

Rules Night 2019-20 Season

The big change of Rules for Season 2019-20 is Bats. The adoption of the USA bat is now mandatory in 'Live Ball' Competitions, 10U (Bergan) to 16U (Cashmore).

We have provided a moratorium for alloy bats (**not composite or two-piece bats**) to be allowed to be used this season. These alloy bats do not need to be 'branded' USA bats however, no Composite or two-piece bats are permitted.

The change is simple, any USA branded bat, within length and drop weight limits specified below are legal to be used. Allows for composite and or two-piece construction to be used if branded. Other than USA Bats (screen printed on handle of bat), **no Composite or two-piece bats are permitted, NONE.**

USSSA bats, normally branded BPF 1:25 are not classified as a USA Bat, specified by these Rules. The alloy bats of this Specification are legal but **not composite or two-piece bats**. The difference between the two types of bats is considerable, **the aim of the USA Bat Policy is to have the aluminium bat perform more like a wooden bat.**

Mod Ball or T Ball: no change, remains a 2 ¼" dia bat League. Kenko bats remain legal in those Competitions using the Kenko Ball.

Bergan League- For this season, USA Bats (2 5/8" dia). Maximum length 30", maximum drop weight minus 11. **Will revert next season to a 2 ¼" dia bat League.**

LL Majors - Maximum length is 31" Maximum drop weight minus 11.

Intermediate League- Maximum of 32" length. Maximum drop weight is minus 11

Junior LL- Maximum length 33", maximum drop weight minus 8 BBCOR are acceptable.

Youth League- No change to the 'wood bat' Rule for this League.

Cashmore League- 34" maximum length. Maximum drop weight minus 5. BBCOR (minus 3) are allowable. Minus 3 drop weight is the lightest BBCOR bat available.

Wood bats are acceptable in all Competitions.

The 'risk' to Coaches and Clubs is the personal bat that come out of the player's kit bag. No matter what we legislate there are individuals that will ignore the Rule and cheat, some by ignorance but most are deliberate. If in doubt about the legality of the bat, please do not hesitate to contact me.

There will be an automatic minimum. Fine of \$100 for any report of an illegal bat being brought to the 'plate' in any game

By way of explanation, the drop weight is the difference between the length of the bat and its weight. Example 30" bat weighing 19 oz the drop weight is minus 11. Bats can be heavier but not lighter: for example not -10 and not -12

COMPETITIONS

Eligibility dates:

Youth and Cashmore Leagues September, 2003 to August, 2005 * Have allowed players with DOB between January and September, 2003 to play Youth League and Cashmore West (not Cashmore South) provided they do not play any game in State League including Womens' League or Park Baseball (SMBL or PCBL and the like).

Senior LL September, 2003 to August, 2007

Junior LL September, 2005 to August, 2007

Intermediate September, 2006 to August, 2008

LL September, 2007 to August, 2009

Minor LL September 2007 to August, 2009

10U Players born between January, 2009 and 31st December, 2010

9U Players born between January, 2010 and December, 2011

8U Players born between January, 2011 and December, 2012.

7U Players born between January, 2012 and December, 2015

Competitions are re-badged to 16U, 14U, 13U and 12U...to better reflect the age of Competitions. There will be changes to the other Competitions next Season

Change in Daisley was introduced last year. The Competition will play T Ball Competition for first two rounds, then Mod Ball from February, There will be six games of Mod Ball. Bats do not need to be 'branded' USA bats..

Changes in Douglass League loses its first Division status and distance becomes 46' x 60'. Baserunners can commence to steal when the pitch crosses the plate.

Changes in Leonard and Bergan where there are no walks and the batting tee comes out after ball four. In these Competitions there is a limit of two bases that the Batter and Runner/s may advance when the tee was 'in operation'. Also, for the ball to be in play off the tee, the ball must cross the 25ft semi-circle used in TBall

Game time- 8:30 finishes at 10:00am 10:30am -12:00 Five Minute Rule

If team bats the top of an innings then the bottom has to be completed. The exception if team batting last is in front then there is no need to bat, same as normal Rules of Baseball.

