Baseball New Zealand

NATIONAL Masters Invitational Championship 2026

OPERATIONS manual

Tournament Information

Tournament Dates: 19th – 21st February 2026

Tournament Host Club: Hamilton Raiders Baseball

Location & Venue: Mahoe Park, Hamilton

Open Men's Roster Size: Minimum 12 players, maximum 20 players. Rosters must have a minimum of 8 registered players from their own club.

Age Eligibility: 35 years or above as at 1st September 2024

Team Registrations:

All team registrations must be submitted via the link provided (below) or by scanning the QR code.

Registrations CLOSE: **11.59pm, 9th January 2026**

50% Team Fees due upon team registration to confirm registration with the full balance due no later than 30th January 2026.

Registration Link:
https://membership.mygameday.app/regoform.cgi?aID=29536&pKey=b6072c391016b1f8ce7990ecadcd803e&formID=119907

Registration QR Code:

Team Registrations Fee:

The National Masters team entry fees include; your team's tournament entry, match umpires, live scoring, shared team tent, first aid and tournament management and venue costs.

National Masters Team Entry Fees:

Grade	Clubs	Team Entry Fee (based on distance travelled)
Masters	ABA & WaiBOP Clubs	$1,750.00 (incl GST) per team
	WBA Clubs	$1,500.00 (incl GST) per team
	TTI & CBA Clubs	$1,250.00 (incl GST) per team
	International Clubs	$2,500.00 (incl GST) per team

A 50% deposit of team fees is required to secure your team's place in the tournament, with full payment required no later than 30th January 2026.

If full payment is not received by the due date, team registration will be cancelled and not included in the draw. NO Late registrations will be accepted.

Team Tents/Marquees:

Each team competing in the National Master's tournament can bring a team marquee, fold up chairs, tables and BBQ's etc, these can only be set up in the team tents allocation areas on site map.

Medical & Emergency:

Throughout the National Masters tournament, there will be an onsite medic available each day.
We recommend each team carries their own first aid kit and ice/ice-packs to assist their team with managing any pre-existing injuries, blisters or the likes.

For any sickness/illness it is recommended to isolate the player to minimise the spread of illness and seek any medical attention as necessary (see below).

For concussion management, please refer to Baseball NZ's Concussion Policy and the ACC SportSmart website and Sport Concussion National Guidelines. All direct head knocks, blows or potential concussive events MUST seek medical clearance from a medical doctor to return to play.

THE EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER IN NZ IS '111'

Doctor & Medical Centres:	Waikato Hospital Emergency Department 218 Pembroke Street, Hamilton (07) 8398899
	Anglesea A & E Cnr Thackeray, Anglesea Street, Hamilton (07) 8580800

Tournament Contacts:

Baseball NZ Contacts:

Hannah Hollands - National Tournaments & Events Tournament Director
Email: Hannah@baseballnewzealand.co.nz

Dom Jefferies – Performance Pathways & Development Tournament Operations Manager
Email: Dominick@baseballnewzealand.co.nz

Host Club Contacts:

Richard Tuhoro - Tournament Liaison
Phone: +64
Email: rt@rampageandraidersbaseball.co.nz

Tournament Umpire Director:

Warren van Rooyen
Phone: +64 21 247 4036
Email: Warren@baseballnewzealand.co.nz

Tournament Head of Scoring:

Natasha Kjestrup
Phone: +64 27 2740575
Email: scoring@baseballnewzealand.co.nz

Tournament eligibility

The National Masters Invitational Championship tournament is a national club-based tournament for Masters grade teams to compete for a national title in each grade. This year, we have also opened this tournament up to allow 1 or more international teams to enter.

1. Eligibility

All 2025/26 season registered players, residing in New Zealand and are **35 years of age or above as at the 1st of September 2025** are eligible to compete in the 2026 National Masters Invitational Championship.

If residing overseas, players must be New Zealand citizens or of New Zealand heritage via one or more parents. All other baseball players can be considered via a dispensation. Interested players (families) must be registered with Baseball NZ and in good standing with the national body, their regional association and their club. Interested Players should have a proven close alliance or history with the club they are seeking to represent through any dispensation.

In all National Tournaments, to be considered for a National Tournament roster, a player must have played a minimum of four (4) regular season games for their club recorded in the My Ballclub scoring platform. Anyone who has played less than four (4) club games may be eligible for the tournament through the dispensation process or pick-up player pool.

