

THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION



2003 BYELAWS

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I. REGISTRATION

- I.1 All clubs must take out Civil Liability insurance and Personal Accident Insurance through the Baseball Softball UK (BSUK) Office [which is Head Office for the purpose of these Byelaws]. All payments for team affiliations and player/member registrations shall be made by cheque, payable to BSUK and sent directly to Head Office. Where a team already has Civil Liability insurance then the certificate must be sent to Head Office whereby Head Office may approve an exemption.
- I.2 When a Registered Participant owes money to other Federation members then should he/she fail to pay the debt, the club will become liable. Where a registered participant owes money to any associated body of the BBF then their registration will not be accepted until the debt is repaid. Details of the debt should be copied to the player's club and the BBF Board from the creditor.
- I.3 Clubs who wish to affiliate more than one team must register and sustain a minimum of 13 players per team. Where a club has more than one team, the club shall register players to one club.
- I.4 The minimum age for senior players is 14. Parental / Guardian approval must be obtained prior to a player under the age of 16 years playing senior baseball. A form for this purpose is available from BSUK.
- Age is always determined by year of birth; e.g., any player attaining the age of 14 years in 2003 is eligible to play in the 2003 season, and so on.
- I.5 New teams may affiliate to the Federation throughout the year.
- I.6 Clubs wishing to change their name must advise the Executive in writing. New teams affiliating to the Federation shall not be permitted to use a name or logo, which is currently used by an existing affiliated team.
- I.7 Clubs may register new players (i.e. previously unregistered that season) throughout the year.



- 1.8 Players can only transfer once in the same season. The exception to this is where a player transfers to or from an overseas team or club.
- 1.9 Players aged 21 or under can move freely between teams in the same club. Adult players (aged over 21) can move freely between teams of the same club until they have played 20% of the scheduled games of one the higher level teams in the club. After that point they can no longer play for a team in a lower division unless they officially transfer. They are however free to play on a team in a higher division.

This rule is one that will be applied when a team protests a player's eligibility. The protesting club must follow the protest rules and must provide information about games in which the player has allegedly played. If a protest is upheld then the game will be forfeited and additional penalties may apply. A team may request special dispensation for this rule not to be applied to individuals over the age of 21. The request must be made in writing to Head Office and should indicate the reasons for the request and provide supporting information.

- 1.10 Where a club has two teams in the same division, movement between the two is allowed up until June 1, at which point team rosters must be final.
- 1.11 The procedure to be followed by those wishing to transfer to another club will be managed through the BSUK website (and covered in full in the Handbook). The process requires that the current team manager “releases” the player and the new team manager then rosters the player. Until his name appears on the new club’s roster on the BSUK website, the player shall not be eligible to play for his new club. Clubs refusing to sanction a player's transfer must give the nature of any objections to the applicant and to Head Office, in writing, within 72 hours. In the event of such objection, the player has the right to appeal to BBF Board. There will be no transfer fee.
- 1.12 In order to be eligible for post-season play, a player must have played in 20% of all regular season games. In the Lower Divisions, this eligibility requirement must be met by August 1.
- 1.13 A player or official registered with one club shall not be directly approached by any BBF official, club official, player or spokesperson with the view of obtaining the services for a club of the aforementioned registered player or official. All such approaches shall be made through the Secretary or Team Manager of the club holding the registration, who shall have the right of refusal.



2. BBF COMPETITIONS

2.1 The structure of competition must be approved by the BBF Executive. BSUK shall determine and publish the boundaries of each Conference after seeking approval from the BBF Executive.

2.2 A Steward shall be appointed for each Conference – where none is available, this role will be carried out by the BSUK Office.

2.3 All BBF senior games shall be played according to the schedules produced and published by BSUK, unless the relevant Conference Steward has given prior agreement.

2.4 All single games will be a minimum of 9 innings.

2.5 Except for the National League and “Premier Grade Status” Clubs, teams may start and complete any game with only 8 players and do so without penalty of a forfeit. The team with 8 players must record an out in the 9th spot (it must be the 9th spot only) in the order throughout the game, unless the missing player arrives.

When a ninth player arrives he may be added into the line-up only in the 9th batting position. He may also take his position when he arrives but must wait until the current batter has completed his at bat.

If nine players are available, a team must start with all nine players and are not permitted to hold one back.

2.6 The Designated Hitter Rule is optional for either team in any game.

2.7 A manager or coach may make only one trip to any one pitcher in an inning. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher’s automatic removal. The manager or coach is prohibited from making a second visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat, but if a pinch-hitter is substituted for this batter a manager or coach may make a second visit to the mound, but must remove the pitcher.

