

# TAMWORTH BASEBALL INCORPORATED

## BY-LAWS LOCAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

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### CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>PREFACE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>A BASEBALL GAME</b>	<b>5</b>
	5.1 Duration of a Game	
	5.2 Minimum Length of Game	
	5.3 Starting Time of a Game	
	5.4 Scheduled Finishing Time of a Game	
	5.5 Home and Away Teams	
	5.6 Required Player Numbers for a Team	
	5.7 Forfeits	
	5.8 Competition Points	
	5.9 Line-Up Sheets	
	5.10 Umpire Allocation	
<b>6</b>	<b>GAME RESULTS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>FINALS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>FINALS WASHOUTS AND TIED GAMES</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>MERCY RULE</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>BLOOD BIN</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>CONCUSSION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS</b>	
<b>13</b>	<b>DESIGNATED PLAYERS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>PROTESTS AND APPEALS</b>	
	14.1 Protest on a Point of Law	
	14.2 Protest on Local Competition Regulations	
<b>15</b>	<b>GROUPS UNPLAYABLE</b>	<b>15</b>

# 1 PREFACE

The TBI By-Laws Local Competition Regulations provides due processes to allow the successful running of the domestic senior competition in Tamworth.

- 1.1 The constitution of Tamworth Baseball Incorporated (TBI) is the governing document for Tamworth Baseball and has precedence over these By-Laws in all matters and decisions.
- 1.2 The Board of TBI has sole and final adjudication of the Constitution and these By- Laws.
- 1.3 TBI has the power to make local competition by-laws as per the Australian Baseball Federation Official Australian Baseball Rules 7<sup>th</sup> Edition: "It is acknowledged that some rules may be amended to suit local competitions so it is advisable that Club Administrators are aware of any local competition by-laws."
- 1.4 All recommendations proposed by the Senior Committee will be presented and thence considered by the TBI Board.
- 1.5 The TBI Board must ratify any change to the TBI By-Laws Tamworth Senior Baseball to effect a change in these By-Laws.
- 1.6 All changes to the TBI By-Laws Local Competition Regulations must be ratified by the Board before the start of the senior competition unless warranted by legislation or direction from BNSW or there are extenuating or unusual circumstances.
- 1.7 Sole adjudication of these extenuating or unusual circumstances as per By-Law 1.6 shall remain with the Board.
- 1.8 The Senior Committee has delegated authority to implement these By-Laws for the successful management of the senior competition.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

**BNSW** means Baseball New South Wales Incorporated acting as the peak body for baseball in NSW and to which TBI is affiliated.

**Board** means the governing Board of Tamworth Baseball Incorporated.

**By-Laws** means this document called TBI By-Laws Local Competition Regulations and refers solely to this document.

**CLSC** means the Country League Standing Committee of BNSW acting as the entity for country baseball in NSW

**Constitution** means the constitution of Tamworth Baseball Incorporated.

**Delegate** means a member of the Senior Committee nominated by affiliated bodies of TBI.

**Executive** means a member of the Senior Committee appointed by the TBI Board at its Annual General Meeting or at other times as resolved by the Board

**Grading Committee** means a committee of TBI, having delegated responsibility to determine and manage the player grading for Tamworth Senior Baseball.

**Judiciary** means the Judiciary Committee appointed by the TBI Board consisting of the Disciplinary Panel, the Technical Panel and the Appeals Committee

**Registrar** means the person appointed by TBI under the By-Laws Local Competition Regulations to manage the registration of players and officials, and to manage results and statistics of the competition as determined by Senior Committee from time to time.

**Defaulters' Register** means the defaulters' register maintained by the Registrar of players and officials who have defaulted in their financial obligations to TBI and their club.

**Rules** means the official baseball Rules of the Game as adopted by the Australian Baseball Federation

**Senior Committee** means the committee of Tamworth Senior Baseball, having delegated responsibility to organise and manage the senior baseball competition for Tamworth Baseball Inc.

**Tamworth** means the city of Tamworth and the surrounding region.

**TBI** means the entity Tamworth Baseball Incorporated with incorporation under NSW Fair Trading.

**Website** means the website by which all players and officials must register their intention to be involved in baseball for the current season as approved by BNSW or the Australian Baseball Federation. Payment of all fees is necessary for the completion of registration.

