

14. JUNIOR PLAYING RULES

1. Age Groups

(a) The Junior Grade U18 shall consist of players who have not reached the age of eighteen (18) years before first of January of the playing season unless granted a permit by the Fixture and Grading Committee

(b) The Junior Grade U14 shall consist of players who have not reached the age of fourteen (14) years before the first of January of the playing season and shall, unless otherwise recommended by the Junior Council and sanctioned by the Fixtures and Grading Committee upon receipt of signed letter from parents and club of player in question that they have not reached the age of eight (8) years before the first of January of the playing season

(c) The Junior Boys Grade U16 shall consist of players who have not reached the age of sixteen (16) years before the first of January of the playing season unless granted a permit by the Fixture and Grading Committee

2. Duration of Games

(a) Under 18 Girls and U16 Boys will be played over 90 minutes from scheduled starting time, or to the completion of 7 innings if within the 90 minutes. The game shall cease at 90 minutes duration. If the team second at bat is not in front, the scores will revert back to the completed innings

(b) Junior B and U14 mixed will be played over 90 minutes from scheduled starting time. No new innings shall commence within 5 minutes of the finishing time

(c) Games drawn after seven innings will be played out only if time permits. Such extra innings shall be played under the Tie Breaker Rule

(d) If the third out is made in the bottom of an innings within five (5) minutes of the scheduled finishing time, No new innings shall start.

3. Coaches

(a) All Junior coaches must have Level 1 coaching accreditation (08/16)

(b) All clubs will forward to Secretary all Working With Children (WWC) info (name, number , expiry date) for all junior coaches and any other member that would be connected to a junior team (11/16)

4. Players

(a) Players from U14 are allowed to play two games on the same one playing date in the U 14 and Juniors

(b) Players from the Junior B are allowed to play two games on the one playing date in U18 Junior A and Junior B **OR** Junior B and one Senior game [if 13years or older]

NB: U14 and U18 Girls players can play a MAXIMUM OF TWO GAMES ONLY IN ANY FIXTURED PLAYING DATE

(c) The Junior team must have 9 registered players

(d) All registered players for that team must take the field before entering the player playing up

5. Eligibility for Finals

(a) Players must play at least **five games** for their club in the Junior Competition to be eligible to play in finals

(b) A player having played at least 50% of games in a higher Junior grade will not be eligible to play finals in a lower grade

6. Pitching Distances and Ball size:

Pitching distances shall be as follows:

U14 mixed - 40ft on 60ft diamond with an 11inch ball

U18 Girls - 43ft on 60ft diamond with a 12inch ball

U16 Boys - 46 ft on 60 ft diamond with a 12inch ball

7. U14 Competition:

- (a) Qualified male players are restricted to the "U14 mixed" competitions
- (b) No more than four males may be in the batting line up at any time in the "mixed" grade unless there is insufficient players to start the game then extra boys are allowed. Female players must stay on the diamond
- (c) If there are insufficient nominations, grades may be combined
- (d) Up to maximum of 14 players in a line-up will bat with the 6 runs across the plate will apply. All players bat.
- (e) Only two male players at a time can play in the infield with NO MALE PITCHER/CATCHER combinations in the mixed grade unless there is insufficient female players
- (f) Flexibility on the 40 ft U14 pitching distance to apply to minimum of 35 ft developing pitchers
- (g) Pitchers pitching from less than 38 ft a compulsory fielding mask to be worn
- (h) All players except the catcher MUST wear a mouthguard
- (i) It is compulsory for pitchers to wear a mask
- (j) Ninth Batter Rule:
 - (i) Play continues in each innings until 3 out or the ninth batter for the innings is out or crosses home plate to score
 - (ii) No runner crossing home plate after the ninth batter in an innings is out or crosses home plate may score. i.e. in the case of a home run, only the ninth batter and runners preceding her/him count. Batter 1, 2, and 3 may be required to bat again for the ninth batter to cross home plate.
 - (iii) Scorers to notify the plate umpire when the ninth batter is out or crosses home plate
- (k) Declaration Rule: The declaration Rule may be applied by a coach when his/her team is 10 runs or more in front
- (l) Infield fly rule applies to all games
- (m) No automatic outs when less than nine (9) players. The line-up is closed up
- (n) Pitchers may pitch two (2) innings maximum in any one game
- (o) In case of a player leaving the batters box for any reason, other than hit by pitched ball, the following batter will take their place without penalty and new count
- (p) Teams may borrow players to make 9 players to start play. Game will still be an official game with points allocated and games for borrowed players counting towards qualification for finals

8. Equipment:

- (a) Helmets: Helmets are compulsory for all batters, base runners and catchers.
 - (b) Persons under the age of 18 years of age acting as an umpire, base coach or bat person MUST wear a helmet at all times
 - (c) Mouth Guards: Mouth Guards are compulsory for all U18's (Female and Male), whether they are playing Juniors or Seniors
 - (d) Catchers Equipment: Junior Grade Catchers are required to wear Protective Equipment as per Rule 3 Sec 6 [a] [d] & [e] of the Softball Australia Official Rule Book
- [Note; this reads, All Catchers [adult or junior] MUST wear Mask, [a] Body Protector [d] and Shin Guards [e]. Also [Note: sec 6a reads, Catchers [or member of the defensive team] MUST wear a mask, throat protector and

helmet while receiving warm up pitches from the pitch's plate or in the warm up area. If the person will not wear a mask, he must be replaced by a person who will do so.]

9. Umpiring Juniors

Junior Girls, U16 Boys, and U14 Mixed grades base umpire their own games with a senior plate umpire appointed (09/11)

10. Finals

U18 Girls and U16 Boys, and U14 Mixed: semi-Finals and Preliminary Finals will be ninety (90) minutes or seven (7) innings. The innings in progress at the 90 minute time limit is to be completed. If at the completion of the innings scores are tied, extra innings will be played under the Tie Break Rule

Grand Final will be seven (7) completed innings, no time limits for all Junior grades

Tie Break Rule and Ten Run Rule to apply

Check finals information sheet