

UniSport Australia Guideline

Baseball

Open

UniSport Australia (UniSport) baseball competitions are conducted in accordance with the [Official Baseball Rules 2021](#) except where these differ from UniSport competition guidelines; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should also be made to the UniSport *Breach of Competition Requirements* guidelines for penalties related to breaches.

1. Team/squad size

- Minimum registered players – 12
- Maximum registered players – 18
- Maximum cross registrations – 3
- Minimum number of players that can take the field without incurring a forfeit – 8

2. Competition rules

2.1. Competition format

- a) The home team is named first on the schedule and shall occupy the third base dugout.
- b) A designated hitter (DH) rule will apply.
- c) Each team will be able to nominate up to and including 12 batters under the “Extended Line-Up” rule.
- d) Mercy rule - If one team is 10 runs or more in front at the completion of the 5th inning or any completed inning thereafter, the game shall be ‘called’.
- e) Seven run rules in first and second inning:
- f) At the scoring of the 7th run in the first and/or second inning of a preliminary or pool match, the umpire shall call ‘side away’ and the fielding team shall bat. Only seven runs may be counted in any one innings.
- g) The seven run rule will not apply in progression, semi finals, and medal matches.

2.2. Equipment

- a) The bat shall be a smooth, round stick not more than 2.61 inches in diameter at the thickest part and not more than 42 inches in length. The bat shall be wood, wood composite or wood laminate only. Females playing UniSport Nationals are permitted to use aluminium Baseball bats - 5 ounces or heavier. Bats used by females shall be not more than thirty-four (34) inches in length; nor more than two and five eighths (2 5/8) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16ths) inches.

2.3. Game duration

- a) All preliminary and pool matches will be seven innings or a 90 minute time limit.
- b) No new innings is to start with less than 10 minutes left in game time.
- c) Progression, semi final and medal matches will be a full seven innings.
- d) All innings started shall be completed, unless the home team is in front and at bat. In this instance, the game will be considered finished as soon as the winning run is scored.
- e) A game is deemed a regulation game after 65 minutes of play or three completed innings.
- f) The five minute rule will apply for all timed games.

2.4. Pool points scoring

Points for each match shall be awarded as follows;

- Winning team: 3 points
- Drawn match: 2 points per team
- Losing team: 1 point
- Forfeited team: 0 points

2.5. Pool tie breakers

In the event that two or more teams have the same number of points at the completion of the preliminary rounds, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following criteria in order, favours one team:

- a) Head-to-head of the tied teams in the preliminary games, team with the most number of wins takes the higher ladder position
- b) (Runs for) divided by (Runs against plus total runs scored against a tied team) x 1000. The highest % takes the higher position on the ladder
- c) The team with the lowest total number of runs scored against in the preliminary rounds
- d) The team that conceded the least amount of runs against the top team in their pool
- e) If the teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine the higher placed team.

2.6. Drawn matches

- a) If a preliminary or pool match is drawn after the completion of seven innings, both teams will be awarded two points as per section 2.4.
- b) If in a preliminary or pool match time has expired and the score is tied at the conclusion of the inning in progress, both teams will be awarded two points as per section 2.4.
- c) If a progression, semi final or medal match is drawn after the completion of seven innings, the WBSC extra-inning rule shall take effect from the eighth inning as follows:
 - i. The team batting first shall begin the inning with runners on first and second base.
 - ii. The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would lead off the inning in the absence of this extra-innings rule.
 - iii. The runner on first base shall be the player (or a substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.
 - iv. The runner on second base shall be the player (or a substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding the runner on first base.

Example:

If the #5 hitter in the batting order is due to lead off the eighth inning, the #3 player in the batting order (or a pinch-runner for such player) shall begin the inning on second base and the #4 player in the batting order (or a pinch-runner for such player) shall begin the inning on first base.

- d) If progression, semi final, or medal matches are drawn at the completion of seven innings, the games shall continue in extra innings utilising section 2.6.c, until such time as a result is determined.

3. Team duties

3.1. Team duty requirements for baseball are as follows:

- a) One person from each team may be required for the duty of scoring. Note that scorers will be required as part of team duty if no officials are appointed to this role
- b) The person fulfilling the team duty requirements can be any competent person associated with that team or university and does not necessarily have to be a player e.g. team manager.

4. Uniform requirements

In addition to the requirements outlined by the [Official Baseball Rules 2021](#) Rule 3.03 the following items are required:

- The uniform shall consist of a playing shirt, baseball pants and a cap. All defensive players must wear a cap.
- Numbering on back of playing shirts is compulsory

5. Forfeits, delays and abandonments

5.1. A forfeit will be declared when the umpire calls 'play ball' at the scheduled start of play where either team is unable to commence play.

5.2. The forfeit score is 7 runs to nil (0).

5.3. Should the commencement of a game be delayed due to no fault of either team (as determined by competition management or UniSport), the game shall be played in its full duration if possible. If full game duration is not possible, the recommended revised game duration will need to be agreed upon by both teams. If resolution between the teams is not

possible then the Competition Manager (or their delegate) will make the final decision regarding match format, which will not be subject to appeal.

5.4. In the event of a game being abandoned, the UniSport *Abandonment of Sporting Competitions* guideline will be implemented.

Previous amendments

August 2000 | July 2004 | August 2005 | March 2010 | May 2012 | May 2013 | June 2015 | April 2017 | June 2017 | October 2017 | February 2018 | August 2018 | March 2019 | March 2020 | June 2021

*All competitions will be held in accordance with the UniSport competition guidelines.

