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Senior Rules - 2023 / 2024

Version 2

GENERAL PLAYING RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL SENIOR LEAGUES

1. No late starts or postponing of fixtures are allowed. In case of special circumstances CTBF Exco will pre-approve in writing.

2. All results are to be submitted by the HOME team of the fixture on the day of final result

3. FOREIGNERS:

Only 2 foreign players may take the field at the same time. A D/H is classified as taking the field. There is no limit to the number of foreign players allowed on the line-up card.

No foreign battery allowed on the field together (pitcher to catcher) at the same time.

To play in the CTBF leagues - both foreign and local players must comply with CTBF constitutional requirements regarding arrivals and clearances etc. (Note: All players must be **resident** locally for 7 days before being allowed to play in a CTBF league fixture)

Foreign players (A player not in possession of a SA passport) and players living & or playing outside the CTBF jurisdiction, wanting to play in any CTBF fixture must be registered, & resident in the CTBF jurisdiction before the 15th of January 2024 (Proof can be requested).

4. Only players born in 2008 or before are allowed to play in any CTBF senior fixture.

Transgression penalty for rule no.4 above:

1ST OFFENCE BY ANY CLUB PLAYER/S: Fixture forfeited to non-transgressing opponents.

ANY FURTHER OFFENCES BY ANY SAME CLUB'S PLAYER/S: Fixture is forfeited.

Transgressing club/coach/player to appear before the CTBF Exco for possible disciplinary action to be taken.

NOTE 1: All senior fixtures (Except masters) will start a fixture, play the fixture & end the fixture with 9 official players on the field!!

5. Players, coaches, managers, spectators or others etc. that are ejected from a game are to move a suitable distance away from the playing area & may not interact any further with the game. The distance the ejected person must move to will be determined by the umpire. If the ejected person does not comply, then the umpire is to stop the game till the person is removed. The umpire's decision is final.

6. Any player who has pitched in an earlier CTBF league game – junior or senior (including Masters), is not allowed to pitch in any other game on the same day (irrespective of his pitch count).

Any player/s - senior or junior - playing in any second CTBF senior league game on the same day, are only allowed to enter into their 2nd senior game after three (3) completed innings.

Any junior players playing in any CTBF senior league game on the same day as having participated in a junior game, is allowed to enter a senior game at the start of the game. The player is still subject to General Rule 6 above and to Junior pitching restrictions.

7. Wooden bats will be compulsory in ML, 2ND L & 3RD L. Metal and wooden bats are allowed in the other leagues.

8. The home team to make fields available to the visiting team prior to the game starting. The visiting team to be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes preparation on the field but not to extend past the official starting time. (Where possible)

9. It is the responsibility of the protesting coach to ensure that a protest is recorded on both score sheets and that these sheets are signed by the plate umpire before the next pitch is thrown. Failure to do so will make the Protest null and void. A protest will be considered by CTBF only if the reason for the protest is documented & the relevant queried rule referenced on the score sheet.

10. Default process for any Senior Teams:

1st default: Official Warning.

2nd default: The offending club team will lose their points for that fixture.

3rd default: The offending club team will be suspended and required to appear in front of the CTBF Exco.

11. UMPIRES:

2 or more official CTBF umpires: no club umpires needed.

1 official CTBF umpire: home team supplies base umpire.

No official CTBF umpires: home team supplies chief umpire; away team supplies base umpire

Fees Structure for Appointed CTBF Umpires

Chief Umpire: R250

Base Umpire: R200

Umpires will be focusing on speeding up the game by referring to the guidelines as set out by WBSC. (Official Document Clock Guidelines)

12. Line Ups are to be completed IN FULL and submitted to scorers 15 minutes before game commences.

Results to be recorded in the yellow copy and signed off by the chief umpire for both teams.

13. SCORERS:

ML and 2nd L fixtures to be scored by registered scorers, and balanced scoresheets to be submitted by Monday morning 09h00 post fixture.

14.PITCHING:

Pitch counts:

Local pitchers:

100 pitches total for the weekend from the start till the end of the season. (Club coaches to monitor their pitchers as they build up to the maximum pitch count allowed)

Foreign pitchers:

As per specifics on pitch counts under relevant league rules.

A local pitcher may go over the limit to complete the batter at the plate, that he would have started while still under the pitch count limit.

(Club coaches are also required to manage their individual pitchers & the number of pitches thrown, especially as regards possible double header weekends)

Pitch Count Penalties:

Any pitcher who exceeds the allowed pitch count is considered an ineligible player and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if they violate these rules. The Club will forfeit any points won in that game and the player and head coach of the team will be subject to disciplinary action for contravening the competition rules.

The weekend pitch count is also applicable for weekends that involve suspended games.

When a suspended game is resumed – the pitchers may not exceed their pitch count for the weekend OR their game pitch count if they pitched in the game, which then became a suspended game.

