



BASEBALL VICTORIA BY-LAWS

BASEBALL VICTORIA BY-LAWS

CONTENTS

1) Governance	2
2) Purpose.....	2
3) Interpretations.....	2
4) Official Rules of Baseball	3
5) Rules for Conduct of Competitions.....	3
6) Schedule of Fees and Fines	4
7) Registration of Players, Coaches, Umpires, Scorers and Volunteers	4
8) Transfer of Players and Coaches	5
9) Transfer of Clubs and Leagues	6
10) Umpire Accreditation.....	7
11) Scorer Accreditation.....	8
12) Facility and Equipment Standards	8
13) Baseballs	9
14) Baseball Bats.....	9
15) Footwear	10
16) Protective Helmets	10
17) Facemasks.....	10
18) Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions	10
19) Conduct of Players, Coaches, Club Officials and Spectators	13
20) Representative Games	14
21) Permission to Play in Games outside the Association’s Control	14
22) Suspension and Penalty	14
23) Appeals.....	15
24) Extreme Weather.....	15
25) Registration Fees.....	18
26) Juniors Playing Seniors	18

1) Governance

- a) These By-laws are made as Regulations pursuant to Rule 34.1 of the Association Rules (“Rules”).

2) Purpose

- a) These By-Laws establish minimum requirements for the operation of baseball Leagues within Victoria and provide mechanisms for players to move within and between Leagues within Victoria and away from Victoria, subject to reasonable conditions and fair process.

3) Interpretations

- a) In these By-laws, unless contrary intention appears:
 - i) “Association” means Baseball Victoria Incorporated (ABN 78 603 120 057),

- ii) “Competition Administrator” means the Incorporated Association responsible for the administration of a baseball competition in Victoria
- iii) “Defunct Club” means a Club that has been declared ‘defunct’ by a Competition Administrator.
- iv) “Defunct League” means a League that has been declared ‘defunct’ by the Association because it has not administered a League for three consecutive seasons.
- v) “League” means a competition comprising regular season games and play-offs between baseball clubs that are members of a Competition Administrator.
- vi) “Recessed Club” means a club that has been declared ‘recessed’ by a Competition Administrator.
- vii) “Recessed League” means a League organised by a Competition Administrator that has been declared ‘recessed’ by the Association because it has not administered a competition for a period of two (2) consecutive seasons after the last competition administered by that Competition Administrator.

4) Official Rules of Baseball

- a) All baseball games played under a League in Victoria are to be conducted pursuant to the latest edition of the Official Australian Rules of Baseball, subject to Special Applications of the Rules of Baseball which have been determined by the Association or a Competition Administrator.
- b) In these By-laws a reference to a “Rule of Baseball” shall mean a reference to the most recent edition of the “Official Australian Rules of Baseball”.

5) Rules for Conduct of Competitions

- a) Competition Administrators shall make rules for the conduct of their respective competitions. These rules shall be known as “Playing Conditions” and shall be published, in conjunction with the By-laws, in such form deemed appropriate by the Competition Administrator.
- b) Playing Conditions shall include, but not be limited to:
 - i) Starting Times and Duration of Play
 - ii) Ground and Game Equipment
 - iii) Uniforms
 - iv) Appointment and Roles for Scorers and Umpires
 - v) Match Report Cards and public display of Results
 - vi) Tribunal
 - vii) Special Application of Official Rules of Baseball.

