



Baseball Ireland Handbook 2024

Adult and Youth Leagues

April 1st, 2024

1 Introduction and Baseball Ireland Personnel

Welcome to the 2024 version Baseball Ireland Handbook. This handbook:

- Contains important information covering the administration of Baseball Ireland through to the rules of baseball and bye-laws applicable to the adult and youth leagues.
- Provides administrative processes for clubs/teams and individual participants, be they players, coaches, officials, umpires, etc.
- Provides codes of conduct and disciplinary processes.

The handbook of Baseball Ireland is reviewed each year by the NEC. Amendments may be proposed to the NEC at any time via email to the League Coordinators or Baseball Ireland Secretary.

1.1 The National Executive Committee

President: Sean Mitchell – sean.mitchell02@gmail.com

Secretary: Jason Wiebe – jason@ashbournebaseball.com

Treasurer: Brendan Scott - Brendan.scott81@gmail.com

Adult League Coordinator: Shaun Grant - sgrant.tcs@gmail.com

Youth League Coordinator: Juan Lucas Galan – juan.lucas.galan@gmail.com

Public Relations Officer: Adrian Kelly - adrian.kelly@baseballireland.ie

Fields Officer: Emer Gallagher-Hall - emer.gallaharhall@compass-group.ie

Fundraiser Officer:

BI Liaison Officer: Gareth Donnelly - gazdonn@hotmail.com

1.2 Baseball Ireland Board of Directors

BI Board Chair: Mike Kindle

President – Sean Mitchell

Secretary – Jason Wiebe

Treasurer – Brendan Scott

Academy Director –John Dillon

Ex-Officio – Jason Nebenzahl and Alex Murphy

US Representative – Jon Houston

1.3 Additional BI Supporting Roles

Senior National Team General Manager: Jay Murphy - j217murph@gmail.com

- i. **U18 National Team General Manager:** Jay Murphy - j217murph@gmail.com
- ii. **National Children's Officer:** Mike Kindle – mike@baseballireland.com
- iii. **BI Development Coach:** Frank Andrews –
frank.andrews@baseballireland.com

Webmaster: Enda Mulcahy - endamulcahy@eirball.ie

Adult League Stats: Brendan Scott – Brendan.scott81@gmail.com

Umpire in Chief: Patrick Fleming – patrickfleming91@gmail.com

2 List of Definitions

Affiliated B Division Team: A “Stand Alone” B Division Team which enters into a formal agreement with another club to provide players for an A Division Team.

Club: An organisation that forms one or more baseball teams

Club Children's Officers (CCO): Club Children's Officers should be child centered in focus. Their primary aim is to establish a child centered ethos within the club. The CCO is the link between the children and the adults in the club. They also have responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy impacts on young people and Sports Leaders

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Designated Liaison Person is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to TULSA Child and Family Agency or Social Services (NI) and/or An Garda Síochán / PSNI.

Competition: Any League, Cup or Tournament the Federation organises

Cup competition: A competition between a group of teams participating in an elimination style competition over a series of days or weeks.

Doubleheader: Two games played consecutively in the same venue between the same teams in the same league.

Double Bill and Triple Bill: Two and Three games (respectively) played consecutively in the same venue but the teams participating are not the same teams. (i.e. a schedule A/B game between 2 clubs is a double bill) Note that a triple bill might include a double header as 2 of its games.

Federation: Baseball Ireland may be referred to as the Federation in the text of this handbook

Import Player: Any player who is not currently a resident of the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland and comes to Ireland to do remunerate work for the Baseball Ireland organisation or represent Ireland as a member of a National Team. (Umpiring is excluded from this definition as remunerate work).

League Competition: A competition between a group of teams for a league championship where each team plays the others at least once. This hand- book discusses league formation and conduct.

League Team: A team formed to play in any Federation league.

Manager, Captain or Coach: The person responsible for a particular team and who represents that team in official interactions with the league, its representatives and the NEC.

Member: Any registered player, umpire, scorekeeper, NEC member, manager or other stakeholder involved with Baseball Ireland for the purposes of participating in or organising Baseball activities.

National Executive Committee: A committee stipulated in the constitution of Baseball Ireland that governs the activities of the Federation, also known as the NEC

National Teams: Teams composed of Irish passport holders as players formed by Baseball Ireland to represent Ireland in competition

Registered Player: A registered player is any person who can participate in a baseball game under the rules of Baseball Ireland who has been included on a club roster submitted to the relevant League Coordinator.

Representative Teams: A team of registered league players formed by Baseball Ireland to represent the league in a competition.

Scorekeeper: An official of the league chosen to record and rule on statistics for a particular game or competition.

Stand Alone A/B/C Division Team: An “A” or “B”, or “C” Division Team within a club that does not have a team in the “B” or “A” Division of the League. For clarity, an Affiliated B Division Team is considered a Stand-Alone B Division Team as they do not have an A Division Team within their club structure.

Team: A team consists of a roster of registered players and a designated manager(s) or captain(s). The Federation has three types of teams: League Teams, National Teams and Representative Teams.

To Publish: A phrase meaning to place on the website and/or social media sites as well as alert all of the managers/captains for registered teams and clubs.

Tournament: A sanctioned competition between a group of teams participating in a single day or over a number of days.

Umpire: An official of the league chosen to interpret and enforce the rules of Baseball Ireland for a particular game or competition.

Youth Pitcher: Any pitcher under 18 years of age who participates in league, tournament, playoff or championship play.

3 Requirements for Team Participation in League Competition

In order to participate in the Adult Leagues (as an existing or new team/club), each club or stand-alone team must have:

- 1) A bank account in the name of the Club or Stand-Alone team
- 2) A minimum of a three-person committee/club officers and a designated captain for each team in the club as well as a Child Safeguarding Officer (CSO) and a Child Designated Liaison Person (DLP).
 - a) Each club has the option to select a single person to fulfil both the CSO and DLP roles. However, they need to complete the appropriate vetting/courses as outlined in point 4.
 - b) The club officers and captain shall be clearly identified on the Team Registration form that needs to be completed by every team wishing to participate in the league. The registration form should be completed and submitted before the AGM each year.

Penalty: Teams failing to complete the registration form by the deadline will not be registered for the upcoming season. The deadline is normally set at 14 days after the BI AGM and is announced at the AGM each year.

- 3) A team or club constitution or set of rules that includes a procedure for the team or club dissolution.

Note (Adult Teams): New teams entering the league will be awarded a discount on fees during the first three years as follows:

- Year 1: 30% discount
- Year 2: 20% discount
- Year 3: 10% discount

Note2 (Adult Teams): In 2024 the following discount applies: Vikings 10%, Renegades 20%, all C League Teams, 30%

- 4) Every team must designate a field as their home ground – this field needs to pass a annual full inspection completed by the BI fields officer.

Note: If the grounds are unsuitable for playing, the fields officer will work with the club in order to help them meet the minimum expected standards and a deadline will be provided.

- 5) Each Club must also complete a ***field & grounds safety self-inspection form*** and return it to the Fields Officer before the annual field inspection
- 6) In order to align with Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport, every team affiliated to Baseball Ireland must adhere to the following:
 - a) Every person named as captain/manager of every team needs to undergo security vetting by the National Vetting Bureau. **Note:** (Northern Ireland Based Teams are required to meet any equivalent, local requirement.)
 - b) Every person that has undergone vetting as required by the position must renew this vetting every three years.
 - c) Each club (or team if stand-alone) must designate one Club Children's Officer (CCO) The CCO cannot be a captain\manager of a team and needs to undergo training as specified by the legislation. **Note:** The CCO needs to complete Child Safeguarding Courses Level 1 & 2.
 - d) Each club (or team if stand-alone) must designate one Child Designated Liaison Person (DLP). The DLP cannot be a captain\manager of a team and needs to undergo training as specified by the legislation. **Note:** The DSPP needs to complete Child Safeguarding Courses Level 1, 2 & 3.
 - e) Each club can choose to designate the same person as CSO and DLP. However, they must meet the vetting/training requirements for both positions.

Club Children's Officers (CCO)

Club Children's Officers should be child centered in focus. Their primary aim is to establish a child centered ethos within the club. The CCO is the link between the children and the adults in the club. They also have responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy impacts on young people and Sports Leaders

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Every club/organisation should designate a person to be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children. The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to TULSA Child and Family Agency or Social Services (NI) and/or An Garda Síochán / PSNI. It is recommended that this person is a senior club person. However, if there is difficulty identifying a separate individual to take this role, the Club Children's Officer can be appointed as Designated Liaison Person once the club/organisation is clear about the responsibilities of each role. The organisation's child protection policy and procedures should include the name and contact details of the Designated Liaison Person and the responsibilities attached to the role.

3.1 Vetting Process (Republic of Ireland)

Team captains and players applying for Police / Garda Vetting shall contact Baseball Ireland's National Children's Officer (NCO) via email. The NCO, upon receiving the email, will forward instructions to complete the vetting process.

Note: Garda Vetting Information can be found here: <http://www.garda.ie/controller.aspx?Page=1548>

3.2 Vetting Process (Northern Ireland)

Team captains and players applying for Access NI shall contact the Baseball Ireland's National Children's Officer (NCO) and the ALC via email. The NCO/ALC, upon receiving the email, will forward instructions to complete the vetting process.

3.3 Safeguarding Courses

Safeguarding course can be accessed via evenbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/online-safeguarding-1-child-welfare-protection-basic-awareness-course-tickets-118146723029>

Alternatively, individuals can search the internet for courses that are conducted by the various County Councils.

For Northern Ireland, courses delivered in the ROI or by NSPCC or Sports NI are acceptable.

3.4 Additional Team Level Requirements

For Adult League Participation, each team independently of club structure must:

- 1) Provide an initial roster of players with all the required player detail and designation as determined by the appropriate league coordinator
- 2) Complete the appropriate BI team registration form in full
- 3) Complete the U18 registration form(s) as required by BI

3.4.1 Umpire Requirements (Adult Leagues)

Each team is required to send at least two players from its roster to umpire training and this player must be available to umpire at least two games at the Umpires in Chief (UIC) discretion during the season.

Each team, independent of club structure must designate at least 2 players in their roster as the "Team Umpires". This umpire must be available to umpire a minimum of two games at the UIC's discretion during the season.

Note: In order for an umpire to be eligible to officiate a league game, he or she should have completed a BI rules and mechanics training session or refresher session or equivalent umpire course in the last calendar year before the start of the season. If the BI cannot

schedule training session in any particular year, this rule will be relaxed to include participation in the last session hosted by BI or sessions hosted in-season as required.

If a team or multi-team club makes available more than required minimum of umpires, they must designate at least one of the umpires named as the "Team Umpire" for the team (or each team in a multi-team club.)

3.5 Penalties Associated with Team Requirements for Participation

3.5.1 Rosters, General Requirements and Vetting

Teams that are not compliant will not be able to participate in league or competition play organised or sponsored by Baseball Ireland. If the team registers for league play or competitions without meeting the requirement, their games will receive a walkover in every scheduled game until such a time as all the conditions are met.

3.5.2 Umpires (Adult League)

If a team does not name any umpire before the deadline set by the ALC before the season starts, that team will not be allowed to participate in the League or BI sponsored events until such a time as an umpire is named. Games scheduled for that team will result in a walkover

If an umpire designated as the main umpire for a team does not umpire the minimum number of games the team that the umpire represents will be deducted 3 points from the regular season standings at the end of the season.

Note: Teams with more than one umpire, where the umpire(s) is/are not designated as their main umpire, will not be subject to the penalty for non-compliance, however, the UIC or ALC will reserve the right to drop them from the umpire pool.

If for whatever reason an umpire designated as the main umpire cannot carry out the expected duties, he should notify the ALC and UIC and the team he represents must nominate a new umpire to take his place.

4 Umpires, Umpire Duties Compensation and Reports

In order to umpire a game in BI Competitions, every umpire shall wear the appropriate umpire uniform. The minimum uniform standard for 2024 will be a powder blue polo or umpire shirt. (Charcoal Grey or Navy trousers and black umpiring shoes and belt are recommended).

Upon arriving at the field, the umpires shall:

- 1) Introduce themselves to both captains.
- 2) Inspect the grounds as dictated by the field-check cheat-sheet.

- 3) Inspect the field of play at the beginning of every game.
- 4) Check the first aid kit provided by the home team.
- 5) Receive from the home club 3 new baseballs to start the game and a supply of fit game balls during the game as required.
- 6) Carry out a pre-game meeting to allow for the exchange of lineups and discussion of special ground rules - this meeting should take place 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the game.

