



BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION GUIDE

2027 Season — v2
British Baseball Federation

Document control

Status	Working draft for Board review (v2.4)
Effective from	2027 season
Replaces	BBF Individual Player Registration Guide (21 December 2023)
Key changes	Single-tier club registration (replaces the two-tier model); combined benefits list; volunteers register but pay no fee; three trial sessions for new players only (coaches, managers, umpires and volunteers must register by the third occasion); aligned to the new governance pack (Code of Conduct, Integrity, Complaints and Grievance Framework, Terms of Membership).
Owner	BBF Secretary

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1. Why we register, why there are fees, and what the fees fund

1.1 Safeguarding and governance — the foundation

The British Baseball Federation (BBF) and BSUK work together to fortify the safety and growth of British baseball. The 'MET' status awarded by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) reflects the BBF's commitment to creating a secure and nurturing environment for everyone in the British baseball community. Safeguarding means protecting children and adults to provide safe and effective care.

Robust registration data is the foundation of safeguarding. BSUK has identified that historically only a minority of those who needed DBS checks and safeguarding courses had completed them. Recent reports in other sports — including the Whyte Report on British Gymnastics and the Sheldon Report on The Football Association — illustrate the severe consequences of lax safeguarding compliance. Knowing who participates, in what role, at what age, and at which clubs is the precondition for keeping people safe.

1.2 Our Future — growth requires investment

The BBF's 10-year plan, Our Future, sets out our ambition to grow baseball and to reach new heights of popularity and competitiveness in the UK sports landscape. Delivering Our Future requires sustained investment in youth development, coaching, facilities and outreach. Historically the BBF's finances have been sufficient to keep the lights on but limited in surplus available for development. Individual Participant Registration is one of the routes by which the BBF generates and channels the investment needed for growth.

1.3 Why there are fees

Registration fees are how the BBF and the wider baseball community funds the things that make British baseball safer, better-run and able to grow. Without those fees the sport relies entirely on grants and one-off support, neither of which is sustainable.

1.4 What the fees fund

Registration fees are used, primarily, for the following — with the precise mix in any year reviewed by the Board and reported in the annual accounts:

- Field rental and facility costs at BBF events and competitions, including the National Baseball and Softball Complex at Farnham Park;
- Supporting new clubs through reduced first-year registration fees and start-up support, to lower the barrier to forming new clubs and to grow participation;
- Player development — youth programmes, coaching pathways, regional clinics, talent identification and progression to GB National Teams;
- Insurance — BBF Club Insurance and personal accident cover for registered participants;
- Safeguarding services through BSUK — DBS checks, safeguarding training and ongoing safeguarding support;
- Coaching and officials' development — courses, qualifications and continuing education for coaches, managers, umpires and scorers;
- The GB National Teams Programme;
- Communications, stats and league management — including stats.britishbaseball.org.uk, SPORT:80 and the BBF and league management platforms;
- WBSC and WBSC Europe membership and recognition;
- Administration of the registration scheme itself — a small portion of the total.

2. The role of Individual Participant Registration

Together with BSUK, the BBF uses SPORT:80 as its registration and membership management system. Individual Participant Registration (IPR) is the foundation of:

- Safeguarding accountability — knowing who participates, in what role, at what age, and at which clubs;
- Operational efficiency — streamlined registration, fee collection and rostering through SPORT:80;
- Participation revenue — supporting investments under Our Future;
- Sponsorship attractiveness — an accurate, well-managed membership base appeals to partners;
- Better communications — direct routes from the BBF and BSUK to participants on courses, competitions, qualifications and events.

Registration also creates the contractual relationship described in the BBF Terms of Membership. In particular, Section 5 of the Terms of Membership sets out the annual term, auto-renewal mechanism, payment and approval process. By registering through SPORT:80 the participant agrees to the Terms of Membership and is bound by the Code of Conduct, the Integrity, Complaints and Grievance Framework, and the BBF's other governance documents in force from time to time.

3. The Registration Process

3.1 Two stages: Club Registration and Individual Participant Registration

Each year the BBF operates a two-stage registration process. Clubs register first; individuals then register and link their registration to a club. For the 2027 season, the deadlines are published by the BBF on its Federation Documents page.