This is to prevent a pitcher from exceeding his single game pitch count versus an opponent in 1 game.

NOTE 1: Pitch counts to be controlled by a responsible person from each team, agreeing on the totals pitched at the end of each half innings and recorded by the scorers on the score sheets. Every pitch thrown to a batter must be counted.

NOTE 2: Where an 18U pitcher pitches in a senior league, the U18 pitch count rules are to be applied.

15.The CTBF Exco decision is final on the interpretation of these Senior Rule(s).

MAJOR LEAGUE (ML)

1. Starting times Saturday day games: 15h45 (15h30 for Oct)
Sunday games : 13h30 (if required)

2. Game duration: 9 innings to be played and continued to a result. Any extra innings to be played will start with runners on 1st & 2nd base. These runners will be the previous 2 batters in the lineup, immediately in front of the batter that will be the first batter up in the new inning.

3. **Mercy rules do apply:** if a team is losing by 15 runs or more after batting in at least 5 innings, the game is ended at that point. If a team is losing by 10 runs or more after having batted in at least 7 innings, the game is ended at that point.

4. A minimum of 5 innings have to be played to constitute a legal game (a game can be legal after 4 & half innings via the mercy rule). If 5 innings or more have been completed the game cannot continue due to weather – rain or bad light, but there is a team leading – as per the standard baseball rules, it becomes a legal game and the result stands. If 5 innings have not been completed the game is to be replayed (as a new game) the next available Sunday (excluding the next day).

a) If a game is tied and 5 innings have been completed, but due to weather (rain or bad light) & the game cannot continue, the game is suspended & continues from that point on the next available Sunday (excluding the next day).

b) If a game is suspended & is to continue on the following/next available Sunday, only players that were in the line-up card for that suspended game, can play when the suspended game is continued. Play is to resume from the point at which it was suspended. The count on the batter, the position of the runner/s etc. applies.

5. Foreign pitchers limited to 5 innings / 15 outs per game combined

2ND LEAGUE & 3RD LEAGUE

1. Starting times: 2ND L : 13h00 if there is a Club's 2nd team playing in the fixture.
15h45 If the fixture is between 2 Clubs first teams.

3RD L : 13h00/15h45 as scheduled
2. Game duration: 2ND L : 7 innings or 2 hours 30 minutes
last frame time limit is 2 hours 20 minutes (LFTL)

NOTE:

3RD L : 7 innings or 2 hours
last frame time limit is 1 hr 50 mins (LFTL)

As these games are time limit, the following rules apply:

- a) If a game is still tied after LFTL, 1 extra innings to be completed and then the result stands.
This extra innings will start with runners on 1st & 2nd base. These runners will be the previous batters in the lineup, immediately in front of the batter that will be the first batter up in the new inning.
 - b) Irrespective of innings played – if time is up LFTL & there is result – the result stands.
 - c) Mercy rules do apply: If a team is losing by 10 runs or more after having batted in at least 5 innings, the game is ended at that point.
 - d) Weather (rain) curtailed game that has completed 4 innings & a team is leading – that will be the result if no further play can take place. If the game is tied or 4 innings have not been completed with a result – NO replay – 1 point each.
3. Foreign pitchers limited to 3 innings / 9 outs per game combined.

MASTERS LEAGUE (MaL)

1. As scheduled per CTBF fixtures. Starting time: 13h15. (Or as communicated)
2. Game duration: 7 innings or 2 hours - no new innings after 1 hour 50 minutes

NOTE: As these games are time limit / 7 innings games, the following rules apply:

- a) If game is still tied after 1 hour 50 mins, 1 extra innings to be played & this extra innings will start with runners on 1st & 2nd base. These base runners will be the previous batters in the lineup, immediately in front of the batter that will be the first batter up in the new inning.
- b) Irrespective of completed innings played – if time is up (1 hr 50 minutes) & there is result – result stands.
- c) 10 run difference after 5 innings is a mercy rule.
- d) Weather (rain) curtailed game that has completed 4 innings & a team is leading – that will be the result if no further play can take place! If the game is tied or 4 innings have not been completed with a result – NO replay – 1 point each.
- e) May start the game with 8 players but must finish with 9 players! The 9th player to be in the game no later than the start of the 3rd inning! The late player has to be placed first in the batting line-up! If 9 players not on the field at the start of the 3rd innings – the defaulting club loses the fixture.

3. NO PLAYERS UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE ARE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THIS LEAGUE. ONLY 2 PLAYERS BETWEEN 30 & 35 YEARS OF AGE ARE PERMITTED TO BE ON THE FIELD PER TEAM (THIS INCLUDES THE DH). PLAYERS BETWEEN 30 & 35 YEARS OF AGE TO ONLY PLAY AN OUTFIELD POSITION.