### **3 SEASON**

- 3.1 The season for the senior competition shall be played on Saturdays between Easter and 30 September or each year.
- 3.2 Other playing days may be scheduled by the Board under extenuating circumstances.
- 3.3 The finals series will be played over the first three weeks of September with a rescheduled weekend for a Grand Final replay in the fourth week of September.
- 3.4 The Tamworth June Long Weekend invitational tournament shall be played over the June long weekend.
- 3.5 The weekend of the NSW Country Men's Championship shall be a bye weekend.
- 3.6 Alternative arrangements may be made for the weekend of the NSW Country Women's Championship
- 3.7 The season shall consist, whenever possible, of equal number of competition games for each A Grade team and thence for each lower grade team followed by three weekends of finals, given that the starting weekend will be determine:
  - 3.7.1 by the dates of Easter and Anzac Day, and
  - 3.7.2 by the requirement for each team to play other teams in an equal number of games
- 3.8 The top four teams in each grade will contest the final series.

### **4 EQUIPMENT**

- 4.1 All equipment shall conformed to the specifications as published by the Rules or as determined by the Australian Baseball Federation or Baseball NSW.
- 4.2 The Senior Committee subject to ratification by TBI may impose any equipment specifications that it deems appropriate for the proper conduct of the game in Tamworth.
- 4.3 Any player in the senior competition must use wooden or composite bats with the exception of:
  - 4.3.1 female players who may choose to use an aluminium bat with a specification of BBCOR -5.
  - 4.3.2 Under 16 players who may use aluminium bats with a specification of BBCOR -5.
- 4.4 All teams shall be required to use double eared batting helmets, and all players shall wear them whilst batting and base running.
- 4.5 All players warming up the pitcher in a crouch position must wear a protective face mask, whether the pitcher is on the mound or in a warm up area.
- 4.6 The umpires officiating at the game shall be responsible for implementation of this By-Law.

## **5 A BASEBALL GAME**

### **5.1 Duration of a Game**

- 5.1.1 duration of games in the season games shall be:
- a maximum of 2.5 hours or 9 innings for A Grade
  - a maximum of 2 hours or 7 innings for all other Grades
- 5.1.2 duration of games in the finals shall be:
- a maximum of 9 innings for A Grade
  - a maximum of 2 hours or 7 innings for all other Grades

### **5.2 Minimum Length of Game**

- 5.2.1 the minimum length of a game will be one hour from the official starting time or four (4) innings for a result to be recorded.
- 5.2.2 games that are called before this minimum length will be recorded as a Washout with a point awarded to each team.

### **5.3 Starting Time of a Game**

- 5.3.1 starting times for all competition games and finals will be determined by the Senior Committee
- 5.3.2 A Grade will commence no later than 2.30 pm subject to weather or other circumstances not delaying the start of game
- 5.3.3 the Senior Committee may change the starting time of the finals as ratified by TBI before the start of the finals series

### **5.4 Scheduled Finishing Time of a Game**

- 5.4.1 a game shall finish at the scheduled finishing time being:
- for A Grade, 2.5 hours from the scheduled starting time
  - for other grades, 2 hours from the scheduled starting time
  - there will be no extension of the finishing time due to the game not starting on time for any reason
- 5.4.2 a new innings will not commence within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled finishing time and the umpire in chief must call Time and Game immediately at the end of the previous innings.
- 5.4.3 a new innings will be deemed to have commenced when the third out to complete the previous innings has been made.
- 5.4.4 a new innings so started must be played out for a result even if play must proceed past the scheduled finishing time.
- 5.4.5 a new innings will not be played if the home team is more than ten (10) runs behind irrespective of number of innings played.
- 5.4.6 umpire in chief may call "Time and Game" due to adverse light or weather before the end of this innings. In such a case the game result will revert back to the last completed innings.

