

## Baseball New Zealand Policy

# Player Transfer & Loan Player Policy

**Includes: Intra-Regional & Inter-Regional Player Movements, Club Transfers and Loan Players.**

Baseball New Zealand (Baseball NZ) is responsible for the governance, management and development of baseball throughout New Zealand (NZ) including supporting regional baseball entities and clubs in growing the game of baseball at the grassroots level. Baseball NZ is also responsible for ensuring that player safety and wellbeing are foremost, always considered and supported in the growth and development of the game.

### Policy Introduction:

This Policy is underpinned by Baseball NZ's strategic pillar of **Development & Participation**. As part of this strategic priority, Baseball NZ recognises that *"to deliver sustainable growth in membership numbers, clubs, regional associations and Baseball NZ need to work together to attract retain and develop our members"*.

Baseball NZ recognises that players may seek opportunities to play organised baseball outside of their club or their region of residence for various reasons. Baseball NZ provides the regulations within this policy for baseball in New Zealand concerning the status of players undertaking club transfers and loan player status, both intra-regionally and inter-regionally.

The 2024/ 2025 Baseball season will be a transition season for the implementation of this policy. All applications and results apply for the immediate season only, players must reapply each baseball season.

### Purpose:

This National policy outlines national regulations for our members, our affiliated clubs and regional associations to adhere to in organised baseball, regarding:

- Player Transfers (intra-regionally and inter-regionally)
- Loan Players (intra-regionally and inter-regionally)
- Dispensation requests related to player transfers and loan player regulations and policy.

### Objectives:

This policy and the regulations within are set out with the following objectives:

- To ensure player well-being and safety and that all players, specifically minors (junior and youth players) are adequately protected in the game of baseball in NZ.
- Develop and protect the game of baseball in New Zealand at all levels and supporting the ongoing development of baseball in all regions.
- Ensure that baseball in NZ is regulated and coordinated in a fair, equitable and consistent manner across NZ, Baseball NZ's Regional Associations and affiliated Clubs.

- Balance the needs of the individuals, the Clubs, and the Regions, recognising that there may be impact for Clubs and regions with smaller numbers. Baseball NZ will continue to support our regional entities to increase participation and provide playing opportunities for all ages and stages locally, while balancing the needs of individuals who seek wider development opportunities.

## Policy & Regulations:

### 1.0 Scope

This policy provides binding regulations for baseball in New Zealand, inclusive of all members, affiliated baseball clubs and regional member associations and outlines a member's eligibility to participate within organised baseball and/or any transfer or loan status a player may undertake.

### 2.0 Definitions

For the purpose of this Player Transfer and Loan Player Policy and the regulations set out in this policy, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

- 2.1 Player** - Any baseball Player registered as such with a Club
- 2.2 Transfer** - Permanent movement of a player from one club to another club, either intra-regionally or inter-regionally.
- 2.3 Loan Player** - A registered player with one club, whom plays within or for another club, either intra-regionally or inter-regionally.
- 2.4 Stand Down Period** - A period of time a player must undertake before being able to represent another club, regional association, charter or nation.
- 2.5 Club** - An Affiliated Member club of Baseball New Zealand (annual affiliation renewal required).
- 2.6 Regional Association** - Regional Baseball Association formerly recognized, subordinate member to Baseball NZ.
- 2.7 Former Regional Association** - The Regional Association to which the Former Club of a player is affiliated.
- 2.8 New Regional Association** - The Regional Association to which the New Club of a player is affiliated.
- 2.9 Former Club** - The Club that the Player is leaving or transferring from.
- 2.10 New Club** - The Club that the Player is joining or transferring to.
- 2.11 Loan Club** - The Club the Player is being loaned to.
- 2.12 National Registration System** - Baseball NZ's national registration system for all member and participant registrations of players, coaches, officials and volunteers.

