Sensitivity: General

AUCKLAND
BASEBALL
ASSOCIATION

GOVERNANCE BYLAWS

Revision 9

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Revision History

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1	Acceptance by ABA Resolution Acceptance by Club President's Resolution	16/09/2021 28/09/2021
2	Updates Amended by ABA Executive Resolution: - Section 2, Clause 7 (r – w) - Section 2, Clause 21 (a – o)	29/10/2021
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5	Amendment - Section 2, Clause 11 (k)	11/11/2024
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7	Updates: Junior Grades all ages referenced to LL age chart. Change references to Div1 and Div2 updated to Upper Divisional and Lower Divisional. Change references from Sporty system to GameDay. Change references from MyBallClubs to ABA defined scoring system. Updated to reference OBR2025. Updated Ranking Tie Breaker definition for League Championships. Updated finals eligibility from % to set number of games	29/10/2025
8	Update Minor 10U grade to Minor PP40. Changes related to this. Simplification of section 11 age eligibility rules. Included age eligibility table in section 11.	02/10/2026
9	Section 11 Age Eligibility updated to refer to LL age, not just age. Clarified LL age required for Senior baseball competitions.	11/10/2026

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AUCKLAND BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Definitions

Abbreviation / Word	Definition
ABA	Auckland Baseball Association
ABA Executive	the Executive Committee of Senior Officials elected by Member Clubs
Adult Baseball	Means a competition played by teams consisting of players aged 16+
Affiliation	The mechanism by which a Club is recognised by a governing body at both Regional and National Levels
AGM	Annual General Meeting
Baseball NZ	The governing body of Baseball in New Zealand
BNZ	Baseball New Zealand
Board	The delegates that represent the members clubs
Clubs	Member clubs of the Association
Complaint	A complaint is the process used when an act of misconduct or a request for clarity on a rules is sent to the ABA for decision
COC	Code of Conduct
Coach / Manager	Persons responsible to coach or for club teams both on and off the diamond
Constitution	The governance documents for the association
Dispensation	A mechanism used by the Association to determine if a player is eligible to play up or down a grade or grades
Documents	Printed items published by the ABA
Ejection	The process used when an umpire removes a participant from a game for an act of misconduct or in some instances a breach of a rule
Executive	the ABA Executive
Judicial Panel	A panel empowered to rule over protests and other issues pursuant to the Constitution
Junior Baseball	Means organised games for players aged 5 – 16 years of age
Little League	Little League International – A junior baseball programme and ruleset used by the ABA
LL	Little League International
Member	Member club of the Association
OBR	Official Baseball Rulebook
Players	Registered players of a Club
President	The elected Head representative of the Association
Protest	A process to question a ruling by an umpire during a game
Participant	All those that actively participate in any Baseball activity
Rep	A player selected for an Association team
Sub-committee	A committee formed by the Executive to manage sectors of the sport on the Associations behalf
WBSC	World Baseball Softball Confederation – the governing body for Baseball Worldwide

SECTION 1 – THE LEAGUE

1 AGE GROUPS

1.1 Auckland Baseball Association Age Groups

Table 1.1: Auckland Baseball Association Grade and Age Chart

Grades	Programme	Player Age Groups – Based on Little League Age Chart
Developmental Non-competitive	Cub Ball	6 and under (4 – 6 years)
	Rookie Ball	8 and under (6 – 8 years)
	LL Minor League PP40	Generally, 10 and under. 11 OK if further development required (8 – 11 years)
Junior Competitive Little League International Charter Programme	LL Major League	12 and Under (9 – 12 years)
	LL Intermediate League	13 and Under (11 – 13 years)
	LL Junior League	14 and Under (12 – 14 years)
	LL Senior League	16 and Under (13 – 16 years)
Senior Competitive	19U Big League*	19 and Under (16 – 19 years)
	Premier*	17 and above
	Premier Reserves*	17 and above
	Upper Divisional**	17 and above
	Lower Divisional**	17 and above

* Dispensations for age allowed on case-by-case basis with approval of Parents and Club head coach

** No dispensations for age allowed for Upper and Lower Divisional

1.2 Little League Age Groups

ABA competitions are based around a player's Little League Age; this can be determined by what the players age will be on August 31st following the season.

2 THE LEAGUE

2.1 Name of League

The name of the League is "Auckland Baseball Association Incorporated."

2.2 Objects of League

The League is the peak body for the administration of the sport of Baseball in the Auckland Region.

a. The ABA is a developmental body and at this time operates based upon good faith among member clubs. Elected club delegates represent the interests of their respective clubs on the committee and report back to their clubs. These representatives shall elect a President and an Executive whose responsibility it is to keep the members and BNZ advised of the activities of ABA. It is empowered to carry out its responsibilities by the member clubs.

b. To participate in the ABA League, Clubs must be in good standing in accordance with the guidelines of the ABA and BASEBALL NZ and Admission to the ABA is by criteria as determined by the ABA Executive as outlined in the constitution.

c. To maintain membership, all members must maintain a properly functioning Incorporated Society, with yearly AGM's, board members are elected in accordance with good practice and documents updated annually with the Incorporated Societies Register. Members Club Constitutions must be consistent with the purposes of the ABA and Baseball New Zealand.

