

BUCS BASEBALL REGULATIONS

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BSB i The BUCS Baseball Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the relevant edition of the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules as defined and amended by British Baseball Federation (BBF) in the BBF Senior Handbook current as of 1 September of the BUCS season.

BSB ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

BSB iii In the event that these regulations contradict the relevant edition of the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules as defined and amended by British Baseball Federation (BBF) in the BBF Senior Handbook current as of 1 September of the BUCS season, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

BSB iv The gender eligibility criteria for the BUCS Baseball Championships will be determined as per [REG 4.3](#).

BSB 1 Championships There shall be an Open Team Championships. The programme shall include leagues and knockout competitions as per BUCS general regulations, Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') and Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information').

BSB 2 Equipment Helmets are required for all batters, base runners and coaches. To ensure quality of competition, all matches should be played with equipment that adheres to the guidelines for bats, balls, and other mandatory equipment in the BBF Senior Handbook current as of 1 September of the BUCS season. Footwear must have studs or soles capable of traction in usual playing conditions, protective equipment must not be damaged and must be adequate for the task, and protection is mandatory for catchers.

BSB 2 Equipment All matches shall be played with equipment that adheres to the requirements outlined in the relevant edition of the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules as defined and amended by the British Baseball Federation (BBF) in the BBF Senior Handbook current as of 1 September of the BUCS season with the following additions/variations:

- As well as a catcher's protective helmet and face mask, all catchers shall wear a chest protector, leg guards and groin/pelvic protection, while receiving a pitch.
- BBCOR certified bats are permitted to be used.
- Footwear must have studs or soles capable of traction in usual playing conditions.
- Protective equipment must not be damaged and must be adequate for the task.

BSB 3 Squad size The maximum squad size for each match shall be 26 players, however institutions/Playing Entities with multiple teams should be aware of REG 11.1 (Team selection). The minimum squad size for each match shall be eight players, however teams with only eight players shall have an automatic out enforced for the missing 9th player at the point at which they would be due up to bat.

BSB 4 Substitutions A substitute may take the place of a player whose name is in their team's batting order. The following regulations govern player substitutions:

BSB 4.1 The manager or team representative of the team making the substitution shall notify the Plate Umpire at the time the substitute enters. The Plate Umpire shall then report the change to the scorer. Any defensive change involving the pitcher or catcher must be reported to the Umpire.

BSB 4.2 A substitution must take place only when the ball is dead. The manager or team representative must immediately notify the Plate Umpire before the substitution is made. The substitute is not legally in the game until a pitch has been thrown or a play has been made. The Plate Umpire will notify the scorer of the change.

BSB 4.3 Any substitute who has entered the game but has not been reported to the Umpire becomes an unreported substitution. There is no violation if the manager, coach, team representative or the player in violation notifies the Umpire prior to the offended team's appeal.

BSB 4.4 A player will not violate the illegal player rule until a pitch, legal or illegal, or a play made. The use of an illegal player is handled as a protest by the offended team while the player is in the game.

BSB 4.5 Illegal Players include:

1. **Illegal Pitcher:** A player who returns to pitch after being removed from the pitching position by the umpire.
2. **Illegal Re-entry:** Occurs when: A starting player returns to the game a second time after being substituted for twice; a starting player returns to the game, but is not in their original position in the batting order; and/or A substitute returns to the game a second time after being replaced twice.

BSB 4.6 So called "courtesy runners" for the catcher, where a temporary and unlisted runner replaces the catcher on base with two outs in an attempt to speed up the game, are permitted. The replacement runner shall be the hitter that preceded the catcher in the lineup. If this player is on base, then it shall be the hitter that preceded them, etc. If the catcher has reached base with less than two outs, the catcher must remain as the baserunner until two outs have been recorded, at which point the courtesy runner will replace the catcher at whichever base they occupy when the second out has been recorded.

BSB 5 Designated Hitter Rule Rule 5.11 (a) of the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules shall apply to all BUCS Baseball fixtures. This means a designated hitter may bat for the pitcher.

BSB 6 Lineup cards In addition to teams completing BUCS Team Sheets (as per REG 11.2), teams are responsible for completing Lineup Cards to be presented ahead of the match starting. Although Digital Scorecards are acceptable as per BSB 7.7, Lineup cards must still be physical copies.

BSB 7 League specific regulations

BSB 7.1 The baseball diamond must be either grass, dirt or artificial grass (3G or 4G) and dimensions should comply with the BBF Playing Field Standards as defined in the BBF Senior Handbook current as of 1 September of the BUCS season. Portable pitching mounds with sloping sides are permitted to be used. It is the responsibility of the first named (home) team when confirming the fixture (note REG 9.5) to advise the opposition team and all match officials of the playing surface, whether a portable pitching mound will be used, and on any footwear restrictions (note REG 9.3.3).

