



2019/20 VICTORIAN SUMMER BASEBALL  
LEAGUE  
PLAYING CONDITIONS

## CONTENTS

1)	Governance .....	5
2)	Interpretations .....	5
<b>Part 1 - General Playing Conditions .....</b>		<b>6</b>
3)	Application of General Playing Conditions .....	6
4)	Competition Scheduling .....	6
5)	Season Duration .....	7
6)	Christmas/New Year Schedule Blackout .....	7
7)	Game Start.....	7
8)	Late Start and Forfeiture .....	8
9)	Extreme Weather .....	9
10)	Rescheduling of Games .....	9
11)	Melbourne Aces and National Championships .....	9
12)	Pre-Match Warm-Up.....	9
13)	Extended line up – up to 12 batters .....	9
14)	Five Minute Rule.....	10
15)	Visits to the Pitcher by a Coach or Manager .....	10
16)	Time Wasting.....	11
17)	Allocation of Play-off Venues .....	11
18)	Dugout Protection .....	12
19)	Uniforms.....	12
20)	Baseballs.....	13
21)	Blood Rule.....	13
22)	Player eligibility – two teams from same club in the same Division .....	14
23)	Disputes and Protests.....	15
24)	Yellow Card Rule.....	15
25)	Ejected Persons.....	17
26)	Melee Rule.....	17
27)	Zero Tolerance .....	18
28)	Prohibited Substances.....	18
29)	Results - Match Report Card and Phoning of Scores .....	18
30)	Umpires and Scorers.....	19
31)	Meetings and Events .....	19
<b>Part 2 - Seniors Playing Conditions .....</b>		<b>20</b>
32)	Regular Season Competition Structure .....	20
33)	Game Start Times .....	20
34)	Game Duration .....	21
35)	Mercy Rule .....	21
36)	Mid-Week Games .....	22
37)	Designated Hitters (DH).....	22
38)	Designated Pitcher Rule (DP).....	23
39)	Two Games/One Day Rule .....	24
40)	Juniors Playing Seniors .....	24
41)	Play-offs Eligibility.....	25
42)	Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions.....	25

43)	Play-off Series .....	26
44)	Grounds and Ground Equipment.....	27
45)	Uniforms.....	28
46)	Baseball Bats.....	28
47)	Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench .....	39
<b>Part 3 - Women’s Playing Conditions.....</b>		<b>30</b>
48)	Women’s Competition Structure.....	30
49)	Regular Season Games.....	30
50)	Women’s Promotion and Relegation .....	30
51)	Game Start Times .....	31
52)	Game Duration .....	31
53)	Mercy Rule .....	31
54)	Seven Run Rule .....	32
55)	Designated Hitters (DH).....	32
56)	Women’s Two Games/One Day .....	32
57)	Interchange Rule Division 1 .....	33
58)	Juniors Playing Seniors .....	33
59)	Play-offs Eligibility.....	33
60)	Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions .....	34
61)	Play-off Series .....	35
62)	Grounds and Ground Equipment.....	35
63)	Uniforms.....	36
64)	Baseball Bats.....	36
<b>Part 4 - Masters Playing Conditions .....</b>		<b>36</b>
65)	Game Start Times .....	36
66)	Game Duration .....	36
67)	Mercy Rule.....	37
68)	Seven Run Rule .....	37
69)	Interchange Rule .....	37
70)	Unable to field a starting nine .....	37
71)	Age Rules .....	37
72)	Pitching Rules.....	37
73)	Batting and Base Running Rules .....	38
74)	Play-offs Eligibility.....	38
75)	Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions.....	39
76)	Play-off Series .....	39
77)	Grounds and Ground Equipment.....	40
78)	Uniforms.....	40
79)	Baseball Bats.....	41
<b>Part 5 – Junior Playing Conditions.....</b>		<b>41</b>
80)	Little League Competitions .....	41
81)	Game Start Times .....	41
82)	Game Duration .....	42
83)	Mercy Rule .....	42
84)	Seven Run Rule .....	42
85)	Age Qualifications.....	42

