Baseball New Zealand

NATIONAL Masters Invitational Championship 2026

Tournament Regulations & Technical Norms

Tournament Information

Tournament Dates:	Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st February 2026
Tournament Venue:	Mahoe Park, Hamilton Hamilton Raiders Baseball Club
Open Grade Roster Size:	Minimum 12 players, maximum 20 players Rosters must have a minimum of 8 registered players from your own club.

National Masters Invitational Championship Regulations & Technical Norms

1. NATIONAL MASTERS WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2026 National Masters Invitational Championship.

Any matters relating to dispensations, pick-up players, please see 2026 Tournament Rules and Eligibility.

a. Games under the control of Baseball NZ shall be conducted in accordance with the WBSC Official Baseball Rules

b. Rules edition 2025. The rules described in this book apply to the 2026 National Masters tournament.

c. In all cases, should there be a conflict between the official rule book and this (Baseball NZ) Operations and Technical manual, then this manual shall take precedence. Baseball NZ shall also establish and sanction rules specifically for games under its jurisdiction. These rules are outlined below.

d. Where a penalty is not specified for a breach of these rules, the Protests and Disputes Committee shall adjudicate on any such rule breach and impose penalties as it thinks appropriate.

e. To participate in the Baseball NZ National Masters Invitational Championship, clubs must be in good standing in accordance with the guidelines of Baseball NZ.

f. Clubs will supply to Baseball NZ all team roster and any required player documentation by the prescribed tournament deadlines. Failure to supply such documentation could lead to a team or player not being accepted to participate in the tournament.

g. Clubs will ensure they adhere to all correct processes, systems and due dates as outlined by Baseball NZ.

h. Baseball NZ has the right to impose a penalty, as it deems appropriate, for any breach of these rules, or for conduct or behavior which is deemed to be unbecoming of a player, coach, other official or spectator. Additionally, any conduct or behavior, which breaches any law, regulation or by-law, will be referred to the appropriate civil authority.

2. AGE GROUP

The Baseball NZ National Masters is a senior, open age, tournament for all 2025/26 season registered players aged 35 years or above as of the 1st of September 2025.

3. DISPENSATIONS

Player dispensations for the 2026 National Masters will only be awarded in exceptional and extenuating circumstances. *Please refer to the* ***2026 Tournament Operations Manual for dispensation process.***

4. TEAM COMPOSITION, REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

a. All 2025/2026 season registered players, residing in New Zealand and who are age-eligible can 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 dispensation. Interested players (families) must be registered with Baseball New Zealand and in good standing with the national body, 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.
b. In all Baseball NZ National Tournaments, to be considered for a Baseball NZ National Tournament roster, a player must have played a minimum of four (4) regular season games for their club. Anyone who has played less than four (4) club games may be eligible for the tournament through the dispensation process. *Any matters relating to Dispensations, Pick Up Players and the Player Pool please refer to the* ***2026 Tournament Operations Manual***
c. A club is allowed one under-age player; however, the club would need to demonstrate they have exhausted all their options of registered age-eligible players. A dispensation request must be completed and the dispensated player must be at least 30 years old as of 1st September 2025.
d. **International Invitational Teams:** One or more international invitational teams may be invited to participate in the 2026 National Masters Invitational Championship at the discretion of Baseball New Zealand. Players on these teams are required to be registered with Baseball New Zealand. All players and officials must comply with Baseball New Zealand tournament rules, codes of conduct, and event policies while participating.

5. EXEMPTION TO THE 4 GAME MINIMUM RULE

a. Clubs may file for exemption to the four (4) game rule.
b. Exemptions may be granted for former club players who played or lived overseas during the regular season. Requests for exemptions should be filed in writing at the same time the rosters are due and highlight the player's history with the local club, including years played.
c. Baseball New Zealand Tournament Technical Committee will rule on each individual situation on a case-by-case basis.

6. DUAL CLUB ELIGIBILITY

a. There are some players who are eligible to compete for multiple clubs at the Baseball New Zealand National Masters. However, players are only able to participate in Baseball NZ

National Masters for one club. Any players who have qualified to play nationals for two clubs (i.e.; have played 4 or more games for both clubs), will need to decide prior to rosters being submitted as to who they are playing for at the National Masters. If there is any conflict around these situations, Baseball New Zealand will look at each case on its own merits.

7. MANAGERS (HEAD COACHES) AND COACHING STAFF

a. Each Club / Team Manager (Head Coach), must be present in the dugout.
b. The Manager (Head Coach) and coaching staff, while in the dugout, are to be dressed in a manner reflecting the image of the team. Team/Club shirts/jacket and cap shall be worn during games, Baseball pants and covered shoes are to be worn (no shorts, jeans or sandals will be allowed).
c. ONLY personnel listed on the official team roster sheet may be in the dugout.
d. Violation of Rules 7a,b,c will result in a $100 fine per game.
e. All Managers (Head Coaches) and Coaching Staff must abide by the Baseball New Zealand Coaches Code of Conduct at all times.

8. SCORER/S

a. Baseball NZ will provide all scorekeepers for all games at the National Masters Championship. Scorers will be allocated to games by Baseball NZ's National Head Scorer, who will support all scorers across this tournament.