A manager or coach is considered to have concluded his visit to the mound when he leaves the 18-foot circle surrounding the pitcher’s rubber.



- 2.8 Each club is fully responsible for its own ground, travelling and playing expenses. However, where either team fails to give more than 72 hours notice of forfeiture, they will be held liable for the non-offending team's expenses.
- 2.9 Umpires shall submit a report of any disciplinary matter concerning members of either team, on or off the field of play.
- 2.10 No game shall be cancelled, postponed or rearranged without the consent of Head Office except as covered in the British Baseball Rules. Any other reason may result in the offending team being penalised.
- 2.11 Visiting players and coaches shall have free admission to games.
- 2.12 The home team manager shall contact his opponent and the umpire not less than 72 hours before the game to confirm readiness to complete the fixture. Where adverse weather conditions put the game at risk, the home team manager shall warn his opposite number and the umpire of this on the morning of the game, or postpone the game, whichever is appropriate. Every care shall be taken to ensure teams do not travel unnecessarily. Failure to do so may result in the home team having to meet the expenses incurred by the travelling team. Should a scheduled umpire arrive at a postponed game because of lack of notification, the umpire shall be entitled to game fees and reasonable travel expenses.
- 2.13 Prior to the scheduled start time of the game the scorers will swap team line-ups. Both managers will also provide team line-ups to the umpire and the home team's manager shall also provide a minimum of 2 game balls. The umpire and both managers will discuss ground rules.
- 2.14 A forfeit shall occur when a team:
- a. Fails to appear on the field within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time without good reason. The Executive may consider appeals.
 - b. Refuses to continue a game for any reason, other than a suspension or termination called by the umpire.
 - c. Violates any forfeiture laws included in the British Baseball Rules.
- 2.15 If a game is postponed the following procedure should be used to determine when the game shall be played. If both teams have an available Sunday or league designated rain date before the scheduled end of the season then the game shall be



rescheduled for that date. If not, then the game shall be scheduled as the first game of a double-header on the next date that the teams are due to meet for a single game.

- 2.16 Any player or manager who strikes or causes to be struck an umpire or BBF official while they are carrying out their administrative duties shall be suspended from the BBF for life, notwithstanding the documented appeal procedure.
- 2.17 The CEB “Slaughter Rule” (10 or more runs after 7 innings, or any inning thereafter) shall be in effect for all single games.
- 2.18 All results shall be reported to Head Office by 21.00 hours on the first business day following the game. Both teams shall report the result. Failure to notify match results may lead to the offending team being penalised. BSUK will publish, as part of the Handbook, the process for reporting results. This may include using the BSUK website as the primary or sole mechanism for reporting scores.
- 2.19 Should a game be protested under "**Rule 4.19 of the Rules Of Baseball**", then Head Office must be notified in writing within 48 hours or else the appeal will be lost. A decision will be made within 14 days. The appropriate appeal fee as published in the Handbook must accompany this appeal.
- 2.20 BSUK shall endorse an official ball list, which shall apply throughout the British Baseball Leagues. Failure to use official balls may result in the offending team being penalised.
- 2.21 Should two or more teams have equal records and be tied for League position at the end of the regular season, the following criteria shall be applied, in order, to separate the teams.
1. The team that has forfeited the fewest games during the regular season.
 2. The direct head to head won / lost record during the regular season.
 3. The direct head to head lowest total of runs conceded in the regular season between the tied teams.
 4. The drawing of lots.

Should item 4 be necessary then BSUK will inform all participating teams of the exact procedure.



3. DOUBLE-HEADERS

- 3.1 Double-headers will consist of two seven-inning games.
- 3.2 As in byelaw 2.13 where a team fails to appear on the field within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time without good reason the first game will be forfeited. There will then be an interval of not more than 30 minutes. If a team then fails to be ready for the start of the second game on time then the second game will be forfeited.
- 3.3 The interval between games shall not exceed 30 minutes.
- 3.4 Where a team is 10 or more runs behind after the 5th inning of the game, or any future inning thereafter, the game shall be called on the “Slaughter Rule”.
- 3.5 The following restrictions on pitching shall apply:
 - a. A pitcher may pitch any number of innings in one particular game.
 - b. A pitcher who completes four or more innings in the first game shall pitch no more than two complete innings in the second.
 - c. No pitcher shall accumulate more than nine full innings over two games, however distributed.
- 3.6 It shall be the responsibility of the opposing manager to bring violations of these pitching rules to the attention of the home plate umpire. A pitcher shall be considered to have violated the rules if he throws one pitch in an inning above the prescribed limits. The minimum penalty for violating these rules is automatic ejection from the game for the pitcher and manager.