3.2 Stage 1 — Club Registration

Clubs must register with the BBF before the start of the playing season.

Single-tier model. The previous two-tier club model (Tier One / Tier Two) is replaced by a single tier of club registration. All registered clubs receive the same benefits package set out in Section 4.

Club fee: £150 per club per year.

New club discount: 50% in the first year of BBF affiliation, i.e. £75 for a club's first year of registration with the BBF. The discount applies once only, to a club's first registration year.

3.3 Stage 2 — Individual Participant Registration

All individuals who are involved in BBF or affiliated club activity on a regular basis must register with the BBF through SPORT:80, regardless of whether they pay a registration fee or not. Registration links the individual to their club or clubs through SPORT:80, and creates the Membership relationship described in Section 5 of the BBF Terms of Membership.

3.4 Trial sessions — for new players only

A new player may attend up to three (3) trial sessions (training, practice or try-outs) without registering. From the fourth (4) occasion onwards, registration is mandatory. The trial-session allowance is intended to let new players try the sport before committing.

Important. No one may play in a BBF or affiliated league game unless they are registered. The three-trial-session rule covers training, practice and try-outs only — not games. A player who is to be rostered to a game must complete registration before being rostered, regardless of trial-session count.

Trial sessions apply only to new players. Coaches, managers, umpires and volunteers are taking on a defined role and have a different rule — see Section 3.5.

3.5 Who must register and on what basis

Registration is mandatory for every individual who is active in BBF or affiliated club activity, in any capacity — on-field or off-field. The trigger for mandatory registration depends on the role:

- **Players.** A new player may attend up to three (3) trial sessions before registering (Section 3.4). From the fourth (4) session onwards, registration is mandatory. A player must register before being rostered to a game, regardless of trial-session count.
- **Coaches, managers and umpires.** Registration is mandatory by the third (3) occasion of involvement in a season. A new coach, manager or umpire may attend up to two occasions in their role without registering; from the third occasion onwards, registration must be in place.
- **Volunteers (off-field roles).** Registration is mandatory by the third (3) occasion of volunteering in a season. A person may help on a genuinely one-off or twice-off basis without registering; from the third occasion of volunteering onwards, registration must be in

place. There are no trial sessions for volunteers in the same sense as for players — a volunteer is taking on a defined role, not trying out a sport.

Volunteer roles include (without limitation) scorers (off-field), groundskeepers, administrators, canteen workers, marketing and social-media contributors, and any other operational volunteers.

3.6 Fee structure

Role	Annual fee
Adult players, coaches, managers and umpires	£25
Youth players (under 18)	£12.50
Volunteers (off-field roles as defined in Section 3.7)	£0 (register only, no fee)
Clubs (single tier)	£150 per club per year (£75 for first year of new club registration)

Youth registration: individuals under 18 require a parent or guardian to complete registration through SPORT:80.

Multiple roles: an individual fulfilling more than one role pays the highest applicable fee once. For example, a person who plays and also volunteers as a scorer pays £25 (the adult player fee) and records their volunteer role within the same registration. A volunteer who does not play, coach or umpire pays no fee.

3.7 Definition of Volunteer

For the purposes of this Guide, a Volunteer is an individual who undertakes off-field activities for the BBF or an affiliated club. Volunteer roles include (without limitation) scorers (off-field), groundskeepers, administrators, canteen workers, marketing and social-media contributors, and other non-playing operational roles. Volunteers must register by the third (3) occasion of volunteering in a season but do not pay a registration fee.

Volunteers do not have trial sessions in the same sense as new players — a volunteer is taking on a defined role, not trying out a sport. A genuinely one-off or twice-off helper is not required to register; from the third occasion onwards, registration is required.

On-field roles (player, coach, manager, umpire) are not Volunteer roles for the purposes of fee structure — those roles attract the £25 adult or £12.50 youth fee, with the registration triggers set out in Section 3.5.

3.8 Payment and rostering

Where a fee is payable, payment is processed at the point of registration in SPORT:80. A participant cannot be rostered to a game or take a fee-attracting role until any applicable fee is paid in full and the registration is confirmed.

