing.**

**4.1)** Teams are expected to have at least nine (9) registered players and the SQWBL prefers all teams to have more if possible. All managers are encouraged to discuss team make-up among themselves to ensure full team allocations.

**5. Player Safety.**

**5.1)** All batters and runners must wear two eared batting helmets and protective cup.

**5.2)** All catchers must wear appropriate catching equipment. Any person warming up a pitcher between innings must wear as a minimum, a catchers helmet or catchers mask and protective cup.

**5.3)** Team coaches shall ensure players remove any jewellery or other articles that may jeopardise any players safety during a game.

**5.4)** Base coaches must as a minimum wear a skull cap when on-field, any “Junior” player must wear a two eared batting helmet as per GBL By-laws.

**5.5)** Players with pre-existing injuries not related to SQWBL participation must report the injury to their team manager. Failure to do so may result in the player being ineligible to play.

**5.6)** Managers must report any injury during play to the SQWBL secretary as soon as possible after the game completion.

**6. Fields/Grounds.**

**6.1)** SQWBL games will be held at Pine Hills, Southern Stars, Wests Bulldogs and other venues in keeping with the leagues ability to host at other venues and the growth of the league.

**6.2)** Each team will play one game per week unless determined otherwise by SQWBL.

**6.3)** To ensure player safety and enjoyment basic grounds maintenance will be carried out by teams as follows:

**Home team**, Rake in-field Arc and base paths.

**Away team,** RakeHome Plate and Pitching mound.

**7. Game Balls & Playing equipment.**

**7.1)** SQWBL is a Wood bat league in ALL divisions including Women’s

Wood composite and Bamboo are acceptable but must comply with GBL By-laws

**7.2)** SQWBL supplies all game balls for all games.

The umpires will carry enough balls for each game and will commence games with a minimum of 2 new balls with appropriate condition used balls to suit.

Balls remain the property of SQWBL and any spare balls should be returned to the umpires at the end of games.

**8. Game Duration.**

**8.1)** All Mixed competition games shall be seven (7) innings or 2 hours whichever comes first.

**8.2)** All Women’s competition games shall be Seven (7) innings or 1.5 hours whichever comes first.

In all competitions an innings once started must be completed, the umpire in chief shall be the sole judge of time remaining and the likelihood of a complete innings being completed within the remaining time (2 Hours). The umpire shall take into consideration all factors when this decision is required.

**NOTE: 8.2.a)** No new innings will commence with less than 5 minutes of “normal time remaining”

**NOTE 8.2 b)** All games are 2 hour hard finish, the umpire in charge and coach’s shall agree at the plate meeting as to the start time and the umpire in charge will to the best of his ability give a 10 minute warning prior to the 2 hour hard finish.

**8.3)** The manager may “declare” they’re at bat complete if during the normal timeframe they feel it will complete an innings and allow time for another innings to be completed.

**8.4)** In all games 3 Innings shall constitute a game or 2 and a half if the Home team is leading, in the event of inclement weather, a game of fewer than the required number of innings shall be declared a “Wash out”.

**8.5)** In the event of a wash out, managers in consultation with the SQWBL committee may, at the committee’s discretion reschedule the game.

**8.6)** If after four (4) completed innings, the team manager of the losing team may elect to call the game early by team consensus that there is no desire to continue play.

**9. Designated Hitter/Courtesy Runner.**

**9.1)** A designated hitter shall be considered to be any player who is not occupying a fielding position. Once a line up sheet is written, each player must own their place in the batting order. **Note : 1.10) maximum number of batters.**

**9.2)** There are no “pinch runners” this is considered contrary to the spirit of the SQWBL

**9.3)** Once a player is on base, they must remain a base runner until either, put out, injury or change of innings.

**9.4)** A courtesy runner MAY replace the catcher at any time. The runner must be the last out or last runner home if there are no outs.

**9.5)** If the offensive catcher does not take the field as the catcher in the next defensive inning it will be considered a violation of, **9.2) ( A one (1) run penalty will apply.)**  However, this does not apply in a situation where the defensive team does not take the field due to game completion.

**10. Scoring and Game Results.**

**10.1)** SQWBL does not use scorers or encourage the keeping of player statistics. Team managers are required to monitor game scores, game time and check with umpires regularly. If there is any dispute by a team manager they have until the end of the innings to question and agree to the score, not at the end of the game when the result will be final.

**10.2)** The Umpires will maintain a record inning by inning unless this is delegated to another official or third party.

**10.3)** All games shall be played as follows,

**Six (6)** runs across the plate for the **first three (3) Innings**, this restriction is then removed for the remainder of the game.

**11. Standings.**

**11.1)** All competition tables shall use a win/loss ratio system to decide standings. Should teams have the same ratio, the run percentage will be used to decide standings.

**11.2)** Games that are a wash out or bye are classed as “no game”.

**12. Premierships and Finals.**

**12.1)** Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals shall be played as determined by the SQWBL Committee.

**12.2)** Should any two or more teams finishing in the top four (4) positions after completion of regular fixtures be tied SQWBL committee shall allocate placings using the following criteria:

**A)** Head to Head for the teams for the season.

**B)** Runs for and against Head to Head for the season.

**C)** The runs for and against for the season.

If teams can still not be separated the committee will schedule a play-off at an agreed time in consultation with the relevant managers and their team.

**12.3)** In all competitions finals will be one game.

**12.4)** the first Semi Final shall be between teams placed first and fourth after the completion of the regular season.

**12.5)** The second Semi Final shall be between teams placed second and third after the completion of the regular season.

**12.6)** The highest seeded team shall be the home team.

**12.7)** if this format cannot be followed ( inclement weather, restrictions for example ) the SQWBL Committee will convene a special meeting to decide an appropriate format.

**12.8)** Semi Finals and Grand Finals shall be played under normal guidelines as set out in these by-laws but must be played to a result.

**13. Umpires and officials.**

**13.1)** SQWBL will supply umpires for all games.

**13.2)** Unless otherwise unable there will be two (2) umpires at all games.

**13.3)** The SQWBL encourages new and younger umpires to participate and will at its own discretion use these “newer” umpires in any capacity required with appropriate support.

**13.4)** Umpires shall not be replaced during a game unless injured or ill or have the agreement of both team managers.

**13.5)** All umpires are expected to be of neat and tidy appearance and wear clothes and shoes appropriate to their position as officials. The Plate umpire must wear all safety/protective equipment as required.

**13.6)** At the end of each game the umpire crew chief shall note any ejections, cautions, infringements, incidents or protests to the SQWBL Secretary.

**13.7)** The SQWBL committee will deal with any ejections, incidents or protests in a timely manner and notify all parties as soon as possible of any action.

**13.8)** A zero tolerance policy will be in place in regard to umpire abuse. It is an expectation that all players, coach’s and supporters show a common level of respect to all umpires and officials.

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The SQWBL is a competitive social league and all players and officials are asked to maintain this outlook through the season so that everyone who enjoys the great game of Baseball enjoys the SQWBL experience.

Kind regards

Andrew Gallpen

President SQWBL