9. TEAM LINE-UP

a. Each Manager (Head Coach) shall supply a copy of the team line-up to Baseball NZ Tournament HQ and Management, 30 minutes before the commencement of the game.
b. Each Manager (Head Coach) shall supply the umpire with 4 copies of his team line-up at the pre-game meeting held 5 minutes before the commencement of the game. The line-up shall show the names of all starting players, starting fielding position and the players' uniform numbers. The copies are to be distributed as follows:
    a. Copy 1 - Umpire (White)
    b. Copy 2 - Scorers (Yellow)
    c. Copy 3 - Opposition Manager (Head Coach) (Head Coach)(Head Coach) (Pink)
    d. Copy 4 - To be handed back to the Manager (Head Coach)(Head Coach) whose team the line-up belongs to (Blue)
c. All substitute players for the game must be listed.
d. A designated hitter (DH) may be used for the pitcher only. All substitute players for the game must be listed.

10. THE COMPETITION FORMAT

- Teams enter unranked, non-seeded.
- Teams will play a round-robin tournament, plus a play-off round.
- Teams will be awarded: WIN = 3 points LOSS = 0 points
- Points will decide the team seedings and rankings moving into the play-off round.
- Any Teams tied on points at the end of the round robin will be decided on by:
  1) runs against, and then if that is still tied, it will be decided on
  2) runs for

Playoff Format:

After the completion of the round robin, teams will be seeded by highest to lowest points and assigned a seed. 1 being the top and __ (# of teams) being the lowest seed. The playoff round will then be 2 semi-final games and 1 championship game. The semi-final games will be seed 1 (home team) @ seed 4 (away team) and seed 3 (away team) @ seed 2 (home team). The winners will then progress through to the championship game.

Tie Breaker Rules:
There will not be any games that result in a Tie.

- For any extra inning, the Team at bat shall begin the inning with runners on first and second base.
- The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would lead off the inning in the absence of this extra-innings rule.
- The runner on first base shall be the player (or a substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.
- The runner on second base shall be the player (or a substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding the runner on first base.

- By way of example, if the #5 hitter in the batting order is due to lead off the 8th inning, the #3 player in the batting order (or a pinch-runner for such player) shall begin the inning on second base and the #4 player in the batting order (or a pinch-runner for such player) shall begin the inning on first base.

11. RESULTS

a. Results sheets are included on the official Baseball NZ line-up cards
b. The yellow team copy containing the results sheet is to be filled out by the appointed scorekeepers and shall contain the following information:
    a. The score by innings (box score).
    b. the signature of the home team scorer,
    c. the signature of the away team scorer,
c. Relevant game details e.g. protests, injuries, reasons for early game terminations, etc. shall be recorded in the official scorebook.
d. Scorekeepers will compare scorebooks at the end of each game and ensure scores, statistics, and details align prior to finalizing the game.
e. All manual score sheets and electronic versions of the game shall be submitted to Baseball NZ Tournament HQ as soon as possible after completion of the game.
f. Baseball NZ's National Lead Scorekeeper will be available to adjudicate any scoring issues.

12. THE FIELD

Age/Division	Base Paths	Pitch Distance
National Masters	90'	60' 6"
Note 1: Field dimensions are given in feet and inches.		

13. THE EQUIPMENT

a. **EQUIPMENT STANDARDS - BATS**

Grade	Balls	Bat (Maximums)	Bases	Shoes
MASTERS CLUB CHAMPS	Baseball NZ Approved Baseball	Bats that have been used through regular season are fine. No Metal bats allowed.		Metal/ Rubber Cleats

14. CATCHERS MASK

a. Coaches must ensure that someone in a protective facemask and helmet is available to warm up the pitcher at the start of each inning.
b. All catchers warming up a pitcher in the bullpen must wear a mask. All junior catchers must wear a throat protector.

15. HELMETS

a. Single or Double ear flap helmet is mandatory for the hitter, baserunners and on- deck batter. Any bat boy/girl are to wear double eared helmets. If a player is acting as a base coach, an approved helmet must be worn.

16. COACHES HELMET

a. All coaches must wear a protective coaches helmet when base coaching.

17. PROTECTORS

a. All male players must wear athletic supporters. Male catchers must wear a cup and a long or short chest protector.

18. UNIFORM NUMBERS

a. All players' uniforms shall carry some visible unique identifying number. (Minimum sizes 20 mm or 50 mm). On appeal for batting out of order, the players' name shall take precedence over the uniform number.

19. PROGRAMME AND TOURNAMENT FORMAT

a. The tournament draw will be provided to all teams entered prior to the competition starting.
b. Should any team be in protest regarding the proposed draw, Baseball NZ must be notified within 12 hours of the draw being released.
c. When a Team is required to play a double header game, at least 30 minutes is required between games.
d. The team named second in the official schedule of games will be registered in the official schedule of games and will be regarded as the home team.
e. At all the games the home team will be located at the 3rd Base dugout and the visiting team in the 1st base dugout. In the event of a double header and a team remaining on the same field may remain in the same dugout.