4. The Benefits

4.1 Club benefits (single tier)

All registered BBF clubs receive the following benefits as part of the single-tier club registration:

- BBF Club Insurance;
- SPORT:80 Club Management Software — full functionality;
- Access to the BBF Stats Website at stats.britishbaseball.org.uk for results, standings and statistics;
- WBSC and WBSC Europe membership and recognition;
- League management and scoring website and application;
- Discount on BBF competitions and tournaments;
- Access to youth programmes — First Pitch and T-Rex T-Ball;
- Voting and nomination rights as set out in the BBF Constitution;
- Recognition of the organisation and its jurisdiction;
- Special offers and opportunities on public events from MLB;
- Access to National Championships (subject to the BBF Senior Leagues Committee);
- Schedule creation (BBF Leagues only);
- Complaints, grievance, disciplinary and appeals handling under the Integrity, Complaints and Grievance Framework.

4.2 Individual benefits

All registered individual participants receive:

- Access to the BSUK Development Charter;
- Free DBS / safeguarding services (where applicable to the role);
- Free safeguarding courses (where applicable to the role);
- Free or discounted regional umpire, player and coaching clinics;
- Personal accident insurance (where applicable);
- Access to SPORT:80 — individual participant functionality;
- Access to the BBF Stats Website at stats.britishbaseball.org.uk to follow personal and team statistics, results and standings;
- Eligibility to play in the GB National Teams Baseball Programme or any BBF-sanctioned event;
- Communications from the BBF and BSUK on courses, competitions, events and role-specific requirements.

5. Questions and Answers

Q: What does IPR refer to?

Individual Participant Registration.

Q: When does this Guide apply from?

It applies from the 2027 season.

Q: Why is the previous two-tier model being replaced?

The two-tier model created complexity without a clear benefit. Under the single-tier model, every registered BBF club receives the same package of benefits (the previous Tier One and Tier Two benefits combined). This simplifies administration and presentation, and aligns with the wider governance refresh.

Q: What is the club fee?

£150 per club per year. New clubs receive a 50% discount in their first year of BBF registration (i.e. £75 for the first year only).

Q: Why is there a new-club discount?

To encourage new club formation and lower the barrier to entry. The discount applies once, to the first year of registration with the BBF.

Q: I am a new player who wants to try baseball — can I attend training first before paying?

Yes. You can attend up to three (3) trial sessions before registration is required. From the fourth session onwards, you must register. You cannot, however, play in a BBF or affiliated league game until you have registered — the trial-session rule covers training and other non-game activities only.

Q: Does the three-trial-session rule apply to new coaches, managers and umpires?

No. Trial sessions apply only to new players. For coaches, managers and umpires the rule is different: registration is required by the third (3) occasion in the role in a season. A new coach, manager or umpire may attend up to two occasions without registering; from the third occasion onwards, registration must be in place.

Q: Do volunteers get trial sessions?

No. Volunteers do not have trial sessions in the same sense as new players. A volunteer is taking on a defined off-field role rather than trying out a sport. The rule for volunteers is the same as for coaches, managers and umpires: registration is required by the third (3) occasion of volunteering in a season. A genuinely one-off or twice-off helper is not required to register.

Q: I attended trial sessions at one club and now want to try another. Do the sessions count across clubs?

Yes. For new players, the three-trial-session count is across all BBF and affiliated club activity, not per club. Once a player has had three trial sessions anywhere in BBF activity, the next session requires registration. The same cumulative-across-clubs principle applies to the third-occasion registration trigger for coaches, managers, umpires and volunteers.

Q: I am a non-playing coach; am I required to register?

Yes. Coaches, including non-playing coaches, are registered as on-field role-holders and pay the £25 adult fee. The same trial-session allowance applies to a new coach.

Q: I am a volunteer who helps with the canteen and scoring. Do I have to register?

Yes, if you are involved on a regular basis (four or more times a season, after any trial sessions). You must register but you do not pay a fee. Registration enables safeguarding, communications and accurate participation data.

Q: Why do volunteers register if there is no fee?

So the BBF and BSUK know who is involved with each club, can deliver any safeguarding requirements applicable to the role, can communicate effectively, and can include all participants in our growth and development planning.