If a team batting last, is more than seven runs behind and decide to forfeit their half of the innings, **then the score will not revert.**

Balls: The balls to be used in the Competitions are

16U, 14U, 13U, 12U Douglass only are **Leather** Baseballs (no waterproof balls)

12U Leonard, 10U Bergan, 9U Petroff and Daisley, 8U Vigenser are Kenko C Class ball.

7U K500 ball

All these balls are available at cost from Hills

The plastic dimple ball used by one club last year is **not permitted** to be used in place of Kenko balls

Dispensations: The Dispensation assessments will be conducted next weekend. We do not expect as many requests for Dispensations as in previous years.

During the Season, if teams find themselves short of players, they can obtain Temporary Dispensations, to play a younger player in an older grade but only after obtaining permission from J Yard, **before** the game. Requests can be by email or telephone. Expect those Dispensations to require the player having to bat last and field only in the Outfield.

Temporary Dispensations will **not** be granted for First Division players to play in an older age Southern Conference.

A substitute player can play up in age for the same older team four times without penalty. If he plays for a fifth time for that team, he will become a registered player in that team and not be able to rejoin his 'original' team.

Judiciary. Hills has its own Policy of Indicative Penalties to handle the penalty for ejection, either of Player or Coach. It is very similar to the NRL with gradings and set penalties. The charges are determined by the Competition Secretary. The person ejected then has the choice to accept the nominated Penalty or appear before a Judiciary.

Ground Official: Hills has a policy requiring Clubs to have a Ground Official on duty every day there are games scheduled. If there is a problem that is who we will go to seeking information. The officials are not to act as 'Bouncers', if they continue to have a problem, they are to ring the Police

Draw: All live-ball and Mod Ball draws have been drafted. Numbers of 8U and 7U teams are required to enable the draws to proceed any further. Draw for Saturday 14th September, will probably be issued next Monday

Live Ball Competition commences on 14th September and play until 28th September, resume 12th October (T Ball commences that day). Play until 14th December, resume 25th January. Final Series is likely to commence first week of March, 2020

There are no Midweeks drawn, apart from the round of 25th January, 2020 which can be played prior to that date or by 31st January, 2020.

Pitching Limits: are in the Rule Book and have not altered

| | U11-12U | 13U-14 U | Cashmore | Youth |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| MINOR | 1 – 29 | 1 – 29 | 1 - 29 | 1 - 29 |
| SUBSTANTIAL | 30 - 49 | 30 - 54 | 30 –54 | 30-65 |
| MAJOR | 50 - 65 | 55 - 65 | 55–75 | 66-85 |
| MAX INNINGS | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

Please Note: In **Intermediate West, Hay and Youth Leagues** once the Pitcher has reached the minimum number of Pitches that constitutes a Major assignment he cannot be used as a defensive player for the remainder of that game. The player will continue to bat. It basically means that teams in those competitions will need a minimum of 10 players.

Maximum pitch numbers are absolute maximum. Cannot exceed the maximum number of pitches to ‘finish the hitter’. Penalties are severe, loss of game and suspension of Coach. Where game is awarded to non- offending team will depend on situation of game

Players cannot Pitch and Catch or Catch and Pitch in same game.

Rest Periods required are Minor Assignment **no day’s rest**, Substantial Assignment **two calendar days** rest, Major assignment **three Calendar days rest**. Rest Periods include a restriction on Catching.

No doubt somewhere in season you will be forced into a replay of a washed-out round. Wednesday is the ‘best day’ for that given the rest periods required.

In a game played Thursday the Pitcher, to be eligible to pitch again Saturday would be limited to 29 or less.

Following a game Saturday, a Pitcher having thrown a substantial assignment can pitch again Tuesday. Having thrown a Major on Saturday the Pitcher can pitch or catch again on Wednesday.

Curve ball, slider, split finger and Fork balls are not to be thrown in Ken Douglas or Phil Leonard Leagues They are legal Pitches in all other Competitions. In fact, the ‘Fork Ball’ ball is an ‘illegal pitch’ in ALL Leagues.