20. THE GAME

a. **COMMENCEMENT**
    a. The 'official' commencement of games will be as per the Baseball NZ draw.

b. **IT IS A REGULATION GAME WHEN**

a. The Home Team has scored more runs than the visiting team, 2026 National Masters: 7 inning game.
b. Terminated by the Umpire on account of weather, darkness or any other cause which makes further play impossible provided 4 or more innings have been played in a 7- inning game.
c. 5 innings must be completed to be a regulation game.
d. When a game is terminated after 4 completed innings in a 7 innings game, the score shall be the total number of runs scored by each team at the time the game is terminated.

c. **SUSPENDED / RESCHEDULED GAME**

a. It is a suspended game when the umpire terminates play on account of darkness, weather or any other cause which makes it impossible for further play in the game, and where less than regulation innings have been completed by each team.
b. When a number of games are suspended or not commenced during a Championship, then these games shall be re-scheduled so that each team play as near as possible an equal number of games. Where the suspended or not commenced games that are to be rescheduled include key games between teams competing for the Championship, then these key games will be given precedence over other games. Games may be rescheduled to be played on rest days if the Tournament Technical Committee desires. The Tournament Director shall liaise with Baseball New Zealand and Host Officials in all re-scheduling of games. If rescheduled, suspended games will be re-commenced at the point where the games were halted. Final decision will be at the discretion of the Tournament Technical Committee.
c. If game(s) are rain delayed or rained out and may be rescheduled on an alternate ground, the decision remains with the Tournament Technical Committee.

d. **DURATION**

	Innings	Mercy Rule - Innings	Regulation Game
MASTER CLUB CHAMPS	**Regular scheduled games and Semi Finals 7 innings No new Innings after 1hrs 50mins.**	**10 after 5**	**4 Innings**
	GRAND FINAL 7 Innings no time limit	**10 after 5**	**4 Innings**

a. If an early game proceeds past the scheduled start time of the following game in order to complete the game, then the Tournament Director following the game shall announce the new starting time for that game.
b. All games shall be played to a win / loss result where possible. Refer Extra Innings Rule 20.r if games are tied

e. **TEAM WARM-UP**

a. Team Warm-Ups may not take place if the field is not ready for the following game.
b. Twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled starting time of a game, the visiting team will commence their entitled seven (7) minutes warm up on the playing diamond.
c. Twelve (12) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game the Home Team will commence their entitled seven (7) minute warm up.
d. The remaining five minutes will allow the ground crew to finalize ground preparation.
e. The supervision of the warmup before the game will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director and/or a designated official.

f. **ADVERSE PLAYING CONDITIONS**

a. All games are scheduled for play. Play will not commence if the head grounds man or council deem the ground unfit for play.
b. If a game commences, but it is abandoned before the completion of required regulation innings then it shall be declared suspended.
c. If the game is tied after 4 complete innings in a 7 innings game, the score shall revert to the previous inning where the scores were uneven. The team leading at that time shall be awarded the win, If the game is tied after 5 complete innings in a 9 innings, the score shall revert to the previous inning where the scores were uneven. The team leading at that time shall be awarded the win.
d. If the head grounds man has declared the ground playable and further bad weather occurs, the decision to commence play will be left to the Tournament Director.
e. In the event that no semi-final or final (scheduled 7 innings) has completed 4 innings due to weather conditions and in the event that a substitute day has not been scheduled, the highest qualifying team remaining if both the semi-finals have been played will be declared the winner. If only one or no semi-finals have been played, then the winner of the competition rounds will be declared the winner.
f. The Tournament Director may change the venue if the ground allocated for the semi-final or final is deemed unplayable.
g. The Tournament Director will attempt to allocate a time for all washed out games.'
h. The Tournament Director has the power to rearrange game times, game durations and/or game venues.

g. **THE BATTER**

a. Players may not dangerously or deliberately throw the bat. This is an umpire's judgment call. Offenders and their coaches should be cautioned on the first offence. A second offence will result in the batter / runner being called out and all runners returned to bases occupied at the time of the infraction and may result in the eviction of the batter for dangerous play.

h. **HITTER TO REMAIN IN BATTER'S BOX**

a. The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless he makes a request for "time" and in the umpire's judgement that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the umpire grant time out.

b. If no runners are on base, the batter should not be granted time and permitted to leave the batter's box unless, in the opinion of the umpire, unusual circumstances exist which make the request a reasonable one.
c. One foot in the batter's box will be deemed as the batter being in the batter box.

i. **THE BATTER'S BOX RULE**

a. The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat, unless one of the following exceptions applies, in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate:
    - The batter swings at a pitch;
    - The batter is forced out of the batter's box by a pitch;
    - A member of either team requests and is granted "Time";
    - A defensive player attempts a play on a runner at any base;
    - The batter feints a bunt;
    - A wild pitch or passed ball occurs;
    - The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving the ball; or
    - The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals.
b. If the batter intentionally leaves the batter's box and delays play, and none of the exceptions listed in Rule 20.i.a applies, the umpire shall issue a warning to the batter for the batter's first violation of this Rule in a game. For a batter's second or subsequent violations of this Rule in a game, the umpire will give a strike against the batter. If no batters' boxes are laid down it will be solely at the judgement of the umpire.
c. The batter may leave the batter's box and the dirt area surrounding home plate
d. when "Time" is called for the purpose of
    - making a substitution; or
    - a conference by either team.

j. **COLLISION RULE**

a. Baseball New Zealand is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions primarily with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. **The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid such collisions whenever possible.**
b. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, **or in the act of fielding the ball**, the umpire shall judge:
    - Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (**could the runner have reached the plate without colliding**) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the plate was blocked);
    - Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the plate or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder; or
    - Whether the runner was using flagrant contact to maliciously dislodge the ball.
    - **Penalty:**
    - If the runner **attempted to dislodge the ball**, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead, and all

other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

- If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the plate, the runner **MAY** make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a **legitimate attempt** to reach the plate.
- If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner was before the runner's touching the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead immediately. All other base runners shall return to the bases they occupied at the time of the interference.
- If the contact was after a preceding runner had touched home plate, the preceding runner will be ruled safe, the ball becomes dead immediately and all other base runners will return to the base they had last touched prior to the contact.
- If the runner is safe and the collision is malicious, the runner shall be ruled safe and ejected from the game.