## 5.5 Home and Away Teams

- 5.5.1 home team is the team mentioned first in the official draw and:
- occupies the third base dugout
  - fields first
- 5.5.2 away team is the team mentioned second in the official draw and:
- occupies the first base dugout
  - bats first
- 5.5.3 teams occupying the wrong dugout by mistake or by agreement will not change their home or away status as determined by the official draw

## 5.6 Required Player Numbers for a Team

- 5.6.1 a team must have seven (7) players available to take the field in order to start a game,
- 5.6.2 an A Grade team cannot make up numbers from other teams and automatic outs will apply. NOTE: position of the automatic out in the line-up is at the discretion of the team's coach
- 5.6.3 there will be no automatic outs in other grades if there are missing players (that is when there are only 7 or 8 players on the line-up)
- 5.6.4 for lower Grade teams, the team may make up numbers with:
- any higher Grade players, or
  - players from other teams, given
  - all such players must field in the outfield
  - all such players must bat at the lower end of the order, and
  - any A grade player must use wooden bats
- 5.6.5 all such players be replaced within an innings by any player of that grade becoming available, with higher grade players being replaced first

## 5.7 Forfeits

- 5.7.1 a forfeit shall be declared if a team cannot take the field with the required number of players within 20 minutes of the official starting time.
- 5.7.2 the forfeiting team shall:
- not be awarded any competition points
  - not have their players deemed to have played the game for the purposes of eligibility

- 5.7.3 the non-forfeiting team shall:
- be awarded two (2) competition points with a recorded score of 9-0
  - have their players, subject to being listed on the line up sheet and present at the ground at the official starting time, deemed to have played the game for the purposes of eligibility

5.7.4 if both teams have insufficient numbers to take the field, then the game shall be declared as a Non-Result and:

- no points shall be awarded to either team
- no player will be deemed to have played the game for the purposes of eligibility

5.7.5 a club may notify the Senior Committee prior to the game if a team is to forfeit a game as per this By-Law.

## 5.8 **Competition Points**

5,8,1 The following competition points shall be awarded according to the duly signed line up sheets:

- Win 2 points
- Forfeit 2 points with recorded score of 9-0
- Draw 1 point
- Washout 1 point with recorded score of 0-0
- No Result 0 point
- Lost 0 point

## 5.9 **Line-Up Sheets**

5.9.1 Line-Up sheets will be provided by TBI to clubs.

5.9.2 the Line-Up Sheet are to be completed in a legible manner and shall include:

- the teams playing
- date, time and ground of the game
- the starting players listed by SURNAME and Christian name
- the fielding position of each starting player
- reserves do not need to be listed if they are registered players of the club
- reserve players that have played in that game are to be recorded on the line-up sheet in correct batting order and fielding position

5.9.3 Copies of the Line-Up Sheet

- the original given to the umpire along with a copy for the opposing team
- one copy given to the scorers

## 5.10 **Umpire Allocation**

- 5.10.1 two accredited umpires will be allocated by the Umpires Committee to each game played in the senior competition
- 5.10.2 there will be a designated umpire in chief who should officiate from behind the plate, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as but not limited to missing gear or injury
- 5.10.3 a third umpire, if available, is recommended for all finals
- 5.10.4 in the circumstance of only one accredited umpire being available then:
- the accredited umpire shall normally officiate behind the plate
  - the Home team will be required to provide an person to officiate if requested by the umpire
- 5.10.5 in the event that no accredited umpire are available then:
- the Home team shall provide a person to be the umpire in chief, and
  - the Home team provide a second person if available to officiate in the field, or
  - if the Home team cannot provide that second person, then the Away team will be requested to supply that person
- 5.10.6 when no suitable person can be found to officiate under By-Law 5.10.5 then the coach or manager of the Home team shall be required to officiate.

## **6 GAME RESULTS**

- 6.1 Line-Up Sheets from both teams are official record of the game, and at the conclusion of the game, shall:
- have the final score recorded with a clear indication of the winning team
  - have any protest, injury or incident noted
  - have the MVP points allocated by team managers and scorers
  - signed by the umpire in chief and scorers
- 6.2 Line-Up Sheets will be placed in the Registrar's box located at the Tamworth complex at the end of the game.
- 6.3 Line-Up Sheets from games played outside of Tamworth shall be placed in the Registrar's box by the following Saturday, with a copy sent by SMS or email within 24 hours to the Registrar
- 6.4 Failure to provide any line-up sheets will result in the Club being notified via email and having until the following Wednesday to submit the requested missing sheets.



- 6.5 Results are to be phoned through to the Publicity Officer by the home team in accordance with the times set by Senior Committee.
- 6.6 If required by the Senior Committee, all statistic sheets are to be in the hands of the nominated scorers contact within seven (7) days from the conclusion of the game.