4. FACILITIES

- 4.1 All teams in membership of the BBF shall strive to provide the following minimum facilities and field equipment, where this is not possible BSUK should be notified in advance of the playing season: -
- a. A suitable playing field with no obstructions for at least 250 feet from home plate in an arc from the left field to the right field foul lines – where possible, the minimum distance for the outfield should be 300 feet.
 - b. A backstop, which may be portable, of a height of at least 12 feet. This backstop should ideally be located 60 feet behind home plate.
 - c. The field shall be correctly marked in accordance with the Rules of British Baseball. Where no mound has been constructed, a circle of the same dimensions shall be marked.
 - d. A fixed home plate, a pitcher's rubber and secure bases.
 - e. Toilets.
 - f. Adequate seating facilities for all players.
- 4.2 All BBF clubs shall endeavour to ensure that the following items of uniform and playing equipment are provided:
- a. Uniforms shall be identical within a team and shall comprise of a cap, shirt, pants, socks and undershirt. Undershirts shall be the same colour within the team. Where stirrup socks are worn, team members shall wear undersocks, all of which shall be the same colour within the team. All uniform shirts must carry numbers in accordance with baseball rule 1.11 A-1.
 - b. Catchers shall wear a mask with a throat protector, body protector, box, leg guards and helmet.
 - c. Players shall wear a double ear-flap approved batting helmet when at bat and when base running. To this end, a team shall own a minimum of 5 batting helmets.
 - d. The home team shall provide a minimum of 3 new baseballs for each game. These balls shall be of the type described in paragraph 1.09 of the Official Baseball Rules.
 - e. Aluminium bats are permitted.
 - f. The home team shall provide a first aid box.



5. THE NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE

- 5.1 The British Baseball Federation shall operate a National Baseball League.
Note : This section includes Byelaws specific to the National Baseball League which override those found in other sections.
- 5.2 Entry to the league shall be by invitation only and by satisfying the requirements of the league.
- 5.3 The Final Four Series Trophy will be held for one year and shall be returned to BSUK by the 1st August each year.
- 5.4 The National Champions and the Final Four Champions shall be eligible to compete in the succeeding year's CEB competitions. If they choose not to take up their places, these will be offered to the general membership – the BBF Board will determine selection criteria.
- 5.5 Each club in membership of the National Baseball League must play its home games on a baseball field fully enclosed with fencing.
- 5.6 The Federation shall endeavour to appoint two umpires and one scorer for each game using the appropriate channels of administration.
- 5.7 The home team is responsible for:
- a. Ground preparation.
 - b. Match presentation.
 - c. Umpire fees.
 - d. A minimum of six new game balls.
- 5.8 Double-headers will consist of two seven-inning games.
- 5.9 BSUK shall endorse an official bat list for the National Baseball League.



6. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 These Byelaws shall supersede any other Byelaws in existence and, along with the BBF Constitution shall be the rules for all members of the British Baseball Federation.
- 6.2 The playing rules of the British Baseball Federation shall be the British Baseball Rules as published by BSUK and approved by the BBF Executive Board.
- 6.3 In the interpretation of rules, Byelaws contained within this document shall supersede the rules of baseball. In order to avoid any confusion arising over the applicability of certain baseball rules, BSUK will annually issue and publish a Handbook for all members.
- 6.4 The Byelaws of the British Baseball Federation (BBF) are reviewed each year by the BBF Executive Board. Amendments may be tabled by member clubs to Head Office for consideration by the BBF Executive Board.
- 6.5 All International games and European competitions shall be run in accordance with the rules of the Confederation of European Baseball (CEB).
- 6.6 Any registered participant or person or persons representing a club or affiliated organisation should notify Head Office of an appearance on a television or radio broadcast in any connection with baseball.
- 6.7 No team or affiliated person may play, organise or sanction a game against a foreign team without the permission of the Executive.
- 6.8 The Executive shall have the sole and exclusive right to negotiate on behalf of each league or team television coverage of baseball games played in the United Kingdom by clubs or persons affiliated to or registered with the Federation. The right may be delegated to a league or team at the absolute discretion of the Federation, but no league or team shall have the right to grant to any other person or organisation whether or not they be affiliated to the Federation, the authority to negotiate television coverage.