Penalty:

- If the defensive player blocks the plate or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The umpire shall point and call, "That's obstruction." The umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in the Official Rules of Baseball. The obstructed runner is awarded at least one base beyond the base last touched legally before the obstruction.
- If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.
- If the runner's path to the base is blocked and all stipulations above are fulfilled, it is considered unavoidable contact.

k. **THE PITCHER**

a. A "Pitch" is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher.
b. A pitcher who is removed from the pitching position but remains in the game as a defensive player may return to the mound only once per game.
c. Any pitcher named may be replaced after the first opposing batter (or the batter's substitute) has been put out or has advanced to first base or the side has been retired.
d. No pitcher is permitted to exceed the game maximum pitch count. (**refer to Rule 20.n**).
e. If any player exceeds these limits they will be removed from the mound and the Manager (Head Coach) will be given an automatic 1 game suspension.
f. Intentional Walks are to be signaled by the Manager (Head Coach), no fielder can make a call for an intentional walk.
g. Intentional Walk, pitcher will not be charged with pitches that are not thrown.
h. Time saving speed up rule, pickoff and disengagements not applied.

l. **LIMITS ON WARM UP PITCHES OR TIME TAKING ON THE FIELD**

a. Unless a pitcher is entering a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, he shall be permitted a maximum of eight (8) warm-up pitches.

b. Thereafter will be five (5) warm up pitches per innings. If a team is slow to take the field the umpire may reduce the number of pitches equaling the time it would have taken if the team had hustled on the field.

m. **VISITS**

a. ***National Masters*** - A Manager (Head Coach) or coach may make three (3) visits to the mound. The fourth and any subsequent visits in a game will cause the removal of the pitcher. The second, and any subsequent visit in any one inning, will cause the removal of the pitcher.

Note: *On mound visits will be restricted to Manager (Head Coach), pitcher and a Fielder.* Description: Coaches shall be allowed three free trips to the mound during the game to talk with the pitcher (free trip is one in which the pitcher is not removed from the game). These meetings shall be limited to 45 seconds from the moment the Umpire calls "Time". (Note: the second base umpire will be carrying a stopwatch). After the third free trip, each subsequent trip to the mound shall result in the removal of the pitcher. If the game goes into extra innings, trips not done during the game will not be accumulated and only one additional free trip shall be allowed for each three (3) extra innings. Two trips to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher must result in the removal of the pitcher. Coaches that are going to make multiple changes involving the pitcher after the two options mentioned above (after the three free trips or for the second visit in an inning) must go to the home plate umpire to state their changes prior to going to the mound or their moves are invalid, and the pitcher must be removed from the game.

Teams are allowed a maximum of 3 "offensive meetings" per game. An "offensive meeting" shall be charged any time a Coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive player; whether it is the hitter, a baserunner, an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another Coach. If the game goes to the extra innings, "offensive meetings" not done during the game will not be accumulated and only one additional “offensive meeting” shall be permitted for each three (3) extra innings. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning to the Team Manager (Head Coach) and if it occurs again the Team will be fined, and the Team Manager (Head Coach) shall be ejected from the game. No offensive trip will be charged if the offense discusses strategy during a delay for which they are not responsible (e.g. trip to the mound, injury, player change, etc.) proving they cause no further delay.

n. **TIME SAVING RULE**

a. POLICY AND INTENT

Baseball NZ have resolved to speed up the play of Baseball NZ games. The intent of these rules is to encourage umpires, coaches and players to limit time-wasting and to ensure Baseball NZ games progress quickly and smoothly.

o. **UMPIRES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT**

a. Umpires are responsible for enforcement of the Baseball NZ time saving rules. Scorers should notify umpires of the time as umpires do not wear wrist watches. All violations of this section should be reported to the Tournament Director and referenced in the Umpires' Written Report to Baseball NZ.

p. **20 SECOND PITCH RULE**

a. The 20 second rule for the pitcher shall apply whenever there are no runners on base.
b. Under the 20 second Pitch Rule, the pitcher must begin his pitching motion within 20 seconds of receiving the ball from the catcher, umpire or other player. This requirement shall not apply if the batter is granted time and leaves the batter's box.
c. If the pitcher violates the 20 second Pitch Rule, the umpire shall issue warning to the team following the pitch.
d. Following the warning each violation of the Rule shall result in a ball being called against the team in violation.
e. If the pitch is thrown before the violation is called, the pitch shall be deemed a ball, regardless of its location.
f. If, in the Umpire's opinion, the pitcher is intentionally violating the Rule, he may eject the offending pitcher and/or Manager (Head Coach) from the game.

q. **EXTRA INNINGS**

a. For any extra inning, the Team at bat shall begin the inning with runners on first and second base. The batter who leads off an inning shall continue to be the batter who would lead off the inning in the absence of this extra-innings rule. The runner on first base shall be the player (or a substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning. The runner on second base shall be the player (or a substitute for such player) in the batting order immediately preceding the runner on first base. By way of example, if the #5 hitter in the batting order is due to lead off the 8th inning, the #3 player in the batting order (or a pinch-runner for such player) shall begin the inning on second base and the #4 player in the batting order (or a pinch-runner for such player) shall begin the inning on first base.