## **7 FINALS**

- 7.1 The Senior Committee have jurisdiction over all finals' matters, including ground allocations and starting times.
- 7.2 Finals will be played at the Tamworth baseball complex unless extenuating circumstances exist, such as but not limited to, flooding of the fields in Tamworth.
- 7.3 Team positions for the finals will be determined on:
- 7.3.1 Competition Points, if tied then on Head to head between the teams, if tied then on
  - 7.3.2 Run Percentage of 'Total Runs For' over "Total Runs Against', if tied then on
  - 7.3.3 highest 'Total Runs For', if tied then on
  - 7.3.4 lowest 'Total Runs Against', if tied then on
  - 7.3.5 a single "coin toss" conducted by a member of the TBI Board, preferably the TBI President, and a delegate from each of the clubs impacted shall determine the positions.
- 7.4 In the event that the game is 'washed out' or unable to be played for any reason then the team higher on the table shall progress through to the next final excluding the Grand Final where a spare day shall be set aside for the rescheduled game.
- 7.5 All finals shall be on a single game basis.
- 7.6 All finals, except for A Grade, shall be limited to 2 hours duration.
- 7.7 A Grade shall be nine (9) innings. In the event of tied scores in Major League 1st Grade final series, extra innings shall be played until a result is achieved.
- 7.8 In the event of tied scores for all other grades in the final series the team highest shall progress through to the next Final Series game.
- 7.9 In the event of tied scores in a Grand Final extra innings shall be played in an attempt to achieve a result. In the event of tied scores at the completion of these extra innings then the Grand Final will be rescheduled.
- 7.10 TBI will provide game balls for each finals.
- 7.11 The home team for finals shall be:
- 7.11.1 Semi Finals - the team finishing higher on the competition table
  - 7.11.2 Finals - the team losing the Major Semi-Final.
  - 7.11.3 Grand Finals - the team winning the Major Semi-Final.
- 7.12 Player grading for final series is set in the TBI By-Laws Grading Committee

## 8 FINALS WASHOUTS AND TIED GAMES

### 8.1 In the event of an **A Grade final**:

- 8.1.1 A Grade semi-final or final being a washout or is unable to be played for any reason, then the team having the highest position shall progress through to the next final.
- 8.1.2 A Grade semi-final or final being tied at the completion of 9 innings, extra innings shall be played until a result is achieved, unless time is called due to light or other reason, then the team having the highest position shall progress through to the next final
- 8.1.3 A Grade grand final being tied at the completion of 9 innings, extra innings shall be played until a result is achieved, unless time is called due to light or other reason, then the Grand Final will be replay on the rescheduled date.
- 8.1.4 A Grade grand final being a washout or is unable to be played for any reason, then the Grand Final will be replay on the rescheduled date.
- 8.1.5 A Grade rescheduled grand final being a washout or is unable to be played for any reason, then the team having the highest position in the competition will be declared Premiers.
- 8.1.6 A Grade rescheduled grand final is tied at the conclusion of that game, then Joint premiers will be declared

### 8.2 In the event of a **Lower Grade final**:

- 8.2.1 lower Grade semi-final or final being a washout or is unable to be played for any reason, then the team having the highest position shall progress through to the next final.
- 8.2.2 lower Grade semi-final or final being tied at the completion of 7 innings or at the scheduled finishing time, then the team having the highest position shall progress through to the next final
- 8.2.3 lower Grade grand final being a washout or is unable to be played for any reason, then the Grand Final will be replay on the rescheduled date.
- 8.2.4 lower Grade rescheduled grand final being a washout or is unable to be played for any reason, then the team having the highest position in the competition will be declared Premiers.
- 8.2.5 lower Grade grand final being tied at the completion of 7 innings or at the scheduled finishing time, extra innings shall be played until a result is achieved,

## 9 MERCY RULE

9.1 The mercy rule shall be applied in a game when:

- 9.1.1 in A Grade a team leading by more than ten (10) runs after 7 complete innings shall be declared the winner
- 9.1.2 in other Grades a team leading by more than ten (10) runs after 4 complete innings shall be declared the winner
- 9.1.3 in any Grade a team leading by more than twenty (20) runs at the end of any completed innings shall be declared the winner