Q: Who counts as a volunteer for registration purposes?

Someone who undertakes off-field activities for the BBF or an affiliated club on a regular basis. Examples include scorers (off-field), groundskeepers, administrators, canteen workers, marketing and social-media contributors, and other operational volunteers. On-field roles (player, coach, manager, umpire) are not volunteer roles for fee purposes.

Q: I am both a player and a volunteer (e.g. scorer). Do I pay twice?

No. You register once and pay the highest applicable fee — in this case £25 as an adult player. Your volunteer role is recorded within the same registration.

Q: I play or coach for more than one club. Do I register for each one?

No. You register once and link your registration to each club or organisation you are involved with through SPORT:80.

Q: Do I need to register twice if I am a player and an umpire?

No. During registration you indicate all the roles you fulfil. The fee charged is the highest applicable for the roles you hold.

Q: Is registration mandatory for all clubs?

Clubs that wish to access BBF and BSUK benefits, including the BSUK Development Charter, must register and have all their participants registered.

Q: Can a club affiliate to the BBF without registering its participants?

No. Club registration and Individual Participant Registration go together; the benefits are only available where both are in place.

Q: My club has teams in different leagues, BBF and non-BBF. Do I only register the players in the BBF team?

No. All players and volunteers involved with the club, in any league, must register and link their membership to the club.

Q: How does the registration year work?

Membership is annual and runs for a single membership year as defined by the BBF from time to time. Section 5 of the BBF Terms of Membership sets out the annual term, the auto-renewal mechanism, payment, and how acceptance works. There is no automatic continuation beyond one year — each new year is a fresh decision by the BBF.

Q: Does my registration auto-renew?

Yes, by default. Auto-renewal is an operational convenience for fee collection — it does not create a multi-year contract and does not guarantee renewal. See Section 5 of the Terms of Membership for the full mechanism, including the 30-day refund window if the BBF declines a renewal application and the Member's right to turn off auto-renewal in SPORT:80.

Q: What if I forget to register but turn up for a game?

You will not be rostered or permitted to play. The umpire and the league commissioner check rostering eligibility, which depends on registration being complete and any applicable fee paid in full.

Q: Is there a maximum number of participants I can register?

No.

Q: What are the funds from Individual Participant Registration used for?

Primarily for the items in Section 1.4 — field rental, supporting new clubs, player development, insurance, safeguarding services, coaching and officials' development, the GB National Teams, communications, stats and league management, WBSC membership, and scheme administration. A small portion of the fee covers the administration of the scheme itself; the remainder funds growth and development.

Q: Can I play or coach for a National Team if I am not involved with a BBF-affiliated club or league?

Yes, but you must register through Individual Participant Registration.

Q: Can a club pay registration fees on behalf of its participants?

SPORT:80 processes payment at the point of an individual's registration, which makes it logistically challenging for a club to administer payment. Clubs may decide to support participants in other ways.

Q: I have a complaint about my registration. Where does that go?

Complaints and grievances about BBF decisions or processes, including registration, are handled under Section 6 of the Integrity, Complaints and Grievance Framework. Complaints should be sent to complaints@britishbaseball.org.uk.

Q: How is my personal data handled?

In accordance with the BBF Privacy Policy. The Privacy Policy sets out what data is held, the lawful bases on which it is processed, who it may be shared with, retention periods (in the Retention Schedule at Section 4.6 of the Privacy Policy), and the participant's rights under data-protection law.

Q: How does this Guide fit with the wider BBF governance framework?

Registration creates the Membership relationship described in Section 5 of the BBF Terms of Membership. Registered participants are bound by the Code of Conduct, the Integrity, Complaints and Grievance Framework, the Anti-Doping Policy, the Conflicts of Interest Policy, the Anti-Bribery & Corruption Policy, the Privacy Policy, the IT Policy and the Website Terms of Use, alongside the Sr. Leagues Handbook and the BBF Constitution, and (where the participant is involved with the Great Britain Baseball National Teams Programme) any selection criteria,

codes of conduct and behavioural rules relating to that Programme. All of these documents are published at <https://britishbaseball.org.uk/federation-documents>.

If you have any further questions, please email registrations@britishbaseball.org.uk.