d. The objects for which the League is established and maintained are to:

i. Participate as a member of Baseball New Zealand Incorporated ("BNZ") through and by which the sport of Baseball can be conducted, encouraged, promoted, advanced, and administered.

ii. Provide for the conduct, encouragement, promotion, and administration of Baseball throughout the Auckland Region.

iii. Ensure the maintenance and enhancement of the League and Baseball, its standards, quality and reputation for the benefit of the Members and Baseball.

iv. At all times promote mutual trust and confidence between the League, BNZ, the other Member regions and the Members in pursuit of these Objects.

v. To regulate and determine the grades, both competitive and non-competitive and manage Baseball, and its participants within Auckland (Clubs and individuals) and resolve issues arising between these participants (including making decisions) that are in the best interests of the sport as a whole within the Auckland region.

vi. Use and protect the Intellectual Property

vii. Apply the property and capacity of the League towards the fulfilment and achievement of these Objects

viii. Review and/or determine any matters relating to Baseball in Auckland which may arise, or be referred to it, by any Member; and amend any rule at any time should they consider it appropriate to do so to remedy any issue that has or may arise.

ix. Act as arbiter on all matters pertaining to the conduct of Baseball in Auckland, including disciplinary matters; refer issues to the Judicial Committee, mediate disputes, conduct

disciplinary hearings not covered by the Judicial Committee and refer matters to external authorities if deemed appropriate.

x. Pursue commercial arrangements, including sponsorship and marketing opportunities, as are appropriate to further the interests of Baseball in Auckland as outlined in the Constitution.

xi. Formulate or adopt and implement appropriate policies, including in relation to sexual harassment, equal opportunity, equity, drugs in sport, health, safety, junior and senior programs, infectious diseases, and such other matters as arise from time to time as issues to be addressed in Baseball.

xii. Represent the interests of its members and of Baseball generally in any appropriate forum in Auckland

xiii. Encourage Players to realize their potential and athletic abilities by extending to them the opportunity of education and participation in baseball competition and to award trophies and rewards to successful competitors.

xiv. Encourage and promote performance-enhancing drug free competition.

xv. Undertake and or do all such things or activities which are necessary, incidental or conducive to the advancement of these Objects and the Constitution.

2.3 The League

a. Games under the control of the Auckland Baseball Association (ABA) shall be conducted in accordance with the Official Baseball Rules 2025, Little League Rulebook, Baseball New Zealand rules and ABA Grade rules in the Technical Norms.

b. The rules described in the ABA Local Grade rules book specify to which grades the ABA rules are written for.

c. The grades currently available to members are:

i. Cub-Ball (Tee Ball)
ii. Rookie-ball CP30
iii. Minor League PP40
iv. Major League 12U
v. Intermediate League 13U
vi. Junior League 14U
vii. Senior League 16U
viii. 19U
ix. Premier Reserves
x. Premier
xi. Upper Divisional
xii. Lower Divisional

d. In all cases should there be a conflict between the official rule book and the local (NZ) rule book, then the local rule book shall take precedence.

e. The ABA shall also establish and sanction rules specifically for games under its jurisdiction. These rules and other rules of interest can be found in the ABA grade rules manual.

f. All rules and bylaws are under constant review and may be amended at the discretion of the ABA Executive during a season as allowed for in the Constitution.

g. Where a penalty is not specified for a breach of these rules, the Judicial Panel or Executive Committee shall adjudicate on any such rule breach and impose penalties as it thinks appropriate.

h. ABA has the right to impose a penalty, as it deems appropriate in accordance with the established guidelines, for any breach of these rules, or for conduct or behaviour which is deemed to be unbecoming of a player, coach, other official, parent, family member or spectator. Additionally, any conduct or behaviour which breaches any law, regulation, or by-law, will be referred to the appropriate civil authority.

i. Clubs will supply to the ABA a list of proposed teams by 1st October annually.

   i. Juniors – teams determined by age.

   ii. Adult - A club may determine which grade or grades they wish to compete in

j. Clubs with teams participating at all levels above Cub-Ball must submit to ABA, team rosters for each age grade, listing coaches/managers names and players name, phone number and date of birth)

k. Each roster will be endorsed by the ABA Executive

l. Players in all grades must be registered to play in the BNZ Gameday registration system.

m. All volunteers must be registered with the Gameday registration system and complete the required Police Vetting.

n. All teams and their participants must be registered with a member club to compete in ABA grades.

o. Approval of affiliation is deemed successful by the ABA once the lodgement of all necessary fees and the receipt of the approved documentation, including all necessary names and signatures. Once satisfied the ABA will issue a Certificate of Affiliation.

p. Affiliation to BASEBALL NZ shall be approved by BASEBALL NZ and will entitle the Grade members to services offered by BASEBALL NZ, including eligibility for members to be selected by BASEBALL NZ for National Teams.

q. The ABA Executive may suspend a club that fails to meet the BNZ affiliation requirements and be stood down from ABA activities with their members becoming ineligible for sanctioned activities.

r. The ABA Executive may suspend or decline a participant's affiliation for non-compliance and notification of this action will be advised to BNZ or such entities as deemed appropriate by the ABA executive.

s. Where a club is stood down from activities for non-compliance, their players may transfer to other clubs to participate in ABA activities.

