

School Sport SA Baseball

Rules of the competition

Updated January 2024.

Diamond 2 at Diamond Sports will have an artificial mound therefore - no metal cleats allowed when pitching on Diamond 2.

General rules

- In the finals if scores are level after regulation time extra innings will occur. The Team at bat shall commence the inning with a runner on second base and play will continue until a result.
- All games will be of 7 innings or 90 minutes duration. No new innings is to start after 90 minutes with the innings in progress to be completed, BUT, if the team batting second cannot win (i.e. 8 or more runs behind) game will be called. Similarly if the team batting second is already in front they will not bat (regardless of %) and the score will revert back to the previous inning.
- If weather interrupts play a game will consist of 5 innings or 60 minutes total playing time.
- A "mercy" rule of 5 runs per inning will apply – once the 5th run is scored the scorers will notify the umpire who will then call "side away" to complete the inning. In a 7 innings match if a team is ahead by 10 runs after 5 innings then it's a "mercy" rule game.
- A team consists of 9 players on the field at any given time (No DH). No team may play with less than 7 players. Players must bat in order 1 – 9 and must not change that order during the game. Maximum team size 15. Substitutions or position changes must be told to the umpire and scorers at the time of change. Any player leaving the game may not re-enter.
- First named teams will occupy third base bench and field first. Unless negotiated by both teams.

Pitching restriction

Baseball South Australian Rules indicates that age group pitch limits applicable to a junior player apply:

- Aged 13-14 - 85 pitches per day
- Aged 15-16 - 95 pitches per day
- Aged 17-18 - 105 pitches per day

If a player has pitched less than their restricted amount of pitches and is removed from pitching, they

- a. Are not permitted to be the catcher *in that game*
- b. Are not permitted to pitch again *in that game*.

If a player has pitched their restricted amount of pitches on the day, they

- a. Are not permitted to be the catcher *for the rest of the day*
- b. Are not permitted to pitch for the *rest of the day*.

Speed up rules

If a catcher is on base (base runner) with 2 outs he must be replaced by a runner so that they can get their catching gear on ready to start the next innings.

8 Warm up pitches for each new pitcher - 4 warm up pitches between innings.

Playing time

- All participants - players, coaches and umpires have a responsibility to ensure that playing time is maximized. This can be easily achieved if all personnel are punctual, organised and prepared to “hustle” on and off the playing field.

Diamonds

Year 7 to 9 diamond sizes shall be: base paths – 24.38m / 80’ and pitching distance 16.46m / 54’

Year 10 - 12 diamond sizes shall be: base paths – 27.43m / 90’ and pitching distance 18.45m / 60’6”.

Equipment

Schools are to supply, for each match:

- Scorebook and scorer
- One match ball in good condition
- Sufficient balls, bats and gloves for their team
- A set of catcher’s gear adjusted to fit correctly (straps and buckles tightened to afford maximum protection)
- Minimum of 4 double eared batting helmets in good condition
- Players are permitted to wear rubber or metal cleats.
- Each school is to supply a first aid kit, water and sun protection where appropriate.

Bat restrictions

- **Players may use Wood, wood composite or BBCOR stamped bat**
- A team that uses a non-approved bat will forfeit the match 9-0.

Catchers

Catchers must wear appropriate gear that fits and affords utmost protection. Players “warming up” pitchers must also wear a face mask and helmet.

Umpires

In preliminary rounds the first named team supplies the plate umpire. Each team is to supply a base umpire.

Pitch counts must be kept by the scorer and may be called for in a dispute. Failure to supply may result in loss of points.

Rules

- Rules of the Junior League Baseball will apply. – Year 7 to 9
- Official rules of Baseball South Australia will apply. – Year 10 - 12