86)	Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions.....	43
87)	Rule Applicable to Area Centres and Club Leagues .....	43
88)	Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions.....	44
89)	Play-off Series .....	45
90)	Play-off Eligibility .....	45
91)	Umpires .....	46
92)	Match Report Cards.....	46
93)	Play-off Playing Preparation .....	46
94)	Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions.....	46
95)	Uniforms.....	47
96)	Baseball Bats.....	47
<b>Part 6 – Administrative Rules.....</b>		<b>48</b>
97)	Registration of Players.....	48
98)	Non-National Players.....	48
99)	Clearance Procedures.....	49
100)	Permit Procedures .....	51
101)	Coaching Permits .....	52
102)	Senior and Junior Team Requirements .....	52
103)	Senior Promotion & Relegation.....	54
104)	Statistical Information .....	55
105)	Baseball Victoria and ABF Sanctioning.....	55
106)	Green Shirt Program.....	55
<b>Schedule 1 - Fines .....</b>		<b>55</b>

1) Governance

- a) These Summer League Playing Conditions are made as Regulations pursuant to Rule 36.1 of the Baseball Victoria Rules (“Rules”).
- b) A recommendation for amendment to these Summer League Playing Conditions must be supported by a minimum of two thirds of the votes cast at a properly constituted meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries of the Clubs registered by Baseball Victoria as participating in the Summer League for the current or forthcoming season.

2) Interpretations

- a) In these Playing Conditions, unless contrary intention appears:
  - i) “**Association**” means Baseball Victoria Incorporated (ABN 78 603 120057);
  - ii) “**Board**” means the Board of Directors of the Association;
  - iii) “**BUAV**” means Baseball Umpires Association of Victoria Incorporated (Reg A0026114M).
  - iv) “**Club**” means an Incorporated Club responsible for the administration of a baseball Club participating in a League;
  - v) “**Defunct Club**” means a Club that has been declared ‘defunct’ by the Association;
  - vi) “**Defunct League**” means a League that has been declared ‘defunct’ by the Association because it has not administered a League for ‘three (3) consecutive seasons’;
  - vii) “**League**” means a competition comprising Regular Season games and Play-offs between baseball clubs that are members of the Association;
  - viii) “**Recessed Club**” means a club that has been declared ‘recessed’ by the Association;
  - ix) “**Recessed League**” means a League organised by the Association 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 the Association;

- x) **“Summer League Committee”** means the Competition Administrator appointed by the Association responsible for the development of these Playing Conditions;
- xi) **“Competition Coordinator”** means the person appointed by the Association for the management of the Summer League via the interpretation and implementation of these Playing Conditions;
- xii) **“Qualifying Rounds”** means games played to determine which Division a team will participate in during the Regular Season. For the purpose of Finals qualification, these games will count towards Regular Season games.
- xiii) **“Regular Season”** means games played to determine if a team qualifies for the Play offs
- xiv) **“Play offs”** means games played to determine the winner of the Season
- b) In these Playing Conditions a reference to a **“Rule of Baseball”** shall mean a reference to the “Official Rules of Baseball”.
- c) In these Playing Conditions a reference to a **“By-Law”** shall mean a reference to the By-Laws of the Association.

## Part 1 - General Playing Conditions

### 3) Application of General Playing Conditions

- a) The Playing Conditions noted in this Part 1 also apply to all Baseball Victoria Summer League Senior (Part 2), Women’s (Part 3), Masters (Part 4), Junior (Part 5) and Administration (Part 6) competitions without exception or alteration.

### 4) Competition Scheduling

- a) Summer League Clubs must nominate teams for Divisions that they are qualified to enter teams into no later than six weeks prior to the scheduled commencement of the Regular Season. The Competition Coordinator may consider nominations received later than this time at its discretion.

- b) For Senior Clubs that have more the four (4) senior teams must confirm access to a second field with Baseball Victoria.
- c) The Competition Coordinator shall determine the fixture for the Regular Season for all Summer League Senior, Women's, Master's and Junior competitions.
- d) The approved Summer League Fixtures shall be published on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website ([www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au)).
- e) The Competition Coordinator may amend the fixture as needed at any time during the Regular Season.
- f) If the Competition Coordinator amends the fixture, Baseball Victoria shall publish the amended fixture on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website and notify the Presidents and Secretaries of the affected Clubs as soon as possible.

#### 5) Season Duration

- a) The Summer League Senior regular season fixture will commence no earlier than the last weekend of September.
- b) The Summer League Senior playoffs will conclude no later than the second weekend of March.