2.4 Benefits of Affiliation to the ABA

a. The ABA will administer the League by providing the following Technical Committees:

   i. Competition Committee

   ii. Dispensation Committee

   iii. Divisional Committee – Social Baseball

   iv. Rules Committee

v. Governance Committee

vi. Judicial panel

vii. Complaints tribunal

viii. Little League Committee

ix. Umpire's Committee

b. Establish all grades of play.

c. Formulate a regular draw for each grade.

d. Formulate a postseason draw for each grade.

e. The ABA will supply a panel to determine outcomes for all issues not adjudicated by the Judicial Committee

f. The ABA will supply an Appeals panel should a properly established Appeal be notified.

g. The ABA shall be responsible for the establishment of the necessary services to their clubs to be able to compete in a grade.

h. The ABA shall charge each club a team fee to compete in ABA activities. The fees shall be determined by the ABA Executive prior to the beginning of each season.

i. Clubs which have a team or teams withdrawn from a grade for whatever reason by the ABA Executive are subject to the loss of player fees to the club, ABA fees and Baseball NZ fees.

j. Member clubs can participate in ABA activities.

k. Members can be selected into regional teams.

l. Members can be eligible for ABA awards.

m. Members can vote at AGM and Special AGM in accordance with the rules on the ABA Constitution.

n. Clubs by registering players and entering teams to play in the ABA, thereby become registered through affiliation to BNZ.

2.5 Member Club Responsibilities by Affiliation

a. The ABA clubs shall be responsible for complying with and providing the ABA and Baseball NZ with all requested information.

b. All forms and paperwork requested annually for clubs to meet approved BNZ affiliation requirements (due 15th September annually). Required documents shall include – Yearly AGM minutes, showing attendees, elected board members and financial documentation.

c. Clubs are responsible to ensure that they check all registrant's details in the Sporty registration system to ensure they are eligible to compete in any particular grade and that all registrants have provided valid identification as part of their registration. This must be completed prior to a registrant participating in ABA scheduled games.

d. Ensure all participants required to sign the "COC" do so and that all other volunteers and families also abide by the "BNZ code of conducts."

e. Player registrations data for all grades.

f. Team compositions data.

g. Comply with all scoring and statistical data obligations.

h. Supplying all game results in a timely manner using the process prescribed by the association.

i. Collection of all player fees for the purpose of affiliation to both the ABA and Baseball NZ

j. Payment of all fees to compete in all ABA activities.

k. Payment of all fines imposed on a club (if any)

l. Process all interclub transfers promptly and upload the forms in the process prescribed by the association.

m. Complete a team registration form prior to the season beginning (there will be a cut-off date for entries).

n. Clubs must supply to the ABA a list of each team's coaches and management staff for all grades, junior and senior.

o. List of all team scorers (this list will be made available to the Association Chief Scorer to aid recruitment and training).

p. List of volunteers who regularly carry out umpiring duties (this list is to assist the Umpires Association to aid recruitment and training).

q. Comply with all coaching accreditation requirements for both ABA and BNZ.

r. Comply with all requests for information and outcomes from the ABA Judicial Committee, including ensuring sanctions are carried out as decreed by the Judicial Committee and/or ABA Executive.

s. Comply with all complaints procedures that are not handled by the Judicial Committee.

t. Supply all information in the correct format as prescribed by the Association.

u. Clubs must supply all other information as requested time to time by the ABA Executive deemed reasonable to ensure clubs comply with objectives of the ABA and Baseball NZ to ensure all clubs act in a fair and transparent manner to ensure the integrity of games and the principals of fair play.

v. They must ensure that all ABA information communicated to clubs is considered privileged and the information is only made available to those intended to receive any such communication. (non-privileged content will be available via the website only).

w. Shall take no action that could be deemed by the ABA Executive or by a simple majority vote of the Presidents of the Affiliated Clubs as being "not in the best interests of the Association". This applies to all club members or associate members in all capacities.

SECTION 2 - OPERATIONAL POLICIES

1 FEES

a. All players are expected to pay fees to clubs to participate.

b. Any fees set forth by the ABA for any season are binding for all clubs/teams/players affiliated to the ABA and BNZ.

c. Invoices shall be sent to member clubs in November each year once competition play begins, unless requested earlier.

d. All fees for the season are payable to the ABA no later than the 20th of December each year.

e. Fees for representative players will be advised to participants and invoiced to the players, parents/caregivers for full payment prior to representative play beginning.

f. Fees may be charged to participants for tournaments and events.

g. Failure to comply with the requirements of fee payments may result in the suspension at any time of those players, clubs or teams until the default is rectified.

h. Any player/club must submit a written request to the administrators of the ABA for permission for re-enter association activities once payment has been made or a resolution reached to the satisfaction of the administrators.

i. Baseball NZ fees are the responsibility of BNZ to invoice and collect, however failure to pay BNZ fees can affect a participant's involvement in ABA activities.

