



SOFTBALL QUEENSLAND INC.
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES FOR SCORERS
AMENDED MARCH 2014

ACCREDITATION LEVEL REQUIRED TO ATTEND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

From 1 May 2007, District Association Statisticians must hold an Australian Level Three (3) Scoring Accreditation.

Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$50.00.

An official team statistician will not be recognised as a team member and will not be permitted to sit on the bench unless they have the required accreditation. If an unaccredited statistician accompanies a District Association team, no information from the team scorebook will be recognised by the Queensland Softball officials.

QUEENSLAND SCORING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

A Representative of the Scoring Technical Directorate will be attending all State Championships and will be available to answer your queries and provide assistance which you may require. Please do not hesitate to contact this person.

THE GAME

4.1 Games that commence after the scheduled time shall be deemed to have commenced at the scheduled time. Timing of games shall be the responsibility of the plate umpire. In timed games, a new innings will not commence with five minutes or less remaining in the game.

4.2 (a) **Round Fixtures for Under 15, 17, 19 and Open Championships:** Games in the round (s) of fixtures shall be limited to a regulation game or a time limit of one-and-a half-hours except that once an innings has commenced it must be completed.

(b) **Semi & Preliminary Finals (all championships):** Any games played that have been designated as semi & preliminary finals, shall be played as for U15/17/19/ Open Championship Round fixtures

Note: If the score is tied at the completion of regulation time or completed innings the tiebreaker rule shall commence immediately (regardless of the number of innings completed).

(c) **Grand Finals:** Grand finals shall be played out, provided that if after the completion of seven (7) innings of play the score is tied, the tie breaker shall be played to determine a winning team.

(d) **Tie Breaker Rule:** The tie breaker rule shall commence at the top of the eighth (8) innings.

Note: Should any grand final, either using the tiebreaker or not, result in a drawn game, (e.g. Darkness, storm) both teams shall be declared joint winners of the competition.
SQI Ground Rules Page 2 October 2013

4.3 **Intentional Walk Rule**

Rule 6, Sec 8: Intentional Walk Rule will only be used at the Open (incl Queensland Cup) State Championships. This rule cannot be used at Underage State Championships.

4.4 **Courtesy Runner for Catcher:** In all championships, when there are two (2) out and the catcher is a baserunner on base, any bench player (i.e. not currently in the game line-up) may replace the catcher on base as the runner. This does not count as a substitution and no re-entry line is necessary

4.5 **On Deck Batter's Circle**

The On Deck Batter may take a position within either on-deck circle so that he is behind the batter and not on the batter's open side to protect them from being hit by a foul ball.

SCORE CARD

The Scorecard is to be completed as per the Scoring Manual. Black biro is to be used other than for the DP which, if used, shall be listed in green and the surnames are to be listed first.

The **WHITE CARDBOARD COPY** is given to the plate umpire, the top white copy to the opposing team. The yellow copy is for the selectors if requested. **Please ensure that all copies are legible.**

At the completion of the game, the scorer must enter the innings score as well as final score results in the box provided on the umpire's copy of the scorecard. The umpire will then sign the card when these results have been completed and cross-checked with the other card. The umpire then takes the cards to the UIC who then hands them ASAP to the recorders.

In accordance with Championship Rules Scorecards must be completed and exchanged 15 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time other than when a team is on a double header. Please note on the back of the Umpire's copy of the scorecard if the opposition fails to comply with this.

Please complete the scorecard in pen, not pencil.

It is much easier for the tournament recorder if the First team at bat and Second team at bat boxes are correctly completed.

A \$20.00 fine will apply for each infringement where District Association scorers fail to correctly complete all details on scorecards. NOTE: A warning will be issued at the Scorer's Meeting. After the first infringement the SQI representative will notify the offending team's manager as soon as possible. For any further infringements a \$20.00 penalty will be imposed per scorecard. Invoices will be forwarded to the relevant District Association after the State Championships.

PITCHER REPLACEMENT

Be familiar with rules regarding pitcher replacement at State Championships.

(Under 15 Pitching and Catching Regulations (with exception of Grand Finals)):

- 12 year old pitchers and catchers are limited to a maximum of 10 innings per day
- 13 year old pitchers and catchers are limited to a maximum of 12 innings per day
- 14 year old pitchers and catchers are limited to a maximum of 14 innings per day

Pitchers and Catchers per Day

Teams must use a minimum of 2 pitchers and 2 catchers per day in any combination.

(e) **Under 15 Pitching and Catching Regulations for Grand Finals:**

In Grand Finals, the innings count as stated above will start from zero (0) and must not exceed the maximum number stated per age group for the game.

Note: Team statisticians are to record the number of innings pitched on the back of the scorecard prior to handing it in to the Championship Recorder. The SQI Statistician at the championship will conduct random checks of team scorebooks to ensure the pitchers and catchers are not being subjected to overuse.

Penalty: Any District Association breaching this rule will forfeit their final placing in the Championship. The Head Coach of the District Association team breaching this rule will automatically be suspended from officiating in any capacity at a Queensland Championship

TIE-BREAKER

The tie-breaker rule is used at State Championships in the following circumstances:

- (a) In the fixture round, tie-breaker will commence if the score is tied after 7 completed innings provided that regulation time has not expired.
- (b) In Semi & Preliminary Finals, the tie-breaker will commence immediately at the end of regulation time provided that the score is tied and the innings being played has been completed.
- (c) In Grand Finals, the tie-breaker will be played if the score is tied at the completion of 7 innings.