#### 6) Christmas/New Year Schedule Blackout

- a) The Competition Coordinator shall not fixture Summer League competitions any later in a year than December 23.
- b) The Competition Coordinator shall not fixture Summer League competitions any earlier in a year than January 17.
- c) Where this restriction reduces the minimum required weekends to achieve the minimum number of games set forth in Playing Condition 35 & 51, these games shall be fixtured at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator, who shall be responsible for ensuring the fixture reflects the priorities of minimising travel for participants.

#### 7) Game Start

- a) Games shall commence at times stated in the fixture or these Playing Conditions, as relevant, subject to the Umpire being satisfied that the playing field is fit for the playing of the match.
- b) To 'Call' a game due to the fitness of playing condition, the Umpire must be in

attendance at the ground at the scheduled start time.

- c) Competition Coordinator may 'Call' games prior to the commencement of play due to the fitness of playing conditions or weather.
- d) Rule of baseball 4.04 and 4.05 also apply

#### 8) Late Start and Forfeiture

- a) Where a team has less than seven players present at the scheduled start time for a game, the commencement of the game shall be deferred for a maximum of ten (10) minutes.
- b) If sufficient players arrive for the team to field seven players within ten minutes from the scheduled start time, play will commence immediately and may continue whenever there are at least seven players. The Umpire shall record the late start and the team that caused the late start on the Match Report Card. The Competition Manager shall impose a "Late Start" fine on the defaulting team, as per Schedule 1.
- c) If, at ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time, the defaulting team is unable to field seven (7) players, the opposing team shall be awarded a win for the game by forfeit. The Umpire shall record the win as a forfeit to the opposing team on the Match Report Card awarding a score of 3-0. Competition Coordinator shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on the defaulting team, as per Schedule 1, and a score of 0-9.
- d) If neither team is able to field seven players within ten minutes from the scheduled start time, both teams will be awarded a loss and the score of 0-9. The Umpire shall record the losses on the Match Report Card. Competition Coordinator shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on both teams. The cost of the umpire fees shall be shared between the defaulting teams.
- e) When a game is forfeited the names of the players in attendance from the defaulting team(s) must be recorded in the Match Report Card. The non-defaulting team must record a minimum of seven players and a maximum of nine, of the players in attendance.
  - i) Players recorded on the Match Report Card under this Playing Condition may not play in another game in that round, except under the Two Games/One Day Rule as stipulated in these Playing Conditions.



9) Extreme Weather

- a) For all games affected by rain, lightning or heat refer to By-Law 24.

10) Rescheduling of Games

- a) Regular season games incomplete or not played due to adverse weather, forfeit or other unsuitable playing conditions will not be rescheduled.
- b) Playoff games incomplete or not played due to adverse weather may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator.

11) Melbourne Aces and National Championships

- a) From time to time, Baseball Victoria or the Competition Coordinator shall require changes to fixtures to avoid scheduling clashes with the Melbourne Aces or National Championships. Changes shall be advised via the Baseball Victoria Summer League website ([www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au)) as required.

12) Pre-Match Warm-Up

- a) Twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the Away team may use the diamond for a maximum of seven (7) minutes.
- b) Twelve (12) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the Home team may use the diamond for a maximum of seven (7) minutes.
- c) Five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the diamond is to be vacated. Coaches from both teams are to meet with the Umpires at home plate to determine ground rules, playing conditions and to exchange team line-ups.

13) Extended line up – up to 12 batters

This Rule does not apply to Division 1 Firsts and Reserves, Division 2 Firsts and Reserves, Division 3 First and Reserves and Women's Division 1.

- a) A team may play with an extended line up to a maximum of 12 players. This number includes the use of a DH as per Playing Conditions, 37 and 55.
- b) To invoke Section 13a) all players commencing in the extended line up must be nominated on the line-up card handed to the umpire prior to the commencement of the game.

- c) All batters in the extended line up must take their allotted at bat in the batting order as per the line-up card handed to the umpire prior to the commencement of the game.
- d) If a player on the extended line up does not take their allotted at bat, he is deemed to have been removed from the game, is removed from the batting line up and can no longer participate in the game. All other subsequent batters will move to the next batting position. No blank will be introduced until the batting order is below 9 batters.
- e) If a DH is being used, the Pitcher can bat for himself and take the position in the batting order of a player removed from the game. The former DH can stay in the game and continue to bat in the same position he has occupied in the order. If a team has invoked the extended line up rule, players nominated on the extended line up can change fielding positions at any time during the game. There are no requirements for a player to play in the field at any time during the game.