2 PLAYER TRANSFER RULES AND LOAN PLAYERS

a. In the first instance, transfer will be communicated between the clubs involved.

b. A transfer will not be allowed if the requesting player/coach is not in good standing with the club that player/coach is transferring from.

c. The participating teams/clubs/players/coaches shall be required to complete a Transfer - Clearance in the Gameday registration system

d. A player transferring clubs "in season" must requalify for postseason play by obtaining the required number of games to meet percentage requirements with their new club. All previous games played prior to their transfer will be wiped from their eligibility.

e. "Loan Players" – This applies solely to a player whose "club" cannot field a team in a particular grade:

   i. The player shall be registered and financial with both clubs.

   ii. The club loaning the player must confirm that they will not field a team in the grade in question.

   iii. The player must adhere to all terms, conditions, rules, and bylaws of the ABA and both clubs. This included 11.m of the ABA Bylaws.

   iv. The appropriate Loan – Clearance to be completed in the Gameday registration system

3 RESULTS

a. All clubs are required to collect all participation data and game scores. All players who participated in the game must be properly listed.

b. Clubs must record all scores and line ups in the appropriate manner as decreed by the association.

c. Scorekeepers will compare scorebooks at the end of each game and confirm the final score.

d. It is the responsibility of the home team to enter the game data into the system within 5 days of the conclusion of the scheduled game. Non-compliance may result in a sanction which can include a fine or forfeiture.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT (OVERVIEW)

a. All players, managers, coaches, officials, and spectators shall remember that the primary goal of ABA is the participation and development of the players, in an enjoyable and safe atmosphere.

b. All are expected to behave with respect towards each other and to compete in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

c. The ABA has a Zero tolerance policy towards any form of bullying, be it from players, officials, coaches/managers, or spectators.

d. By agreeing to play in an ABA sanctioned competition or League, all players, coaches, and officials hereby undertake to abide by Baseball NZ Code of Conducts.

e. By registering to play, or acting as an official for any club, association or national body, all participants agree to always abide by the Codes of Conducts of Baseball NZ when partaking in Baseball related activities.

f. Code of Conduct violations will be governed by Baseball NZ Disciplinary and Judicial Committee Policy and Procedures Manual and sanctions can be issued for breaches. Baseball NZ has the right to impose further sanctions should they deem it appropriate.

5 PROTEST

Refer to the ABA Disciplinary and Judicial Committee Policy and Procedures manual for the process that will be followed to adjudicate a protest and the criteria under which protests are allowed.

a. A protest can only come from a game.

b. For Little League grades, no fee will be charged for a protest.

c. Minor League only, all protests must be resolved between teams before a game can continue.

d. For 19U and adult grades, a $50 fee will be charged for each protest.

e. A protest may be made when a Coach claims that an umpire's decision is in violation of the rules for that grade and that a rule has been incorrectly applied.

f. No protest shall ever be permitted on a judgment decision by an umpire.

g. All protests can only be lodged using the online portal in the manner prescribed by the Association.

h. The Technical Norms manual sets out the 'in game' process to follow to lodge a Protest during a game.

6 ABA GRADE TOURNAMENTS

a. All tournaments will be played at dates as determined by ABA Competition committee each season.

b. Clubs must submit a written application of interest to host a tournament to the ABA Secretary.

c. The Association Secretary will confirm approval once the Competition Committee is satisfied that all tournament criteria are met, and the event has been Ratified by the ABA Executive.

d. All tournaments must have a tournament director appointed to all venues and a Judicial Panel to make rulings on any protests, ejections, or misconduct at a tournament. All rulings must be consistent with current ABA standards.

e. The Competition Committee will format and ratify the eligibility and rules for all ABA tournaments on a case-by-case basis. The Committee should consult with the host club during the process of setting eligibility criteria and tournament ruleset.

7 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ALL GRADES

a. The League Championship games shall be played during the period as determined and published by the Auckland Baseball Association.

b. The League Championship play-offs for each grade (Minor League and above) shall be decided by a playoff format and schedule as determined by the Competition Committee with team rankings being determined by a points table and/or win loss percentages as shown in the scoring system.

c. The highest ranked teams following regular season play shall have home advantage.

d. The highest ranked winners in each playoff round will continue to have home advantage.

e. The highest ranked team in the final shall have the home advantage.

f. If two or more teams have an equal win/loss percentage the head-to-head results shall determine the rankings, then least runs scored against in the head-to-head games. If these are still equal, then most runs scored in the head-to-head games shall be used. If teams still cannot be separated, the result will be determined by a coin toss.

g. Postseason qualification – 19U and all other adult grades - A player must play in 5 completed games in the grade to qualify

h. Postseason qualification – Little League grades - A player must play in 5 completed games in the grade to qualify

i. In-season and postseason tournament– Little League Minors 10U – The competition committee will advise the criteria upon confirmation of any such tournament being scheduled.

j. Teams may apply to the ABA Executive for special "consideration" to allow a player or player to fill a playoff/final team roster who would normally not be eligible to play.

k. A team cannot request "consideration" if they have 9 eligible players.