Umpires - must be a minimum of 14 years of age to plate games. Also need to be at least two years older than the game they are Umpiring. This Season we will attempt to introduce a Green shirt Policy, indicating that the Umpire is a Junior Umpire.

I have to say I am bitterly disappointed at the speed at which the games are played. The Umpires must share some of the blame as they generally set the pace of the game. However, Coaches who are disorganized with their changes, cause unnecessary delays.

Five warm up pitches between innings, with a minute turn over between innings. Hustle is what we want.

General –

Conference Sheets: These will be issued again this year. They contain most information that Coaches need on game day. It is compulsory that the relevant Conference Sheet be pasted in the team's Score Book. A complete set of Conference Sheets is to be kept at every Club's ground/s.

T Ball and Mod Ball specifically: All Coaches require Coaching Accreditation and possess a current WWCC

All Competitions, **other than Youth, Hay and Intermediate West** the maximum number of runs that can be scored in any one innings is seven. No exception unless you are playing on an enclosed field and hitter cleared fence with a Home Run.

Protests: Must be noted in the Scorebook before another Pitch is thrown. Once a Protest has been entered it must be submitted to Hills by the following Monday. It cannot be withdrawn. Failure to proceed will result in the club being fined.

Use of Tee in Leonard, Bergan, Petroff and Daisley: The maximum number of bases that can be 'taken' (either by Base Runners or Hitters is two bases) when the tee is in play in Leonard Minor and Bergan Leagues.

Re Stealing home on Ball Four in Conferences where the tee is used. Players can advance on a wild pitch, or pass ball on what was Ball four for the Batter. The ball remains live, as if it were any other count. When the play comes to an end the Umpire 'calls "Time" and the tee is brought out.

Coaches on field when team is fielding: In 8U and 7U T Ball Conferences, **one** coach from the defensive team may stand in the outfield. The Coach is to be situated beyond the Infield Boundary as illustrated in Figure 2 at Rule 2.8 (b)(ix). Defensive coaches must not interfere with a ball "in play".

Outfielders in T Ball and Mod ball: are not to encroach upon territory that ought to be regarded as the infield. Therefore, no outfielder stand closer to home plate than the Teeball Infield Boundary as illustrated in Figure 2 at Rule 2.8 (b)(ix) and therefore shall be no closer to home plate than:- [a] in the 8U and 7U Conferences, 21.4m (70 feet) [b] In the 9U and 12U Conferences, 24.4m (80 feet)

Rules added last year

Clubs to keep register of official's WWC forms and the expiry dates. (and have them "verified")

Maximum number of players per team is 13, which personally I think is too many. Only 12 players can be listed on the Batting Line up

Ground Maintenance and Tidiness: Home team's responsibility to leave the diamond in a safe condition. The Batter's box and Pitcher's area are to be raked and repaired, levelling out all uneven area.

Both teams are responsible for leaving clean dugouts and spectator areas clear of all rubbish.

Dropped Third Strike: Reminder that the 'dropped 3rd Strike rule' was introduced two years ago and is in accordance with Rules of Baseball. No longer is it an automatic out in **Douglass League** (Rules of Baseball apply). However, it remains an Automatic Out in **Leonard** and **Bergan Leagues**.

Metal Cleats: Can be worn in Youth, Cashmore and Hay Leagues only.

We thank you for volunteering your time and effort to Coach a Junior team this Season. Being a Coach can be very rewarding, equally it can be frustrating and certainly time consuming. The Sport is not able to continue without the Mums and Dads volunteering their time and services.

Should you need assistance in some aspect of your Coaching, please do not hesitate to ask. There are experienced Coaches who will be able to assist you. We certainly appreciate your efforts in this aspect of the game.

Finally, we want to know what is happening on the diamonds every week within Hills. If you are unsure of a Rule, or any other matter, then do not hesitate to ask. I am more than happy to answer any of your questions or suggested improvements to the Rules. Easiest method of conduct is by email to johnyardhere@yahoo.com.au

These notes update those distributed at the Rules Meeting.

J Yard

3rd September, 2019