Upon umpiring a game, every umpire shall

- 1) Meet with both captains and agree on the final score for the game
- 2) Communicate the result of the game to the LC (via text or email) no later than 4 hours after the conclusion of their assigned game (or 4 hours after the completion of the last game scheduled for the day where they are umpiring or playing).
- 3) Complete an online umpire report as specified by the League Coordinator.

Note (Adult League): Please use the fixture number as provided in the Calendar in your report in order to identify the game you officiated. Both Plate and Base umpire must complete an umpire report.

Calendar Link: (also on BI Website): [2023 Schedule Draft](#)

Umpire Report Link: <https://forms.gle/KtupakVTzozEz59EA>

- 4) Notify the LC that the report has been completed no later than Monday 17.00 following a weekend game or 24 hours after a mid-week game.

If the umpire fails to report the score or complete and submit the game report, they will not be paid the compensation fees (and travel expenses) for that game.

4.1 Umpire Fees and Travel Expenses:

Home Plate €30

Bases €30

Umpiring Solo €50

In addition, mileage is charged at a flat rate per location travelled. Details are below. All other journeys will be assessed by the LC in advance. The cost of tolls will also be reimbursed but a receipt must be submitted to the LC.

Travel	Cost
Greater Dublin Area to/from Peace Link	€50
Greater Dublin Area to/from Belfast	€50
Belfast to/from Peace Link	€50
Greater Dublin Area to/from Cork	€50
Cork to/from Peace Link	€100
Cork to/from Belfast	€100

5 League Schedules

The BI League Coordinators will publish the NEC approved League Calendar prior to the first game of each season which will specify the game dates, the reserved days, sanctioned national competitions, international competitions, and reserved dates for national team commitments.

Each club will be asked for their input to the league schedule prior to submission to the committee. Conflicts and trade-offs do occur between weather, daylight, league activities, national team activities, field availability and player availability.

The LCs will make a good faith effort to balance these factors for the best interests of baseball in Ireland.

The leagues schedules will specify the date, time, the home team, the visiting team, the field for each game. Umpires will be assigned to each game as far in advance as possible and will be added to the League Schedule when assigned.

League Schedule will be published in the BI website (or alternate site as stipulated by the LCs)

6 Baseball Ireland Disciplinary Procedures

The Federation intends the following procedures to be used in respect of disciplinary actions where a baseball Ireland member is ejected from a game or a playing filed as a result of their conduct:

6.1 Procedure

The Appropriate League Coordinator (or designate) shall determine, based on the umpire report of a game incident, or upon receiving a referral from the NEC, the category of the infraction and apply the associated penalty as follows:

Type 0 infractions: Offences that result in ejections due to arguing judgement calls, excessive arguing on the interpretation of playing rules. They carry a monetary penalty of €20 euros and 1 game suspension for first offenders and escalate €10 in each subsequent offence (but still is only 1 game suspension).

Type 1 infractions: Offences that fall into this category include but are not limited to: ejections for violations of equipment and playing rules, for example, players altering ball, throwing equipment, use of illegal players, etc. They carry a fixed penalty of 1 game

suspension and a €20 euros fine for a first offence. For second and subsequent offences, the suspension is increased by 1 game and the fine by €20

Type 2 infractions: Offences that fall into this category include but are not limited to: ejections for unsportsmanlike behaviour (includes throwing at a batter, verbal abuse and dangerous play, insulting/embarrassing/verbally abusing or verbal threatening an umpire) that take place in the framework of the game (including after the game has finished and the umpire(s) have vacated the grounds). They carry a fixed penalty of 2 game suspension and a €30 Euro fine for first offenders. (Note: Players can be ejected after the game has finished due to umpire harassment or actions perceived as such by the umpires)

Type 3 infractions: Offences that fall into this category include but are not limited to: ejections for violent behaviour toward player (e.g. fights or assaults) or towards umpires (e.g. pushing, hitting, shoving, fights, assaults) as well as serious violations of the BI policies. They carry a minimum of 5 game suspension and €50 fine, however, depending on the severity of the infraction, this penalty can go up. For this category of infraction, in order to determine the applicable penalty, the ALC or designate shall form a 3-person panel chosen from a pool of persons including the NEC members, managers of all active teams in the competition and current umpires.

The designation of the panel will be at the discretion of the LC (or designate) and shall be chaired by a member of the NEC. All members of the panel must not belong to the clubs involved in the game where the infraction took place and if an umpire is chosen to be part of the panel, he also should not have been officiating on the game where the incident took place.

The panel should follow the procedure described in Section 6.2 and apply appropriate penalties within the minimum and maximum established on the Framework of Infractions and Penalties Summary Table.

6.1.1 Repeat Offenders and Participant Record

Players penalised as a result of a disciplinary action will be considered first offenders only if they have not been subject to any disciplinary action in the current season being played (for type 0 and type 1) and in the last 3 seasons (for type 2 and type 3).

If a player has been the subject of a disciplinary action inside this window, new disciplinary action (regardless of the type) will be considered 2nd offences (or further) for the purpose of these disciplinary procedures.

Regardless of the type, offences are cumulative inside their type within each season, and are always penalised according to the offence type (repeat) and the number of repeats. With exception of type two which will only be considered a repeat if it is the second time that the participant is penalised for this type of offence.

For type 0 and type 1 infractions, repeat offenders will continue to receive the penalty described in the previous section (1 game suspension and increase monetary penalty for

type 0 and an additional 1 game suspension and an additional €20 penalty for each repeated type 1).

For type 2 infractions, repeat offenders will be considered a type 3 infraction (1st offence) and would require the formation of a panel to decide the appropriate penalty as described in section 6.1 and should follow the procedure outlined in section 6.2. If a type 2 offence is repeated a third time or more, they are now considered type 3 repeat offenders with minimum penalty as described for type 3 repeat below.

For type 3 infractions, repeat offenders would still require the formation of a panel to decide the appropriate penalty as described in section 6.1 and should follow the procedure outlined in section 6.2. However, note that the minimum penalty for a repeat type 3 offence is a ban for 1 calendar year, €100 fine.

In every instance where there is a monetary penalty involved, the player being subject to the disciplinary procedure can't resume baseball activities until the fine is paid.

Example: James is ejected from a game for a type 2 infraction in the second game of the season, the later in the season he was ejected for a type 1 infraction – the penalty applied will be that of a second offender for a type 1 infraction. At the end of the season, he is once again ejected for a type 1 infraction, he will be penalised as a repeat offender (3rd offence) for a type 1 infraction.

Example 2: Joe is ejected from a game for a type 1 infraction in the middle of the season, after serving the suspension, he is ejected from a different game for a type 2 infraction – the penalty applied will be that of the type 2 infraction (first offence). Later in the season, he is ejected for a type 0 infraction, the penalty would be that of a type 0 (3rd offence). At the end of the season, he is once again ejected for a type 2 infraction, this time the penalty would be decided by a panel as repeat type 2 infractions are considered under type 3 first offence.

6.1.2 Framework of Infractions and Penalties Summary Table

Violation	First Offence	Second Offence
Type 0	€20 Fine and 1 game suspension Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid	€30 Fine and each subsequent offence this amount increases by €10. 1 game suspension (the suspension does not increase for subsequent offences) Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid
Type 1	1 Game suspension and €20 Fine Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid	2 game suspension and €40 Fine Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid. (this penalty scales by 1 game and €20 with subsequent offences)

Type2	2 Game suspension, €50 fine Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid	offence becomes type 3 (1 st offence) – minimum penalty; 5 Game suspension and €100 fine. Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid.
Type3	<u>Minimum Penalty:</u> 5 Game suspension €100 fine. Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid.	<u>Minimum Penalty:</u> Ban for 1 calendar year, €100 fine. Offender cannot resume baseball activities until the fine is paid.
	<u>Maximum Penalty:</u> Lifetime Ban from Playing Baseball in Ireland (Note: a lifetime ban needs to be ratified by the BI board)	<u>Maximum Penalty:</u> Lifetime Ban from Playing Baseball in Ireland (Note: a lifetime ban needs to be ratified by the BI board)

Note:

Lifetime bans refer to events organised or sponsored by Baseball Ireland and include National Team participation and International Participation on teams registered with Baseball Ireland.

A person suspended or banned means they are not allowed to take part in that game in any capacity. They cannot wear a uniform; they cannot be in the dugout or mix with the players between innings; as a coach or manager, they are not allowed to send signals from the side-lines. An exception to this applies to players suspended for the first game of a double header/bill – such players are allowed to warm up with the team but once the home team takes the field, they must not participate as outlined above.

A person that is registered or allowed to play in both the A and B league will serve the suspension measured as games by the team in the league for which the ejection took place. If the offence was a Category 1 offence, they are allowed to play in the other league. If the offence is type 2, they are not allowed to participate in either league until the games measured on the team where the ejection took place are served.

Violation of these rules could result in unsportsmanlike conduct violations being levied against the acting manager of the team in question.

- Fines must be paid to the Treasurer before the person can resume playing.
- A Walkover GIVEN or RECEIVED by a team who has a player serving a suspension, counts as 1 game off the number of games which the player has been suspended for.
- Penalties handed down as a result of a type 0, 1 & 2 infractions are **not appealable**

6.2 Type 3 Panel Procedure

The panel must make a decision before the following week so must be formed as soon as possible, preferably the Monday following a weekend game.

(a) The umpires involved will submit a report of the incident to the panel.

- (b) The managers of the two teams and the player involved will be invited and may submit their own report of the incident to the panel.

Note: It is the responsibility of the player involved to submit their own report in a timely fashion to the LC to distribute to the Panel. Neither the LC nor the Panel will request such a report from a player unless it is deemed necessary to reach their decision, however, if submitted in a timely fashion, it will be used by the panel on its deliberation.

The panel must make their decision quickly; hence they are only required to wait for the umpire's report if the other evidence does not get produced within 72 hours of the respective managers being informed of the panel being formed.

- (a) The panel will meet, in the manner the chair deems most effective, and make a recommendation for disciplinary action.
- (b) Their discussions shall remain private and no publication of their discussions will take place. The panel chair shall review the evidence with the panel and make a disciplinary action recommendation.
- (c) The panel requires only a 2 person majority to make their decision.
- (d) Disciplinary actions beyond the minimum established in the framework above can include elements of being banned for a number of specific games or specific period of time, fines e.g. player banned the next time the two teams involved play or for any post-season competition
- (e) The panel will distribute their findings and their disciplinary decision to the ALC, NEC the players involved in the event. The letter sent to the involved parties and league coordinator and NEC must established the deadline for appeals to be communicated as established in Section 6.3(a).
- (f) The LC will distribute the decision/penalty to all managers and umpires in the competition.

Penalties handed down as a result of a Type 3 infractions can be appealed following the procedure outlined in section 6.3.

6.3 Appeals

Any person involved in the event can make a formal request to the NEC for an appeal by contacting the ALC and submitting an Appeals Fee (€50) to deter frivolous appeals. (This fee will be returned if the appeal is successful).

All disciplinary actions shall be put on hold, from the date of the appeal, while the appeals process goes forward.

The NEC will form an Appeals Panel to review the evidence involved and decide to enhance, reduce or leave the disciplinary action as is.

The procedures will be as follows:

- (a) The person wishing to make the appeal shall contact the LC, or NEC Secretary in the event of their absence, via phone, email, SMS message, WhatsApp message or post within 48 hours of the Disciplinary Panel's communication of their finding. The letter

sent to the player must established the deadline for appeals to be communicated. Once an appeal is notified, they must pay the appeals fee (regardless of their decision for the appeal to be considered). All disciplinary matters will be put on hold until the appeal is heard, and a decision reached. Players using the notification mechanism to play on a game for which they would otherwise be suspended, shall be subject for further disciplinary action by the league for unsportsmanlike behaviour (type 2)

- (b) The coordinator or designate shall form a new 3-person panel using only members of the NEC and following the limitations stated on section 6.1 regarding eligibility with the additional restriction that no member of the original panel should form part of the new panel. If there are not 3 NEC members considered neutral, then members of the Board of Directors that are not conflicted should be invited. If less than 3 members can be found, then the ALC should invite active coaches and umpires (at his discretion) or active members of BI until the 3-person panel is formed
- (c) The Appeals Panel shall meet via whatever means the chair deems most effective. The chair will invite the umpires, managers and players involved to submit more evidence if they so wish.

The Appeals Panel must decide on the following questions and all subsequent evidence and discussion should focus on these questions:

- (i) Was the decision of the panel appropriate given the evidence presented?
- (ii) Does any new evidence suggest the panel may have made a different ruling?
- (iii) Were the disciplinary acts in line with the guidelines or should they be changed? If so, what should they be changed to?