r. **THE UMPIRE**

a. The Director of Umpiring and Tournament Director will clarify the "ground rules" at the pre- game meeting with the Manager (Head Coach).
b. The umpire has the power to rule on anything not covered by these rules and the Rules of Baseball. **(Refer to 8.01C OBR 2025)**
c. A player or official who refuses to promptly obey the directions of an umpire shall be ejected from the game.
Note: *Ejection means that the person ejected must leave the vicinity of the playing field. They must not be within eyeshot of the playing field or players, and they must not have any more involvement in the game. The use of portable communication devices to relay messages / information to those remaining on the field are strictly forbidden and not within the spirit of the game.*

s. **THE SCOREKEEPER**

a. Baseball NZ will provide all scorekeepers for the National Masters Tournament.
b. All scorekeeping will take place at the provided score benches set up behind the safety fence of home plate or in some other suitable position where the game can be observed in safety.
c. Scorekeepers are to verify the scores after every inning and if the score cannot be agreed, then this is to be brought to the attention of the Umpire who will adjudicate on the matter.

d. The Manager (Head Coach) & (Head Scorer) and Coaches involved in a game cannot be deemed to be an "Official Scorer".
e. The Manager (Head Coach) must provide the scorers with a line-up 30 minutes before the start of play.

t. **SCOREBOOKS**

a. Baseball NZ will provide scoresheets for the National Masters Tournament
b. All teams playing in games under the jurisdiction of Baseball NZ must use an approved Scorebook.

u. **PROTEST**

a. In the case of a protest being lodged, details of the time, the score and game position and the reason for the protest must be noted by the scorer on the scorebook at the time of the protest. The umpire will acknowledge the protest at the completion of the game by signing the score book. A $100 deposit for the protest will be required and if successful with the protest the $100 will be returned. (Refer Appendix B – PROTEST PROCEDURE)

v. **BLOOD CONTINGENCIES**

a. Should at any time, a player sustains an injury which produces blood on their person, the following contingencies are to apply:
    - The player is to be removed from the field of play
    - The player is to be replaced by a courtesy runner or fielder:
    - The player may re-enter the game in the same batting position, or any fielding position, only after the injury has been treated and dressed
b. The player who acts as a courtesy player may permanently enter the game as a substitute.
c. If the team has less than the minimum permissible number of players, the game continues, the batting order closes up and there are no automatic outs. The defensive team must field an infield.
d. Sub rules 1), 2) and 3) above, also apply to the positions of Pitcher and Catcher

Appendix A:

JUDICIARY PROTEST & DISPUTES COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The Protests and Disputes Committee ("The Committee") will comprise:
1) The Tournament Director and/or the Game Day & Operations Director
2) The Technical Director
3) One independent Board representative from Baseball NZ Governance Committee

At least two members of the Committee must be present at a sitting. Those sitting must not have witnessed the incident or have been provided with detailed knowledge of the incident prior to the hearing. All Judicial Committee Members must act in an impartial manner and for the best interests of the tournament and the game of baseball in NZ.

Any Judicial Committee Member with a conflict of interest must acknowledge this at the start of the meeting. The Judicial Committee can decide if this individual needs to abstain for this meeting, is able to listen with no engagement or can fully engage.

Purpose:

The purpose of the committee is to hear and give rulings upon:
1) An ejected player / coach / Manager (Head Coach)/ parent
2) A protest of a game due to a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule.

The above issues are the only concern of the committee. Issues relating to Tournament Rules are not eligible for protest.

Any breaches of the Baseball NZ Rules or Code of Conduct may be escalated to the Baseball New Zealand Judiciary.

Procedure

The Committee will meet after the game following the incident.
The Committee, can meet in person, online or on the phone depending on the circumstances.

Ejection:

1) Paper work – ejection report must be presented to the Tournament Director
2) The Tournament Director will ensure that all committee members are non-partial and able to attend, or if not, a suitable substitute is found.
3) The Tournament Director will contact all relevant parties with time and location of the Committee hearing
4) Ejected person must present themselves at this meeting
5) They may bring a witness or advocate. (Failure to be present for a Committee hearing will mean automatic suspension until a meeting with the ejected person can be held).
6) The ejecting umpire must provide a report and attend if required by the Tournament Director.
7) They may bring a witness or advocate (e.g. second umpire).
8) Each side will get free opportunity to present their side of the issue. Full and open comments will be made, relevant questions asked and upon private contemplations of the issue by the Committee, a judgment made, following this the decision will be

presented to the involved persons.
9) That decision shall be binding and not open for appeal.
10) Decisions will be recorded and held on file by with the league.

Protest:

A protest is to be based on misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules, not judgment calls by the umpires.

Examples of issues that may be protested:
1) Player eligibility
2) Violation of a playing rule

For a protest to be recognized to be sent to the Committee it must meet the following criteria:
1) The umpires are notified at the time of the play
2) Protest must be made immediately after the incident in question
3) If play has recommenced, no protest can be lodged

Protest Procedure:

1) Time is called
2) Rule Infraction and Protest Declared to Umpire.
3) Umpire will sign scorebook-noting inning, score, outs and runners on base at time of protest.
4) Manager (Head Coach) (Head Coach) will notify Director of protest. Director will make ruling.
5) If protest is upheld, play will resume from point of protest.