l. Should a team have been granted "consideration" to make a roster of 9 players, and then have eligible roster players become available allowing them to field a team of 9 or more players, the special "consideration" permissions will be automatically revoked.

m. The onus is on the teams applying for "consideration" to understand the intent of the rule and self-police the inclusion/withdrawal of player(s) granted "consideration" should eligible roster players become available changing a team's previously stated position.

n. Fielding a team with a player whose "permissions" should have been automatically revoked can result in sanctions including forfeiture.

o. Applications for special "consideration" can be accepted or dismissed and playing restrictions may apply to players being given consideration.

p. For a team granted "consideration" the Competition Committee will only allow a team to form a roster of 9 players for any playoff game.

q. The ABA Competition Committee may change the format, defer, postpone, or reschedule post-season games due to weather or any other such event or events that may cause disruption.

r. Post-season games will be held at venues, dates and times as determined by the competition committee. At the discretion of the competition committee, this may include extending the season.

s. Any change to the format will be advised to clubs in as timely a manner as possible.

t. Should games be played at neutral venues, the highest ranked teams in each round will always be known as the "home team" and the draw will reflect this.

u. For whatever reason playoff games or finals are not able to be played on the scheduled date or alternate dates (if any) the highest ranked team after regular season play if only the regular season games have been played or the highest ranked team remaining after any playoff round shall be deemed to have won the Championship.

v. Should a team be unable to play a postseason game, the result will be a forfeit to the other team.

8 THE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS – ADULTS

a. Registered Premier and Reserve players cannot play in Divisional playoffs or finals.

b. Premier Reserve and Premier players can play in both grade playoffs.

c. A player who has played in 5 games across reserve and premier regular season games will be eligible to play in the postseason in both teams.

d. Playing restrictions may apply to some players playing in Reserve postseason.

e. Divisional registered players who play up to 5 or more Premier, Premier Reserve grade games or a combination on both cannot then play in divisional playoffs or final.

f. A player who has played 33+% across reserve and premier regular season games will be eligible to play in the postseason in both teams.

g. Divisional players can only play in the postseason in the grade in which they are registered. Should a Lower Divisional player play up 5+ games in Upper Divisional, they will no longer be eligible for Lower Divisional playoffs and final.

h. All Upper and Lower Divisional players must play 5 regular season games to be eligible for Postseason games in their divisions.

9 TEAM COMPOSITION, REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

a. The Clubs will provide a roster for each team in the Gameday registration system as provided by BNZ.

b. Clubs may amend their rosters during the season as required. The team rosters must be taken to every game and made available to opposition coaches and managers.

c. All team rosters are to be loaded into the current ABA defined scoring system.

d. Upper and Lower Divisional only "single day loans" (refer Section 2, 1.3f of the technical norms).

10 COACH AND TEAM MANAGEMENT

a. Any person performing coaching duties in ABA is encouraged to acquire a coaching accreditation as required for that level of play and is required to sign and adhere to BNZ Coaches Code of Conduct

b. The Code of Conduct agreement form must be submitted by the Coach no later than the opening game of the season.

c. Coaches and Managers are to be neatly dressed in a manner reflecting the image of the team.

d. Team/Club shirts/jackets and caps shall be worn during games, Baseball pants and covered shoes are to be worn (no shorts, jeans or open toed footwear will be allowed). For grades 16U please refer ABA Tech Norms.

11 PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY

a. Player league age is based on Little League age chart relevant for the playing season. Players are to provide a copy of written evidence of their stated age and birth date upon registration and a current photograph.

b. All players are to be registered in the Gameday registration system as provided by Baseball New Zealand to all clubs.

c. Junior players must apply for dispensation to play grades outside of the age bands supplied by Little League International. As the Little League age bands cater for a wide age range, dispensations will be rare. Contact ABA directly for any requests outside of Little League age bands.

d. Players under LL age 17 CANNOT play Adult Divisional Baseball e.g., all Divisional players must be LL age 17 or greater to play in the grade.

e. A player under LL age 16 is not permitted to play in the 19U competition until the ABA is notified in writing that the Dispensation is approved by the player parent and Club head coach.

f. A player under LL age 17 is not permitted to play in the Premier or Premier Reserve competitions until the ABA is notified in writing that the Dispensation is approved by the player parent and Club head coach.

g. A player may be rostered in two or more teams but only if the teams are not in the same age group. (e.g., a player can be rostered in a 16 & under team and a 19 & under team

h. No player may play for another team within the same grade in which they compete. This applies to Junior and Adult grades* (Divisional exception, "single day loans", refer. Technical norms Section 2, 1.3f).

i. A player can play for two clubs if their normal club does not offer a particular grade team. Approval must be sought from the ABA and by agreement of both clubs

j. Any violation of age eligibility rules may result in forfeiture of games, suspension or expulsion of the offending player/team, or any other sanctions deemed appropriate by the Competitions Committee and/or Judicial Committee.

