

## Getting the most out of your time limited games.

*This season, despite nothing changing in the rules, there has been more confusion around when a game finishes and the result than any other season in memory.*

## Some guidelines for Club Umpires and Scorers.

- Games that are time limited should run to time and be completed innings with the following exceptions.
  - When the game precedes another game, the umpire may call the game and not start a new innings if there is no reasonable expectation that the innings can be completed, or a result achieved without affecting the start time of the next game.
  - If the home team is ahead, and at bat when time is reached, we have a result, and the game can be called. (The score stands as it is. The home team does NOT get extra time to score more runs and boost their percentage)
  - If the home team is ahead at the start of a bottom of an innings, and there is time remaining the home team may bat until time, the game is then called and the score at the time stands.
  - If the home team is behind when time is reached by more runs than achievable due to a run limit (i.e.: 5,7 or 9 runs depending on the grade) then the game can be called. The score at the time will stand.
- If you start an innings, you must complete it OR have a result.
  - Avoid ending a game in the top half of an innings! This causes problems!
- Scores NEVER revert to a previous innings.
  - There may be outlying cases, where a regulation game has been achieved, that Baseball SA may revert a score to avoid a suspended game, but this is rare.
- The allocated time for a game commences at the scheduled start time. This “scheduled” start time is decided by the umpire in some cases when a preceding game goes overtime.
  - Example: Division 3 game finishes with only 10 minutes before the programmed time for Division 2. The umpire for the Division 2 game will then decide the new start time for that game and the 120 minutes starts from that time. (Not from the actual first pitch)
  - The umpire is the sole judge of the time. Not the coaches and not the scorer.

Regards,

Rowena (with a bit of help from Neil)



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