The appeals committee chair shall publish the answers to these questions within 10 days of the appeal to the persons involved in the incident, the LC and all team managers.

6.4 Sanctions

The Federation intends that formal sanctions to be used as a last resort for handling violations of rules, policies, codes of conduct etc not otherwise covered in sections 6.1. The Rules of Baseball cover many violations and their consequences during a game of baseball. The procedures below are intended to cover actions and activities whose consequences extend further than, or outside of, a specific game. The Federation intends to apply sanctions commensurate with the violation should sanctions be necessary.

Procedure for applying sanctions

1. Any member of Baseball Ireland may petition a hearing from the NEC regarding what they believe has been a violation of the rules, bye-laws, policies or codes of conduct of the Federation by submitting their case in writing.
2. The NEC may agree to hear or reject the application.
 - (a) If rejected, the NEC must respond in writing their reasons for rejecting to the petitioner.

If the NEC agrees to hear the petition, then a NEC meeting shall be organised and the Secretary shall invite the petitioner, the person or team who are under investigation and any witnesses that the NEC believes may help them make a decision.

3. At the meeting, the petitioner shall be allowed to present their case and any witnesses they wish to bring forward to the NEC so long as such presentation shall not exceed 45 minutes, as measured by the Secretary.
4. The accused shall be allowed to make the same presentation.
5. Following the presentations, both sides shall be asked to leave for the NEC to deliberate in private.
6. Subsequent to this meeting, the NEC shall issue a decision, their reasoning for the decision and any sanctions they will impose including their reasoning for imposing those sanctions.
7. The documentation surrounding a petition shall not normally be made public, and the petitioner may in fact request that all information regarding the investigation be held in private.

Following is a short list of violations and likely sanctions for such a violation. This list shall not be construed as the only set of violations for which the NEC can apply sanctions.

Player or Team Official Violations	Sanctions
Using banned substances	Type 3 offence Penalties
Physical and extreme verbal Abuse of official, spectators other players including actions that can be seen as criminal offences	Type 3 offence Penalties
Unsportsmanlike activities	Type 2 offence penalties or similar as determined by the NEC
Violation of child protection guidelines	Review of interaction with children to banning from interaction with children to type 3 offence Penalties
Violation of Code of Conduct, Policies and Bylaws published by Baseball Ireland	Type 0 penalties as determined by the NEC with more severe breaches being scalated to type 1,2 or 3 as deemed appropriate by the ALC or nominate.

6.5 Sanctions Appeals

Any person sanctioned by the NEC has the right to appeal the decision of the NEC. The petitioner can appeal both the violation and the sanction applied. Appeals will be done using the following procedure

1. The Federation requires an Appeals fee of €30 to deter frivolous appeals being lodged.
2. Only persons or teams sanctioned by Baseball Ireland may appeal.

3. Such a person shall submit in writing to the President a request for appeal, the Appeals Fee and which they are appealing, the violation, the sanction imposed or both.
4. The sanction shall not be enforced until the appeals process has been completed. The Secretary will arrange a meeting with the President, the ALC or designate in the event of a conflict of interest, and a manager of any 3 teams in the league who do not have a conflict of interest chosen by lottery. This shall be known as the Appeals Body.
5. All of the written information shall be made available to the Appeals Body prior to their meeting.
 - (a) Any member of the Appeals Body may request additional witnesses or information prior to the meeting.
6. When the Appeals Body meets, the petitioner may either present their case or waive this right so only the written information shall be considered. The NEC may also send a representative to present their side of the case or waive this right.
7. After the presentation(s), the Appeals Body shall retire to consider and decide.
8. In the event that the appeal is made on the violation, the Appeals Body shall decide by simple majority vote with each member casting one vote.
 - (a) In the event of a draw, the President's vote shall make be the deciding vote. If the violation decision is upheld, then the sanction may be appealed separately.

The petitioner shall be informed in writing of the Appeals Body's decision and this information shall normally be made public. If the sanction is also being appealed and the violation has been upheld, then the vote on sanction is also taken

In the event that the appeal is made on the sanction:

1. The Appeals Body shall decide by simple majority vote with each member casting one vote.
 - (a) In the event of a draw, the President's vote shall be the deciding vote as to whether the sanctions should stand or be revised by the NEC.

The Appeals Body may make a recommendation to the NEC on a sanction, but the responsibility for deciding and applying the new sanction rests with the NEC.

The new sanction may also be appealed using this same process only if it differs from the recommendation made by the Appeals Body. If the violation or sanction is overturned, the Appeals Fee shall be returned.

7 Code of Conduct/ Safeguarding Documents/Social Media and Additional Policies

The ratified Safeguarding documents / templates from Baseball Ireland can be downloaded from the BI website: [Safeguarding – Baseball Ireland](#)

A few points to note.

1. Individuals who are required to undergo Garda Vetting do not need to be **fully Vetted** before they can begin coaching, umpiring, etc. Once an individual formally and successfully submits the documentation to their respective Club / Organisational Safeguarding Officer, they can begin coaching, umpiring, etc. The overall Garda Vetting process takes a considerable amount of time so, we should take a pragmatic view on this process. Those who take the required steps should not be restricted from participating even though they have followed the correct steps. At the same time, those applying for Garda Vetting should be patient and not expect to be Garda Vetted immediately.
2. All Coaches, Club administrators and any individual who regularly interacts with Under 18 year-olds is required to attend a **Level 1 Introductory Safeguarding Course**. Any individual who has not attended this course, and wishes to participate in any Club activities with Under 18s, must provide evidence that they have scheduled attendance at a Level 1 Introductory Safeguarding Course to take place no later than June 30, 2021.
2. Each Club is responsible for ensuring that individuals within their Club, who are required to be Garda Vetted and attend Safeguarding Courses, fulfil those requirements.
3. Each Club must complete the form - **BI Club Child Safeguarding Statement Risk Assessment 2021**. The Club should then circulate the **Club Child Safeguarding Statement Risk Assessment 2021** to its members and have a completed copy ready to present at all Club activities / events. (PENDING CONFIRMATION FROM BICO)
4. All Under 18 players must have a Parent / Guardian complete a **Parent / Guardian Consent Form**. The Club is responsible for collecting and storing this information safely. Under 18s are not permitted to participate in any activities without their Parent / Guardian completing a Consent Form.
5. All Clubs must circulate any and all relevant Club Safeguarding Policies and Procedures to its membership. It is **imperative** that all Parents / Guardians of Under 18 members be provided with the **Club Child Safeguarding Statement Risk Assessment** and complete a **Parent / Guardian Consent Form**.

7.1 Codes of Conduct

The Baseball Ireland Code of Conduct can be found inside the Safeguarding Policy available on the BI website (<https://baseballireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Baseball-Ireland-Safeguarding-Policy-2021.pdf>). All members of Baseball Ireland must abide by these Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policies.

7.2 Social Media Policy

Posts on Baseball Ireland's social media platforms (or individual members of BI social media platforms which make reference to BI or its members) which are deemed offensive,

distasteful, abusive or inappropriate may be deleted (or asked to be deleted) at the determination and discretion of the National Executive Committee. The author of the post may be subject of disciplinary action in accordance with the rules set out in the Baseball Ireland (BBI) Handbook. In such an instance the matter may be referred to the Adult League Coordinator to invoke disciplinary procedures in accordance with the BBI Handbook. Disciplinary actions determined may include, but are not limited to, the author being blocked from BBI social media accounts and also communication platforms such as BBI WhatsApp groups.

8 BI Concussion Policy, Protocol and Procedure

Concussion injuries in all levels of sport have been a major topic in the press and medical literature over the past couple of years. For young people ages 15-24 sports are second only to motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of brain injury. Concussions can happen in any sport and at any age.

(a) Definition:

A concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by a blow or jolt to the head and can change the way the brain normally works. Any concussion is serious whether mild or severe. They can also be caused by a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth and causes the brain to strike the surrounding skull. Concussions most often do NOT result in loss of consciousness - only 10% involve loss of consciousness.

Some of the symptoms of concussion that may be reported by the athlete are as follows:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Sensitivity to Light
- Memory Problems
- Confusion
- Sensitivity to Noise
- Slowed Reaction Times
- Drowsiness
- Loss of Balance
- Vomiting
- Blurred Vision

Coaches may observe the following in a concussed athlete:

- Confusion
- Dazed
- Loss of Consciousness
- Behaviour Changes
- Clumsy Movement
- Personality Changes
- Cannot Recall Events After Hit or Fall

(b) In Game Assessment Procedure

- I. According to the Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport by the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sport, an athlete showing any of the above signs of concussion should be medically evaluated onsite.
- II. If no health care provider is available, the player should be removed from play and referred immediately to a physician. Once the first aid issues are addressed, an assessment of the concussion can be made.
- III. The player should not be left alone following the injury because monitoring for deterioration is important.
- IV. A player with a diagnosed or suspected concussion should not be allowed to return to play on the day of the injury.
- V. Concussed athletes should not return to play until all signs and symptoms have resolved at rest, and then following exertion using a graduated protocol (see below). An athlete should never be released to participation without a signed statement from a medical physician.

Unlike some other sports in Ireland, professional medical expertise is usually not available at the field during baseball games. As such, it will require diligence by umpires and coaches to spot the symptoms of concussion.

Any player receiving a blow to the head must be examined by both his/her coach and the chief umpire immediately. If any one of the aforementioned symptoms are clear to either the chief umpire or the coach, the player must be removed from the game and sent for medical examination.

(c) Graduated protocol for return to play

There should be a graduated return-to-play protocol following a concussion, and the athlete can proceed to the next level if there are no symptoms at the present level. The graduated return-to-play protocol is as follows: Each step generally takes 24 hours. If there are any symptoms at any stage, the athlete should drop back to the previous stage.

- i. No Activity – Complete physical and cognitive rest
- ii. Light aerobic exercise – Walking, stationary bike, no resistance training
- iii. Sport-specific exercise – Running drills, etc, no potential head impact activities
- iv. Non-contact drills – Start progressive resistance training
- v. Full contact practice – Following medical clearance normal training activities
- vi. Return to play – Normal game play

The real-world implications of this are that a player suffering concussion, once cleared for return, cannot participate in batting practice or infield drills until five days later; and cannot play again until six days later.

A repeat concussion before the brain fully heals can slow recovery and increase the possibility of long-term problems. In some cases, repeat concussions can result in permanent brain damage and death, which is called second impact syndrome.

It is important for athletes, coaches, and umpires to be aware of the signs and symptoms of concussion, how to prevent concussions, and to never to allow an athlete to return to play following a concussion without proper care- no matter how minor the injury might seem.

9 Guidelines for Coaches of Team with Players U15

The following guidance is intended to ensure the safeguarding and protection of player U15 playing in the adult leagues:

- Coaches should work closely with the club Child Safeguarding Officer/Designated Liaison Person to ensure the environment within the team is appropriate to foster development and inclusion. Parents should be kept informed of club philosophies and decisions (including disciplinary) made within the context of the club operation.
- Coaches/Managers should not put a player without the appropriate skills in a position to get hurt physically or emotionally
- During games, coaches should strive to match playing time to player skill and physical endurance.
- Coaches should leverage U15 players expectations withing the framework of the team goals as to avoid disappointment.

10 Leagues Rule Sets

10.1 Adult League Rules & Regulations

Baseball Ireland fully adopts the Official Rules of Major League Baseball as the rules governing all Adult League games and competitions organised by Baseball Ireland, subject only to modification as described in this handbook/ruleset.

In the case of a dispute between the Official Rules and this handbook, this handbook shall in all cases prevail.

The Official Rules adopted are those of the previous season of Major League Baseball.

<https://www.mlb.com/official-information>

The NEC reserves the right to determine, modify and apply any penalty that they consider fit for violations to the rules and sections of this handbook.

Baseball Ireland comes under the umbrella of WBSC (World Baseball and Softball Confederation) and abides by its rules when relating to international tournaments and also follows their advice in rule matters when there are discrepancies with the MLB rules.

It sometimes becomes necessary to amend certain rules to suit league requirements, these rules shall supersede any other rules in existence and, along with the MLB Official Rules shall be the rules for all members of Baseball Ireland participating in the Adult Leagues. In the interpretation of rules, the rules contained within this document shall supersede the MLB Official Rules.