RUN AHEAD RULE

This rule will be invoked if a team is leading by:
7 runs after 5 innings
10 runs after 4 innings or
15 runs after 3 innings

RECORDING OF THE ILLEGAL PITCH

No warning is now given.

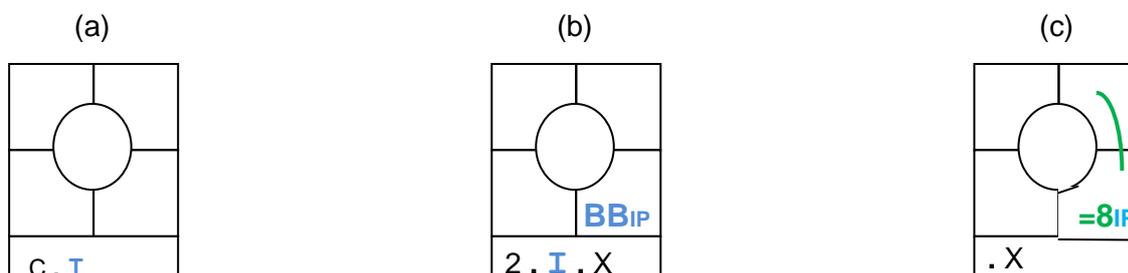
When the illegal pitch is called during the normal count and with no runners on, the letter **I** (in blue) will be used to record this in the count box and will be counted as a ball as normal. With runners on, the **IP** is recorded on the lead runner in blue (and in black and circled on subsequent runners) with a ball being recorded as normal on the batter.

(a) below reflects that an illegal pitch was called on the third pitch to this batter with no runners on. The count on this batter is now 2 balls & 1 strike.

When the illegal pitch makes the fourth ball to a batter or the illegal pitch is put in play, the batter will be placed on base using the relevant symbol plus the **IP** symbol.

(b) below reflects where an illegal pitch was called on the third and sixth pitches to this batter. When doing the pitch count here we find 1 strike, 4 balls & 1 foul.

(c) below reflects where the third pitch to this batter was called illegal but was subsequently hit into centre field for a double. As the illegal pitch was nullified by the hit, this pitch will be counted as a strike, making 2 strikes, 1 ball & 0 fouls in this case.



PROTESTS

(Refer to page 19 of the Level 2 scoring manual)

Your attention is drawn to the procedures relating to protests at State Championships.

At the time of a protest the Plate Umpire will inform each team Scorer that the game is to continue "Under Protest". The scorers are responsible for recording the time of protest, according to the umpire's watch. At this point they only need to record the minimum documentation as per SAL scoring manual, in their respective scorebooks. The game will then recommence with a minimum of time delay.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SCORERS to follow correct procedures.

The purpose of these procedures is to allow the protest committee to ascertain the circumstances at the time of protest. More importantly by following the correct procedures and by supplying documentation, (including Scorebooks), this will ensure that your team is not disadvantaged during the protest hearing.

It is therefore essential that you familiarise yourself with the sections relating to Protests.

- SAL Level 2 Scoring Manual - page 19 –
- SQI Championship Ground Rules Rule 21
- Official Rules – Rule 11

REMEMBER: After completion of the “Protested Game”, you have only 30 minutes in which to lodge your protest with the SQI representative. The protest must be on the correct SQI Form (available from the SQI representative or at the recorder’s office).

The basis of a protest should focus on misapplication or misinterpretation of playing rules, including SQI By-Laws and NOT on umpire’s judgement. It is also helpful to mention the rule that has been misapplied, as this will assist you in presenting your protest.

The Protest Committee uses Scorebooks. These books are the ‘formal record’ of the circumstances, and the notations in the Scorebooks allow the Committee to become familiar with the situation in question.

Should your protest be upheld, the game will recommence from the time of the protest as previously noted by the scorer as instructed by the Plate Umpire.

TRAINEE SCORERS

NOTE: Trainee scorers must not be left on their own whilst scoring a game. It is the responsibility of the official team scorer to be there to assist them at all times.

IMPORTANT GROUND RULES TO BE NOTED:

- 2.3.3 Scorecards to be completed by DA scorers then checked and signed by the umpire in your presence. The umpire then takes the cards to the UIC who then hands them ASAP to the recorders.
- 2.3.4 A \$20.00 fine will apply for each infringement where District Association scorers fail to correctly complete all details on scorecards. NOTE: A warning will be issued at the Scorer’s Meeting. After the first infringement the SQI representative will notify the offending team’s manager as soon as possible. For any further infringements a \$20.00 penalty will be imposed per scorecard. Invoices will be forwarded to the relevant District Association after the State Championships.

STATISTICS

NOTE: As a Level 3 Scorer it is your responsibility to provide game and individual statistics to your coaching staff, there is also the possibility that Selectors may request certain player’s statistics from you. This must be provided in a timely manner at all times.

LET US HELP

If any issues arise please liaise with the SQI State Championship Scoring Representative and discuss any issues / problems you may be having during the Championship.