#### 14) Five Minute Rule

- a) If, at the completion of even innings, from the call of "side", there remains more than five minutes before the scheduled completion time, a further complete innings shall be played.
- b) If, at five minutes before the scheduled time of completion, the home team is at bat and is:
  - i) Ahead - the game ceases immediately.
  - ii) Tied or behind - the game continues until the winning run is scored or the side is retired.
- c) If five minutes or less remains at the completion of even innings, the game shall end.

#### 15) Visits to the Pitcher by a Coach or Manager

- a) Rule of Baseball 5.10 shall apply to all junior, Senior, Masters and Women's, regular season and play-off games with the following exception
  - i) A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal as the pitcher and this player may move to another position on the field

## 16) Time Wasting

- a) Umpires are to take necessary actions to prevent wasting of time and any acts of deliberate time wasting, as defined in Rule of Baseball 7.03. The umpire may choose to “Call” a game in extreme cases and “Forfeit” the offending team. All incidents shall be recorded on the Match Report Card for consideration of action by the Competition Coordinator.

## 17) Allocation of Play-off Venues

- a) The Competition Coordinator shall schedule Play-off games. The scheduling of Play-offs published by the Competition Coordinator is final.
- b) Higher sections shall be given preference when determining the venue of Play-off games. If a higher section of a club has already been scheduled to play a Play-off game at that club’s venue and a lower section of the same club is scheduled to play a Play-off game on the same day, then:
- i) If the club has an alternative diamond available that meets the minimum standards set forth in Table 20.1, the Competition Coordinator may schedule the lower section Play-off game on the alternative diamond, otherwise;
  - ii) If the second-ranked team has a diamond available that meets the minimum standards set forth in Table 20.1, the Competition Coordinator may schedule the lower section Play-off game at the second-ranked team’s venue, otherwise;
  - iii) The Play-off game for the lower section shall be scheduled at a neutral venue as determined by the Competition Coordinator.

Division	Fully Enclosed	Semi Enclosed	Mound	Covered Dugout	Covered Scorers	Club Rooms
Div. 1 & 2 1 <sup>st</sup> & Res	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other Senior		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Women’s		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Masters		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 20.1

- c) Due to time constraints, only timed Play-off games may be scheduled before a regular season or another Play-off game one after another on the same venue at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator.

18) Dugout Protection

- a) All benches/dugouts constructed within a permanent baseball field require protection or screening to protect players from the field of play and weather.
- b) Failure to provide dugout protection to this standard may result in forfeiture of any game played at the venue and reported on the match report sheet for referral to the Competition Coordinator.

19) Uniforms

- a) Clubs participating in the Summer League must seek written approval from the Competition Coordinator based on a concept design of a uniform prior to manufacture and purchase for all club playing uniforms. Approved uniforms shall be displayed on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au). The items in which a club must seek approval for include:
  - i) Playing jersey & undershirt/sleeves; and
  - ii) Playing pants, belt and socks; and
  - iii) Playing cap.
- b) The Competition Coordinator reserves the right to reject or request changes to colours or design. Clubs must have an alternate uniform jersey to avoid conflict or 'clash' with another club's uniform when playing as the away team.
- c) Baseball Victoria holds rights over the following areas of team uniforms for the display of competition sponsor logos:
  - i) The left breast of the team playing jersey (the size of the logo representation will not exceed 60cm sq); and
  - ii) The left sleeve of the team playing jersey (the size of the logo representation will not exceed 120cm sq).
- d) Clubs must seek approval of all potential sponsor/s from Baseball Victoria to ensure there are no potential conflicts with competition and/or all of Baseball sponsors. Baseball Victoria will not approve advertising of cigarettes/tobacco, liquor or any company conflicting with any Baseball Victoria sponsor.
- e) You may place your approved sponsor logos on the following areas of your team uniform and equipment:

- i) The right sleeve of the team playing jersey (the size of the logo representation must not exceed 120cm sq); and
  - ii) An area on the back of the playing jersey, at the top of the Jersey and above the number (the size of the logo representation will not exceed 120cm sq).
- f) The following areas of the uniform must be void of all sponsor logos, with exception to the usual manufacturer's marks:
- i) The front of the playing jersey (with exception to the Club's name or logo and a number at least half the size as the one on the back); and
  - ii) The playing pants; and
  - iii) The playing cap; and
  - iv) Batting, Catcher's and Coaches' helmets; and
  - v) Catcher's chest plate; and
  - vi) Any other item used during a match.
- g) Players and Coaches that participate in games out of uniform will be fined as per Schedule 1.