	Little League Age (Age on August 31st in the year the season finishes)																
Grade	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	>19
T-Ball																	
Rookie Ball																	
Minor PP40																	
12U - Major League																	
13U - Intermediate League																	
14U - Junior League																	
16U - Senior Leauge																	
19U - Big League																	
Premier Reserve																	
Premier																	
Upper Divisional																	
Lower Divisional																	
Div W																	

Up to Clubs to decide ages - Use this as a guide
Allowed when player needs additional development before moving to next grade
Correct Age for Grade
Dispensation allowed by request of Senior Club Coach

12 PROTECTED (RESTRICTED) PLAYERS – ADULT BASEBALL

All clubs must supply the ABA secretary with a list of restricted players. These players are restricted to playing Premier and Premier Reserve grades only.

A restricted player is:

a. All ABL players

b. All Baseball NZ WBC selected players.

c. All professional or semi-professional players – all Nationalities.

d. All overseas "Import" players.

*If it comes to the attention of the Competition Committee that a player's performance is beyond the strength of the grade they compete in, playing restrictions could be placed upon said player/s. The ABA Dispensation Committee must recommend this action for the ABA Executive's approval.

13 "IMPORT PLAYER" ELIGIBILITY RULES

a. A player is categorised as an Import player if they are living in New Zealand on a working holiday visa and/or visitor visa.

b. An individual in the country on a student visa is not considered an import player.

c. The ABA Premier league is an amateur league and therefore players cannot be paid to play on a team. This does not prohibit premier players from being paid for other services to the club such as coaching club teams, training clinics and/or coaching clinics.

d. A club is restricted to 3 import players on their game roster at any given time.

e. The restriction of import players per club relates only to Premier and Reserve Grade teams.

f. The legacy rule - any import players that have been playing in the ABA Premier League for 50% or more games for two consecutive seasons, will qualify as a local player for the rest of their career.

g. There are no positional restrictions for Overseas Import Players in the Premier grade.

h. Import players cannot pitch in Reserve grade.

i. Import players can play both Reserves and Premier grade on the same day.

j. All import players must be reported to ABA prior to the start of the season. If the player arrives after the start of the season the club must give the ABA 7 days' notice before their first participation as a player. (An import player list will be posted on the ABA website.)

14 REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

a. Selection of Grade representative teams shall be by the coaches appointed to those representative grade teams with the selection process being overseen by the ABA Competition Committee

b. Selection of players can be via trials, game observations or tournaments.

c. Travel arrangements and accommodation shall be the responsibility of the teams involved unless in the case of special travel sponsored by BASEBALL NZ, whereas the ABA and BASEBALL NZ shall determine shared responsibility.

d. The representative team is to maintain a high standard of discipline on and off the field and a high standard of dress shall be required.

e. All representative squads must be "ratified" by the ABA Executive prior to announcement.

f. All representative players must be in "good standing" with the members clubs and the Association.

g. All representative players and coaching staff must provide a signed copy of the "player code of conduct."

15 THE SCOREKEEPER

a. The Association shall appoint a Head Scorer for the ABA to oversee scoring development.

b. Each club shall appoint a Head Scorer to act as a liaison between their club and association.

c. Each team must provide a 'Scorekeeper' in all grades.

d. The scorekeeper from each team is to place themselves behind the safety net at home plate or in some other suitable position where the game can be observed in safety.

e. 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.

f. Should a team not provide a scorekeeper, then any scorekeeper available for the game shall be deemed to be the "Official Scorekeeper" and the score recorded on their score sheet will be the official result.

g. All teams playing in games under the jurisdiction of ABA must use an approved Scorebook or score games directly into the current ABA defined scoring system.

h. The Managers and Coaches involved in a game cannot be deemed to be an "Official Scorer."

i. The Manager must provide the scorers with a line-up 30 minutes before the start of play.

j. All scorers are encouraged to attend training clinics and seek National accreditation.

k. Penalties can be imposed upon clubs by the ABA Executive for failing to provide scorers and/or upload scores into the current ABA defined scoring system within 7 days or, any other timeframe as specified and notified to the clubs by the Association.

16 LINE-UP CARDS

a. All teams must have their line-ups sheets correctly filled out and available for the scorers and umpires.

b. It is each club's responsibility to ensure they supply their teams with the approved line-up sheets.

c. The Technical Norms manual sets out the rules, by grade, as to which players may be included on the line-up card presented at the plate meeting, and how late arriving players and substitutions are to be handled.

17 THE UMPIRE

a. Umpires are the responsibility of the ABA and clubs.

b. The ABA will work in co-operation with the NZ Baseball Umpires Association to provide umpires where possible.

c. For games not covered by official umpires, the responsibility to provide umpires goes to the home team.

d. Two (2) umpires are preferred for each game. In the event of a double header, the umpires may be the same person(s)

e. Club based umpires are encouraged to attend training courses and seek national accreditation.

f. Fees for each umpire shall be determined by the ABA. The ABA shall cover the costs of umpires for the 19U, Divisional, Premier Reserves and Premier grades.

g. The ABA is responsible for payment of the umpires and, in the case of Divisional umpires, will achieve this by (a) not charging clubs for umpiring fees except on a case-by-case basis when ABA umpires are provided and (b) requiring clubs to make payments to the umpires provided by their teams.

h. The Umpires Association shall supply to the ABA a list of all games covered and to whom payment should be made too.

i. In the event that an official umpire does not attend by the time set down for the game to commence or being unable to continue to umpire the game, an umpire shall be appointed by the home team. Failure of the home team to supply an umpire can result in forfeiture of the game by the home team.

j. The umpire will clarify the "ground rules" at the pre-game meeting with the managers.

k. The umpire has the power to rule on anything not covered by these rules and the Rules of Baseball

l. A player or official who refuses to promptly obey the directions of an umpire shall be ejected from the game.

m. Any participant ejected from a game cannot participate in any way in another game in any grade until such time that the Judicial Panel has announced a ruling on any further sanction.