- 6.9 The Federation reserves all rights to the video taping or filming of all games under its jurisdiction.
- 6.10 All benefits related to the sale of rights to broadcasting, (radio, television, videotaping or filming, cable TV), or any other media-related rights to any baseball game played under the jurisdiction of the British Baseball Federation, belong wholly and exclusively to the Federation.
- 6.11 All officers of the Federation shall send copies of all correspondence forwarded to international, European or national sporting bodies to the Head Office.
- 6.12 All communications, correspondence, reports, minutes, papers and documents relating to any application to the Executive or to the admission or advancement of members, or to the suspension or forfeiture of membership of any member or to any report or proceedings, shall be privileged and confidential and shall not be passed out of the custody of the proper officer or any other member of the Executive as recorded in the minutes.
- 6.13 A team shall participate in whichever league shall be designated by the Executive.
- 6.14 Any registered participant found to be playing, officiating or administering in any level of baseball, which is not approved by the Federation, may be liable to disciplinary measures from the Federation.
- 6.15 Farm Teams (e.g. second or third teams), with disregard to length of time, are to be regarded as associate members for the purposes of these Byelaws and the Articles of Association.



7. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 7.1 Any disciplinary action taken by the Federation against an affiliated team shall mean against all registered participants of the team at the time of the disciplinary hearing. Any penalties made against the affiliated team shall be taken to be against its registered participants as named.
- 7.2 All matters of protested games, Byelaw infringements or disciplinary action shall be undertaken by the BBF Board in accordance with the official procedures. These procedures must be drawn up taking into account the requirements of the BBF Constitution and should be annually published in written form (Handbook) a minimum of 28 days prior to the official start of the subsequent baseball season.
- 7.3 All current Disciplinary Procedures will be contained in the BBF Handbook.
- 7.4 Non-receipt of an individual's or team's report, where they are portrayed as representing the guilty party, will be deemed as accepting liability.



8. UMPIRES

- 8.1 Dress for ABUA-GB umpires shall be in accordance with CEB rules:
- a. Black shoes/boots
 - b. Black socks
 - c. Grey slacks
 - d. Light Blue or Navy Blue shirt
 - e. Black cap
 - f. Black jacket, as required
- 8.2 Appointment of umpires at games under the auspices of the Federation shall be made by the official umpires association for the BBF, The Amateur Baseball Umpire Association – Great Britain (ABUA-GB).
- 8.3 Where only one Federation umpire is present, the home team shall endeavour to provide a base umpire. Home teams shall provide a minimum of one umpire where no Federation umpire is available.
- 8.4 Umpires' expenses shall be set by the ABUA-GB.
- 8.5 Disciplinary reports shall be drawn up by the umpire and shall be forwarded to the BSUK Office (copied to the Umpires Commissioner) within 72 hours of the incident.
- 8.6 Technical officers appointed for games shall be given full co-operation by the appointed umpires.
- 8.7 Umpires' classifications shall be graded each year by the Umpire Commissioners.
- 8.8 All clubs shall register at least one umpire and shall forward the name of this individual to Head Office.
- 8.9 Each club shall nominate an individual to attend a BBF Umpiring Clinic each season.
- 8.10 Any Umpire failing to arrive at their scheduled game without good cause or reason may be subject to disciplinary action by the Federation.



9. SCORERS

- 9.1 All scoring of games shall be carried out per scoring rules published in "The Sporting News" rule book of the previous year.
- 9.2 All clubs shall register at least one scorer and shall forward the name of this individual to Head Office. Should an official scorer not be present for a game, it will be the responsibility of the home team to keep score.
- 9.3 All scorers shall sit in a position where they have a clear view of the diamond.
- 9.4 At the completion of each inning, the scorers shall compare score sheets to ensure agreement. Any discrepancy in the score shall be referred immediately to the umpire, whose decision is final.
- 9.5 There shall be three grades of scorers: "A", "AA" and "AAA".
- 9.6 Grade "A" shall consist of novice scorers.
- 9.7 Grade "AA" shall consist of fairly competent scorers.
- 9.8 Grade "AAA" shall be those of the highest competence.
- 9.9 Scorers grading shall be adjudged by a competent Federation-appointed individual.
- 9.10 Graded scorers will be recognised by badges and/or certificates, and shall be registered with the British Baseball Federation Scorers Association.
- 9.11 Scorers for international games will be appointed by CEB or by the BBF Board.
- 9.12 Scorers' expenses shall be set by the BBF Scorers Commissioners under the auspices of the BBF, subject to approval by the Federation Executive.
- 9.13 The official scorer for all games shall be registered with the British Baseball Federation and appointed by the Federation using appropriate channels of administration.
- 9.14 The procedure for submitting scores and required statistical information will be published annually by BSUK in the current Handbook.