- c) A Competition Administrator must submit their Playing Conditions to the Association for review to ensure conformance with these By-Laws and Policies, prior to the Playing Conditions being approved. The Association will have 28 days to review the Playing Conditions and notify the Competition Administrator of amendments necessary to conform to these By-Laws. If the Association has not advised of any amendment within 28 days of submission of the Playing Conditions, the Competition Administrator may approve the Playing Conditions.
- d) The Association may notify a Competition Administrator of amendments necessary to conform to these By-Laws and Policies at any time. A Competition Administrator must make such amendments and publish the amended Playing Conditions within 28 days of notification of the necessary amendment by the Association. Competition Administrators shall bear the cost of any such amendments.
- e) Disputes by Clubs associated with a League regarding whether the Playing Conditions published by a Competition Administrator conform to these By-Laws and Policies are to be dealt with by the Competition Administrator pursuant to the Competition Administrators grievance or appeals processes. Where the parties cannot resolve such grievances, either party to the dispute may refer the matter to the Association.
- f) Following an appeal heard by the Association, the Association will offer no further opportunity to appeal within its auspices.

6) Schedule of Fees and Fines

- a) The Association shall determine all Fees and Fines associated with the operation of the Association.
- b) The Association shall publish these Fees and Fines on the Association website and notify the nominated representative of each Member of the Association of these Fees at any time that the Association determines a change to the Fees or Fines.

7) Registration of Players, Coaches, Umpires, Scorers and Volunteers

- a) Competition Administrators must require Clubs to register every player, coach, official umpire, official scorer and official volunteer (e.g. club office bearers) with the Association, no later than 72 hours after the person first participates in a baseball game in the League that they administer.
- b) The Association is to notify clubs of the registration process no later than 28 days prior to the commencement of a League, and of any changes to the registration process no less than 28 days prior to the change to the process becoming effective.
- c) The Association must receive all registrations and clearances from all Competition Administrators and keep an up to date register of all players, coaches, official umpires, official scorers and volunteers, including the Club that the person is

associated with.

- d) Any Competition Administrator that knowingly furnishes incorrect or misleading information or particulars to the Association, or does not comply with the registration requirements shall be liable to penalty as the Association shall determine.

8) Transfer of Players and Coaches

- a) Any player and any coach registered with the Association shall have the right to transfer from one Club to another within Victoria or to an Interstate Club.
- b) The Competition Administrator shall establish transfer policies and procedures in the Playing Conditions which will be binding on all players and coaches who participate as players or coaches in the relevant League.
- c) The transfer policies and procedures shall provide that:
 - i) the Club whom the player or coach is a member of, and from whom the player or coach wishes to transfer, may refuse the transfer at its discretion;
 - ii) transfer may be automatically refused if the correct transfer process, as determined by the Competition Administrator, has not been followed, or the player or coach owes a financial debt to the Club;
 - iii) interstate player and coach transfers must be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, or nominee;
 - iv) if a player or coach whose transfer application has been refused is aggrieved by the decision of the Club, they shall in the first instance appeal the decision to the Competition Administrator;
 - v) should the player or coach be unsatisfied with the process used by the Competition Administrator, or have new information, the player or coach can then apply to the Association to hear a second appeal. Such appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the Grievance Procedure set out at Clause 46 of the Rules as if the parties to the grievance were Members of the Association;
 - vi) the transfer of a player or coach who is a member of a Club that is declared as a Recessed Club may only be refused by the Club if the player or coach owes a financial debt to the Club;
 - vii) the transfer of a player or coach who is a member of a Club that is associated with a Competition that is declared a Recessed League may only be refused if the player or coach owes a financial debt to the Competition Administrator; and

viii) Any player who is a member of a Club that is declared a Defunct Club, or is associated with a Competition that is declared a Defunct League shall be immediately eligible to register with another Club as a new player.