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 is strictly forbidden and not within the spirit of the game.

18 PLAYING SEASON – ALL GRADES

a. The playing season shall be determined by the ABA Competition Committee, following the general guidelines as follows:

b. The first official Grade regular season playing date will usually be the first weekend after Labour weekend as determined in conjunction with Auckland Council.

c. The holiday break shall commence the Monday before Christmas Day and shall end on the Friday following the day after New Year's Day holiday.

d. Official playing days may be any day of the week or weekend day.

e. When a schedule is issued, the games are to be played in accordance with that schedule.

f. From time to time the Competition Committee may recommend changes to the draw. The ABA has the right to amend draws as deemed necessary and in the best interests of the wider community.

g. Alterations to game schedules may be necessary due to obligations involving BASEBALL NZ or ABA special events occurring and is at the sole discretion of the Executive Board.

h. Forfeited games, cancelled games, a round of games called off due to wet weather and games declared a draw by the association due to wet weather DO NOT REDUCE the number of games required for a player's eligibility for both Little League and ABA postseason playoffs and finals. This applies to all competition grades.

19 FIELD CLOSURES, POSTPONED, DELAYED, AND SUSPENDED GAMES

a. Each Club will be responsible for the announcement of cancellations of games on their fields due to poor playing conditions.

b. To do this each club will nominate a field coordinator who shall be responsible for determining the playing conditions. The field coordinator will be responsible to:

i. Decide on the playing conditions 1.5 hours prior to play at the next scheduled time.

ii. Review the fixture and contact the grade coordinators about the decision not to play.

c. When all fields are closed and no games played, that round may be deleted from the schedule.

d. When a full round of games is cancelled, the ABA will determine whether the full round will be rescheduled.

e. A game postponed, cancelled or suspended for any reason before it has become a regulation game will be reviewed and rescheduled where possible only by the Competition Committee. Rescheduled games by the Competition Committee should not conflict with previously scheduled games and must be played before the last week of the regular season.

f. Should a suspended game be rescheduled by the Competition Committee it shall be resumed exactly where it left off. NOTE: All records, including pitching stats and original game roster shall carry over from the suspended game.

g. Subject to ratification by the ABA Executive, the Competition Committee will determine a result/outcome if a suspended game is not able to be rescheduled and may decide not to continue with the game if the result of the game would in no way affect postseason eligibility for either team.

20 PLAYING FIELDS

a. The procurement of playing fields is the responsibility of each club and the upkeep and fees for such shall also be their sole responsibility.

b. Each club must supply their teams with a home field. Teams may share a home field. Where teams share a home field, one club is deemed to be the Controlling Club, while others are deemed to be Secondary Clubs. The Controlling Club will work closely with the Secondary Clubs to agree the protocols for use of the field, including supply of game day equipment and sharing of costs for upkeep and maintenance.

c. The Controlling Club will be established by the ABA Executive prior to the commencement of the season. If the Controlling and Secondary Clubs cannot agree on a protocol to share, the ABA Executive will act as mediator and its decisions will be final.

d. All safety equipment for the fields, which includes back stop (poles and nets), bases, markings, fences (including outfield), field lines, etc., are to be supplied by the club or team controlling the field to the standard defined by the ABA/BASEBALL NZ.

e. In the event of National or International events sponsored by BASEBALL NZ requesting usage of a club or team field, the club or team shall be responsible for negotiating with BASEBALL NZ for that usage. Normal Grade play will not be disrupted.

f. Signage and naming rights on any fields shall be with the approval of the ABA and BASEBALL NZ. In the event of a National or International game or tournament being scheduled on a club's field, the team has the right to keep its normal signage present, as long as it is not in conflict with ABA or BASEBALL NZ sponsorship, but the ABA and BASEBALL NZ has the rights to promotional material.

g. The ABA shall have the responsibility of periodically inspecting the playing fields and ensuring that those fields meet the criteria for safety and present ability. Toilet facilities must be available at all venues.

h. A host club may choose either the 1st or 3rd base Dugout out as their home Dugout. This applies to all regular and postseason and finals games.

i. Should both teams both be playing at a "neutral" venue, then the team listed as the Home Team on the draw will use the 3rd base dugout and the away team shall use the 1st base dugout.

j. Should a host club provide facilities which have a significant disparity to that provided to a visiting team (e.g., no seating, no sun cover) the visiting team may choose which set of dugouts they wish to use for a scheduled game.