10. TECHNICAL MATTERS

- 10.1 Where a Technical Commissioner is appointed to games under the auspices of the Federation, he will ensure adherence to the UK Sport procedure for effective anti-doping regulations (see Appendix I) and to resolve protests on the spot and ensure that the matter is dealt with at that point.
- 10.2 The technical commissioner is expected to be at the venue of the game at least 75 minutes prior to the start and should hold a meeting one hour before the start with the umpire and the official representative of each team.
- 10.3 During the game, he should be seated at the scorers' table in such a position as to be able to easily view the score sheet.
- 10.4 He should see to it that the event is conducted in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the regulations. To this end, he should encourage the full co-operation of the officials and the participating clubs.
- 10.5 Having completed his mandate, he shall make out a report on the form provided at the time of his appointment and send it direct to the Head Office.
- 10.6 He will be expected to convey to the Head Office, any claim or protest received from either of the teams taking part, adding any information that he may deem relevant. A team must inform the umpire and the commissioner if it intends to sign the score sheet under protest.
- 10.7 His report should contain reference to:
- a. General arrangements made by the home club.
 - b. Specific arrangements concerning hosting.
 - c. Details concerning spectators and programmes.
 - d. Playing and changing facilities including accommodation for the game officials.
 - e. Any post-game reception.
 - f. The general conduct of participating teams.
 - g. The general performance of the officials.
 - h. Equipment and technical aspects of the game.



- 10.8 As a nominated representative of the Federation, he will be expected to handle any dispute, excluding items covered under the rules of the game, and advise those involved of their responsibilities with regard to the regulations concerning the submission of reports etc.
- 10.9 He will receive travelling and subsistence expenses in accordance with the current rate of the Federation.



11. NATIONAL TEAMS

- 11.1 All national team players must:
- Meet CEB, IBA and Olympic nationality qualifications.
 - Be registered participants of the BBF.
- 11.2 Players selected for the national squad(s) shall not play during the 5 days prior to an international game.
- 11.3 No person shall be designated a coach to the national squad(s) unless he is a registered member of the BBF Coaching Association.
- 11.4 Where a team has three or more players selected for International duty, then they may apply to Head Office to have their games re-allocated to another date. Every effort will be made to ensure that International duty will not impact on regular season games, but re-scheduling cannot be guaranteed, and the decision of Head Office will be final.



12. SPONSORSHIP

- 12.1 The British Baseball Federation encourages clubs to receive sponsorship from commercial enterprises and other companies, individuals or organisations.
- 12.2 Any party whose involvement with the Federation is deemed to be contrary to the interests of baseball will not be granted sponsorship.
- 12.3 Sponsorship of teams in membership shall be the responsibility of the teams themselves. Copies of sponsorship details shall be deposited with Head Office within one month of their agreement.
- 12.4 The following are considered to be sponsored -
- a. A club or team which includes in its name or slogan (or a derivative of any of these) the name or slogan of a sponsor for material or financial consideration.
 - b. A club or team which displays the name, brand name, slogan or symbol of a sponsor on its playing uniforms for financial or material consideration.
 - c. Any other club or team so deemed by the Federation.
- 12.5 A sponsored club or team may display a sponsor's name and/or logo on its uniforms. Such advertising shall not be detrimental to the sport of baseball and shall not exceed maximum letter height (max. 16 x 40 cm).
- 12.6 A sponsored team may not refuse to play a game on the grounds that the event or its opponents are sponsored by a similar or rival organisation or for any other reason related to the commercial interests of the sponsor.
- 12.7 The Federation will be pleased to offer advice regarding negotiation but cannot be a signatory to any contract between a sponsor and a club.
- 12.8 The Federation reserves the right to temporarily or permanently terminate the authorisation of sponsorship in the event of an alternative contract or agreement (e.g., television) making this necessary or for any other reason.



- 12.9 In the event of any game covered by television, a club undertakes not to wear any name, brand name or slogan or other material on the playing uniforms that is not approved by the television company concerned.
- 12.10 The decision of BSUK is final on all above matters relating to sponsorship.



APPENDIX I. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES

(Adopted from the guide-lines of the Sports Council. The following rules and procedures are deemed to be effective in controlling doping in baseball played under the auspices of the British Baseball Federation.)