10.1.1 Rule 1: Bat Regulations

Any bat not meeting the requirements of this rule will be deemed an “Illegal Bat”

A-League

All adult teams in the “A League” will use wood bats in accordance with Rule 3.02 (2014 Rule 1.10) of the Official Rules of Major League Baseball. Wood composite bats with the BBCOR .5 are also acceptable for “A League” play. There is NO age exception to this rule.

B-League and C-League

All adult teams in the ‘B and C League’ will have the option to use either wood bats as in the A-League or alloy/metal bats.

- (a) Players designated as ‘A’ do not have the option to use alloy/metal bats in ‘B League’ play
- (b) Composite and metal/alloy adult bats used must have a BBCOR .5 stamp
- (c) Players under the age of 15 will be entitled to use Little League bats as designated below
 - a. An alloy/metal bat with a BPF stamp of 1.15, or
 - b. An alloy/metal bat with a USABat stamp.

Penalty for using an Illegal Bat - If the batter has an Illegal Bat while he is at bat or after his at bat but before the next pitch to the next batter: The batter is declared out, all runners return to the base occupied at the start of the at bat. The bat is removed from the game.

10.1.2 Rule 2: Uniforms

All league clubs and teams participating in Baseball Ireland sanctioned competition must meet minimum uniform standards. They must ensure that the following items of uniform and playing equipment are provided:

- (a) All players must wear matching caps, jerseys, and pants. Players failing to meet this minimum uniform standard will not be permitted to compete in Baseball Ireland sanctioned play. Umpires will enforce this minimum uniform standard by prohibiting players out of uniform from taking the field of play:

- i. All uniform jerseys must carry numbers in accordance with MLB rule 3.03 (2014 Rule 1.11).
 - ii. In the Adult 'B League', this rule is slightly relaxed; new players need to have at least a matching cap and jersey for the first game (first 2 if in a scheduled doubleheader). Subsequently, such 'B League' players need to meet minimum uniform standards. (The inclusion of such player in the lineup needs to be notified to the plate umpire and opposing captain as soon as it happens).
 - iii. Only pitchers, while running on the base paths, are allowed to wear a jacket or hoodie or similar item of clothing over their jersey. For any other player in the field of play, the jersey must be worn on top of any other item of clothing.
 - iv. If a pitcher is wearing an exposed undershirt, this cannot be white below the elbow of the throwing arm or of any colour similar to the colour of the baseball.
- (b) Catchers must wear a mask, body protector, box, leg guards and helmet.
 - (c) Players must wear an approved batting helmet when at bat and when base running. To this end, a team shall own a minimum of 4 batting helmets. Penalties for not wearing helmets are outlined in Rule 3.08 (Comment) on the MBL rulebook
 - (d) Players under the age 16 must wear a batting helmet with a face guard while batting. Violations of this rule should be brought to the attention of the plate umpire who shall require the player to wear the helmet with face mask before he can take/continue his turn at bat. If the player refuses to use the facemask, (s)he shall be declared out

Penalty for Rule 3 violations (a,b,c): Players in violation of the uniform rule will not be allowed to participate

Penalty for Rule 3 violation (d): Players refusing to use the facemask shall be declared out by the umpire.

10.1.3 Rule 3 Game Length

- (a) All games in the 'A League' and "B League' season and playoffs will be 9 innings except in the following situations:
 - i. Midweek games scheduled to start at 6:30 or later.
 - ii. Regular season doubleheaders,
 - iii. Playoff doubleheaders involving the B division or
 - iv. In the event that the ALC is required to schedule 7-inning games to balance the schedule or due to any other concern regarding the possibility of the teams not being able to play the game to completion.
- (b) A and B league games going into extra inning will be subject to the following rules:

- i. At the beginning of every half inning of extra inning the player that completed the last plate appearance of the previous half inning starts as a runner on 2nd base.
- (c) All games in the “B League” bill will be subject to a time limit with no new innings started after 3 hours.
- (d) Games with a time limit will be subject to the following rules:
- i. If the game reaches the time limit and if there is still a tie after the last full inning is completed, the result of the game will be that of the previous completed inning (if still a tie, the previous inning is considered and so on – if the game is tied after the 1st inning is considered, then the game will be reschedule and completed with every inning played considered an extra-inning.

Note: If the time limit is reached before 5 innings are completed (4 ½ if the home team is winning) the game will be considered a 5-inning game and should be counted as a suspended game and should be continued at the next available opportunity as a 5-inning game with extra-innings applying from the 6th inning onwards.

- ii. In case of a weather or any other type of delay, the clock will be stopped. In all cases where the time limit applies, responsibility of the clock lies with the Plate Umpire.

Example: A game reaches the time limit at the top of the 6th inning with the away team winning by a run – the home team has to complete its half of the inning and if the game is tied after their half of the inning, then the 5th inning score will be looked at – if still tied, the 4th inning is looked and so on. If they are tied after the 1st inning then the game becomes suspended and on the reschedule the game continues in the 7th inning but with the Extra-Inning rules (Rule 4(e)) in place (no time limit applied to the rescheduled game)

Example 2: A game reached the time limit during the bottom of the 3rd inning with the away team winning 2-1. If at the end of the inning the score is still the same, the game is suspended, reschedule and started in the 4th inning – this is now a 5-inning game with extra innings rules (Rule 3(b)) applied from the 6th inning.

- (e) For both A and B league, on the occasion where multiple games are scheduled and 1 team is playing in more than 1 game, the games involving a team playing multiple games will be considered 7 inning games.

Example: Team Alpha is scheduled to play 2 games at home, the first game is against team Beta and the second game against team Gamma. Both games are 7 inning games.

- (f) All games in the “C” League will be subject to a 2.5 hour time limit, or a seven inning limit, except in the following circumstances:

- If a C League team is playing two games in the same weekend, their games will be 2 hours time limited only.

10.1.4 Rule 4: Mercy Rule

The Baseball Ireland Mercy rule will be applied to all adult 'A' and 'B' league games as follows:

- (a) For a 9 inning game, the mercy rule will be invoked if one team is trailing by 15 runs or more at the end of the 5th inning (after 4.5 innings if the home team is leading) or by 10 runs or more at the end of the 7th inning (6.5 if the home team is leading).
- (b) For 7 inning games, the mercy rule will be invoked if one team is trailing by 15 runs or more at the end of the 4th inning (after 3.5 innings if the home team is leading) or by 10 runs or more at the end of the 5th inning (after 4.5 innings if the home team is leading).

Penalty: Additional innings played after the mercy rule result is reached in the game will be erased from the official record – no statistics will be recorded after the point in which the mercy rule is reached

10.1.5 Rule 5: Designated Hitter

The Designated Hitter Rule is optional for either team in any game within both the 'A' , 'B' and 'C' Leagues. [Rule 5.11 (2014 Rule 6.10) of the Official Rules of Major League Baseball still applies].

10.1.6 Rule 6: Extra Player (Adult B-League and C-League ONLY) & Re-Entry

10.1.6.1 Extra Player

An EP is a 10th player specifically designated on the lineup card, who is not the pitcher or Designated Hitter and is treated as any other defensive player.

- (a) The EP should be clearly designated on the lineup card presented to the Plate Umpire (PU) at the beginning of the game. It is not mandatory that a club designate an EP, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of an EP for that club for that game. The EP's position in the batting order cannot be changed once assigned.
- (b) The team on defence can only field 9 defensive players at any time. The 10th player in the lineup (the one designated as EP) shall remain in the team's dugout. The EP shall be treated as any defensive player in that they can fill any defensive role consistent with the rules of baseball and such a change shall not be considered a substitution under rule 3.03.
- (c) The player not on the field in a defensive role can be exchanged for another defensive player only when the ball is dead. As a courtesy, the manager of the defensive team should notify the PU when such change is made and note it is NOT a substitution.

- (d) A substituted Extra player can re-enter the game as per the Re-Entry rule
- (e) Teams in the B League may use both a designated hitter (DH) and extra player (EP) in the same lineup if they wish. In such a case, a starting lineup of 11 players will be presented to the Plate Umpire (PU). It must be made clear to the other coach and PU who the pitcher will be in the field and that they will be ineligible to bat.

10.1.6.2 Re-Entry Rule

- (a) Any player listed in the original lineup may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever (s)he is in the lineup.
- (b) The pitcher is governed by the provisions of MLB Rule 5.10.
- (c) A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.
- (d) All players that re-enter the game in the wrong position in the batting order or who are not eligible to re-enter the game and do so, are considered illegal substitutions or illegal re-entry.
- (e) In the C League, a player may rejoin or be withdrawn more than once, based on captain's discretion.

Penalty: The penalty for illegal re-entry/substitutions is removal of the offender from the game. All action in which the illegal substitute took part is legal. If caught before a play or pitch, replace the player. If caught after a play or pitch, eject the player, but keep the play. The manager may also be ejected, if warranted.

Note: Players ejected from the game as a result of illegal substitution will not be subject to BI disciplinary procedures except for the team manager who will be subject for such procedures if ejected due to the use of illegal re-entry or illegal substitutions.

Example: Abel listed on original lineup card in 5th batting position. Baker is substituted for Abel in the 3rd inning. Dillon is substituted for Baker in the 5th inning. Abel can re-enter the game for Dillon. Both Dillon and Baker are out of the game; they can no longer participate.

10.1.7 Rule 7: Minimum Number of Players

Teams may start and complete any game with only 8 players and do so without the penalty of a walkover. The team with 8 players must record an out in the 9th spot (it must be the 9th spot only) in the batting order throughout the game unless an additional (9th) player arrives.

- (a) If a 9th player arrives, they may be added into the batting order only in the 9th batting position. They may take their position when they arrive but must wait until the current batter has completed their time at bat.
- (b) If nine players are available, a team must start with all nine players and are not permitted to hold one back.

- (c) A team that starts the game with 10 or 9 players but, due to injury, ejection, or any other reason they drop below the starting number, they will be allowed to continue playing with a minimum of 8 players. Automatic outs must be recorded in the lineup spot of the player that have to leave the game.

Note: If due to injury, ejection or any other circumstance the team falls below 8 players, the game will result in a walkover but the penalties associated with Walkovers will not apply (no monetary penalty issue and normal points awarded for the loss).

10.1.8 Rule 8: Game Protests

Protesting a game is not permitted on judgement calls by the umpires.

Managers can protest a game when they allege that the umpires have misapplied the rules. However, in order to minimise such occurrences, the manager should request that the umpire consults a rulebook (if one is available) and applies the rule correctly before formalising a protest.

In Game Process:

- (a) The umpires must be notified of the protest at the time the play in question occurs and before the next pitch or attempted play begins.
- (b) If the play in question ended the game, a protest can be filed with the league following the process outlined below.
- (c) When protesting a game, all aspects outlined on the protest template (see appendices of this handbook) must be recorded by the Plate Umpire and Manager Protesting the Game. (Ideally the template should be completed and signed on the spot).
- (d) The signed protest template must be submitted to the league coordinator within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game in question
- (e) The UIC will form and chair an umpire panel that determines whether the protested decision violated the rules, if the protest is upheld, the game will be resumed from the point of the protest at a later date determined by the LC.
- (f) The umpire panel must yield a decision within 48 hours of receiving the protest documentation and its decision must be communicated to the LC who will disseminate as required and organise game replays as needed.
- (g) The Umpire's Panel Decision is Final and not subject to appeal.

Due to the nature of Baseball Ireland rosters & line-ups, protests will also be allowed for the use of illegal players (players not included in the approved roster for the game in question and used during the game)

In order to protest a game due to the use of an illegal player the team making the protest must:

- (a) Notify the LC in writing within 48 hours of the scheduled start time of the game or else the right to protest will be lost. They must include a copy of the lineup card with the name of the suspected illegal player highlighted.
- (b) The LC will check the **official lineup submitted to the umpire** and check the name of the offending player against the official roster for the team as well as the scoresheet to check for player participation.
- (c) If the LC finds that an illegal player has been used, the team using the illegal player will concede the game (walkover).
- (d) A game conceded as a result of a protest will not be subject to the walkover monetary penalties.
- (e) The LC will make a recommendation to the NEC for disciplinary action (type 1) to be levied against the captains of the team (or acting captain if a different one is noted in the official lineup card) that used the illegal player.

Note: Illegal substitutions are not protestable – instead they must follow the penalties associated with illegal substitutions/re-entry

10.1.9 Rule 9: Pitching Restrictions

iv.

