

SPORT INFORMATION GUIDE - BASEBALL

Version 2.0 Date 10 March 2009



10-18 October

1 Competition Dates

1.1 Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 October 2009

2 Venue Details

2.1 **Blacktown Olympic Park - (NSW Baseball Centre)**

Eastern Road, Rooty Hill

Approximate distance from Sydney City is 47 kilometres.

Approximate distance from Corbin Reserve is 9 kilometres.

2.1.1 **Venue Information**

Blacktown Olympic Park was a Sydney 2000 Olympic Games baseball venue. There are three full sized diamonds, main diamond dugouts and secondary diamonds shelters, scorers shelters, six shade covered practice bullpens, grandstand seating on main diamond, change rooms, umpires facilities, function room, merchandise kiosk, food and beverage kiosks, first aid room, three mobile batting cages, and four fully lit batting tunnels.

2.2 **Corbin Reserve**

Pye Road, Quakers Hill

Approximate distance from Sydney City is 40 kilometres.

Approximate distance from Blacktown Olympic Park is 9 kilometres.

2.3 Each age category and grade will have the opportunity to play at Blacktown Olympic Park, the Sydney 2000 Olympic site. All finals will be played at Blacktown Olympic Park.

3 Age Categories

3.1 **Open:** 35+, 45+

3.2 Age determined at 31 December 2009.

3.3 The age of the youngest player on the team will determine the team's age category.

3.4 A player can only participate in one team in the baseball competition.

3.5 The competition is 'open' to both men and women. Players need to accurately assess their ability to enter the competition.

3.6 The Baseball Organising Committee anticipates that the teams will be mostly made up of men. Women can play in a men's team or all female teams can enter the open category.

4 Competition Details

4.1 **Hours of Competition**

It is anticipated that competition will start at 0900 hours and continue to approximately 2100 hours each day. Competition will cease early on the day of the opening ceremony and any social events.

4.2 **Grade Definitions**

a) **A Grade - Competitive:** The team members are expected to be at least at state, province or elite club player level.

b) **B Grade - Recreational:** This grade is for players that participate in other grade leagues and for social and casual players.

4.3 The Baseball Organising Committee reserves the right to move teams between grades.

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4.4 Competition Format

- 4.4.1 The program will be scheduled over nine days. The number of diamonds used will depend on the number of teams entered.
- 4.4.2 The competition will consist of preliminary rounds and medal rounds. Teams can expect to play a minimum of one game per day.
- 4.4.3 All preliminary games are to be 90 minutes, or seven innings and the ten run 'mercy' rule to be invoked after five innings or 75 minutes of play except where the team batting second is leading by 10 runs either prior to their fifth (5th) batting inning or the ten (10) run lead occurs during their fifth (5th) batting inning, at which time the game shall be called.
- 4.4.4 Finals are to be of seven innings, with a time limit of two hours and thirty minutes. 'Mercy Rule' (after five innings).
- 4.4.5 The top half of an inning will **not** commence ten minutes or less before the scheduled finishing time, however where an inning is not completed at the scheduled finishing time, play shall continue until the bottom half of the inning is completed or the side batting in the bottom half has scored the winning run. A drawn game will be accepted as a result where the bottom of the innings is completed. A minimum of three innings or sixty minutes will constitute a game.

4.5 Registrations and Medals

- 4.5.1 Where there are insufficient entries in an age category or grade, the categories may be combined in order to conduct a viable competition. The awarding of medals will not be affected, that is, teams will still be awarded medals in the age category in which they originally entered.
- 4.5.2 Six teams would constitute a viable competition in any age, grade or pool.
- 4.5.2 Teams must register a minimum of 12 players. There is no upper limit (maximum) to the number of players you can register; however a maximum of 18 players can be rostered for any one game. Teams may also bring team support personnel (coaches, managers, scorers etc).

5 Competition Standards and Rules

- 5.1 Baseball NSW will conduct the competition under the auspices, rules and regulations of the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) and Baseball Australia, and will conform to any special requirements of the International Masters Games Association.
- 5.2 **Player Qualifications**
Players must appear in 50% of the round games to be eligible for the elimination round. Players nominated as specialist pitchers will be required to participate in a minimum of eight innings or three games to be eligible to play in the elimination or medal rounds.
- 5.3 **Officials (Umpires/Scorers)**
 - 5.3.1 Each team is required to provide a suitably qualified umpire/scorer to officiate during the competition.
 - 5.3.2 Team umpires must be prepared to officiate in at least one other game on each day of play.

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5.3.3 Each team umpire will be scheduled to a game/s at the same venue as their team, although not necessarily umpiring that team's game. This includes being scheduled to a game/s before or after the game of their team.

5.3.4 The Baseball Organising Committee will make every effort to schedule team umpire's duties and their team's games as close as possible.

5.4 Scoring

Games will be scored under the official Australian baseball rules (OABR), except for modifications applicable to masters' play.

5.5 Protests and Appeals

Tribunal, protests and disputes procedures will be adopted and be available at the officials pre-event meeting.