- I. The following are the rules regarding the control of doping within the Federation.
 - a. Doping is strictly forbidden. It is defined as "the use by or distribution to registered participants of substances defined as being in contravention of these rules".
 - b. Any registered participant must, if requested by an official designated by the governing body for the purpose of drug control, submit to a doping control test. Failure to do so will be taken as if a positive result had been obtained and dealt with accordingly.
 - c. The identification of a forbidden substance, and/or one of its metabolites, or the presence of specified amounts of endogenous substances, subject to quantitative analysis, in a body fluid will constitute an offence and the offender may be penalised.
N.B. For these regulations caffeine will be dealt with as though it were an endogenous substance.
 - d. Any person assisting or inciting others in the contravention of doping regulations shall be considered as having committed an offence against the governing body rules, and may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - e. A list of endogenous substances will be made available to the membership as issued by the International Olympic Committee.
2. It is essential that players, coaches and administrators are aware of and understand the rules with regard to doping control. To this end, players should be notified of their responsibility to check any medication they propose taking and the procedure for the checking of medications.
3. It must be made clear to players that drugs prescribed by a doctor, even for common ailments, may contain banned substances. The same applies to some drugs purchased over-the-counter at pharmacies. It is the responsibility of the player to check whether **anything** he is taking contains a banned substance. It should be pointed out that not all GPs will be aware of the latest banned substances or products containing them.



The player, if in doubt, should seek confirmation, in writing, from the governing body whether the substance or product is on the permitted check list. If it is not, the governing body should then contact the Sports Council quoting simply the name of the substance or product.

4. The procedure for random testing and collection of samples by the Federation is set out by the IBA.
 - a. The selection of an event must be done confidentially to ensure that collection of samples is made with **no advance notice** to players or anyone in a position to forewarn players. The optimum number of events at which testing should take place will depend, in part, on the size of the training and competitive programme. Those selected should be spread throughout the year.
 - b. In Olympic sport, out of competition testing will be focussed on elite athletes and those regularly performing in international competition.
 - c. At events, a random selection will be made by drawing out of a hat the players' numbers. The selection should be done on the day, as little in advance of the event as possible. The names of those selected should be placed in a sealed envelope until it is time to notify those included.
5. When requested by the Federation, the procedures described above will be followed exactly by an independent sampling team. All BBF events are open to testing (in particular international / elite competition). The selection of events and subsequently of individuals will be done entirely independently of the Federation. The Federation will be responsible for ensuring that responsible officials are appointed to act as liaison/stewards for the sampling team.
6. As soon as possible after their collection, samples will be forwarded to an International Olympic Centre accredited laboratory for analysis. If delivery is not possible immediately, the samples should be stored in a refrigerator, preferably in a freezer compartment. Analysis is carried out in accordance with International Olympic Committee protocols. The standard turnaround for results is 28 days. Specific requests for a speedier notification may be made. Results are notified direct to the Federation and in confidence to the Chairman of the Drug Abuse Advisory Group.
7. Positive testing of any registered participant of the Federation for drugs or doping prohibited by the International Olympic Committee, following the necessary disciplinary and appeals procedure, will bring about the following results :



- a. All games in which the player participated will be forfeited.
 - b. On first offence, the player will be given a two year suspension from all baseball activity.
 - c. If a player's tests are positive for a second time, following the two year suspension, he will then receive a life-ban from all baseball activity. Where the Centre issues a negative report, no action will be taken beyond informing the player and, if appropriate, the team manager or doctor. In cases where the Centre reports a finding, the Federation must act quickly. To ensure clarity and fairness, the following standard practice for dealing with reported findings is deemed essential.
 - I. The player will be placed under immediate suspension pending an investigation. The player is to be notified at once.
 - II. The player and / or his nominee must be offered the opportunity to attend when the reserve sample is tested, which shall normally be within seven days of notification.
 - III. An investigation will be initiated by the Federation into the circumstances, to which the alleged offender shall be invited. Advice and assistance in interpreting the result will be available from experts from the laboratory and from the Anti-Doping department of UK Sport.
 - IV. The player must be notified of an adverse decision and any requisite statement made.
 - V. The player has the right of appeal against an adverse decision. At this stage, the Federation will call upon the independent advice of UK Sport.
8. Once the final decision has been reached and the player notified, the result and action will be published by the Federation to its membership. The Sports Council may publish in their annual report summaries of the testing, the results both positive and negative and the action taken.