

Baseball Sport Rules & Regulations 2021

Event Structure

The Qld Masters Games 2021 provides for the following structure:

There are Two Divisions: 35+ & 45+

Participating Teams

35plus Division

Surfers Bluewave
Baseball Bunts
Riptides
Redlands

45plus Division

Surfers 45's
Robina
West's
Surfers 55's

Both Divisions will play each other once followed by a semi final game based on ladder position at the end of Day 2 for a total of 4 games to determine ladder positions for the medal Rounds. (See standing below)

Points will be allocated for each game as follows:

WIN	3 Points.
DRAW	2 Points.
LOSS	1 Point
FORFEIT	0 Points (with the winning team awarded the game 7-0)
WASHOUT	2 Points (shall also be scored as a 0-0 draw)

All points earned throughout the tournament will be counted towards the team's final standings within the division.

A separate Draw for all divisions has been created and is available for all participants.

Standings

At the conclusion of the Games schedule and prior to the finals, teams will be ranked on their points/ win/loss record.

The top two teams in all three divisions, will play the final for the Gold /Silver medals and the third and fourth placed teams will play for Bronze.

If more than 1 team finishes the preliminary games level on Points/Win/Loss results that will affect the team's standings, the following ranking methods will be applied.

In order of preference:

- # 1. Head to Head records, if this fails to separate the teams then,
- # 2. The fewest runs allowed in all games played by those teams. If this fails to separate the teams then,
- # 3. The fewest runs allowed by those teams against the highest ranked team within the respective division during the tournament games. If this fails to separate the team then,
- # 4. Coin Toss supervised by the Tournament Director.

Eligibility and Participation

All players must be registered with Baseball Queensland's Sports Club HQ data base System. Any team playing with an unaccredited player will lose the competition points and the game will be ruled a forfeit. Accreditation checks will be carried out before play over the course of the event.

All teams must take the field with a minimum of nine (9) accredited and eligible players.

Once registered with a team, players will not be allowed to transfer to another team permanently or temporarily unless the Event Committee sanctions the transfer. The exception is where a team with only eight (8) players can "borrow" a player from the opposing team. Again, prior approval from the Event Committee is required.

Designated hitters will only be allowed for Pitchers and will be credited three (3) defensive outs for each plate appearance.

To qualify to play in the finals, each player must participate in at least 30% of innings played in preliminary Games. Exceptions to this rule must be pre-approved by the Games Director. An inning is defined as three (3) defensive outs, and therefore one (1) defensive out equals 1/3 inning, etc.

Equipment and Uniforms

All teams must supply their own equipment.

All players while on the field must wear their team uniform. Uniforms will be of the baseball nature and caps must be worn. The exception will be that single participants who have been placed in a team will be allowed to play in the uniform they have, providing it is of baseball nature.

No restrictions shall apply to gloves or footwear, other than those that apply in normal baseball rules. All batters and runners must wear two (2) eared helmets.

Bats

The Baseball Queensland Masters Games event is a Wood bat competition.

Wood and wood composite bats must be used in ALL divisions. Bats may be of any length or weight, within the allowable current official rules of baseball.

Regulation Game

All Games including finals in all divisions are to be 120 minutes (2 hours) duration or a maximum of 7 innings whichever comes first. (note wet weather restrictions and conditions).

Any new inning commenced before 110 minutes from the start of the game shall be completed except where the team batting second is leading or takes the lead at the bottom half of the inning. However, no game is to continue past 125 minutes. If the inning has not been completed by 125 minutes, the game score shall revert back to the last completed innings.

If both teams are equal on runs at the end of the game, then draw will be declared.

Games being played on Sunday will be 90 minutes duration due to Anzac Day restrictions. The same ten minute rule will be followed.

Game times will be under the control of the Tournament Director and game times are to be adhered to. Some games may be delayed if the prior game is not completed within the required time frame.

The umpires will be directed to keep the game moving. If time wasting tactics are observed by any umpire or the Tournament director, the offending player(s) and manager are to be placed on report and a judiciary panel convened. Appropriate action may be taken against the person(s) involved and/or the associated team.