21 UNIFORM and EQUIPMENT

a. All teams must have matching, professional quality, and style uniforms, comprising of caps, tops, pants, leggings/socks, and cleats (minimum).

b. All players' uniforms shall carry some visible unique identifying number clearly displayed and visible on the back of the jersey.

c. Player's names on uniforms are optional

d. The team's name and a small number may also be added to the front.

e. There will be no signage, or information on the pants with the exception of club logo or ABA logo

f. T-shirts are forbidden for players in teams 16U upwards.

g. Clubs must ensure their uniforms and logos do not clash with another club's logos and name. New clubs entering the league must have their name and uniform designs approved by the Executive Board. Should an existing club wish to make changes to their normally accepted colour and design, image designs must be submitted to the ABA Executive for approval.

h. Clubs may have an "alternate strip" (home and away) however it must be representative of their clubs normally accepted designs and logos.

i. T-shirts may be used as uniform tops in Kiwi ball, Minor and Intermediate so long as the shirts artwork is in the club's normal format and approved by the ABA.

j. All club's uniforms (Minor League and above) must carry the Club logo, be of a design and colour consistent with the accepted look of the club and have appropriate numbering.

k. A team cannot field players using the same shirt number in a game.

l. Coaches/Managers must wear club/team attire when on the playing field. Coaches/Managers not in uniform cannot make trips to the mound, coach baselines or question umpires calls. The umpire can remove any Manager, coach, or player from a game in accordance with this rule.

m. While participating in a Grade game a player must wear a uniform (no shorts) that is consistent with that worn by his teammates. If for any reason a player cannot be reasonably uniformed for a game, he must receive permission from both the manager of the opposition team and head umpire, prior to the start of the game.

n. All equipment must comply with the ABA Technical norms, Little League rules and OBR.

o. All club uniforms designs, and colour schemes must be approved by the ABA Executive.

22 BASEBALLS

a. The ABA will supply the clubs Baseballs for all grade play. These will be funded through team fees.

b. The ABA sets the standard/model of Baseball for each grade. Refer table in Tech Norms.

c. Please refer to the technical norms for the quantities needed for each ABA grade game.

d. It is the responsibility of all grades to have a supply of spare Baseballs of the same standard and model as specified for each grade.

e. It is the responsibility of the home team to supply any extra balls required for a game should a ball/s become lost, damaged, wet etc.

23 ANTI-DOPING POLICY

a. All players competing in ABA Grades agree to the NZ Sports Anti-Doping Rules as adopted by BASEBALL NZ

b. The use of non-prescribed drugs or similar substances while representing any Grade team during games shall result in the ban of playing baseball in the Grade for the remainder of the playing season in which the infringement occurred or for a period of time determined by the Competition Committee or ABA/BASEBALL NZ.

24 HEALTH & SAFETY

a. All clubs must ensure Health & Safety protocols are followed throughout the entirety of the current season. A list of ABA Health & Safety Protocols can be obtained on the ABA website.

b. All Team coaches and Managers at any game (either home or away) are to ensure the health and safety of all players, coaches, umpires, scorekeepers, and, where practical spectators.

c. If a participant receives a" head knock" during a play, once that play is complete the game should be paused to conduct a head injury assessment on the participant/s (including umpires). Please refer to the concussion protocols for assessment procedure.

d. Injuries occurring pre/during/post-game are the responsibility of the team(s) concerned and they must administer first-aid immediately where practicable. All care to observe reasonable treatment of injuries is to be taken at all times.

e. All clubs must carry out annual health and safety audits on all equipment and infrastructure.

f. At any time, any damaged equipment must immediately be withdrawn from use.

g. It is the club's responsibility to notify Auckland Council immediately should they have any concerns with the safety of any Auckland Council provided infrastructure items (this is to include field conditions).

h. Representative teams are to carry appropriate medical insurance to cover injuries or accidents whilst on tour, whether at national or international venues.

i. The ABA can mandate a variety of Health protocols and each club must adhere to these if issued. These protocols generally align with Baseball NZ, Sport NZ and NZ Government guidelines, alert level requirements and recommended practices. The failure of clubs and/or participants to adhere to the guidelines may result in suspension, a fine, a loss of competition point or a mixture thereof for individuals, clubs, or teams if the ABA Executive determines the guidelines have not been satisfactorily complied with.

25 CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

If a medical professional, Umpire in Chief, the player's coach, the player's manager, or the player's parent has determined a player sustains a possible concussion, the player must be, at a minimum, removed from the game and/or practice for the remainder of that day. The league must also be aware of its respective state/provincial/ municipal laws with regards to concussions and impose any additional requirements as necessary.

His/her return to full participation is subject to:

a. The leagues' adherence to its respective state/provincial/municipal laws

b. An evaluation and a written clearance from a physician or other accredited medical provider and

c. Written acknowledgment of the parents.

Please refer to appendices – Baseball NZ concussion protocols.

26 FOOTNOTE

Any part of this document or any other ABA document that may be found to be inconsistent with another rule or By-law or a specific item may require clarity, said item may be referred to the ABA Executive for a definite ruling.

For any item referred for a ruling or clarity of intent, the decision of the ABA Executive will be final and binding.

Should any part of these documents be found to be invalid, any such invalidity will only apply to the specific item in question and will not invalidate any other part of this document with all other items remaining in full force and effect.