Ejections & Suspensions:

Under Official Baseball Rule 6.04(D), if a manager, player, coach, athletic trainer is ejected from the game, he/she shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. He/She shall remain in the clubhouse or change to street clothes and either leave the park or take a seat in the grandstand well removed from the vicinity of his/hers team's bench or bullpen. He/She may not stand in the dugout runway and under no circumstance may he/she return to the dugout or field after he/she has been ejected.

If a person who has been ejected continues to appear in the runway area, umpires should not delay the game by repeatedly insisting that the person leave. In such instances, the offender has seriously violated the rules, and the umpiring crew shall report this fact to the league president.

If a manager, coach, player or athletic trainer is under suspension, he/she may take part in his team's activities prior to the start of the game. During the term of suspension, he/she shall leave the field before the game starts, change to street clothes, and either leave the park or take a seat in the stands well removed from the vicinity of his club's bench or bullpen. If under suspension, he may not be in the dugout or press box during the course of the game.

A Manager who has been suspended shall take no part in the direction of his team during a game, either directly or indirectly.

Appendix B:

CODE OF CONDUCTS - BASEBALL NZ CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Code of Conduct Policy is to encourage fair, ethical treatment of all persons and organisations that come under the umbrella of Baseball New Zealand. Some areas of the Code will be more applicable to some persons and groups than others.

All persons that come under the umbrella of Baseball New Zealand will agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and acknowledge that any breach of the Code of Conduct, or any part of it, may result in disciplinary action under the Baseball New Zealand Constitution, Regulations and Policies applicable at the time.

The following Code of Conduct applies to all Baseball New Zealand members and persons participating in Baseball New Zealand activities.

What is a Breach of this Policy?

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation bound by this policy to do anything contrary to this policy, including but not limited to:

- Breaching the codes relating to behaviour
- Bringing the sport and/or Baseball New Zealand into disrepute, or acting in a manner likely to bring the sport and/or Baseball New Zealand into disrepute
- Failing to follow Baseball New Zealand policies (including this policy)
- Breaching the procedures for the protection, safety and well-being of children
- Discriminating against, harassing or bullying (including cyber-bullying) any person
- Victimising another person for making or supporting a complaint
- Engaging in a sexually inappropriate relationship with a person that he or she supervises, or has influence, authority or power over
- Verbally or physically assaulting another person, intimidating another person or creating a hostile environment within the sport
- Disclosing to any unauthorised person or organisation any Baseball New Zealand information that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature
- Making a complaint that they know to be untrue, vexatious, malicious or improper
- Failing to comply with a penalty imposed after a finding that the individual or organisation has breached this policy
- Failing to comply with a direction given to the individual or organisation as part of a disciplinary process

Disciplinary Measures:

Baseball New Zealand may impose disciplinary measures on an individual or organisation for a breach of this policy.

Any disciplinary measure imposed will be:

- Fair and reasonable
- Applied consistent with any contractual and employment rules and requirements

- Be based on the evidence and information presented and the seriousness of the breach
- Be determined in accordance with Baseball New Zealand's Constitution, any applicable by- laws, this policy and/or the rules of the sport

All Members:

As a Baseball New Zealand member and/or participant you should meet the following requirements with regard to your conduct during any Baseball New Zealand sanctioned activity:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others
- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others
- Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions
- Make a commitment to providing quality service and performance
- Be aware of, and maintain, an uncompromising adherence to, standards, rules, regulations and policies
- Operate within the Constitution, Regulations, Policies and Procedures of Baseball New Zealand, IBAF and WBSC
- Understand the possible consequences of breaching the Baseball New Zealand Code of Conduct
- Immediately report any breaches of Baseball New Zealand members to the appropriate authority
- Comply with any and all applicable national or local legislation
- Refrain from any form of abuse towards others
- Refrain from using any obscene language
- Refrain from any form of harassment towards others
- Refrain from any form of discrimination towards others
- Refrain from any form of victimisation towards others
- Reject corruption, drugs, racism, violence and other dangers to our sport
- Promote the best interests of baseball
- Provide a safe environment for the conduct of activity in accordance with relevant Baseball New Zealand policy
- Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured
- Be a positive role model
- Do not provide comment to any media, or publish any comment (including on any website), on behalf of Baseball New Zealand or its Associations
- Do not speak to any media in a negative way, or publish any negative comment (including on any website) regarding Baseball New Zealand or any of its Associations
- Never act in any way that may bring disrepute or disgrace to Baseball New Zealand members, its stakeholders and/or its sponsors, potential sponsors and/or partners
- Do not participate (or benefit from assisting others involved) in sports betting or gambling activity associated with baseball matches and/or baseball results in which you are participating or have been directly involved in Baseball New Zealand expects all members, supporters, advisors, staff and associates of Baseball New Zealand to abide by a Code of Conduct that upholds the principles and values of the game and the organisation. Members should recognise that at all times they have a duty of care to all Baseball New Zealand members.

Attachments:

Appendix C: COACHES / Manager (Head Coach) CODE OF CONDUCT
Appendix D: PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT
Appendix E: UMPIRE CODE OF CONDUCT

Appendix C:

CODE OF CONDUCT - MANAGER (HEAD COACH), COACHES & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The coach/Manager (Head Coach)/executive officer of a team may be the second most influential person in a player's life. Coaches, through their own behaviour (on and off the field) have an enormous impact on the development of young players.

