



BASEBALL NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL CLUB CLASSIC

OPEN GRADE

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

OPERATIONS MANUAL

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Tournament Dates: 26th – 29th March 2026

Tournament Host Club: Howick Pakuranga Hawkes

Location & Venue: Lloyd Elsmore Park, Pakuranga, Auckland

Open Men's Roster Size: Minimum 14 players, maximum 20 players. Rosters must have a minimum of 8 registered players from their own club.

Age Eligibility: 16 years or above as at 1st September 2025

Team Registrations:

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

Registrations CLOSE: **30th January 2025**

50% Team Fees due upon team registration to confirm registration with the full balance due no later than 5th March 2026.

Registration Link: <https://membership.mygameday.app/regoform.cgi?formID=120101>

Registration QR Code:



Team Registrations Fee:

The Club Classic team entry fees include; your team's tournament entry, match umpires, live scoring, team tents for each team, first aid and tournament management and venue costs.

Club Classic Team Entry Fees:

Grade	Clubs	Team Entry Fee (based on distance travelled)
Open Men's	ABA & WaiBOP Clubs	\$2,2500.00 (incl GST) per team
	WBA Clubs	\$2,0000.00 (incl GST) per team
	TTI & CBA Clubs	\$1,7500.00 (incl GST) per team

A 50% deposit of team fees is required to secure your team's place in the tournament. 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 Club Classic 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 Club Classic 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:	Highland Park Medical Centre 14 Highland Park Drive +64 9 535 8095
	East Care Urgent Care 260 Botany Road +64 9 277 1516

Tournament Contacts:

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

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

Host Club Contacts: Gareth McCloughen - Tournament Liaison
Phone: +64 27 531 9964
Email: marketing@hpbaseball.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 Club Classic & Master's Championship tournament is a national club-based tournament for Open Men's and Masters grade teams to compete for a national title in each grade.

1. Eligibility

All 2025/26 season registered players, residing in New Zealand and are **16 years of age or above as at the 1st of September 2025** are eligible to compete in the 2025 National Club Classic.

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 BBNZ 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.

- **Exemption To The 4 Game Minimum Rule:**

Clubs may file for exemption to the four-game rule- through the dispensation process. Exemptions may be granted for former club players who played or lived overseas during the regular season. A player must be a historical member of the club, with a minimum of 3 seasons played for the club that wishes to have this player exempt from this 4-game minimum.

- **Dual Club Eligibility**

Any players who have qualified to play nationals for two clubs (i.e. have played 5 or more games for both clubs), will need to decide prior to rosters being submitted as to who they are playing for at Nationals. If there is any conflict around these situations, Baseball NZ will look at each case on its own merits.

2. Dispensations

Player dispensations for the 2026 National Club Classic 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 Club Classic tournament.
- Where a club is seeking dispensation for an under-age player, the club would need to demonstrate they have exhausted all their options of registered age-eligible players.
- 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 (or their guardian if under 18 years old).

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 **13th February 2026, 11.59pm**. **No Late dispensations will be considered.**

Dispensations Open | Now
[**APPLY FOR DISPENSATION HERE**](#)
Dispensations Close | 13th Feb 2026, 5.00pm

3. Pick Up Players

Baseball NZ wants to encourage participation at national tournaments and events, in a fair, consistent and manageable manner. Therefore, pick-up players are included in the 2026 Club Classic tournament. **No underage players will be accepted in draft.**

- Only players that are registered members of the 2025/26 season are eligible.
- Teams must be registered to have the capability to receive pick players.
- A club must have a minimum of 8 age-eligible player to register a team.

Baseball New Zealand is currently reviewing the player draft process.
Pick-Up Player Registrations will open early 2026 once this process is complete.

4. Pick Up Clubs

Baseball NZ will manage player allocations for the National Club Classic tournament. Only registered clubs will be eligible to pick up players.

Baseball New Zealand is currently reviewing the player draft process.
Pick-Up Player Registrations will open early 2026 once this process is complete.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The National Club Classic, will run from 26th March 2026, 9.00am to 29th March 2026, 6.30pm (please note times are approximate and will be finalised once draw completed).

Tournament Schedule Overview:

DRAFT SCHEDULE:

		Diamond 1	Diamond 2
DAY 1:			
THURS 26 th March	9.00am - 5.00pm	GAME PLAY - ROUND ROBIN GAMES	
DAY 2: FRI 27 th March	8.00am - 5.00pm	GAME PLAY - ROUND ROBIN GAMES	
DAY 3: SAT 28 th March	8.00am - 5.00pm	GAME PLAY - ROUND ROBIN GAMES	
DAY 4: SUN 29 th March	8.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm - 6.30pm	GAME PLAY - SEMI-FINALS & FINALS PRIZEGIVING & PRIZE DRAW	

The full Club Classic schedule and draw will be distributed after registrations close.

Tournament Meetings

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

Date: 18th March 2026
Time: 7.30pm
Location/Venue: Online via TEAMS / ZOOM meeting

The Tournament Technical meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 18th March 2026 online.

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

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS & TECHNICAL RULE SET

- Please refer to the National Club Classic Tournament & Technical Rule Set Manual due for release January 2026.