



2018 – 2019 Final Series Rules & Guidance

Rules for the playoffs (Finals Series) are in the Competition Rulebook, and are reproduced here for convenience. There are some changes from the published rulebook.

Note that a Regulation Game is still the lesser of 60 minutes and 3 complete innings (or 2½ if the home team leads). Refer Rule 5.4. Any fixture not completed as a Regulation Game is defined as a Washout and is treated accordingly. See below.

The Wet Weather line will be operating as usual: -

1-900-920-229, Line 4

Rule 4.7(j): **Automatic Outs** apply to all conferences in the Finals, not just Division 1 Competitions.

Rule 5.5 (Fitness of Grounds) applies. The Head Groundskeeper is to decide whether a fixture can commence. Once it does, the Umpire-in-Chief decides if and when it is suspended or abandoned.

Rule 5.7 (Delays) will be strictly enforced. Teams should hustle on and off the diamond, pitchers should be warm, and somebody needs to be available to catch warm-up pitches if the catcher is not ready. You have 60 seconds between innings

Given the shortage of official umpires, the clubs hosting the final series may be asked to provide competent umpires. The appointment of the umpires for the Final series are to be made in conjunction with the Competition Secretary – J. Yard.

Note that the Dispensation Policy will be strictly enforced, and for the Finals Series, it is extended to include players from **a lower grade in the same age-group**. This is different to the usual rules for regular season games. For the playoffs, you must seek Dispensation to use any player not named on the Team's original Registration roster. Teams wishing to use players from a younger age-group as Substitutes must seek Dispensation, the same as in the regular season.

Teams wishing to use a Substitute must secure permission to do so from a member of the Executive prior to naming that player as a Substitute. Retrospective permission will not be granted. Verbal permission is acceptable, and the Executive will generally impose restrictions on the proposed Substitute (which will for younger players include, as a minimum, a prohibition on pitching or catching). Such conditions are at the discretion of the Executive and are non-negotiable. Breaches of the Dispensation Policy may result in the loss of the game.

We also remind you of the general rules regarding substitutes, which stay in force for the Finals Series ...the minimum number of players is six of the original players named on the team's registration sheet.

Rule 3.10(d): No Substitute may bat ahead {in the line-up} of a player registered in a Team.

Rule 3.10(e): A Substitute is eligible to play defensively **ONLY** in the outfield and bat **last** in the line-up.

For Dispensations, contact John Yard:- 9639-3859 or 0432-905-765

Tiebreakers. In the event that a regulation game is tied when its time expires, up to two complete (ie: both top & bottom half) extra innings are to be played to break the tie. If the tie is broken after completion of one extra complete innings, the result shall stand at that point. If not, a second complete extra inning is to be played.

If a tie remains after the second extra inning, the team finishing highest on the ladder at the completion of the Regular Season will be deemed to be the winner, and will progress in the playoffs.

Note that in Shipley, Hay and Douglass League, pitchers must be removed from the defensive line up when they have been relieved from pitching after they have pitched the equivalent of a Major assignment. They continue to bat but not field. The maximum numbers for a substantial assignment are:

- U12 Douglass = 49
- Under 14 Hay = 54
- Under 17 Shipley = 65,

Beyond those figures it becomes a Major assignment.

Please consider Rule 1.6(c) ... *“No team may participate in the Finals Series if their Home Club, or any member of their Home Club, has unpaid fees, penalties, fines or any other debt due to The League as of 5pm on the Friday prior to the Finals Series.*

Note that such a “debt” includes equipment or uniform items (particularly representative gear) loaned to a player or other person, and which should have been returned. Note also that the rule applies to any debt from any member of a club, not just the Team involved in the playoffs. The penalty will be the loss of the game by forfeit. Check with your Club Committee and make sure this rule won't bite you.

Penalties for any breach of any rule may include anything up to and including the loss of a game. Make sure you comply with all of them and, if uncertain, err on the side of caution.

Host clubs are responsible for setting out diamonds. Diamonds are to be available for “infield-outfield” warm up by 8.10am. Each team will be allowed seven (7) minutes for ‘Infield/ Outfield’ warm up. Visiting team has first use of Diamond. Otherwise, please co-operate by not warming up on the infield.

Clubs are advised that Umpires have been instructed to uphold the dress code for coaches and players. The minimum standard for coaches is a club shirt, dress shorts or tracksuit pants, socks, joggers and club caps. Players are to be in the same uniform including club caps. The dress of some of the coaches in club games has been unacceptable throughout the season. Please treat this as a serious issue – the Association is! No matter which persons are in inappropriate dress they will not be allowed on the diamond or in the dugout.

It is now no longer compulsory that teams bat all players. However, if teams elect to bat nine players, then any player replaced during the game will be unable to return to the game...Rules of Baseball apply.

All players that may play in the game are to be listed in the Team's 'Line Up' which is to be handed to the Umpire prior to the commencement of the game. All Coaches are to be named on the line up. Coaches not named on line up cannot take the field

Washout procedure will be if semi finals are 'washed out' then the Minor Premiers will advance to Grand Final and Minor Semi Final (3v4) rescheduled to a Midweek replay.

Home team (first mentioned on draw) shall be the Home team and occupy first base dugout. The Umpire in Chief shall toss a coin to determine which team bats first. The Home team calls the coin toss. The winner of the coin toss has choice of whether to bat or field first.

Regardless of what may or may not have been 'allowed' during the regular season, the rules regarding bat legality will be enforced in the playoffs. Umpires will be instructed to enforce these rules.

Bats in all Under 11 and Under 12 are to be 2 ¼" minus 11 length to weight differential (eg: 29", 19 oz).

High performance (composite, two piece, connexion, etc) bats are not allowed in any Competition; this is especially relevant to Hay and Douglass Leagues. USA Bats are acceptable. Youth League remains an all wood bat League

Host clubs are to advise me by noon Friday if their grounds are playable. Alternate venues may have to be found.

Clubs are required to assist by advising me of the results by no later than 6pm Saturday, on 9639-3859 or by email. This is in addition to the usual information submitted to the League's Recorder.

Please issue a copy of this document to each of your teams.

GOOD LUCK – enjoy your baseball and may the best teams win.

I will have my mobile telephone with me during the final series ...

0432 905 765.

J. Yard

Competition Secretary