In establishing a solid foundation of character building with players, the key responsibility of any coach is to lead by example. This holds true at all levels of development.

The responsibilities and duties of a coach are not simple and should be dealt with in a professional manner.

For these reasons and many more the Baseball New Zealand has developed a Code of Conduct for all coaches/Manager (Head Coach)s/executive officers participating in Baseball New Zealand endorsed and organised tournaments, teams, development programs and special events.

The following Code of Conduct requirements are considered practicable and are within the objectives of Baseball New Zealand:

- Provide supervision of the behaviour of the team at all times
- Do not criticise players in front of spectators, parents and other teams. Review constructive criticism with a player in private or in the presence of the team
- Accept decisions of the umpire as being fair and called to the best of their ability. Do not abuse or ridicule the umpire nor allow your players to do so
- Develop team respect for opponents, spectators and officials
- Do not criticise other teams, supporters or officials by words or gestures
- Set a good example in personal appearance and behaviour
- Encourage sportsmanlike behaviour among the players
- Encourage players to work together as a unified group (teamwork)
- Encourage your team to hustle on and off the playing field at all times
- All press statements and/or interviews must have Baseball New Zealand approval
- Place the welfare and development of the individual above a winning or losing record
- Do not embarrass your opponents
- The use or possession of any form of tobacco, tobacco products, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol of any description during training camps and tournaments is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated under any circumstances
- Be aware of any player with medical problems
- Strive to develop a positive image and self-sufficient attitude with each player
- Enforce the Baseball New Zealand Player Code of Conduct
- Present Baseball New Zealand in a positive image In addition a Coach will:
- Keep informed of sound coaching principles and seek more skilled advice when necessary
- Abide by the applicable tournament rules and regulations
- Whenever possible provide assistance with coaching expertise and knowledge to developing teams
- Ensure whenever possible all players have equal time on the diamond. Avoid overplaying the talented players - the average players need and deserve equal time
  In addition a Team Manager (Head Coach) will:
- Be responsible for the overall welfare and wellbeing of team members and officials when travelling with a team

- Maintain a ‘duty of care’ towards team members and be accountable for the management of the team
- Have a sound working knowledge of Baseball New Zealand Constitution, Regulations and Policies, and ensure that the conduct of the affairs of the team is in accordance with these and or any other policies and guidelines determined by Baseball New Zealand
- Foster a collaborative approach to the management of the team

Note: In cases where there are breaches of this code of conduct, the breaches can be reported to Baseball New Zealand. If the breach(es) are found proved then the matter(s) will be referred to the appropriate judicial committee for the adjudication of the appropriate penalty.

Appendix D:

CODE OF CONDUCT - PLAYERS

The Baseball New Zealand Player Code of Conduct has been developed for all players participating in National Championships, Baseball New Zealand Youth development Programs as well representatives on all Baseball New Zealand teams.

A player's public behaviour will be closely observed by others as they represent their region or country at special events. Any behaviour that is unlawful or disrespectful to others is detrimental on everyone associated with the team. Any serious breach of this Code of Conduct or any behaviour detrimental to the game of baseball must be notified to the team Manager (Head Coach) (Head Coach).

If, in the opinion of team officials, there is a serious breach of Code of Conduct the player will be banned from the remainder of the championship or program, the parents and region association notified and the player sent home by the first available transport. Any additional expense incurred will be the responsibility of the player/parents.

The following Code of Conduct requirements are considered practicable and are within the objectives of Baseball New Zealand:

Code of Conduct

- Compete by the competition conditions and rules
- Verbal abuse against umpires, opposing players or fans will not be tolerated
- Control your temper - no criticism by words or gesture
- Co-operate with your coach and team mates. Show respect for your opponents and their skills
- No drug use of any kind will be tolerated unless prescribed by a licensed physician.
- Refrain from profanity at all times
- Be friendly to all participants
- The use or possession of any form of tobacco, tobacco products, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol of any description during training camps/development programmes and tournaments is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated under any circumstances
- Any activity likely to result in loss or wilful damage to private property or to cause a disturbance will not be tolerated
- All press statements and interviews of players must have Baseball New Zealand approval
- No jewelry (e.g. earrings or studs) at all times
- No eating or drinking on the baseball field
- Report all injuries to a coach or trainer and schedule proper treatment with the physiotherapist when necessary
- No cameras will be allowed in the dugouts during games
- No one other than team personnel are allowed in locker rooms unless permission is obtained from the management
- Promptness for meetings, training sessions and games is mandatory
- Uniformity and sharpness in proper on-field dress is a must. This applies for practice sessions as well as games
- Players are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their equipment
- Abuse of equipment such as throwing helmets or bats will not be tolerated

Appendix E:

CODE OF CONDUCT - UMPIRES

The Baseball New Zealand Umpire Code of Conduct has been developed for all umpires participating in National Championships and New Zealand Baseball Development Programs as well as International Representatives.