d) Dual Registrations

- i) Any player wishing to participate in games in more than one winter Association or winter League in Victoria will be required to be completed in full the Dual Registration Form (the form is available from the Baseball Victoria website). Prior to participating in any competition that involves Dual Registration, fully completed copies of this form must be submitted to the Baseball Victoria Office and the two Associations/Leagues.
- ii) The player's club in the original Association or League is to register and pay the player's individual 'Registration and Insurance' fee to Baseball Victoria. The club in the secondary Association or League is to register the players as 'paid at another club'.
- iii) Players must play at least six (6) games in the original Association or League during the home and away season. Failure to do so will result in all games played under Dual Registration to be declared as having been played as an ineligible player. There is no restriction for games to be played in the second Association/League.
- iv) Dual Registrations are available for Junior Players.
- v) This By-law is not available when one of the Associations or Leagues is outside Victoria, is the Baseball Victoria Summer League, or, not affiliated with Baseball Victoria.
- vi) The penalty for infringement (rule: playing an ineligible player) shall be default of the game/s that the player has played under Dual Registration, and the player may be disqualified from competing further in the competition, and such fine or other penalty as may be imposed by Baseball Victoria.
- vii) Disputes shall be ruled upon solely by the Chief Executive Officer of Baseball Victoria, or his appointed nominee.

9) Transfer of Clubs and Leagues

- a) Any Club or League registered with the Association shall have the right to transfer from one to another within Victoria or Interstate.
- b) The transfer policies and procedures shall provide that:

- i) The Club or League that wishes to transfer shall firstly apply, in writing stating its reasons, to the Association.
 - (1) The Association shall on forward a Club's request to transfer to the Competition Administrator from which the Club is currently registered, and then Competition Administrator to which the Club is seeking to transferto.
 - (2) The Association shall on forward a League's request to transferto the Competition Administrator to which the League is seeking to transfer to.
- ii) The Competition Administrator from which the Club is currently registered, or the case of a League seeking transfer, the Association, may refuse the transfer at its discretion.
 - (1) Transfer may be automatically refused if the correct transfer process, as determined by the Association, has not been followed, or a financial debt is owed to the Competition Administrator or the Association.
- iii) If a Club or League whose transfer application has been refused is aggrieved by the decision of the Competition Administrator or the Association, they shall in the first instance appeal the decision to the Board of the Association. There are no further opportunities to appeal following the decision presented by the Board of the Association.
- iv) The transfer of a Club or League who is a member of a League that is declared as a Recessed League may only be refused by the Competition Administrator or the Association if the Club or League owes a financial debt to the Competition Administrator or the Association.
- v) Any Club or League who is a member of a League that is declared a Defunct League, or is associated with a Competition that is declared a Defunct League shall be immediately eligible to register with another Club or League.

10) Umpire Accreditation

- a) The Association shall determine the umpiring standards for baseball games in the Leagues that Competition Administrators manage. These standards shall be promulgated in the Competition Playing Conditions.
- b) Where an umpiring qualification is required, the Association and the Competition Administrator shall reference a qualification from the current ABF umpire accreditation program.

- c) The Association shall maintain a register of ABF accredited umpires, and shall liaise with the ABF to promote and facilitate training courses to provide a sufficient pool of qualified umpires to officiate at baseball games across Victoria.

11) Scorer Accreditation

- a) The Association shall determine the scoring standards for baseball games in the Leagues that Competition Administrators manage. These standards shall be promulgated in the Competition Playing Conditions.
- b) Where a scoring qualification is required, the Association and the Competition Administrator shall reference a qualification from the current Association scoring accreditation program.
- c) The Association shall maintain a register of accredited scorers, and shall liaise with the Competition Administrators to promote and facilitate training courses to provide a sufficient pool of qualified scorers to officiate at baseball games across Victoria.

12) Facility and Equipment Standards

- a) The recommended Baseball playing field dimensions are as specified in Table 1 below. Field dimensions may only vary from these recommendations with the approval of the Association.
- b) Competition Administrators shall establish minimum standards for equipment and facilities and baseball fields, however the following minimum requirements for baseball field equipment apply to all games:
 - i) The host club of games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements:
 - (1) The requirements stated in the Rules of Baseball - 1.04, 1.05, 1.06 and 1.07 and 1.08, unless stipulated exceptions are made by the Competition Administrator. NB. 1.04 (a) & (b) relate to Professional League standards for playing fields.