- 2.13 Competition** - Any competition, league or tournament, organised and administered by Baseball NZ or a Regional Association or Club.
- 2.14 League** - A competition that occurs on a regular basis over a period of time known as a season.
- 2.15 Official Game** - A baseball game played, where all players and coaches from each team are registered baseball members of affiliated baseball clubs, a level 0 scorekeeper and a certified community umpire or above, played within the structure and age grades of Baseball NZ's national participation framework for organised baseball, such as regional leagues, tournaments, friendly games and the Baseball NZ recognized rules of the game.
- 2.16 Organised Baseball** - refers to any official baseball game, that is coordinated as part of a league, competition, tournament or of a friendly nature, that includes registered participants and officials and played under official rules of the game.
- 2.17 Minor:** A Player whose chronological age has not yet reached 18 years. Or is 17 years and younger, as of their date of birth.
- 2.18 Privacy Policy:** Means Baseball NZ's Privacy Policy.
- 2.19 Registration Period:** a defined pre-seasonal period outlined by Baseball NZ as the formal time for players, officials and participants to register their intentions to play baseball for the season ahead.
- 2.20 Regulations:** Means these Regulations as set out in this policy.
- 2.21 Season** - Baseball season in NZ is defined as 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive) or other dates as Baseball NZ notifies as 'the season' at their discretion.

### 3.0 Application

This policy and regulations apply to:

- Baseball's Regional Associations, Clubs, Players, Coaches and Officials.
- All forms of organised baseball under Baseball NZ's membership and affiliation structure and jurisdiction.
- A Member even after their registration or involvement has ended, if that Member breached these Regulations while a current Member
- Form part of the Baseball NZ's Affiliation Acceptance, to which all Affiliated Clubs and Member Associations are bound

## 4.0 Obligations

As a member of WBSC, Baseball NZ is responsible for the organisation, promotion, management and development of baseball throughout New Zealand.

In line with this responsibility, Baseball NZ must:

- Comply with these Regulations and ensure that any Competition regulations are consistent with these Regulations
- Ensure compliance of these Regulations by Regional Associations, Clubs, Players and all Members
- Investigate any complaint about a breach of these Regulations by or against a party within its jurisdiction;
- Impose disciplinary sanctions against a party within its jurisdiction found to have breached these Regulations; and
- Provide appropriate education and training to those who manage and implement these Regulations.

### 4.1 Regional Association Jurisdiction and Mandate

As a member association of Baseball NZ, each Regional Association, is responsible for the organisation, promotion and delivery of baseball throughout its own region. Accordingly, each Regional Association has jurisdiction to stage competitions, leagues and game play within their own boundaries or charters.

In alignment with this policy, a Regional Association must:

- Have competition regulations to govern the administration and management of all competitions under its control, that are aligned to all policies and regulations as laid out by Baseball NZ.
- Comply with this policy and regulations and ensure that any regional regulations established in association to Regional Association competitions or leagues, tournaments are consistent with this policy and its regulations.
- Ensure alignment and compliance with this policy and its regulations by affiliated clubs, officials and players within its jurisdiction

## 5.0 Registrations

All persons, regardless of age or role, participating in baseball in any form in NZ must be registered within the electronic, online registration system provided by Baseball NZ.

All baseball clubs and regional baseball associations are obligated to ensure all players, coaches, officials and volunteers are registered before they participate in any organised baseball or official game.

### 5.1 Non-Registrations

Any player not registered within the Baseball NZ National Registration online system is ineligible to play organised and official baseball games, competitions or programs. If a

non-registered player appears or plays for a team in any organised or official game of baseball shall be considered to have been played illegitimately. Therefore, this official game, would no longer hold this status and would become an unofficial game and the team, club, charter or association that included this ineligible player forfeits the game, giving the opposition team an automatic win.

Sanctions may also be imposed on the Player and/or the Club or Association who endorsed this action. Baseball NZ holds the rights to impose any such sanctions.

## **6.0 Wellbeing & Safety of Minors:**

For the safety and wellbeing of our baseball players. Those players that are 16 years of age or younger are **not** able to gain and will not be approved for inter-regional Loan Player status.

## **7.0 Club Transfers & Loan Players:**

Within baseball in NZ, a baseball player cannot transfer clubs or be loaned to another club without undertaking the correct formalised process as outlined in this policy.

### **7.1 Player or Club Transfers:**

If a player no longer wishes to play for their current Club, they (or their parent/guardian) may allow their registration to lapse at the end of the season and may choose to register with another club for the next season.