The following restrictions on pitching shall apply to all pitchers in the Adult League:

Adult Players (18 and Over)

- (a) A pitcher may pitch any number of innings in a single game. Any inning in which a pitcher throws a single pitch shall be counted as a full inning pitched.
- (b) When more than 1 game is scheduled as part of a double header/bill or triple bill and one team is playing in more than 1 game, the following rules apply to pitchers registered with that team:
 - i. Any pitcher may pitch any number of innings on the first game that they appear in on the day
 - ii. If a pitcher appears in multiple games on the same day, the pitcher is subject to a 10 inning limit per day which includes the innings pitched on the first game.

Example: Team Alpha is scheduled to play 2 games on the same day. On the first game against team Beta, Pat and Sean pitch 5 innings each for team Alpha. On the second game against team Gamma, both Pat and Sean can only pitch 5 innings each (Note that pitchers on teams Beta and Gamma have no restrictions unless they are playing in a third game scheduled on that day as part of a triple bill).

- (c) This rule will also apply if there is a single A or B game being played as part of the multi-bill feature (9 inning game) where the pitchers are eligible to participate in the other games due to club affiliation

v. Pitching/Catching restrictions for players under 18 years of age (U18)

- (a) No player under the age of 15 can pitch in the A, B or CLeague without a signed exemption form from Baseball Ireland’s Development Coach, Frank Andrews and the child's parent.
- (b) Catchers under the age of 18 (U18) must use Adult Catcher's Gear while fielding the position. If the available adult gear does not fit, the player cannot play the position.
- (c) The following limits on maximum pitches per day and required rest will apply to every youth pitcher.

Ages	Daily Max (Pitches)	Required Rest				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
14	65	1-30	31-39	40-48	49-55	56+
15	75	1-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
16	85	1-30	31-40	41-50	51-65	66+
17	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-70	71+

Note: A youth pitcher may finish the batter they are facing when they reach their daily maximum.

- vi. In addition to the above, the following additional limitations must be met:
 - If a youth pitcher exceeds 35 pitches in a day, they are not eligible to play catcher that day once they have been removed from the pitching position.
 - If a youth pitcher exceeds 35 pitches in an inning, they are required to be removed from the pitching position. The Youth Pitcher may finish the batter they are facing.
 - Once a youth pitcher is removed from the pitching position in a game, they are not allowed to pitch again in that game.
 - If there is more than 1 game scheduled for his team on the same day, the rest table above must be used to determine eligibility to pitch on the second (or subsequent games). Also the daily limit applies to the pitch count on both games.

Example: Mak who is 16 starts the game, on the first inning he completes the inning throwing 22 pitches, in the second inning the manager removes him from the game after 20 pitches have been thrown in the inning. Mak can’t pitch again on the game or catch (but he can play other positions). If there is a second game on the day, he can’t pitch or catch in that game either as he needs 1 day of rest and has exceeded the daily limit of pitches thrown to be eligible to catch on the same day (35).

Example: Norm who is 15 starts the game, on the first inning he throws 25 pitches and then gets a cramp in the leg. The manager removes him from the pitching position. Norm can’t

pitch again on the game but he is allowed to catch. Also, if there is a second game on the day, he is allowed to pitch but now his daily pitch limit counts the 25 he already threw allowing him only to throw a further 50 pitches in that game.

- Any catcher (17 years of age or under) who has caught 35 batters faced or more on that day, is ineligible to pitch on that day.

In addition, the following requirements must be met:

- The team which has the youth pitcher must designate a person to be the team's official pitch counter. This individual cannot be playing a defensive position on the team. The official pitch counter may be switched during the game.
- The official pitch counter must inform the umpire and opposing captain of the pitcher's pitch count after every inning.
- In the event the opposing team is counting the pitches of the Youth Pitcher and there is a discrepancy, the pitch count of the team with the Youth Pitcher will be deemed to be the official count.
- Pitch counts must be included in the notes section of the captain's report (if there is one being completed).

If an official pitch counter is not available, the youth will not be allowed to pitch in the game.

Violation protocol and penalties

It shall be the responsibility of the opposing captain to bring violations of these pitching rules to the attention of the home plate umpire. A pitcher shall be considered to have violated these rules if he throws one pitch in an inning above the prescribed limits.

Penalty for violations of rule 9: Automatic ejection from the game for the pitcher and the team's captain on the day.

10.1.10 Rule 10: Pitching Substitutions and Warmup Regulations

- (a) If a pitcher needs to be substituted at any point in a game and the new pitcher coming into the game has not had a chance to warm up (due to him/her being already in the game and fielding a position or due to the current pitcher being injured), the new pitcher will be allowed to take as many pitches as needed but must do so inside of a 5-minute window. For B games with a clock, the clock must be stopped to allow for such warmups.
- (b) New pitchers coming into the game from the bench, will be allowed 8 warmup pitches as normal.
- (c) If a pitcher was removed from the pitching position and is brought back again to pitch in the same inning, (s)he will not be allowed any warmup pitches. If brought back in subsequent innings, then (s)he will be allowed a maximum of 5 warmup pitches.

10.1.11 Rule 11: Regulation Games

MLB Rule 7.01 shall apply to Baseball Ireland Adult League games and therefore:

If a 9- inning game is called, it is a regulation game:

- If five innings have been completed.
- If the home team has scored more runs in four or four and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in five completed half-innings.
- If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth inning to tie the score.

If a 7-inning game is called, it is a regulation game:

- If four innings have been completed.
- If the home team has scored more runs in three or three and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in four completed half-innings.
- If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning to tie the score.

(a) If a regulation game is called with the score tied, it shall become a suspended game. See MLB Rule 7.02 (Suspended Games). In the interest of completing assigned fixtures, any game that is called after the first pitch, but before it is a regulation game will be deemed a suspended game.

- i. A suspended game shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension of the original game. The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game.
- ii. The lineup and batting order of both teams shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing substitutions.
- iii. Any player may be replaced by a player who had not been in the game prior to the suspension. No player removed before the suspension may be returned to the lineup. (unless he is eligible to do so under the re-entry rule).

The eligible team rosters for the suspended game shall be the up-to-date rosters when the game resumes.

10.1.12 Rule 12: Walkovers

A walkover is given when one team is unable to field, at a minimum, eight players to start a game.

- (a) If a team can't field a team for a schedule game and the LC is informed before noon on the Friday (before a weekend game) or 24 hours before the start of a mid-week game, a walkover will be recorded and the team will lose 4 points in the standings and will be fined €100.
- (b) Each team has 30 minutes from the scheduled start time of the game to field the minimum number of players.
- (c) In the event of a walkover except in the situation outlined in (a), the team will be deducted four (4) points in the standings. In addition to this, the team causing the

walkover will be fined €100 and will also be charged for the cost of the umpire(s), umpire travel and field hire fees.

- (d) When a walkover is given, the opposing team will be awarded a win and the appropriate points awarded for winning the game.

Note: If the walkover occurs after the game has started due to injury, ejection or any other reason that leaves one team with less than the minimum number of players, the points and monetary penalty will not apply.

Teams awarded a win via walkover will have their stats for the game counted if the game started.

- i. In cases where the game did not start, the team awarded a win may submit a lineup of 9 players (10 in the B league) which will be credited with 2 PA each. If a DH was listed, a pitcher can be added and will be credited with 3 IP
 - ii. In cases where the game started but any of the players participating on the winning team did not complete the 2 PA, additional PA will be awarded until the minimum of 2 is achieved by every player who participated before being substituted (i.e. every lineup position should have 2 PA recorded).
 - iii. Plate appearances and innings pitched awarded as a result of a walkover will **only count towards playoff eligibility** - They WILL NOT COUNT towards award eligibility.
 - iv. There will be no innings pitched awarded as a result of a walkover in which the game did not start.
- (e) Teams that concede a walkover once the game started, will have their stats for the game counted but no additional PA will be recorded in order to get 2 per lineup position.
- (f) Charges incurred for such events must be paid to Baseball Ireland prior to the start of the playoffs. Failure to do so will result in that team not being allowed to participate in the playoffs. In that event, the next team in line outside of the qualifying teams in the standings will be given the opportunity to accept a playoff spot.
- (g) For teams that have not qualified for the current season's playoffs (and for the teams that have qualified and have had their playoff spot forfeited as a result of non-payment of the fine), full payment must be made to Baseball Ireland prior to the start of the next season. Failure to do so will result in that team not being allowed to enter the League for the following season.

10.1.13 Rule 13: Roster Designation

Every team entered in the BI Adult league, must provide the LC with an initial roster designating all players for the club listing: Player Name, Team (if multiple teams in the club), and player type:

Valid Player Types:

- A Player - Adult

- A Player – U18
- Academy Cup Player
- Non-Club A Player
- Non-Club A Player – U18
- A Pitcher – Adult
- A Pitcher – U18
- Designated B Player
- B Player – Adult
- B Player – 15-17
- B Player – 13-14
- Umpire (this is only for members of the club who are exclusively umpiring)
- Little League (this is only for U13 members of the club that participate in youth leagues)
- Cadet Player (this is in addition to the appropriate designation for the adult team above)

Example: Peter O’Neil – Team X - B Player (Cadet Player)

If a team wishes to register a player subsequent to the initial registration submission, they must notify the ALC of the player to be added and follow the instructions provided to register the player (online registration, roster update online, etc.)

Note: All U18 players need parental consent to participate in the League Competition. An "U18 Registration and Consent form" (provided by BI) must be completed, signed and retained by the club. Before the is allowed to participate in any of the adult leagues, the club must notify the LC that the form has been completed and proof of age checked. This form should be produced on request from the LC or National Child Office and failure to produce it will result in the young player becoming an illegal player and games where the player participated can be legally protested inside of the normal timeframe for such protest

10.1.13.1 Player Designation and Roster Management

- (a) Baseball Ireland Week Starts on a Saturday.
- (b) Each Week, the LC will post a list of eligible players for each team/club online
- (c) For each club with an A/B structure (or more than one A or B teams) and for stand-alone B-League teams, all players are to be registered as B players and included in the club roster.
- (d) Each A team will then designate 8 players from their club roster as “A-Players” of which a minimum of 4 must be also designated as “A-Pitchers”
- (e) All players in a club not designated as “A-Players” or “A-Pitchers” are free to play baseball in the A league for either the club’s A team(s) or any other A team in the league.
- (f) If a player elects to play baseball in the A league with a team different from that of their club, they must:
 - a. notify the LC, his club and the club they want to play in. Such player must:
 - i. Pay the appropriate registration fee set up for his club and for the A team they wish to play for.
 - ii. Be designated as “Non-Club A Player” or “Non-Club A Player – U18” as appropriate in the roster for the club in which they are playing for the “A”

team – the ALC is responsible for doing this designation and roster inclusion upon notification.

- b. If a player designated as Non-Club A Player or Non-Club A Player-U18 pitches more than 10 innings in the A league in the current season, they will be subject to the restrictions outlined in section (g) below.
- (g) Prior to any 'B League' contest, each 'B League Team' captain may designate a maximum of three (3) players designated as A-Player/A-Pitcher from his club's roster who will be eligible to play in that 'B' league contest, subject to the following restrictions:
 - i. The player must be listed as an "A player or A pitcher" on the lineup sheet that is submitted to the plate umpire (PU) and opposing captain before the start of the contest.
 - ii. At most two (2) "eligible A players/pitchers" may be in the contest at the same time. (The third eligible player must be a reserve). if the team faced belongs to the B1 division of the B league.
 - iii. At most one (1) "eligible A players/pitchers" may be in the contest at the same time. (The other two eligible players must be a reserve) if the team faced belongs to the B2 division of the B league.
 - iv. No player may pitch in a B league contest while he is designated as an "A league pitcher".

Penalty for violations of sections (d),(f) and (g): Players violating these roster rules are considered illegal players and games can be protested as per Protest Rule above.

- (h) B players belonging to teams/clubs without an A team and wishing to play for an A team in the league, must notify the ALC at least 24 hours before their first game that they wish to do so. The ALC will designate the player as a "Non-Club A Player" or "Non-Club A Player – U18" as appropriate in the roster for the club in which they are playing for the "A" team. The B teams for such player can use them in their B games without any roster or equipment restriction (they are allowed to pitch and to use metal bats in the B league and the stand alone B team does not have a restriction on the number of such players used. Once registered as a Non-Club A player (or U18 as appropriate) for the A team, they cannot move to a different A roster that season except by following the rules outlined for Transfers and they can only take place before the transfer deadline.
- (i) For team with more than 1 A or B team, they can have players in their club roster who are designated as A-Players but not designated as B-Players. If such players wish to play in either the B-Teams of their club, they must be added to their roster at least 30 minutes before the official start time of the game in which they intend to participate. Once registered as B player for that team, they cannot move to a different B roster that season except by following the rules outlined for Transfers and they can only take place before the transfer deadline.
- (j) Players transferring between clubs or teams after the transfer deadline will not be eligible for playoff play for any team during the current season.