9.2 The five run rule will apply to all B grade games.

- 9.2.1 The innings will be declared by the Umpire in Chief when the fifth run scores while the ball is in play and is alive.
- 9.2.2 Extra runs may be scored in any innings when the ball becomes dead as the result of acts which occurred while the ball was alive e.g. home run or an overthrow, as per Rule 5.02 (Official Australian Baseball Rules 7<sup>th</sup> edition, downloaded in 2019)

### ***Rule 5.02 Ball In Play Until***

*After the umpire calls "play" the ball is alive and in play and remains alive and in play until, for legal cause, or at the umpire's call of "time" suspending play, the ball becomes dead.*

*While the ball is dead no player may be put-out, no bases may be run and no runs may be scored, except that runners may advance one or more bases as the result of acts which occurred while the ball was alive (such as, but not limited to, a balk, an overthrow, interference, or a home run, or other fair ball hit out of the playing field).*

*Should a ball come partially apart in a game, it is in play until the play is completed*

### ***Rule 2.00 Definitions***

*A DEAD BALL is a ball out of play because of a legally created temporary suspension of play.*

## **10 BLOOD BIN**

- 10.1 Players who are injured and who require treatment to stem the flow of any body fluids or to cover an open wound may leave the game for treatment without penalty:
- 10.1.1 if on base, a courtesy runner may be used
  - 10.1.2 if in the field a courtesy fielder may be used
  - 10.1.3 if at bat, the player may obtain treatment, and
  - 10.1.4 if unable to be treated within a reasonable period, a courtesy batter may be used with the count continuing from the injured batter
- 10.2 A courtesy player shall be:
- 10.2.1 a fresh reserve, or
  - 10.2.2 if no reserves are available, a person who has been replaced in the game
- 10.3 No ejected player may be used as a courtesy player.
- 10.4 An injured player should return to the game at his earliest convenience in the spirit of the game in the same batting position in the line-up
- 10.5 When the injured player returns to the game according to this By-Law then the courtesy player shall keep their status as either a fresh reserve or a replaced player.
- 10.6 Players who after treatment are unable to return into the game within the completion of three (3) innings (with the innings in which the injury occurs being the first innings) shall be replaced.
- 10.7 Soiled clothing must shall be replaced or washed clean of blood or any other body fluid before the player can return to the game.
- 10.8 Umpire in chief shall note the incident including the game situation when the player has left the game for treatment and their return or substitution. Details of the injury should also be noted.

## **11 CONCUSSION**

- 11.1 Players who have been struck in the head or helmet shall be carefully observed for any signs of concussion or impaired function.
- 11.2 A player who has blurred vision, blurred speech or is unsteady in his movements will be substituted out of the game.
- 11.3 A concussed player shall be replaced by a courtesy player as per By-Laws 10.2 and 10.3
- 11.4 If a concussed player cannot be substituted by a reserve then there will be no automatic out for that player.
- 11.5 Umpire in chief will be the sole judge of the fitness of a player.

## **12 PITCHING AND CATCHING RESTRICTIONS**

- 12.1 Pitching and catching restrictions shall apply to the Senior competition.
- 12.2 A pitcher may complete the batter they are pitching to when the mandated number of pitches is reached
- 12.3 A pitcher may not catch after a pitching assignment in that game
- 12.4 Senior Players
  - 12.4.1 There are no restrictions on senior players regarding catching.
  - 12.4.2 Senior players shall be limited to 130 pitches per day
  - 12.4.3 Senior players shall be limited to 200 pitches per weekend
- 12.5 Under 18 Players
  - 12.5.1 Players under 18 years shall be limited to 80 pitches per day
  - 12.5.2 Players under 18 years shall be limited to 140 pitches per weekend
  - 12.5.3 Players under 18 years cannot pitch in more than one game per day.
- 12.6 Under 16 Players
  - 12.6.1 Players under 16 years shall be limited to 60 pitches per game
  - 12.6.2 Players under 16 years shall be limited to 100 pitches per weekend
  - 12.6.3 Players under 16 years cannot pitch and catch on the same day.
- 12.7 These regulations are to be applied based on the age of the player as at 30 September of the current year.
- 12.8 The scorers of the game shall record the number of pitches by each player
- 12.9 The umpire in chief shall be notified when the pitch count reaches 10 pitches below the player's limit, who shall inform the team coach accordingly.
- 12.10 A pitcher entering a game to replace a pitcher, who has been injured or ejected, shall be permitted a maximum of eight (8) warm-up pitches.
- 12.11 Breaches of the pitching limits and restrictions may be referred to the Judiciary and may incur loss of game and suspension of team officials