Before being able to play any organised and/or official baseball games for their new club, the player must complete the formal 'Player Transfer Process' to undertake an official transfer of clubs.

Player transfer window 1<sup>st</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> September annually

#### **7.1.1 In-Season Player or Club Transfer:**

If a player (or their parent/guardian) wishes to change clubs (transfer) during a baseball season, the player must either:

- Be moving their residential address out of their current clubs' regional boundaries,
- Have extenuating circumstances as to why they cannot complete the current baseball season with their current club.

If a player fits the above situations provided in 7.1, that player must complete a 'Request to Transfer' form with Baseball NZ. Baseball NZ will consider this request to transfer based on the situation and evidence provided for extenuating circumstances and either approve or decline the in-season club transfer.

#### **7.1.2 Approval of In-Season Club Transfer Process:**

If an in-season transfer is approved by Baseball NZ, the following steps will be required:

- Baseball NZ will notify the player, or the players parent/guardian if 17 years or younger, their in-season transfer has been approved, within 10 working days of receiving the application.

- Baseball NZ will notify the Regional Baseball Association and the 'former club' that an in-season player transfer has been granted and to what grounds the transfer was granted upon.
- The player (parent or guardian) will be required to gain signed confirmation from their former club that they are financial, with no outstanding obligations owed, to provide release from their former club.
- The players new club will need to confirm acceptance of the player in-season.

#### **7.1.3 Decline of In-Season Transfer Process:**

If an in-season transfer is declined the following steps will take place:

- Baseball NZ will notify the player (or parent/guardian for those 17 years and under) of their application for in-season transfer has been declined and the grounds the transfer was declined during the season, within 10 working days of receiving the application.
- Player continues to play for their current registered club and transfers post season.

#### **7.1.4 Club or Player Release**

No Club may unreasonably withhold a players release, in the form of a signed confirmation of a player's 'good standing' to provide release from their club.

All clubs will be required to respond to a player's signed confirmation of release within ten working days. If no response is received and/or a club is deemed to be unfairly withholding then Baseball NZ will continue proceedings with the player or parent/guardian.

#### **7.1.5 Withholding A Player's Release**

A Club may withhold players release in the form of a signed confirmation of 'good standing' if a player:

- Has unpaid registration fees, levies or fines owed to the club.
- Has not returned all borrowed uniform items
- Has not returned all borrowed equipment items

The Club can only withhold until such times as all outstanding monies, apparel or equipment owed is paid or returned in full.

### **7.2 International Player Transfers:**

This policy does not serve for international player transfers. The international transfer of any Player to or from New Zealand will be dealt with in accordance with the international governing rules as set out by WBSC.

### 7.3 Loan Players:

If a player registered with their local baseball club, within their region of residence, does not have an appropriate baseball program, age-grade or team for them to play baseball for the season. The player (or parent/guardian for 17 years and under) may choose to apply to Baseball NZ to undertake a 'Loan Player' status, to play for another club either intra-regionally or inter-regionally for the season, to continue to play baseball.

#### 7.3.1 Intra-Regional Loan Player:

If a player wishes to apply to Baseball NZ for an intra-regional 'Loan Player' status for a season, the player must:

- Be a registered member with a baseball club in their region of residence
- Have no appropriate baseball program or team, at their local club of registration that season.
- Have discussed the options with their local club of registration and sort their support to undertake a Loan Player Status for a season.
- Have extenuating circumstances as to why they cannot play their baseball in their region of residence.

#### 7.3.2 Inter-Regional Loan Player:

If a player (or parent/guardian) wishes to apply to Baseball NZ for inter-regional 'Loan Player' status for a season, the player (parent/guardian) must:

- Be a registered member of a baseball club in their region of residence
- Be 17 years of age or older
- Have no appropriate baseball program or team, at their local club of registration that season.
- Have no appropriate baseball program, team, league or competition in their region of residence that season.
- Have extenuating, unique or exceptional circumstances as to why they cannot play their baseball in a club within their region of residence.