Club Baseball	Under 13 and below	U15 and U14	U16 and above
Pitching Distance*	46ft (14.02m) 42ft (12.80m)	54ft (16.46m) 50ft (15.24m)	60ft 6in (18.44m) 57ft (17.37)
Base Paths	60ft (18.3m)	80ft (24.38m)	90ft (27.43m)
Diamond	84ft 10¼in (25.86m)	113ft 3in (34.52m)	127ft 3 3/8 in (38.79m)
Maximum Passed Ball Line	25ft (7.62m)	40ft (12.2m)	60ft (18.3m)
Home Plate, Pitcher's plate and Bases	Senior/Full Size	Senior/Full Size	Senior/Full Size

	Under 13 and below	U15 and U14	U16 and above
Home Run Fence Distance	LF: 200ft (61.0m) CF: 200ft (61.0m) RF: 200ft (61.0m)	LF: 230ft (70.1m) CF: 250ft (76.2m) RF: 230ft (70.1m)	New Fields (Min.) LF: 250ft (76.2m) CF: 320ft (97.54m) RF: 250ft (76.02m) Existing Fields as approved by Baseball Victoria
Home Run Fence Radius	200ft (61.0m)	196ft (59.7m)	193ft (58.8m)
Centre of Home Run Fence Radius	Home Plate	Pitcher's Plate	Second Base
Coaches Box	8ft x 4 ft. (2.44m x 1.22m)	16ft x 8ft (4.88m x 2.44m)	20ft x 10ft (6.10m x 3.05m)
Batting Box	6ft x 3 ft. (1.83m x 0.92m)	6ft x 4ft (1.83m x 1.22m)	6ft x 4ft (1.83m x 1.22m)
Catcher's Box	Senior Size	Senior Size	Senior Size

Table 1 Playing Field Dimensions

- c) The minimum standard for field lighting for the conduct of all games under the auspicious of the Association must not be less than 500 LUX (infield) and 300 LUX (outfield) when measured horizontally in accordance with the appropriate Australian Standard. Approval of field lighting from the Association is required prior to playing any games at night on lit venues.
- i) Higher levels of competition (e.g. National Leagues or Championships) may require higher LUX levels. Venue managers should consider these requirements before installing lights for the possible chance to host these games.

13) Baseballs

- a) Only baseballs that conform with Rules of Baseball 1.09 may be used, except where approved by the Association for special events.

14) Baseball Bats

- a) The Association shall establish rules stipulating the types of bats that are allowed.
- b) Where a League requires wood bats and wood composite bats to be used these must conform to the standard bat specifications as set out in Rules of Baseball 1.10.

15) Footwear

- a) Metal cleats are not permitted to be worn in games for age groups U17 and below.

16) Protective Helmets

- a) All batters, base runners and bat boys are required to wear two eared protective helmets, as set out in Rule of Baseball 1.16 (except (c)).
- b) All base coaches are required to wear protective helmets as follow:
 - i) Base coaches who are under 18 years of age must wear two eared helmets.
 - ii) Base coaches who are 18 years of age and over may wear skull cap style helmets.

17) Facemasks

- a) All catchers must wear a mask and a catcher's helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up and games (this includes helmets with built in facemask).
- b) All junior catchers are required to wear a throat guard/protector on their masks
- c) Any player or coach warming up a pitcher must wear a face mask and a helmet no matter whether in the bull pen or on the playing field.

18) Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions

- a) A junior pitcher's game contribution will be classified as specified in the Table below.