Players will NOT be penalized within New Zealand if no club or regional body exists in their region or city, such as New Plymouth and Dunedin, for example, both of which do not yet have baseball clubs.

- *Please refer to the National Masters Regulations & Rules Manual 2026 for all eligibility rules*

2. Dispensations

Player dispensations for the 2026 National Master's tournament will only be awarded in exceptional and extenuating circumstances. Points to note in the player dispensation process:

- There is a maximum of 4 dispensations per team for the 2026 National Master's tournament.
- A club is allowed to apply for dispensation of one under-age player; however, the club would need to demonstrate they have exhausted all their options of registered age-eligible players, and the dispensated player must be at least 30 years old as at 1st September 2025.
- Where a club is seeking dispensation for a player who has not met the 4-official game minimum requirement, a club would need to clearly outline why this person was unable to meet this minimum game requirement.
- Player dispensations can only be applied for, through this process and dispensation form. No other option is available to grant a dispensation. The Head Coach / Manager or Executive Officer (EO) must submit the player dispensation request with the endorsement of the club and player.

All player dispensations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis after a thorough review of the club's regular season members and team/s. All dispensations must be received no later than **23rd January 2026, 11.59pm**. **No Late dispensations will be considered.**

Each dispensation request MUST provide valid and clear rationale and detailed information, plus demonstrate why registered, age-eligible, or those that have met the required 4-game minimum players, are not able to undertake this roster position.

Dispensations Open | 1st December 2025, 9.00am
APPLY FOR DISPENSATION HERE
Dispensations Close | 23rd January 2026, 11.59pm

3. Pick-Up Players and Teams

Baseball NZ encourages participation at national tournaments in a fair and consistent manner. To support this, pick-up players will continue to be permitted for the 2026 National Masters Invitational Championship, with the process now managed directly by clubs and teams.

Eligibility and Requirements:

- Only players registered for the 2025/26 season are eligible to be pick-up players.
- No underage pick-up players are allowed.
- A club must have a minimum of 8 eligible players to register a team.
- Clubs may pick up players from outside their region only after exhausting all reasonable options within their own region to meet minimum roster requirements.
- Pick-up players must have approval from their registered club or regional association before being added to another team.
- A dispensation request must be submitted and approved by Baseball NZ before any pick-up player is officially added to a team's roster.
- Clubs are encouraged to prioritise ensuring all teams meet the minimum roster requirement (12 players) before adding additional players up to the recommended maximum (20 players).
- The picking-up club/team is solely responsible for the communication, planning, support, health, safety, and wellbeing of all pick-up players for the duration of the tournament.

Players looking to join a team or needing help being connected with registered teams are invited to email Hannah Hollands at hannah@baseballnewzealand.co.nz

Tournament Schedule

The National Masters, will run from 9.00am, 19th February 2026 to 6.00pm 21st February 2026 (please note times are approximate and will be finalised once draw completed).

Tournament Schedule Overview:

DRAFT SCHEDULE:

	Management Tent	Diamond 1	Diamond 2	Overflow Diamond
DAY 1: THURS 19th FEB	9.00am - 6.00pm	GAME PLAY - ROUND ROBIN GAMES		
DAY 2: FRI 20th FEB	8.00am - 6.00pm	GAME PLAY - ROUND ROBIN GAMES		
DAY 3:	8.00am - 5.00pm	GAME PLAY - SEMIS & FINALS		

SAT 21st FEB		
	6.00pm - 7.30pm	PRIZEGIVING

The full National Masters schedule and draw will be distributed after registrations close.

Tournament Meetings

1. **Tournament Technical Meeting - Coaches, Managers, Scorers & Umpires representative:**

Date: 11th February 2026
Time: 7.00pm
Location/Venue: Online

The Tournament Technical meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams. A link will be sent out to registered teams.

All Team's Executive Officers, Head Coaches, Scorekeepers plus a NZBUA representative **MUST** all attend this meeting. The meeting will be chaired by Dominick Jefferies & Hannah Hollands

All teams will be required to submit a preliminary roster and final roster.
All due dates are below;

- Preliminary Team Rosters due no later than 5 pm 23rd January 2026
- Final Team rosters due 5 pm, 5th February 2026

Tournament Regulations & Technical Rule Set

- Please refer to the National Masters Tournament Regulations & technical rule set