An umpire's public behaviour will be closely observed by others as the umpire represents Baseball New Zealand, his Region or Country at special events. Any behaviour that is unlawful or disrespectful to others is a slur on everyone associated with Baseball New Zealand.
If, in the opinion of an Instructor or Coordinator, there is a serious breach of Code of Conduct the
umpire will be banned from the remainder of the Championship or program, the Manager (Head Coach) (Head Coach) for Umpire Development and Region Association notified and the umpire sent home by the first available transport. Any additional expense incurred will be the responsibility of the umpire.
The following Code of Conduct requirements are considered practicable and are within the objectives of Baseball New Zealand:

Code of Conduct:

- Officiate by the competition conditions and rules of the sport and the mechanics taught in the Umpire Development Program
- Verbal abuse towards players, Manager (Head Coach) (Head Coach)s, coaches, officials or fans will not be tolerated
- Control your temper - no criticism by words or gesture
- Co-operate with your instructor, coordinator and fellow umpires. Show respect for the participants and their skills
- No drug use of any kind will be tolerated unless prescribed by a licensed physician
- Refrain from profanity at all times
- Be friendly to all participants. Display control and courtesy to all involved within the sport.
- The use of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description on the field, or while in uniform, is banned
- Any activity likely to result in loss or wilful damage to private property or to cause a disturbance will not be tolerated
- No smoking in the rooms at the tournament, seminars, school and on or around the baseball field
- Make no comments to the media and do not partake in media interviews unless you have Baseball New Zealand approval
- No jewellery (e.g. earrings or studs) at all times
- No eating on the baseball field and drinking shall be limited to water and other soft drink
- Report all injuries to an instructor or coordinator and schedule proper treatment with the physiotherapist when necessary
- No one other than umpire personnel is allowed in umpire's locker rooms unless permission Is obtained from an instructor or coordinator
- Fraternising with team personnel, other than at official functions, without approval of the coordinator is prohibited
- Promptness for meetings, training sessions and games is mandatory
- Uniformity and sharpness in proper on-field dress is a must. This applies for seminars and schools as well as games
- The use of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description while in walk out dress is banned

- The use of any form of tobacco or alcohol of any description while in the presence or vicinity of underage players is banned
- The wearing of clothing containing the New Zealand Baseball Logo or Insignia in licensed premises, (with the exception of official functions), is banned
- Umpires are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their equipment
- Strict observance and implementation of the Infectious Diseases Policy
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years
- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours
- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people

Note: In cases where there are breaches of this code of conduct, the breaches can be reported to Baseball New Zealand. If the breach(es) are found proved then the matter(s) will be referred to the appropriate judicial committee for the adjudication of the appropriate penalty.

Appendix F:

CODE OF CONDUCT - SPECTATOR & ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO, VAPING & OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE/BEHAVIOUR

SPECTATOR MISBEHAVIOUR AUTHORITY

1) In order to ensure that baseball under the jurisdiction of Baseball NZ is an enjoyable and happy experience for all involved, the Baseball NZ administration has empowered all officiating umpires with special authority. This authority is directed at any spectator who acts in a manner that the umpire considers to be disruptive, a nuisance and not within the spirit of the game.
2) Should any club official, player or parent conduct themselves in a manner so as to cause the umpire to take action and report or dismiss or eject the same, he / she shall be required to attend a hearing of the Judiciary Committee (also known as the Protest and Disputes Committee), at a date to be set by the Protest and Disputes Committee. (See Appendix B - Judiciary Guidelines.)
3) The Umpire officiating at the game must submit a written report of the incident on a Game Protest Form to the Baseball NZ Umpires Association (Baseball NZUA) Development coordinator within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
4) At the judiciary meeting the umpire and player, club official or parent / spectator who have been ejected may each bring an advocate or support person.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO & OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE

1) The use of non-prescribed drugs or similar substances while representing any team or participating in team functions shall result in a ban from playing any baseball under the jurisdiction of Baseball NZ for the remainder of the playing season in which the infringement occurred or for a period of time determined by the coordinating committee.
2) The drinking of alcohol, chewing or smoking of tobacco or vaping and use of offensive language will not be allowed whilst on the playing field, dug out or game vicinity during games. This includes all facilities connected with the game. i.e. scorekeeper's tables / boxes etc. Failure to comply with this ruling will result in expulsion from the game and an individual fine imposed on the offending player.
3) Offensive language by spectators will not be allowed. The Umpire-In-Chief is authorized to halt the game until the persons responsible for this offence stop.
4) Spectators will be expected to observe the same ruling on the consumption of alcohol during games under the jurisdiction of Baseball NZ. It will be the responsibility of the clubs and team management to regulate this upon their own field. The consumption of alcohol is restricted at many council owned facilities in New Zealand and these restrictions MUST be adhered to.

Appendix G:

BASEBALL NZ GAME PROTEST / INCIDENT FORM

Appendix D - BNZ GAME PROTEST / INCIDENT FORM

The basis of any protest must be based upon misinterpretation of the rules of the game. No protest may be lodged regarding any judgment decisions. A protest is not casual & so it should be done only after careful consideration of the situation.

		Time:	rade:
Date of the Game: / / Manager (Head Coach) Name: Team Managed / Coached: Opposition Team:		Club: Umpirein Chief's Name:	

GAME SITUATION AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

Inning **Outs**	**Score**	**In favour of**

DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED RESULTING IN A PROTEST:

SPECFICALLY STATE THE RULE INTERPRETATION BEING PROTESTED:

Report delivered by: (circle one) Mail Hand Fax Courier Email

Signed Dated / /
Signed Dated / /

ACTION TAKEN BY THE LEAGUE:

Convening Panel Members:

Signed **Dated**

Signed **Dated**