Assignment	Under 13 and below	Under 14 and Under 15	Under 16 and Under 17	Under 18
MAJOR	45 pitches and not to exceed 60 pitches	55 pitches and not to exceed 70 pitches	65 pitches and not to exceed 80 pitches	80 pitches and not to exceed 100 pitches
SUBSTANTIAL	20 – 44 pitches	25 – 54 pitches	30 – 64 pitches	40 – 79 pitches
MINOR	Less than 20 pitches	Less than 25 pitches	Less than 30 pitches	Less than 40 pitches

Table Junior Pitchers’ Game Contribution Classification

- b) The following minimum restrictions apply to all junior games played in Victoria under the auspices of the Association:
- i) A pitcher reaching the maximum number of pitches for a major assignment is to be removed as a pitcher once he has completed the batter.
 - ii) A pitcher reaching a second max minor assignment on the same day, is to be removed from the game once he has completed the batter or has been moved to Designated Hitter. However, if the pitcher retires the batter as the third out, the pitcher may take his place as a batter in the next half inning.
 - iii) Any player pitching a major assignment must complete 72 hours rest before commencing any further pitching or catching assignment.
 - iv) Any player pitching a substantial assignment must complete 48 hours rest before commencing any further pitching or catching assignment.
 - v) No games rest is required after a minor assignment is completed. However, where a pitcher completes two minor assignments on the same day, or on consecutive days, then:
 - (1) 48 hours rest is required from pitching or catching if the total number of pitches thrown in those two assignments equals or exceeds the relevant age group amount specified in Table 2 below; or
 - (2) 24 hours rest is required if the total number of pitches in those two assignments is less than the relevant age group amount specified in the Table below.

Age Group	Pitch Count
Under 13 and below	20
Under 14 and Under 15	25
Under 16 and under 17	30
Under 18	40

Table 2 Consecutive Minor Pitch Count

- c) The rest period referred to in clauses (c), (d) and (e) above commences at 11:59pm on the day that the pitching assignment was completed.
- d) If any pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, he shall be charged for one assignment.
- e) A Balk Pitch delivered to the plate, whether it be hit safe or not shall be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the number of pitches.
- f) A “no pitch”, e.g. batter steps out of the batter’s box and the pitcher delivers the pitch, shall not be included in the pitch count.
- g) Each game in which a player pitches is considered one assignment.
- h) A player once removed as a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
- i) Pitchers in competitions of Under 14 age group and below may only throw fast balls or straight change ups. Knuckle balls, split fingers, fork balls and curve balls are not permitted.
 - i) If any pitch other than a fast ball or straight change up is thrown, the plate umpire will call “Illegal Pitch”. The illegal pitch call may also be made by a field umpire. If the ball is not batted then the pitch shall be called a “Ball”. If the pitch is hit by a batter, then normal rules of Baseball will apply. Where the ball is batted and an out is made, or the batter strikes out, then the batter runner is not out and the illegal pitch rule and penalty will apply.
 - ii) The pitched ball will count towards the pitcher’s pitch count.

- j) A player cannot change from pitching to catching at any time on the same day.
 - i) A player cannot change from catching to pitching on the same day without a break for the rest of the game and for the first two innings of the next game.
- k) The Association and Competition Administrators may impose further restrictions on pitching in games played in leagues and tournaments as considered appropriate from time to time. The permission of the Association is required for changes or conflicts to these By-laws.

19) Conduct of Players, Coaches, Club Officials and Spectators

- a) Competition Administrators must establish and publish Codes of Conduct for players, coaches, club officials, parents and spectators that address the following points:
 - i) Good relationships should be fostered between clubs and their teams before, during and after games.
 - ii) The authority and decisions of umpires must be respected. Abusive and intimidating language or tactics will not be tolerated and should not be directed to any person.
 - iii) The coach of each team must insist that their players behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times while at the field. Any person acting in an un-sportsmanlike manner and/or using offensive and abusive language may be reported for their actions.
 - iv) Coaches and players are required to draw attention to their own members and spectators to behave in a suitable manner. They should show support towards their team and not berate or belittle the opposition.
 - v) No person in their capacity as a member of a club or, in the course of carrying out their duties or functions as or incidental to being a member of a club (being a person entitled to enter the arena during the course of or prior to or during any break in play in any game) shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person ("the person vilified") on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

- b) Players, coaches, club officials, umpires and scorers are required to comply with the Policies of the Association as published on the Association website (www.baseballvictoria.com.au) from time to time.

