

Council of Australian Baseball Scorers

Technical Commissioners: Meri Brealey, Caroline Adamson, Jeanette Irwin

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YEAR IN REVIEW - 2020

The year of 2020 began with all the hope and promise of a brilliant Australian summer, bringing together the best youth baseball talent in the country to contest the national titles in greater Geelong. With bushfires ravaging many parts of the country, including nearby to the AYC's, there were some challenges, but the show went on, and the tournament was a success. Thanks in no small part go to the great work of the many CABS scorers who attended from nearly every STSO, and the Tournament Scoring Director, **Melody Callahan (QLD)**. Hats off to **Kim Bride (VIC)** for rounding up some volunteer scorers from VIC so that most games could use a panel of 3 scorers.

The ABL was also impacted by the poor air quality from bushfire smoke, as well as terrible weather conditions. They managed somehow to get through the regular season and all the finals, and we salute all the scorers from around Australia and New Zealand for the great job they did in their cities. The live scoring is enjoyed by so many, and we are grateful to **Major League Baseball Advanced Media (MLBAM)** and their support crew, most especially **Kelvin Lee (USA)**.

Back to the regular season of club baseball, and preparations for state charter tournaments and the women's national titles were well underway when a mysterious "novel" coronavirus from China reared its ugly head. For many of us, the worry began slowly, and only picked up pace when we could see the infection spreading around the world, and the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic. The brakes were applied to not just local, national and international sports competitions, but to life as we knew it. Many will have been affected in some way or another, and anxiety was keenly felt. I am hopeful that the friendship and kindness that CABS scorers show to each other at baseball games has continued off the field and into our digital communications with each other as we have tried to stay positive during self-isolation, social distancing and quarantines.

The WBSC's international tournament scoring appointments were again a feather in the cap for CABS, with our own **2019 WBSC Scorer of the Year, Jennie Moloney (VIC)** being selected to the panel for the Tokyo Olympic Games. Jennie was also selected to score the final Olympic Qualifier tournament in Taiwan, and the U23 World Cup. **Natalie Todd (WA)** was thrilled to get an appointment to the U15 World Cup, and this writer – **Connie Stoyakovich (QLD)** – was honoured with an appointment to the Women's World Cup. All the World Cup tournaments were set to be held in Mexico in 2020. Unfortunately, and as expected during the time of COVID-19, all WBSC events have been postponed until 2021.

It was quite interesting to see the adaptations professional baseball made in Taiwan, Korea and the USA, with abbreviated seasons and often in stadiums empty of fans. The Designated Hitter was allowed in the National League, and the Tie-Breaker rule made its debut in MLB games. Many leagues around Australia are now using the **Tie-Breaker** rule too, and it seems that one runner placed on 2nd base is the preferred option. Hopefully you are all aware that the "placed" runner is going to be an Unearned Run if he/she scores, and that the unearned quality transfers to a batter who reaches on a Fielder's Choice that puts out the "placed" runner.

In early May, Jennie Moloney notified me of a new initiative that WBSC was going to try out: a virtual scoring workshop via Zoom. I was allowed to pass on the information to other interested scorers, but as spots were quite limited, the invitation to register was just sent to Level 3 and higher scorers. I am pleased to report that we had a total of 15 CABS scorers invited to the workshop! Qld, NSW, Vic, WA and SA were represented, just missing out ACT and NT. On the call we were amazed to see over 140 participants from every continent. It was a very interesting experience, and the discussion of how to score the plays seen in three different videos was lively and animated. It was strongly emphasised that "ordinary effort" must be at the basis of judgment.

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We were given another opportunity for a WBSC Zoom clinic in late June, and this time Level 2 and up were invited. We had 19 CABS scorers on the call, and I'm sorry if you missed it, because it was another wonderful experience, with over 160 participants from everywhere in Asia, Africa, and Oceania, led by some quite knowledgeable folks from the Italian Federation and the WBSC Scoring Commission. I found it another quite interesting discussion, with a couple of the plays teaching me that there are still some crevices in the rulebook that I need to dig into a bit deeper!

And now for some CABS statistics, which are looking quite healthy.

CABS Membership - 475 Financial and Honorary members as at 31 July 2020

STSO	Lev 0	Lev 1	Lev 2	Lev 3	Lev 4	Lev 5	TOTAL
ACT	23	8	2	4			37
CNSW	1		6	1	2		10
NSW	33	22	23	9	7	1	95
NT		1		1			2
QLD	38	33	34	17	9	1	132
SA	7	34	35	11	2		89
VIC	4	25	8	6	5	3	51
WA	8	22	18	6	5		59
TOTAL	114	145	126	55	30	5	475

Additional accreditations		
IT	4IT	WBSC
2		
7	7	
9	5	1
7	2	
6	3	2
4	2	1
35	19	4

- Membership numbers increased by 9.2% in 2020 (40).
- Since the beginning of CABS in 2003, there have been 1,375 individual members.

Accreditation Exams as at 30 June 2020

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level IT
41 passed of 43 exams	8 passed of 11 exams	3 passed of 10 exams	1 passed of 1 exam

Changes are coming... as you may have heard! Baseball Australia has just hired Curtis Deboy as National Education Manager. His task will be to take the training and accreditation programs for Umpires, Scorers and Coaches onto a digital platform. This should assist us all, with getting more knowledge out to more people, in a more easily accessible manner. Further details will be provided in due course.

In the meantime, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns about scoring baseball, please feel free to contact the CABS Technical Commission to give you the right information and advice.

Wishing you and your families a very happy holiday season. Please stay safe and COVID-free, and keep those pencils sharp!

Connie Stoyakovich

CABS Coordinator
December 2020