### 7.4 Loan Player Application:

If a player fits the above criteria provided in 7.3.1 and/or 7.3.2, then a Loan Player Application can be completed and submitted to Baseball NZ. Baseball NZ will consider this request to provide 'Loan Player' status, based upon the individual situation, supporting evidence provided or any extenuating. Unique or exceptional circumstances evidenced and either approve or decline the Loan Player status.

- 7.4.1 A player seeking inter-regional Loan Player status must be registered electronically in the national registration system, with a club, within their region of residence, to seek Loan Player status.

- 7.4.2 Any 'Loan Player' status that is approved must have the support of the club and regional association of residence.
- 7.4.3 'Loan Player' status is temporary in nature and is granted for one baseball season only. Players must reapply for any future baseball seasons.
- 7.4.4 No Baseball Club throughout NZ can be granted any more than two (2) inter-regional Loan Players, per season.
- 7.4.5 Any Club welcoming Loan Players must ensure that all local players, who reside within that local area or region, are provided for in the first instance.
- 7.4.6 Approved Loan Players are only approved for the regular season. Loan Players remain eligible to play for their local club of registration and region of residence or any regional composite team, for National Tournaments and competitions. If a Player wishes to seek otherwise a dispensation is required through the appropriate dispensation process for that tournament, competition or event.
- 7.4.7 All Loan Player applications (intra-regional and inter-regional) must be received within the notified timeframes annually.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August - Loan Player Application window, annually.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> September - Loan Player applicants informed of outcome of application
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September - Player Dispensation window
  - 26<sup>th</sup> September - Dispensation applicants informed of application outcomes

## 8.0 **Dispensations:**

In special circumstances where players have not meet the standard eligibility criteria, as set out in this policy, for either a transfer (in-season or out-of-season) or to gain intra-regional or inter-regional Loan Player status following a declined 'loan player application', Baseball New Zealand allows for a 'dispensation' to be requested. A dispensation request is a formal request for consideration or reconsideration for undertaking outside the normal policies, process, practices or regulations for exceptional or extenuating circumstances. These requests provide flexibility for players who may have unique, exceptional or extenuating circumstances that could be valuable in reconsidering any Player Transfer or Loan Player approval.

Players (or parents/guardians), who have been declined Loan Player status may apply for a dispensation under the following conditions:

- Lack of Opportunities - The player's home club or regional of residence does not offer adequate competitions, leagues or teams in an appropriate age grade.
- Personal, Family or Educational Reasons - The player has personal, family, or educational commitments that make participation in their region of residence impractical.
- Development Opportunities - The player is 16 years of age or older and seeking advanced development or specialised coaching that is not available in their region of residence.



### 8.1 Dispensation Application:

Any dispensation being sought must:

- Be undertaken by the player and the player's legal guardian where a player is under 18 years of age.
- Be submitted through the formal process as outlined by Baseball NZ
- Be submitted using the Baseball NZ Dispensation Form
- Be submitted within the dispensation window 5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September annually

### 8.2 Dispensation Application Process:

Players seeking dispensation must submit a formal application that includes:

- A Baseball NZ Dispensation Application Form
- A detailed explanation of the rationale, exceptional, unique or extenuating circumstances that should be considered or reconsideration for this dispensation.
- Any supporting documents (e.g. letters from coaches, school support, family circumstances), that support the application.
- Is submitted only within the dispensation window 5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September annually.

### 8.3 Review and Decision:

Baseball New Zealand will review all dispensation applications in isolation. Baseball NZ may seek input from the Regional Baseball Association or Club as necessary.

The final decision will consider the player's best interests, the integrity of the competition, league and the game nationally, consistency and fairness to all teams and players, and the best outcome for the sport of baseball.

Dispensation outcomes will be provided by Baseball NZ only by 26<sup>th</sup> September (annually), in writing.

### 9.0 Enforcement:

This national policy and regulations are approved by Baseball New Zealand's Board of Directors.

The policy and regulations will apply to all baseball members; affiliated clubs, member associations, players and coaches.

This policy will come into enforcement as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

### 10.0 Forms & Documents

[National Player Transfer & Loan Player Process & Steps](#)  
[National Player Transfer & Loan Player Application Form](#)  
[National Player, Club Transfer Form](#)  
[National Player Transfer & Loan Player FAQs](#)