6 Equipment

6.1 All teams are to supply their own equipment.

6.2 Teams are advised to bring their own water bottles and strapping tape.

6.3 Individuals are responsible for the safekeeping and storage of their own equipment.

6.4 Batters and runners are to wear two-eared helmets at all times whilst on the field.

6.5 Bats

6.5.1 Either wood, wood composite, or ball exit speed ratio (BESR) compliant bats - minus 3 max

6.5.2 Aluminium and alloy bats may only have a maximum of -3 differentials between the length and weight of the bat. For example, if the bat is 33" long, then the weight may be no less than 30oz.

6.5.3 Barrel alloy bats with a max diameter of 2 3/4 inches may be used.

6.5.4 Aluminium and alloy bats with no clearly discernible BESR certification logo will be excluded from play.

6.6 Balls

6.6.1 A minimum of four game balls will be allocated for each game.

6.6.2 Additional game balls will be available at the discretion of the umpire-in-chief.

6.6.3 A maximum number of game balls will be set.

6.6.4 Game balls are to be returned to the dugout bucket at the completion of each game.

6.6.5 Game balls are not to be removed from venues.

6.6.6 It is the responsibility of each team to bring training/ warm up balls.

7 Uniforms

7.1 Whilst on the field all players and managers must wear their team's uniform and colours. Uniform tops are to show a distinguishing player number. Uniforms are to be of a baseball nature, including caps. Batters and runners are to wear two-eared helmets at all times whilst on the field.

7.2 Competitors can design their own uniform from the Games website <http://dyo.2009worldmasters.com/>. The Design Your Own (DYO) Wizard allows you to choose from a wide range of styles and colour palette and upload team and sponsor logos if you require. The DYO Uniforms also include the official Games logo (the only way of displaying this on your competition wear). A ten-unit minimum applies to each self-designed item of apparel.

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8 Practice and Warm Up Facilities

- 8.1 Practice in the batting tunnels and the pitching bullpens are available on a user pays system at Blacktown Olympic Park prior to the start of the competition. Please telephone Baseball NSW on +61 2 9675 6872 (AEST business hours only) or email admin@baseballnsw.com.au to organise a booking.
- 8.2 Batting tunnels and pitching bullpens will be available for pre-game warm up at Blacktown Olympic Park. Teams will be rostered prior to game start.

9 Social Event

A baseball social event will be conducted. Details will be advised at a later date.

10 Bulletin Board

A bulletin board has been established on the Games website to help individuals find a team and to help teams find players. The bulletin board can also be used to locate equipment and supplies.

11 Games Registration Fee

- 11.1 The Sydney 2009 World Masters Games competitor registration fee is AUD220 for which you receive the following benefits:
- Entry into one Sydney 2009 World Masters Games sports competition
 - A Sydney 2009 World Masters Games accreditation pass and Games backpack
 - Free transport on Sydney's extensive network of trains, buses and ferries*
 - An allocated seat at the Games Opening Ceremony
 - Entry into the Games Closing Ceremony and other events
 - Access to Games Social Hubs located across the city
 - Entry into Games Health and Lifestyle Expo
 - A discount booklet for use at selected Sydney restaurants and tourist attractions
 - Access to sports injury services at Games venues
 - A certificate of competitor participation
 - A guide for each sport competition entered

** This includes standard services only. Excludes train travel to and from the domestic and international airport rail stations.*

- 11.2 Accompanying people and team personnel can register for the Games for a fee of AUD110. Details and benefits are available on the Games website.

12 Personal Accident Insurance

- 12.1 Participants have a responsibility to organise their own personal accident insurance as detailed in the Games registration terms and conditions. The competitor registration fee does not cover personal accident insurance.
- 12.2 Personal accident insurance is available to purchase through JLT Sports for registered competitors. Personal accident insurance covers competitors for non-Medicare medical expenses and ambulance transport whilst travelling directly to and from nominated events within Australia.
- 12.3 To purchase personal accident insurance go to the Games website <http://www.2009worldmasters.com/Personal-Accident-Insurance/default.aspx>.

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13 How to Register for the Games

13.1 **Online Entry**

a) Create a myGames account

Log onto www.2009worldmasters.com and click on the green box to express your interest in competing. Complete the personal details form to receive your myGames user ID and password to your nominated email account.

b) Log on to myGames

Input your user ID and password into the orange myGames login box and follow the on-screen prompts to register.

13.2 **Manual Entry**

Competitors can register and pay online or contact SWMGOC on registrations@2009worldmasters.com or +61 2 8116 2045 for a manual entry form.

14 Registrations Close

Registrations close at 1700 hours Sydney time (GMT+10) on 31 July 2009. Please register as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

15 Links

15.1 Baseball NSW www.nsw.baseball.com.au

15.2 Australian Baseball Federation www.baseball.org.au

15.3 International Baseball Federation (IBAF) www.baseball.ch

15.4 Blacktown Olympic Park www.blacktownolympicpark.com.au

15.5 Blacktown City Council www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au

15.6 Sydney 2009 World Masters Games www.2009worldmasters.com

16 Further Information

Sydney 2009 World Masters Games Organising Committee

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