



BASEBALL  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Baseball NT  
Unit 4/28 Tambling  
Terrace  
Lyons NT 0810  
admin@baseballnt.com.au

# JUNIORS PLAYING SENIOR BASEBALL POLICY

*As of 22nd August 2023*

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to detail the procedures and requirements for the inclusion of junior players (under 18 years of age) into the senior baseball environment ensuring the safest transition.

This policy will help to ensure our organisation, its Associations and Clubs:

1. Meet its duty of care in relation to the health and safety of our members
2. Provide access to competition and pathways for juniors to continue their individual development, where there are insufficient competitions in their natural age group
3. Maintain the integrity of the senior competitions

## ASSOCIATION / COMPETITION / CLUB REQUIREMENTS

4. Junior players must satisfy requirements of the Junior Suitability for Senior Baseball Assessment before being involved in the senior baseball environment
5. No junior player shall be allowed to play in more than two (2) games on the same day
6. Coaches of senior teams with juniors involved MUST hold a Level B USA Coaching Certification and a valid Working with Children Check (Ochre Card)
7. Coaches must consider the safety of the Junior Player at the forefront of all decision-making. Coaches must assess whether the Junior Player has the competency to field in a position based on the standard of play of the opponent. Coaches are ultimately responsible for the wellbeing of the junior players
8. Any Junior Player playing up must also play his/her natural age group (where there is a competition in said age group). Only players that have been granted a dispensation by BNT can play in only the higher competition. A written request for dispensation signed by the parents/guardian and the players head coach must be forwarded to BNT for consideration. All requests must detail the legitimate reasons for the dispensation request.

## JUNIOR AGE RESTRICTIONS

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Age is based on whether the player turns/doesn't turn at any point throughout the season (i.e. U/13: the player must not turn 13 at any point during the season. 15: the player turns 15 at any point during the season)

9. No players under 13 can play senior baseball.
10. Players between 13 and 15 must complete the Juniors Suitability for Senior Baseball Assessment and are eligible to pitch or catch at the discretion of their club coach.
11. Players 16 and over are not required to complete the Juniors Suitability for Senior Baseball Assessment or a Pitching / Catching Assessment
12. However, all Junior players (under 18) are to adhere to the Pitching and Catching Rules for their natural age group

## **ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

13. Parents/Guardians must complete the Acknowledgement of Risk & Assessment Form prior to their child/ren undertaking assessment
14. Assessments are only to be conducted by BNT endorsed assessors.
15. Assessors must determine whether the Junior Player requires assessment based on:
  - 15.1. Availability of other competitions within the players natural age group
  - 15.2. Opportunities for the players development in current available competitions
16. Players need only to receive full, unrestricted approval to play senior baseball once. For any subsequent season, approval is assumed.
  - 16.1. Players who do not receive full, unrestricted approval must be assessed before the commencement of all seasons.
  - 16.2. Parents/guardians and team coaches may provide a written request to BNT for reassessment during a season a maximum of one time per season.
17. The Junior Suitability for Senior Baseball Assessment is a Pass/Fail system of how prepared Junior Players are for the senior baseball environment.
  - 17.1. If a Junior Player receives any "Pass" indicators, they require further development before being able to take part in the senior baseball environment
  - 17.2. If a Junior Player receives all "Pass" indicators, they may participate in all divisions of senior baseball
  - 17.3. The final decision on a Junior Players suitability remains at the sole discretion and unanimous agreement between the two (2) assessors.
18. Written copies of all documentation, including Acknowledgement of Risk & Assessment Form and Junior Suitability for Senior Baseball Assessment, must be forwarded to BNT before the Junior Player is able to participate.

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<b>Players Full Name</b>		<b>Date of Birth</b>	/ /
<b>Club/Team</b>		<b>Association</b>	

**Risk Warning:**

You should be aware that there are risks of injury associated with playing baseball, as there are with most sports. Risk will arise in the context of the activities of batting, pitching (throwing), catching and running. While Baseball Northern Territory and its affiliates aim to minimise risks, it is not possible to eliminate them all. It is also strongly recommended by Baseball Northern Territory and its affiliates that personal insurance be taken out by participants.