- (k) For a C-League Game, teams will designate eight players as “Designated B Players”. Four of these may play in an official C League game at any time.

10.1.13.2 *Roster Adjustments & Deadlines*

A League Teams are required to adjust their designation of A players/Pitchers on June 1st, 2024 and July 31st, 2024.

After each of the deadlines:

- (a) The top 2 pitchers in innings pitched in the A-League from their club’s roster to that point must be named A-Pitchers.
- (b) 2 Additional A-Pitchers must be named and a maximum of 4 A players from their club roster—must be included in the submission (non-club designated players cannot be designated A-pitchers).

Eligibility

- In order to be designated as an A player/pitcher, the player must have completed 5 Plate Appearances in the A league or pitched 3 innings in the A league at the 1/3 deadline
- In order to be designated as an A player/pitcher, the player must have completed 10 Plate Appearances in the A league or pitched 6 innings in the A league at the 2/3 deadline

Note: The 2 designated A-Pitchers must be selected from the pool of designated “A-Players” in the roster and players designated as Non-Club A Players cannot be designated A-Players.

Penalty: failure to adjust their roster at the 1/3 and 2/3 deadlines of the season will result in all the players on the A roster that do not meet the roster becoming illegible to participate and A-League games played can be legally protested if there are less than 8 eligible players designated as A and 4 of those as A pitchers.

Penalty: If an A-League Team that has affiliated B Division Teams as part of a club or a multi-team structure fails to designate the A players on time, games played by the B Division Team(s) can also be legally protested as the A player eligibility needs to be established in order to be able to comply with the A player restrictions in the B league outlined above.

10.1.13.3 *Playoff and Roster Eligibility*

At the end of the regular season and prior to the start of the playoff, each team’s (A and B) roster will be frozen and ineligible players will be removed.

Playoff Eligibility:

- (a) Each A Division Team must meet the minimum number of A players as established in above (8 with 4 designated as pitchers) and they should have completed the minimum number of IP (9 **over three games**) and/or PA (15 **over three games**) to be eligible for playoff play.
- (b) The top 2 pitchers in innings pitched for the team must be designated A pitchers.

- (c) Players must meet the minimum number of PA or innings pitched across 3 separate contests either in the A or B league during the regular season as part of the A or B Division Team to eligible to participate in the A playoffs for that A Division Team.
- (d) Players designated as “Non-Club A-Players”, must meet the minimum number of IP/PA for the A-team they intend to play for in the playoffs across 3 separate contests
- (e) Only players who have taken a minimum of 5 PA or pitched 3 innings across 3 separate contests on the B league during the regular season as part of the B League Team are eligible to participate in the B playoffs for that B League Team.

Penalty: Use of ineligible players in a playoff game can be protested legally following the protest for use of illegal players rule.

10.1.14 Rule 14: Transfers

- (a) Each year, the transfer deadline will be midnight on the last Friday in July
- (b) Players that meet the transfer criteria outlined in Rule 15 are eligible to participate on the playoffs for their new team as long as the transfer took place before the deadline and they have completed the minimum requirement in regards to PA/IP while playing for the any team in the league (as appropriate) during the current season.

10.1.14.1 *Transfer Criteria*

The Federation recognises that players may wish to transfer teams and that frequently they will quit the Irish Baseball League if not allowed to do so. As such, the Federation will allow transfers at any time during each year regular season subject to the conditions outlined below.

The Federation will look unfavourably on transfers caused by players or managers of other teams urging or recruiting players to transfer.

10.1.14.2 *Transfer Procedure during the season:*

A transfer request will be made by the player to the ALC stating the player’s reasons and the new team they wish to join.

If the current manager and the potential new manager should agree and the ALC has no objections, then the transfer shall occur immediately for players that have not played in any game with their initial team or upon a payment of €50 by players wishing to transfer and that have participated in at least 1 game with their initial team. All payments should be made to the BI treasurer and transfer will become effective upon confirmation of the payment being received by BI.

If any of these people object, and the player still wants to transfer, then the request will be made to the NEC who shall make a decision regarding the transfer and the payment of fees.

- (a) All transfers will be approved with 50% or more votes of the NEC and team managers where each committee member and each team in the league is provided with one vote.
- (b) Such vote shall be initiated at an NEC meeting where the team managers and the player in question will be invited to make their case if they wish.

Note: Votes can be cast via email or other communication with the Secretary prior to the date requested by the Secretary.

- (c) A vote not cast by the deadline will be considered an abstention.
- (d) The votes will be made public.

In any given season, any player can only transfer to another team once.

Transfers requested after the transfer deadline will render the players being transferred ineligible for playoff participation in that season

Following the end of the season, all players shall be declared free agents and are free to sign for any team. Should a team be owed monies by a player who was registered for the previous season, that player is not eligible to be declared a free agent and his/her transfer must be agreed by both clubs involved as per the above process.

10.1.15 Rule 15: Import Player Rules and Draft

- (a) A player eligibility as Import Players' is determined by the ALC who shall be informed by any team wishing to use players that fall under the definition in their roster or by any member of the federation that has established contact with the player. This notification must be done as soon as possible after the player is in the country.
- (b) The ALC shall make all the appropriate enquiries as he deems necessary to determine the eligibility of the player as Import Player.
- (c) 'Import Players' should be designated as "A Players" by the team(s) using them. This designation will be in addition to the minimum number of designated "A" players for that team.
 - i. For Import Players coming into the country, the ALC will determine their eligibility to play in the A, B or both leagues.
 - ii. All Import Players arriving into the country will be subject to an Import Player draft or rolling waiver selection at the discretion of the ALC; such a draft or waiver mechanism will be organised by the ALC and NEC.
 - iii. Once an Import Player is acquired by a team or club via the draft or waiver, they are considered part of that team/club for the remainder of the season in which they were acquired after which time, they will once again become free agents and will be subject to an Import Player draft or waiver selection as organised by the ALC and NEC.
 - iv. A-League eligible drafted Import Players do not count towards the minimum number of 'A' players that a team must register on its A roster. However, the team

drafting the player can request an exemption to this rule by writing to the ALC and NEC who will consider the request and either allow or deny the request.

- (d) The Import Player Draft (IPD) will be organised by the ALC when necessary and all the regulations governing such draft including team eligibility and draft order will be communicated to the appropriate team captains at least 1 week prior to the draft date.

Note: For the 2024 season, the ALC will distribute the players using a rolling waiver wire. As soon as a player becomes available, the team with the highest priority in the waiver will acquire the rights to the player, the team then has 24 hours to decide if they want to use the player in their team or pass the right to the next team. Once a team decides to use the player, they will be placed at the bottom of the waiver order.

The 2024 Initial Waiver Priority for the A league will be:

- i. Hurricanes A
- ii. Giants A
- iii. Spartans A
- iv. Mariners A

Note2: If no team selects the player on the provided window, the player will become a Free agent and will be able to play for whatever team he/she chooses (provided the team accepts them). Free agent players do not affect the Waiver Priority.

- (e) If an Import Player is eligible to play on the B league, the player will be first drafted into the B league and if he ends up in a team without affiliated A Division Team, then he will also be subject to an A Division Team draft using the waiver priority outlined above.

The 2024 Initial Waiver Priority for the B league will be:

- i. Spartans A
- ii. Buccaneers
- iii. Stags
- iv. Vikings
- v. Mariners B
- vi. RedRox
- vii. Hurricanes
- viii. Titans
- ix. Northstars
- x. Renegades

10.1.16 Rule 16 New Players

- (a) The minimum age for players participating in the A-League is 15 years of age.
- (b) The minimum age limit for players participating in the B League is 13 years of age.

- (c) Underage players must turn the required age on or before the date of the first game in which they wish to participate in order to be able to participate. Use of players below the minimum age will constitute roster violations and subject to the protest
- (d) New players can be allocated to the B league teams at any time in the season by following the in-season player registration process (notify the LC in writing and include in the team roster as instructed).
- (e) New players can be allocated to the A Division Teams in addition to the minimum number of players established in Rule 13.1 (d) at any time in the season.
- (f) If a new player is going to be registered in the A league as a replacement of one of the existing A players, this needs to be done after the A Division Team has played 1/3 or 2/3 of the scheduled games and is subject to the eligibility section of Rule 13.2
- (g) If a team is using an U18 player, that team must alert the umpire and opposing team captain of this fact during the pre- game conference. (Appropriate designations must be made on the lineup card supplied to the PU and the opposing captain).
- (h) Roster violations and use of ineligible players should be reported as a protest following the protest procedure.

10.1.17 Rule 17: Field Responsibilities & Regulations

- (a) Each field designated as the home grounds for a team in the adult league must pass an annual inspection as established in Section 3 – 4) of this handbook.
- (b) The home team has responsibility for field preparation and clean-up before and after each game. This includes (as appropriate for each field):
 - a. Raking the dirt portions of the infield, the mound,
 - b. installing/removing the bases,
 - c. placing benches in dugouts,
 - d. marking Batter Boxes and Foul lines,
 - e. installing/removing foul poles and fences, and
 - f. any other actions mandated by the NEC.
- (c) Field Maintenance must also occur prior to the second game of a doubleheader and the home team for the second game has this responsibility.
- (d) Failure to perform the field preparation or clean-up responsibilities will result in a sanction from the NEC

Note: In all fields, the home team can choose which dugout they want to occupy for the game.

- (e) All fields must be approved by the Baseball Ireland Fields Officer before a club can play home games at the field. Once approved, a field is deemed approved unless the field's approval is revoked due to material changes, safety concerns or other concerns. (an annual inspection will be carried out starting in 2024 and the fields officer will work with the clubs whose grounds are not up to the minimum standard expected from BI in order to reach this standard).
- (f) For fields that do not have a permanent home run fence, a club may set up a temporary demarcation (fencing, cones, etc) denoting where the home run line will be.

- a. The minimum distance for this demarcation will be 280' from the back of home plate.
 - b. In the event that physical limitations at a playing field prevent a club from setting the demarcation an appropriate distance, the club will seek approval from the Fields Officer.
- (g) Failure to set the demarcation at an appropriate distance will be subject to sanction by the NEC. (It is recognized for purposes of this rule, it is not practical for clubs to measure every point along the demarcation. Clubs are expected to take reasonable efforts to ensure that the dimensions are met at the corners, straight away center field and in between.)
- (h) A smoking ban (including vaping and smokeless cigars) is in effect on and around all baseball fields. There will be a designated smoking area established at each facility that allows smoking. If a player is caught smoking outside this designated area the person will be asked to extinguish the item. If the said person refuses to extinguish or move to the designated area he/she will be ejected from the field area. Disciplinary actions will follow regular ejection protocols.
- (i) Each field should have a full set of catcher/umpire gear available for umpires. If no such set is available and the umpire does not have one, the game will be rescheduled, and the home team will be sanctioned by the NEC.
- (j) Each field should have a first aid kit available for every game. It is the responsibility of the Home team to provide a first aid kit. If there is no First Aid Kit Available at the start of the game, the home team will be given 30 minutes to procure one; failure to produce one after this time will result in the home team forfeit the game and walkover penalties will apply in full. (The PU will check for this before the game starts). The First Aid Kit must have as a minimum:
- a. Ice pack
 - b. Dressings
 - c. Micropore tape
 - d. Sterile saline/water for irrigation
 - e. Antiseptic ointment
 - f. Sling/ Triangular bandage
 - g. Bandages/ Adhesive Dressings
 - h. Disposable gloves
 - i. Small pair scissors
 - j. Hand sanitiser

10.1.18 Rule 18: Player Borrowing (B-League Only)

This rule has been removed for 2024.

10.1.19 Rule 19: Adult League Structure & Playoffs

Each year, the ALC will set the number of games to be played in each of the Leagues and Divisions of Adult play in consultation with the Teams.

At the discretion of the ALC and when there are 10 or more teams in the B league, the league will be further divided into 2 divisions (B1 and B2). New teams entering the B league will be assigned to the B2 division and further promotions based on the previous year's standing will be awarded to teams in B2 so that the number of teams in each division is equal or differs by 1. When there are an uneven number of teams in the league, B1 will have 1 less team than B2

The initial divisions were set in 2021 and the following rules apply to division structure and play:

- (a) At the end of each season, the team finishing at the bottom of the B1 division will be relegated to the B2 division for the following season
- (b) At the end of each season, the team finishing at the top of the B2 division will be promoted to the B1 division for the following season
- (c) Every team inside each division will play teams on the opposite division a maximum of 2 as determined by the ALC each year.
- (d) Every team inside each division will play teams in their own division a minimum of 2 times as determined by the ALC each year.
- (e) Subject to (c) and (d) teams must play at least 1 more game in their division than across the division and the ALC must make every effort at scheduling to make this gap greater than 1 game.