BSB 7.2 The field of play should be booked for a minimum of three hours and 30 minutes per match, allowing for a 30 minute setup and warm up on the field and three hours of match time.

BSB 7.3 Matches shall be played over nine innings or three hours, whichever comes first. No new inning should start after two hours 45 minutes. The last inning is not run limited and therefore needs to be called to fit in with the time limit.

BSB 7.3.1 It may be possible for a match to be tied after the last, open inning. If this is the case and if the match cannot continue to the point of conclusion due to field booking availability, both teams will receive one league point. Any extra innings will start with runners on first and second base as per the relevant edition of the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules as defined and amended by British Baseball Federation (BBF) in the BBF Senior Handbook current as of 1 September of the BUCS season.

BSB 7.4 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').

BSB 7.4.1 Institutions/Playing Entities can contact [BaseballSoftballUK](#) (BSUK) to request support with sourcing officials, however, as per REG 10.2, it is the responsibility of the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity to arrange all appropriate match officials.

BSB 7.5 There will be a 7-run limit per inning – apart from the last scheduled inning.

BSB 7.6 All balks should be called to ensure consistency, however where there is the opportunity to warn a player and or educate players about balk situations before they happen and or are material, this should be taken.

BSB 7.7 Mercy rule A match shall be concluded if one team leads by 15 or more runs after five innings, or by 10 or more runs after seven innings.

BSB 7.8 Pitching restrictions

- A pitcher is not allowed to pitch in more than one match per day.
- The pitch-count limit of the MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines for Ages 19-22 (<https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines/ages-19-22>) shall apply to all players, regardless of age, meaning a pitcher is limited to a maximum of 120 pitches within a single day. In the event that a pitcher reaches this limit during an active at-bat, they must be withdrawn from pitching immediately and are not permitted to complete the at-bat. The required rest periods of the [MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines for Ages 19-22](#) shall apply to all players, regardless of age.

BSB 7.9 Scorecards Both teams should keep a scorecard during the match, agreeing the running score at the end of each half-inning and the final score at the end of the match. Teams should keep copies of all scorecards until the end of the season. Digital Scorecards are acceptable, but as per BSB 6, lineup cards must still be in physical format.

BSB 7.10 League points

BSB 7.10.1 Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.

BSB 7.10.2 Where a forfeit has been awarded/conceded (REG 13), three points shall be given to the non-offending team and three points deducted from the offending team.

BSB 7.10.3 No points will be awarded to either team in the case of a void fixture.

BSB 7.11 Calculating final league positions

BSB 7.11.1 Final league positions will be primarily based on league points accumulated. However, should there be any ties on points within a league, they shall be split using the sequential system of tiebreaker steps detailed in BSB 7.11.2–BSB 7.11.10.

BSB 7.11.2 If after the application of a step the number of tied teams is reduced, but two or more teams remain tied, the tiebreaker criteria from that step shall be reapplied again to any remaining tied teams, before, if required, moving to the next step. For the avoidance of doubt, this will also apply where four or more teams are tied and may then split into two or more separate groupings of tied teams.

BSB 7.11.3 For any tiebreaker step where data from fixtures across the whole league is used, if the tie on league points has been effected by any walkovers conceded to the teams tied or any void fixtures involving these teams, any results against the team(s) which conceded the walkover(s) or the team(s) involved in the void fixtures (i.e. all the results between the teams tied on league points and the team(s) conceding the walkover(s)/void match(es)) will not be included in the calculation.

BSB 7.11.4 The teams tied will be ranked based on voluntary walkovers conceded (the lower the better).

BSB 7.11.5 The teams tied will be ranked based on league points accumulated from fixtures between the tied teams (the higher the better).

BSB 7.11.6 The teams tied will be ranked based on Runs difference from fixtures between the tied teams (the higher the better).

BSB 7.11.7 The teams tied will be ranked based on Runs for from fixtures between the tied teams (the higher the better).

BSB 7.11.8 The teams tied will be ranked based on Runs difference from fixtures across the whole league (the higher the better).

BSB 7.11.9 The teams tied will be ranked based on Runs for from fixtures across the whole league (the higher the better).

BSB 7.11.10 If a tie cannot be broken using the above system, then the final league positions of any teams still tied shall be determined by the BUCS Executive drawing lots.

BSB 8 National Championship and National Trophy knockout competition specific regulations

BSB 8.1 BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK) shall organise the National Championship and National Trophy knockout competitions on behalf of BUCS.

BSB 8.2 BUCS/BSUK shall communicate any competition specific requirements, rules and regulations to teams which qualify for the National Championship and National Trophy knockout competitions on an annual basis.

BSB 8.3 Disputes at events In line with REG 7.7, should a dispute occur at an event, the event appeal panel for Baseball shall comprise of the Tournament Director and/or a BUCS Staff Member.