It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that they are at the correct diamond ready to commence play at the scheduled time. If a team fails to appear or are not ready to start the game within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled commencement time, a forfeit can be claimed.

On-field warm-ups are not allowed during this Event - there are several areas throughout the park to facilitate team warm up.

Wet Weather Procedure

In the event of poor/wet weather, the following conditions will apply:

1. Games may be rescheduled at the sole discretion of the Games Director in the event of games declared a wash out.
2. The Games Director in consultation with the Chief Umpire (if appropriate) will allow for a 30minute delay in proceedings before declaring the game a wash out. This will be allowed once only during a game.
3. If a game is delayed past the scheduled commencement time, the 30minute time delay allowance will be invoked.
4. In all games including medal rounds, 3 innings (or 2 ½ if the home team is ahead) or 60 minutes, will constitute a regulation game and points will be allocated accordingly.

Mercy Rule

A ten (10) run mercy rule will come into effect after five (5) completed innings or 90 minutes, whichever comes first.

Courtesy Runners

All divisions may substitute a designated runner for the catcher and pitcher at any time.

It is mandatory to substitute the catchers at two (2) out. Additionally, one other courtesy runner may be a substitute for an injured or disabled player participating in the game. The substituted players must be identified and made known to both the Umpires and the opposition Team Manager at the commencement of the game. This substitution can occur for one player in the team.

Home and Away Games

The team named first in the Games scheduled will be the home team. They will field first and will occupy the third base dugout.

Pitchers – No Pitching Restrictions

Normal common-sense rest periods should be observed for pitchers.

Scorers

It is a requirement of the Event that each team supply a competent person to act as a scorer for their games.

Umpires

Each team is expected to supply an umpire for the event. In the event of an official plate or base umpire not being available, the home team will supply the plate umpire and the away team will supply the base umpire.

Plate umpires (accredited/experienced to A grade standard), will be appointed when available. They will do their best to make every call 100% correct. In the interest of good sportsmanship, it is up to you to accept their decision.

The Event Committee anticipates all games will be played in the spirit of healthy competition – your cooperation is appreciated.

Banned Substances

Smoking, consumption of alcohol, and the use of chewing tobacco or drugs (unless prescribed by a physician), will not be permitted within the playing area and will result in automatic ejection and potentially subject to further action by the Tournament Tribunal.

Blood Rule

Upon direction of an umpire, a player shall immediately leave the playing area where the umpire believes the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform. Upon being directed to leave the playing area, a player shall not return or take any further part in any baseball game until and unless:

1. The cause of the bleeding has abated, and the bleeding has stopped;
2. The injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood shall emanate there from;
3. Any blood-stained article or uniform has been removed and replaced; and
4. Any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.

Any player leaving the playing area under the Blood Rule may be replaced by a substitute player (in the field and batting line up), until they are able to return to the field of play. The substitute player must be a player on the bench that is not already in the offensive line up. The substitute can be a player that has been removed from the game (temporarily re-enter), providing there are no others on the team sheet that have not participated offensively. On returning to the game the player **MUST** occupy the same position in the batting line up. The substitute player can enter the game at any time and at any spot in the batting order once the injured player has returned. All defence out during the time the injured player is missing from the game, shall be considered for finals eligibility for the injured player and not the substitute player.

Medal Rounds

Games in the Medal Rounds will be 120 minutes (2 hours), or seven (7) innings durations, whichever comes first, with an extra innings played in the event of a draw at the end of the schedule game. No new inning is to commence if the game has been in progress for 110 minutes.

Any new innings commenced within 110 minutes from the start of the game shall be completed, except where the home team is leading or takes the lead in the bottom half of the innings.

In the event the game is tied, one additional tie breaker inning is permitted. In this inning, the last batter or a substitute player (not previously removed from the game), shall commence the inning at second base with no outs against the batting team. If there is no clear result at this time, then the result will be determined by the Games Director based on final preliminary round standing (i.e. the highest ranked team will be awarded the gold medal and so on).

If the Medal Round is washed out, then the final standing will be declared by the Tournament Director based on the team's standings at the end of preliminary rounds. (refer Standings)