Playoff Structure

Each year the ALC will determine the format and number of eligible teams for the playoffs in each league. These will be communicated to all teams during the captains meeting each year.

In order for playoff games to be played in a particular ground, the grounds in question must be available for the games to be scheduled and it must have a proper pitcher's mound in place.

For 2024:

- (a) Teams finishing in the top 3 in the A league will qualify and be invited to participate in the playoffs
- (b) Teams finishing in the top 4 of the B league division will qualify and be invited to participate in the playoffs
- (c) Any ties in the standings will be resolved using the tie-breaker criteria (below)
- (d) Each team will need to formally accept their playoff spot by emailing the ALC. If a team declines their playoff spot, the next team in line per the final regular season standings will be offered that position

Note: If the winner of the Lower B division declines their spot, they are still promoted to the upper division for the following season when Lower and Upper is in use.

Note 1: For the 2024 Season, there will only be one B division as there is exactly ten teams.

A-League

- (a) The team finishing first in the league standings at the end of the regular season will be declared the A pennant winner and will qualify to the league finals.
- (b) The teams finishing 2nd and 3rd in the league standings will play a 1 game series to decide the second finalist. The finals will be decided by the winner of a 3-game series (Pennant winner will be the home team in games 1 and 2).
- (c) Playoff games will be played on both Saturdays and Sundays over 3 consecutive weekends at the end of the season. (if the first series finishes in 1 weekend, the finals will start the following weekend).

B-League

- (a) The teams finishing first through fourth in the league standings in the B league at the end of the regular season will be declared the playoff entrants.
- (b) The teams finishing 1st and 2nd in the league standings will host a play-in game against 4th and 3rd respectively to decide who goes to the finals.
- (c) The finals will be decided by the winner of a 3-game series (Home field advantage for games 1 and 2 goes to the team with the highest playoff seeding. Playoff games will be played on both Saturdays and Sundays over 3 consecutive weekends at the end of the season.

C-League:

- A. The top two teams in the C League standings will be invited to the C League Final. This will be played at the best records home field if available. This will be a one game series.

10.1.19.1 Tie-Breaker Criteria

The following criteria will be applied for resolving final positions in league standings in situations where two or more teams finish in a tie either by virtue of identical won/lost records or total points accumulated. In either case, the tie would be broken by using the following criteria in the order given:

1. The team that has given the fewest number of walkovers during the season is placed first. The team that has given the next fewest walkovers is placed second and so on.
2. If still level, then the head-to-head results between the tied teams should be used to establish placings.
3. If still level, then the team that has conceded the fewest runs per inning in defence in games between or among the tied teams is placed first, the team that has conceded the next fewest number of runs per inning in defence in those games is placed second, and so on.
4. If still level, then the number of runs per inning in defence conceded by the tied teams across the whole of the league season (division for B League) should be used to determine placings.
5. On the B League – if still level, then the number of runs per inning conceded in defence by the tied teams across both divisions should be used to determine placing.

6. If still level, teams will play a one-game sudden death playoff or if a playoff is deemed unsuitable in the opinion of the NEC, a random draw will be used to break the tie. The ALC should ensure transparency of the draw by using public methods such as online die throw.

Note: If more than 2 teams are tied, then as soon as a team breaks the tie in any of the tiebreakers, that team will be seeded first and the remainder teams in the tiebreaker will start the procedure from the 1st tiebreaker. This process shall be repeated as necessary until all ties are broken.

10.1.20 Rule 19: New Teams

- (a) New teams can request to join Baseball Ireland by attending the AGM and/or letting the NEC or ALC know of their intentions followed by the completion a team registration form (available in the appendices of this handbook) and returning it to the ALC within 7 days of the AGM.
- (b) Teams should normally join the league in the Lower B2, however, if a Team wishes to enter directly into the A league, they must present their case in writing to the ALC who will petition the NEC for an exemption as appropriate

Note: The NEC may waive any or all of this steps in exceptional circumstances.

10.1.21 Rule 20: Withdrawing from the League

If a team cannot complete their remaining fixtures for any reason, they have to inform the NEC and ALC in writing that they wish to withdraw from the Irish Baseball League.

- (a) They must do so in advance of the transfer deadline. Any team doing so, having paid all debts to Baseball Ireland, will be declared in good financial standing and any registered players on that team are declared free agents and may join any team or be assigned to a team at their request.
- (b) Any such team declaring their intention to withdraw from competition while still owing monies to Baseball Ireland shall be declared not in good financial standing. Except for the officers of the club, all player registered with said team will be eligible to transfer to a new team subject to the player paying the appropriate transfer fee. Officers of the club as designated by the club constitution will not be allowed to play for any other team until all debts to Baseball Ireland are settled at which point they will become free agents. (Club officer must be included on the Team Registration Form submitted by every team at the beginning of the season).

Note: If the notification and subsequent transfer of players takes place after the transfer deadline, these players will not be eligible for playoff participation with their new team.

- (c) Any team withdrawing from competition will be eligible to re-apply for entry under rule 18 after a period of one (1) year and only if they are in good financial standing with Baseball Ireland (i.e. a team withdrawing from the 2024 league may apply to re-join for the 2024 season after having paid all their debt to Baseball Ireland).

Note: Teams in good financial standing that do not register to participate in a given season, will be eligible to participate on the following season and any season thereafter.

Note2: The ALC in consultation with the NEC may allow teams that withdrew in a given season to re-join the next season but the teams must make their case for reinstatement in writing to the ALC.

- (d) The ALC can take action and make decisions with respect to the games played if a team has in effect withdrawn from the league regardless of the notification in writing to ALC/NEC

10.1.21.1 Financial Standing and Participation

Any team/club wanting to continue participation in the A or B league must be in good financial standing by the deadline for first payment designated each year by the NEC.

- (a) In exceptional circumstances, the NEC will allow a team to participate in league competition while owing money to Baseball Ireland if a schedule of payment has been agreed between Baseball Ireland and the teams and all debt is cleared and no new debt incurred by the end of such agreement.
- (b) Teams that finish the year in a state of "not good financial standing", will not be allowed to participate in the playoffs and in successive seasons until all the debt has been cleared.
- (c) Each team must have a dissolution procedure in their constitution where it is stated that all debts to Baseball Ireland shall be collected before any other debt incurred by the club.

Note: Failure to have such a procedure could lead to the NEC barring this team from participating in BI league games and organised competitions.

10.1.22 Rule 21: Pre and Post Game Duties, Official Lineups, Game Results Reporting

- (a) The home team shall provide the plate umpire (PU) with 3 new balls for every game being played.

Note: The team responsible for providing game balls shall continue to provide fit baseballs as required during the game. If they fail to provide fit baseballs to start or continue a game, the game will be suspended, if the game is a regulation game and it is not tied, it will be called. Otherwise, it will resume from the point where it was stopped due to lack of fit balls to continue play.

Note: The Plate Umpire determines the suitability of a baseball and all baseballs must be the brand and model approved by BI for league play.

Note: At the beginning of the season and according to the schedule of home games, BI will supply the teams with at least 2 boxes of new approved baseballs. During the season, BI will

provide the first 4 boxes of new baseballs to each team as part of the team registration. If a team requires more baseballs, they will need to order them via BI secretary and shall pay for them at the price set by BI.

Note: Playoff balls will be supplied by Baseball Ireland each season.

- (b) Both teams shall complete a lineup card. This includes the full name (not nicknames), position and uniform number of every player in the starting lineup and that of the starting pitcher if the designated player (DH) is being used. The team captain or manager for that game needs to be clearly identified on the lineup card. Also, players U18 shall be clearly identified and for B league contests, A-players named as such in the A team's roster must be identified.
- (c) A paper copy of the lineup card must be supplied to the Plate Umpire and opposing captains during the pre-game plate meeting.
- (d) The copies of the lineups supplied to the Plate Umpire at the conference become the official lineups for the games. In any discrepancies, these will be the correct ones.
- (e) As a courtesy to potential game scorer(s), the lineup and substitutes should be listed online using the appropriate WhatsApp Group 30 minutes before the start of the game.

Note: Every player on the roster that is not listed in the starting lineup is considered a reserve player and does not need to be written on the lineup card, however, as a courtesy to the umpire and opposing captain, the name and uniform number of every reserve player that is present on the field at the start of the game or likely to arrive at any point during the game should be written down.

Penalty: Teams failing to complete and submit a lineup card to the Plate Umpire (PU) will not be allowed to start the game.

- (f) After the completion of the game, both captains shall meet with the umpire crew and agree on the final score for the game. This will be the official score and will be reported back via Umpire Report completed by the plate umpire.
- (g) In case of an in-game ejection, captains from both teams must email the ALC no more than 24 hours after the completion of the game providing their account of the facts that lead to the ejection. Also, full name and contact email of the ejected player must be provided by the player's captain so that the ALC can reach out for a player statement if warranted.
- (h) In case of injuries, they must be reported to the PU so that these can be included in the umpire report as appropriate.

10.1.23 [Rule 22: Game Results & Team Statistics](#)

Reporting of results must be carried out to ensure that standings on the website are kept up to date. Umpires and team captains should work together in order to ensure this:

- (a) The result of every game must be reported to the ALC via email or text (WhatsApp) after the game (or after the second game of a double header) by the plate umpire for that game - This will be treated as the official game result.

- (b) Team captains (or their representative) must meet with the umpire crew upon game completion and agree on the official final score for the game as per Rule 21 above.

Reporting of stats must be carried out by all teams to ensure that up to date stats are maintained. The determination of the Batting Champion, Silver Slugger, Best Pitcher and MVP awards are assisted upon accurate and up to date stats.

- (c) An Electronic copy of the scoresheet must be submitted following each game to the ALC (or designated)
- a. The required app to use is iScore.
 - i. User Manual for *iScores* found here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B65Wx-acm_kPLutdh8q17cVBmKDYDto5NQDav4fy1s/mobilebasic
 - b. In 2024 the A League scoresheets should be emailed to Brendan Scott:
brenscott1981@gmail.com
 - c. Please ensure email of stats are sent from captains email, rather than directly from app, to ensure ease of tracking senders.
 - d. Min requirement of data is csv file of box score and pdf of scoresheet
 - i. All scoring apps should provide this information
 - ii. Please highlight any errors in substitutions or scoring in body of email
- (d) Pictures of Paper Scoresheets will no longer be acceptable.
- (e) The deadline for reporting of scoresheets is Tuesday at 17.00 following a game on Sunday or Saturday. and Friday at 17.00 following a Mid-Week game
- (f) In addition to the scoresheet, in the cases where the electronic score-sheet does not include a box- score, the teams should complete a full box-score with all the statistics required by the league for both pitchers and hitters on their teams (opposing captains might have to coordinate to agree on pitching statistics).
- a. Box Score Hitting Statistics: PA, AB, R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, RBI, K, BB, HBP, SB, CS, SACF, SACH
 - b. Box Score Pitcher Statistics: IP, BF, R, ER, H, 2B, 3B, HR, BB, HBP, K, SACH, SACF

Penalty: Teams that fail to submit the scoresheet by the deadline will receive the following penalties:

- On the first offence, the team in question will be given a 1 point penalty
- For a second offence, the team in question will be given a 2 point penalty
- For third and following offences, the team in question will receive a 3 point penalty.

10.1.24 Rule 23: Adult League Awards

Below is the list of awards available each season.

MVP Award (A and B)

Award is given to the player that received the majority votes from Team/Club captains prior to the start of Playoffs.

vii. Silver Slugger (A and B)

Determined based on final regular season stats (category: Gross Production Average)¹

$$GPA = (1.8 * (OBP) + SLG)/4$$

viii. Batting Champion (A and B)

Determined based on final regular season stats (Category: Batting Average)

ix. Best Pitcher (A and B)

Award is given to the player that receives the majority votes from captains prior to the start of Playoffs.

x. A League Pennant

First Place team at the end of the A-League regular season.

xi. B League Pennant

B League Team with the best record at the end of the B-League regular season.

xii. A League Champions

Winner of the A-League Playoffs

xiii. B League Champions

Winner of the B-League Playoffs

C League Champions:

Winner of the C League Final

Voting Procedures: Where awards are voted on by captains/managers, each captain will cast two votes for each award. The first vote will be for the player on their team they feel most deserving of the award. The second vote will be for the player on an opposing team felt to be most deserving of the award. Any votes received after the beginning of the playoffs will not be counted.