**Exclusion of Liability for damage to players/participants person or property:**

I/We hereby agree that the Association (which term for the purpose of this indemnity clause shall severally and jointly mean and include the Association, its Directors, employees, agents, contractors and affiliates) shall not be deemed responsible or liable, whether in contract or in tort or under any statute, for an injury, illness, loss or damage or other mishap to me or my property sustained in, arising from or out of, or in any way directly or indirectly connected with my participation or with any travelling, match, competition, practice, training or function of whatsoever nature held during the period of my participation or with any medical or scientific examinations and tests conducted on me during the period of my participation or for any disciplinary or other action ordered, taken against or directed at me by the Executive of the Association, any person authorised or directed by them or any persons appointed by the Association and hereby indemnify and will at all times thereafter well and sufficiently indemnify and keep fully indemnified the Association from and against all actions, suits, causes of action, proceedings, claims, demands, costs and expenses whatsoever which may be taken or made against the Association or incurred or become payable by the Association in connection with, or arising out of any such injury, illness, loss, damage or other mishap to me or my property or any disciplinary or other action ordered, taken against or directed at me and hereby agree (without in anyway imposing or attaching any liability or obligation upon the Association to do so) that the Association may act as my agent in incurring such expenses as, and/or doing whatsoever is reasonably necessary for the benefit of me in connection with or arising out of any such injury, illness, loss, damage or other mishap.

<b>Parent/Guardian Full Name</b>		<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>		<b>Contact Number</b>	

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<b>Assessment Outcome</b>			
<b>Assessor 1: Full Name</b>		<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Assessor 2: Full Name</b>		<b>Signature</b>	

## List of Tests

### 1.1. Ability to Hit Pitched Ball Test

Drill: Players are to hit a live pitched ball from the coach. Coaches should aim to throw fast balls at 75% capacity. Players are aiming to hit a ball (within the strike zone) at least 60ft (pitching distance) on the full.

This drill will demonstrate the player has the skill set to participate competitively in the senior baseball environment. This task will also indicate to coaches whether the player has the confidence to face senior level pitching.

### 1.2. Throwing Ability

Drill: Players are to throw with a partner 90ft apart. They must be able to accurately (receiver must be able to catch the ball while only moving 1 leg) throw to a partner at least 6 times out of 10.

This drill will demonstrate the player has the ability to throw the distance required to effectively play in the outfield and second base. This task will also indicate to coaches whether the player needs development on the technical aspect of their throwing to avoid injury.

### 1.3. General Fielding Test

Drill: Players are to be positioned at 3rd base. They are to field a hit ground ball cleanly and throw to 1st base accurately (1 bounce into 1st base okay). Players must be able to do this 3 out of 5 attempts.

This drill will demonstrate the player has the skill set and physical competency to participate competitively in the senior baseball environment. This task will also indicate to coaches whether the player has the confidence to face a ball hit by senior players and their ability to perform under pressure.

### 1.4. Fly Ball Catching

Drill: Players are to be positioned 90ft from the coach. The coach should aim to hit consistent fly balls to the player. If this is not possible, an adjustable pitching machine can be used to provide consistency. Players must be able to catch a fly ball cleanly 3 out of 5 times

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This drill will demonstrate the player has the skill set to compete safely (and competitively) in the senior baseball environment. This task will also indicate to coaches whether the player needs development on the technical aspect of their catching ability to avoid injury.

## Results

### 1.1. Ability to Hit Pitched Ball Test - Pass/Fail

Comments:

### 1.2. Throwing Ability - Pass/Fail

Comments:

### 1.3. General Fielding Test - Pass/Fail

Comments:

### 1.4. Fly Ball Catching - Pass/Fail

Comments:

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**General Comments and Feedback:**

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