## **13 DESIGNATED PLAYERS**

- 13.1 There will not be a designated hitter for a pitcher in any grade.
- 13.2 A catcher must participate offensively until there are two (2) outs
  - 13.2.1 if on base, he must be replaced by a designated runner immediately the second out is achieved.
  - 13.2.2 if at bat, he must be replaced once the play by which he gets on base is complete.
  - 13.2.3 failure to replace the catcher once this situation is brought to the offensive team's notice by an umpire will result in the player being called "out"
  - 13.2.4 the designated runner should be a reserve player on the bench or failing to have any reserves, an existing player who will not bat for the next 4 batting positions.
- 13.3 The umpire in chief has the responsibility to insure that each innings commences and then proceeds without undue delay.

## **14 PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

- 14.1 Protest on a Point of Law
  - 14.1.1 in the event of an umpire seemingly giving an erroneous decision on a Rule of Baseball then the team so disadvantaged shall have the right to protest
  - 14.1.2 the intention to protest must be indicated to the umpire in chief at the time of the disputed decision and before the next pitch
  - 14.1.3 the umpire in chief shall cause an annotation in the scorebooks of the time and game situation at which an intention to protest is given
  - 14.1.4 confirmation of the protest shall be made to the umpire in chief within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the game and will be annotated and signed on the line-up cards by the umpire in chief
  - 14.1.5 a Notice of Protest form must be submitted, with the TBI prescribed protest fee, explaining the circumstances of the protest including the relevant Rules to a Board member by the protesting team no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game.
  - 14.1.6 failure to do so will result in no further action on the protest.
  - 14.1.7 the Board will refer the protest on a point of law to the Judiciary whose Technical Panel shall consider the protest per the current TBI By-Laws Judiciary.

## 14.2 Protest on Local Competition Regulations

- 14.2.1 in the event of an umpire making a decision seemingly contrary to TBI By-Laws Local Competition Regulations then the team so disadvantaged shall have the right to protest
- 14.2.2 the intention to protest must be indicated to the umpire in chief at the time of the disputed decision and before the next ball is pitched
- 14.2.3 the umpire in chief shall cause an annotation in the scorebooks of the time and game situation at which an intention to protest is given
- 14.2.4 confirmation of the protest shall be made to the umpire in chief within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the game and will be annotated and signed on the line-up cards by the umpire in chief
- 14.2.5 a Notice of Protest form must be submitted, with the TBI prescribed protest fee, explaining the circumstances of the protest including the relevant Local Competition regulation to a Board member by the protesting team no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game.
- 14.2.6 failure to do so will result in no further action on the protest.
- 14.2.7 the Board will refer the protest on a point of law to the Judiciary whose Technical Panel shall consider the protest per the current TBI By-Laws Judiciary.

## 15 GROUNDS UNPLAYABLE

- 15.1 Circumstances that may make a field unplayable, such as rain, flood, vandalism or any other event, will be assessed no later than 9 am on the day of the game by either the relevant Council, Senior Committee or authorised owner of a field
- 15.2 If a field is declared unplayable the game may be transferred to other fields.
- 15.3 The decision to transfer any games to another field must be made and communicated to all clubs and affiliates by 10 am on game day, or By-Law 15.4 will apply
- 15.4 If a field is declared unplayable and is not transferred to another field, then:
  - 15.4.1 all games on that field will be recorded as a washout, and
  - 15.4.2 teams will be awarded one competition point, and
  - 15.4.3 games will not count as a competition game for the purposes of player eligibility
- 15.5 The umpire in chief will be the sole adjudicator of the playing condition of an available field from 5 minutes before the official starting time to its scheduled finishing time.
- 15.6 If a field becomes unplayable as adjudicated by the umpire in chief during the course of a game then game duration criteria will apply to determine the status of the game.
- 15.7 Any subsequent game scheduled after a prior game has been declared unplayable shall be assessed by the game's rostered umpires and the coaches from both clubs by 12 noon on game day.