20) Representative Games

- a) All players chosen in teams representing the Association shall be deemed to be available for the representative team unless written evidence to the contrary is submitted and found to be acceptable to the Association.
- b) Any selected player who is unavailable for reasons not acceptable to the Association shall not be permitted to participate in any other baseball games that may be played concurrently with that of a representative team. Should there be no concurrently played game, the Association may suspend the player from a number of games which would have been played by the representative team.
- c) No League, Club, Player, Coach, Umpire or Scorer shall take part in any competition or practice games during the duration of any Australian Championships or other nominated representative games or events under the auspices of the Association unless directed or allowed by the Association.

21) Permission to Play in Games outside the Association's Control

- a) No League or Club affiliated with the Association, nor any team or player, shall arrange or take part in any game with any team within the State of Victoria or outside the State of Victoria without first obtaining the consent of the Association.
- b) Where any game is proposed or intended to be played outside the State of Victoria consent shall not be granted by the Association unless the controlling body of Baseball in the State in which the game is intended to be played has given its sanction to same. The permission of the Australian Baseball Federation is required for games intended to be played interstate or internationally.

22) Suspension and Penalty

- a) The Association may endorse any suspension, penalty or disqualification imposed by any controlling body of Baseball, either in or outside Victoria, provided that notification of such suspension, penalty or disqualification is received in writing.

- b) The Association may fine, suspend or otherwise deal with a player, coach, umpire, scorer, member of a Club, a Club or League for any act or misdemeanor not provided for in these By-laws or the Rules.
- c) Any person suspended or disqualified by the Association may appeal pursuant to Clause 46 of the Rules.

23) Appeals

- a) A person or Club wishing to appeal a decision made by a Tribunal, a Competition Administrator or a refused clearance or transfer, shall do so only through the policies established from time to time by the Association. These policies will be published on the Association website or available from the Association directly.
- b) A Club may appeal other matters relevant to these By-Laws to the Association provided that the Club has first taken their grievance to the Competition Administrator in accordance with the grievance procedures established by the Competition Administrator.
- c) Such appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the Grievance Procedure set out at Clause 46 of the Rules as if the parties to the grievance were Members of the Association.
- d) Following an appeal heard by the Association, the Association will offer no further opportunities to appeal within its auspices.

24) Extreme Weather

If there is an adverse weather forecast (lightning, wet weather or extreme heat) for the scheduled playing day:

- i) In advance, Competition Manager may consider a full or partial cancellation (i.e. Competition Manager may choose to cancel some or all divisions) in advance and where applicable will seek necessary guidance from the Victorian Director of Umpiring, Bureau of Meteorology and/or selected medical and legal practitioners. Should this occur, all clubs will be notified via email or text message to Club Secretaries and the competition website.
- ii) On Game Day, if Competition Manager has not made a decision in advance or advised for players to attend for play, decisions regarding play shall

be in the hands of the home Club Secretary (or his/her nominee - as per Rule of Baseball 3.10 (a)).

- iii) During a Game, once the game has commenced, decisions will then be made by the umpires.

