

# **PLAYING RULES**

## **Lismore Masters Games Baseball 2015**

The playing rules for the Lismore Masters Games to be held in Lismore from Friday September 18, to Sunday September 20, 2015 will be the same as the Official Rules of the game of baseball with the exception of the following:

### **GENERAL PLAYING RULES**

1. Points will be awarded as follows:
  - a. Two (2) points for a win,
  - b. one (1) point for a draw
  - c. no (0) points for a loss.
2. All games including finals are to be of 100 minutes duration.
3. Any new inning commenced before 100 minutes from the scheduled commencement of the game shall be completed except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the inning. Inning to be completed for a result not for percentages.
4. At the completion of the game, if the teams are tied, the game is considered a draw with each team receiving one point. No tie breaker will be used.
5. A ten (10) run mercy rule will come into effect after five (7) completed innings or 75 minutes except where the team batting second is leading by ten (10) runs either prior to their fifth (5th) batting inning or the ten (10) run lead occurs during their fifth (5th) batting inning, at which time the game shall be called.
6. In the event of games being postponed due to rain, where possible, the Baseball Organising Committee will reschedule those games where a minimum of four (4) completed innings or 75 minutes has not been played except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the final inning.  
However, if those games are not able to be rescheduled prior to the commencement of the finals, the games will be declared a draw except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the fourth or later innings and, for determining medal playoff positions, no runs will be added to either the runs for or against and no innings added to either the number of batting or fielding innings, i.e., the game will be considered a nil all (0 - 0) draw.
7. The Designated Hitter [DH] rule may be used.
8. A Designated Runner [DR] may be used for the catcher with two outs.
9. Where possible, the Designated Runner [DR] and Courtesy Runners [CR] shall be a player who is not currently taking either a defensive or offensive role in the game. The runners must be positioned in such a way as to allow for a quick changeover of players. The DH + CR runner role does not help qualify the person in regards to finals participation.
10. Two Courtesy Runners can be used for any two nominated players in any game. The nominated players MUST be named on the team sheet at the umpire plate meeting before play starts. The DH + CR runner role does not help qualify the person in regards to finals participation.

## **FINALS**

11. To determine medal layoff positions where two or more teams have the same number of points at the end of the round robin competition, the position will be determined on
  - a. Head to Head basis.
  - b. The team that has the least number of runs scored against them by the teams involved.
  - c. The team that has the least number of runs scored against them by all teams.
  - d. Runs for and against
12. At the completion of any finals game, if the teams are tied, the game will continue with a tie breaker being used whereby the last batter or a substitute player shall commence the inning at second base with no (0) outs. The game will continue in this manner until a winner is determined.
13. Players can only play with the team for which they were originally nominated except where approval has been received from, firstly, all opposition coaches in the category which the team to whom they are transferring is playing and, secondly, the Baseball Organising Committee.
14. The team listed first in the draw will be considered the home team and will field first and supply one umpire for that game.
15. Team to supply their own scorer.

## **BATS**

16. Either wood, wood composite, or BESR compliant bats - Wood and wood composite bats may be of any length or weight, within the allowable current Official Rules of Baseball.
17. Aluminium and alloy bats may only have a maximum of -3 differentials between the length and weight of the bat. For example, if the bat is 33" long, then the weight may be no less than 30oz.

## **FINALS ELIGIBILITY**

18. To qualify for finals, all players must have played at least one quarter of the total innings their team has played during the round robin competition. However, if exceptional circumstances occur, such as injury, illness, etc, a submission may be made, in writing, to the Baseball Organising Committee, fully detailing the reasons for requesting an exemption to this rule.
19. No players that arrive to play after Saturday's games are completed can play without prior Baseball Organising Committee approval. A submission may be made, to the Baseball Organising Committee, fully detailing the reasons for requesting an exemption and approval to this rule.
20. In the case where Rule 23 [blood rule] has been used, the player will only be eligible to play in the finals provided that player qualifies under Rule 26.
21. In the event of inclement weather, finals games will be considered to be completed where play has been underway for minimum of four (4) completed innings or 75 minutes, whichever is the lesser of the two. Games where a minimum of four (4) completed innings have not been played will be declared a 'no game' except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the fourth (4th) inning.
22. Where finals games are unable to be completed due to inclement weather, the medals will be awarded on the basis of the team placing's at the end of the completion of the Round Robin games.

## **BLOOD RULE**

23. A player shall immediately, upon a direction of an umpire, leave the playing arena where the umpire is of the opinion that the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing arena, a player shall not return or take any further part in any baseball game until and unless:
  - a. The cause of the bleeding has abated and the bleeding has stopped;
  - b. The injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from;
  - c. Any blood stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced; and
  - d. Any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.
24. Any player leaving the playing arena under Rule 23 may be replaced by a substitute player until such time as they are able to return to the field of play. On returning to the game the player MUST occupy the same position in the batting line up.

## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION & DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

Masters Games are the FRIENDLY GAMES and should be played in the spirit of goodwill. If the need arises, the Baseball Organising Committee will convene a tribunal to resolve any dispute or disciplinary matter.

25. Protests can only be made on the basis that a misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules has occurred. No protest can be made on the basis that a judgment call was incorrect.
26. Protests can only be made on the basis that a misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules has occurred. No protest can be made on the basis that a judgment call was incorrect.
27. A protest must be made immediately after the incident in question. If play has recommenced, no protest can be lodged.
28. Only the manager of the aggrieved team can lodge a protest. The protest may only be lodged with the plate umpire.
29. The Protest Committee will convene immediately after the protest is made.
30. The Protest Committee will consist of the entire umpire crew working that game and one (1) representative from the Baseball Organising Committee [being the Venue Coordinator or his nominee]. The Baseball Organising Committee representative [being the Venue Coordinator or his nominee] will be the chairperson.
31. A decision will be made by the Protest Committee immediately following the presentation of evidence. That decision will be explained to the managers of both teams and any action necessary to correct the game situation will be taken.
32. The game will then recommence with no further reference or appeal against the protest being possible. Time continues to run when a protest is lodged. When the Protest Committee determines that a protest has absolutely no merit and is merely trivial and time wasting a 9-0 penalty will apply to the offending team.