Award Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the Batting Champion or Silver Slugger Award, the player must have 2 plate appearances per scheduled game. In the event that a player does not have the necessary plate appearances, the ALC will adjust the number of Plate

¹ GPA is a baseball statistic created in 2003 by Aaron Gleeman as a refinement of On-Base Plus Slugging (OPS). GPA attempts to solve two frequently cited problems with OPS. First, OPS gives equal weight to its two components, On Base Percentage (OBP) and Slugging Percentage (SLG). In fact, OBP contributes significantly more to scoring runs than SLG does. Sabermetricians have calculated that OBP is about 80% more valuable than SLG. A second problem with OPS is that it generates numbers on a scale unfamiliar to most baseball fans. The GPA formula both gives proper relative weight to its two component statistics and generates a number that falls on a scale similar to the familiar batting average scale.

Appearances as per MLB Rule 9.22(a) for every player that do not meet the minimum number.

NB: Plate appearances awarded as a result of a walkover are not counted towards the minimum and the stats will need to be adjusted as per MLB Rule 9.22(a) if the minimum number is not achieved after the walkover PA are discounted.

10.1.25 Rule 24: League Standings

League standings are based on total points accumulated during the season with the highest point total finishing first and the next and subsequent point total finishing in order from second to the last place.

Points will be awarded to teams as follows:

- (b) Three(3) points for each win
- (c) Zero(0) point for each loss
- (d) Four (4) point deducted for each walkover.

Note: This system applies to the A-League, B-League and C-League.

10.1.26 Rule 25: Pre-Game Rules & Timings

The following timings for pre-game practice are based on the standard start time of 11:00 and will need to be adjusted accordingly if the first game of the day start time is different.

Pre-game Practice Schedule:

- **Practice Start Time:** 9:30
- **Home Team Batting Practice Time:** 9:30 – 10:00
- **Visitors Batting Practice Time:** 10:00 – 10:30
- **Home Team Pre-Game:** 10:30 – 10:40
- **Visitors Pre-Game:** 10:40 – 10:50
- **Pre-Game Conference:** 10:50 - 10:55
- **Start of Game Warmup:** 10:55 – 11:00
- **Start of Game:** 11:00

More than 1 game on the same field: When double or triple bill games are scheduled to take place on the same field, the pre-game schedule applies only to the first game of the day. Successive games shall only have the Pre-Game Stages (10 minutes/team), conference and start of the game warmup.

The start of this schedule is subject to the scheduled start time and the availability of the field depending on the previous game being played.

At the discretion of the Plate Umpire and depending on the scheduled start time of the game, neither team could be allowed to carry out any the pre-game routine stages except the pre-game conference and start of game warmup.

10.1.27 Rule 26: Special and Optional MLB Rule Application by BI

The Adult League will use the MLB rules for the year previous to the current year (i.e. for 2024, the MLB rulebook for 2021 will be used).

New rules introduced by MLB in the current year will be implemented at the discretion of the ALC and if such adoption takes place, it will be explained at the captains meeting each year.

- (a) Rule 5.07 (c) Pitcher Delays: BI will encourage its umpires and players to keep the pace of the game, to that effect umpires shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take his position on the rubber promptly. Obvious delay by the pitcher should instantly be penalized by the umpire (call a ball).
- (b) Rule 5.10 (m) Limitation on the Number of Mound Visits per team per game: There will be no limitation to the number of mound visits per team per game.
- (c) Rule 9.22 (a) "Tony Gwynn Rule" will apply to BI calculations for end of the season prizes and awards.
- (d) The implementation of the minimum 3 batter faced rule for pitchers will not be implemented in 2024
- (e) Additional Rules in Consideration by MLB:
- (f) 20-Second Clock: Does not apply to BI league play - Unnecessary delay using a 12-second clock as per application of rule 5.07(c)
- (g) In B and C-League play, catchers who are still on base as runners with two outs may be pinch ran for without penalty with the goal of speeding up the game between innings.
- (h) In C-League play, the following special rules will apply.
- (i) When ten runs are scored in any inning that is not the last, the inning is automatically ended.
- (j) Runners in the C-League cannot score on wild pitches or passed balls. Runners may advance up until third base but cannot score. This is to promote balls in play and actual baseball situations.

10.1.28 Rule 27 Game Change, Forfeit Procedure and Rained Out/Suspended Games

Changes to scheduled fixtures must be requested to the ALC, who, upon revision of the schedule, might (at his discretion) approve and amend the official published schedule accordingly and inform all relevant parties of the change.

- i. **Note:** For 2024, no request will be considered, except in exceptional circumstances, after the designated opening day.

- (a) No game should be cancelled, postponed or rearranged without the consent of the ALC. Team cancelling, postponing, rearranging or otherwise altering a fixture without

the consent of the League Coordinator, will result in the offending team being penalised with a conceded walkover.

Note: This does not apply to games cancelled/abandoned by the designated umpire due to weather conditions, the state of the field, safety or other unforeseen circumstances. Such decisions will be reported by the plate umpire to the ALC.

- (b) Where a Baseball Ireland Adult League team has three (3) or more players unavailable for an Adult League game because of International duty, then they may apply to the ALC to have their games reallocated to another date. This is subject to scheduling demands and not all requests will be granted.
- (c) The cut-off for notification that a team cannot play a scheduled game, for any reason other than weather, is 12 noon on a Friday (for weekend games only). For mid-week games, the cut-off time is 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time. Failure to adhere to this timing will not only result in a walkover being awarded but also, the team cancelling the game will be liable for the expenses and any other financial penalties associated with a walkover as described in Rule 12.
- (d) Schedule changes are to be managed by the ALC who shall reschedule games in the best interest of the league.

Should a game be rained out, all efforts should be made by the home team to contact the opposing team and assigned umpires as early as possible on the morning of the game.

- (e) Where possible, declaring a game unplayable due to weather should be established by the home team captain in consultation with an umpire (if available).

Note: Common sense should be used at all times – on the one hand, games should not be postponed casually due to weather or impending weather, but proper consideration should be given to travelling teams.

- (f) Where Rain Dates are built into the schedule, players must be made aware that they may be called upon to play on these dates.

Games cancelled due to weather will be re-scheduled as soon as possible and may be rescheduled by the ALC without mutual agreement of the affected teams. However, the ALC should make every effort to follow the Game Change Procedure (above)

10.2 Youth League Rules & Regulations

The Baseball Ireland Youth League (BBYL) philosophy is “Retention and Development at all Costs aligned with the Baseball Ireland 10x10 Goals”. As such, the following establishes the rules and regulations that are particular to the Baseball Ireland Youth Leagues

10.2.1 Youth Leagues

There are 3 Youth Leagues:

- CP: Little League New Starters (ages 9-10)
- LL: Little League Tenured (ages 11-12)
- CD: Cadet League (ages 12-15)

10.2.2 Gear Safety Recommendations

LL New Starters and Tenured:

- Level 1 Baseball must be used
- Legal Bats must display either BPF 1.15, USSA Stamps
- Metal Cleats are not allowed
- 1st Base uses a double-base (this can be a throwdown base with the orange in foul territory)
- Bases can be throwdown bases
- Helmet must have a jaw-guard

Cadets

- Adult Baseballs (see Adult regulations in Adult Rules)
- Bats Allowed:
 - Wooden
 - Composite Wood (with BBCOR .5 stamp)
 - Metal with BPF 1.15 stamp
 - Metal with USSA stamp
 - Metal with USA
 - Metal BBCOR .5
- Metal Cleats are not recommended
- Helmet with Jaw-guard or full face-mask is mandatory.

10.2.3 Game Duration and Distances

LL New Starters & Tenured

- There is a time limit of 90 minutes (no new innings will be started after the 90 minutes have been reached in a game). Game is allowed to be completed once the time limit is reached. (If the home team is winning when the time limit is reached, the game will finish immediately, otherwise, the inning must be played to completion).
- There will be a pitch count limit for pitchers as shown on the table below
- It is recommended that teams use 2 or more catchers per game.
- Pitcher's rubber should be located 44ft from the back of the Home Plate
- Base Distance 60ft (positioning as per MLB rulebook)
- Recommended: Players should not slide in the bases
- Mound Height: Max 6"

Cadet

- (a) An age exception for players that are 12 or 16 y.o. can be requested to the YLC at least 24 hours in advance of the player's first game. YLC will make a decision based on merit on a case-by-case basis (coaches must make a case when submitting players for consideration)
- (b) Game Duration: ????????????
- (c) It is recommended that teams use 2 or more catchers per game.
- (d) Pitcher's rubber should be located 54ft from the back of the Home Plate
- (e) Base Distance 80ft (positioning as per MLB rulebook)

Youth Pitch Limits and Recommended Rest Table:

<u>Ages</u>	<u>Daily Max (Pitches)</u>	<u>Required Rest</u>				
		<u>0 Days</u>	<u>1 Day</u>	<u>2 Days</u>	<u>3 Days</u>	<u>4 Days</u>
<u>13 and under</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>1-30</u>	<u>31-35</u>	<u>36-40</u>	<u>41-40</u>	<u>51+</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>1-30</u>	<u>31-35</u>	<u>36-40</u>	<u>41-55</u>	<u>56+</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>1-30</u>	<u>31-40</u>	<u>41-50</u>	<u>51-60</u>	<u>61+</u>

10.2.4 Youth League Rules

10.2.4.1 Rule 1: Leads and Base-Stealing

1. In Little League, players must remain in contact with their base until the ball crosses home plate.
2. In Little League, Only 1 base at a time can be stolen.
3. In both LL and Cadet – Stealing Home Plate is not allowed (players attempting to steal home plate will be....?called out??)

10.2.4.2 Rule 2: Time At Bat

In Little League, there will be no walks – instead 3 pitches will be delivered by the coach and the hitter runs the risk of a strike-out

10.2.4.3 Rule 3: Run Limit and Participation

1. In all youth games, there will be a 5-run limit per team per inning except the last inning.
2. In Little League Everyone Bats
3. In Little League Each team can have up to two 13yrs old players in the game but they can't pitch in the games.

10.2.4.4 Rule 4: Coaches Requirements

All coaches and umpires involved in little league play or training must have garda vetting (Access NI) and must have completed Safeguarding Level 1 as established in Sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of this handbook.

10.2.4.5 Rule 5: Umpires

Baseball Ireland will supply umpires for the Cadet Games
Each club in the LL must provide their own umpires for LL games

11 Challenging and Changing the Rules and Bye-Laws

The rules and bye-laws of Baseball Ireland derive their authority from the Constitution, which holds that **the rules and bye-laws can be altered by the NEC at any time**. The NEC will alert the membership when any changes are made and post the new publication on the Baseball Ireland web site.

NEC votes on rules and bye-laws should not normally be made public. Any member of the Federation who wishes to change the bye-laws may make suggestions to any member of the NEC for consideration.

If a member wants to challenge the constitutionality of any rule or bye-law, they must present their case in writing to the President and Secretary who will place discussion of the challenge at the next NEC meeting and invite the member making the challenge and a manager from each of the registered clubs and official organisations.

Constitutional challenges shall be subject to a simple majority vote from the NEC, Official Organisations and Clubs where:

- (a) Each member of the NEC gets one vote.
- (b) Each Official Association and each Club gets one vote.
- (c) Each vote shall be made public.
- (d) Five cast votes shall be considered a quorum.

Since the Federation has found it difficult get sufficient people to attend these meetings, constitutionality challenge votes will be done via email to the secretary so long as that email arrives within one week of the date the Secretary requests the votes:

- (e) Any vote that is not cast shall not be counted.
- (f) Any vote cast before the deadline will not be revealed to preserve the integrity of the ballot.

Once a Constitutional Challenge is made, the NEC will hold the review meeting within 3 weeks and the vote held no longer than 6 weeks from the submission of the letter.

The only appeals process for the decision shall be to organise an EGM or wait for the next AGM where proposals can be put forward for a vote as per the procedures outlined in the Federation Constitution.

Note: This section intends to accomplish an intermediate ground between un-wieldy and difficult to organise and run EGMs and AGMs and an autocratic NEC. The club managers will always be a smaller body than the entire registered body, they are by nature interested in baseball and probably aware of what is good for the league. They will also be aware of a wider variety of activities the NEC sponsors and issues facing BI.