Heat Affected Games

- a) It shall be the responsibility of the home Club Secretary (or his/her nominee) to monitor on a half-hourly basis, current temperatures via the Bureau of Meteorology website weather information line. Should the current temperature reach 38° Celsius for seniors, Women and Masters competitions (34° Celsius for junior competitions), play shall be suspended immediately. The temperature shall be monitored during this time every 15 minutes. Play shall not resume until the temperature falls below 38° Celsius (or 34° Celsius for junior competitions).
 - i) Junior players participating in any senior competition shall be subject to the conditions of that competition.
- b) By viewing the Bureau of Meteorology website (<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/melbourne.shtml>), the following areas are stated. Games played at the home of a listed club are to adhere to temperature the nominated area:
 - i) Melbourne (Fitzroy, Malvern, Melbourne, Ormond/Glenhuntly, Port Melbourne, St Kilda)
 - ii) Geelong (Geelong)
 - iii) Yarra Glen (Croydon)
 - iv) Frankston (Carrum Downs, Bonbeach, Chelsea)
 - v) Essendon Airport (Essendon, NW Titans, North Coburg Rebels)
 - vi) Moorabbin Airport (Cheltenham, Moorabbin, Sandringham, Springvale, Monash University)
 - vii) Ferny Creek (Upwey FTG)
 - viii) Cranbourne (Berwick, Pakenham)
 - ix) Laverton (Sunshine, Newport, Footscray, Williamstown & Werribee)
 - x) Scoresby (Blackburn, Heathmont, Mulgrave & Waverley)
 - xi) Viewbank (Doncaster, Research Lower Plenty & Preston)
- c) For Regional areas, a check of weather conditions should be conducted via the Bureau of Meteorology website through the “Latest Weather Observations for Victoria” page (<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/observations/vicall.shtml>)

- d) Notwithstanding the above, the umpire/s shall have the powers to abandon or suspend play at any time at their discretion.
- e) No person is forced by Baseball Victoria to participate in any match and Clubs shall place no pressure on any participant if he/she considers withdrawing from any part of a match for health reasons.

Rain Affected Games

- a) If the Umpire considers that play is unsafe due to rain, the Umpire shall stop play immediately.
- b) Should the Umpire consider that there is a reasonable expectation that the rain will ease to the point that play is safe within sufficient time to achieve a Legal Game, the Umpire is to suspend play and periodically assess the conditions. If the Umpire determines it is safe to do so, play will resume.
- c) Should the Umpire consider that there is not a reasonable expectation that the rain will ease within sufficient time to achieve a Legal Game, the Umpire is to 'Call' the game.
- d) If a game is called under this Playing Condition, the game shall be deemed to be a no game.

Lightning

- a) Those associated with Baseball Victoria and its activities should note that the risk of injury from lightning is real, especially for people playing outdoor sports such as baseball.
- b) On game day, the Umpires have the responsibility to decide when it is safe to play baseball, giving consideration to the risk of injury from lightning.
- c) During practice, the Club Coach is responsible for deciding when it is safe to be practicing. In the absence of the Club Coach, the highest ranking present member of the Club Committee is responsible.
- d) Players, officials and guests must take shelter in the club rooms or their cars while play is suspended. The dugouts do not provide appropriate protection.

- e) Play must not be resumed until it is safe to do in the opinion of the Umpires (on game day) or the Club Coach (during practice).
- f) Delays to play caused by lightning risk will be considered to be a weather delay in deciding the outcome of a game.

Rescheduling of Games

- a) Games incomplete or not played due to adverse weather, forfeit or other unsuitable playing conditions shall not be rescheduled.

25) Registration Fees

- a) Players must be registered and financial prior to playing their first game for that season.
- b) Players who fill in on a game day will not be expected to pay a fee until they play a second game with that Club or another club in that same Association, in that season.
- c) Players participating in representative teams must be registered and financial on the Baseball Victoria Online Registration system. This can be via a club registration, or an individual event registration. Note: This would apply to Seniors Carnivals as well.
- d) All players to be registered in the correct manner on the IMG system e.g. registered with player registration paid online by credit card or other approved payment method.
- e) Penalty for playing an unregistered and non-financial player in any fixtured game will be loss of points for that game, and any other game that the player subsequently participates in, plus a \$50 fine for each player this applies to.
- f) For the first game of any new season, where a player is found to be unregistered and non-financial, clubs will be given 48 hours from midnight of the day of the game to register and have that player or players made financial.

26) Juniors Playing Seniors

The minimum age for a player to play senior Men's baseball is 14 years of age.