## 20) Baseballs

- a) For games, Clubs must provide at least four match balls, in good condition, meeting the following requirements:
  - i) meet the specifications defined in Rule of Baseball 3.01, and
  - ii) are white in colour
  - iii) have a premium leather covering
  - iv) Be of the same brand and model
- b) Adequate replacement balls must be available to replace lost match balls during a game.
- c) The Main Umpire shall adjudge whether the baseballs supplied are of suitable quality and meet the requirements stated in this Playing Condition.

## 21) Blood Rule / Concussion Policy

- a) An Umpire shall immediately direct a player to leave the playing field if the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of the uniform or body. The player's name and the time that the player is directed to leave the playing field shall be marked in the scorebook.
- b) If, ten minutes after the player was directed to leave the field, the player has been unable to stop the bleeding and/or remove or cover the affected uniform area, the player must be replaced in the normal substitution manner.

- c) Any player with a suspected concussion based on all reasonable concussion tests, based on the Baseball Victoria Concussion Policy. Any player with a suspected concussion can be replaced via the normal substitution manner.

22) Player eligibility – two or more teams from same club in the same Division

- a) Clubs are required to nominate a core group of seven (7) players to the Competition Coordinator and nominate which team the core group will play. The core group of seven players and the team in which they play will be classed as “Team A”. The players in the core group will not be allowed to alternate between the teams during the Regular Season and Play-offs (i.e. they can only play for the one team within that grade).
- b) For every third and subsequent team a club enters, a further seven (7) core players are required to be submitted to the Competition Coordinator.
- c) The remaining players that are not in the core group can alternate between the two teams for the duration of the Regular Season.
- d) Play-off eligibility rule for the two teams are as follows:
  - i) A player may only participate in a playoff game for which team they have played more games for. If there is an equal amount of games played for Team A and Team B, the club may choose the team in which the player participates with for the duration of finals. The player may participate only with the chosen team during the final series and not with any other team in that division.
  - ii) If both Team A & Team B make the Play-offs, then all players outside the core groups must choose which team they will play in and remain in that team for the remainder of the Play-offs series, as long as they have played enough games to qualify for Play-offs. The core group players may only play for Team A in the Play-offs and must have played enough games to qualify for Play-offs.
  - iii) If only Team B makes Play-offs, all players can play in Team B, except the players in the Team A core group, and as long as they have played enough games to qualify for Play-offs.

### 23) Disputes and Protests

- a) In the event of any dispute or protest, other than judgement decisions which, in accordance with Rule of Baseball 7.04 cannot be disputed, clubs may appeal to the Competition Coordinator in the following manner;
  - i) The Manager must lodge a notice of the protest with the Umpire at the time of objection. The Umpire shall be given the opportunity to consider the point of protest raised by the Manager.
  - ii) Should the Manager decide to continue the protest, the Umpire must be advised and the scorers shall endorse both scorebooks with the precise game situation at the time.
  - iii) The Manager of the protesting team shall, at the conclusion of the game, advise the Umpire whether the protest is to be proceeded with and the details of the protest shall be recorded on the Match Report.
  - iv) Details of the protest must be lodged in writing and be in the hands of the Competition Coordinator within forty-eight (48) hours of completion of the game, accompanied by a fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee. The protest shall state the reason that the protest is being entered and include, where relevant, reference to the Rules of the Association, Rules of Baseball, By-Laws or Playing Conditions.
- b) The Competition Coordinator shall hear the protest as soon as practicable following receipt of a properly made appeal.
- c) If the Competition Coordinator considers that the protest is not frivolous, the Competition Coordinator shall return the fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee to the protesting club.
- d) The Competition Coordinator's ruling on the protest, including any arrangements for a re-completion of a game, shall be final with no right of appeal so as not to further interrupt the remainder of the competition.

### 24) Yellow Card Rule

- a) This rule may be invoked for offences committed of a minor nature including, but not limited to:
  - i) Dangerous play;
  - ii) Dissent;
  - iii) Equipment abuse;
  - iv) Minor obscenities; and
  - v) Misconduct.

- b) If, in the opinion of the Umpire, an offence has occurred as provided for in this Playing Condition, the Umpire must show a Yellow Card to the offender and both the offender and the team manager must be informed of the nature of the offence.
- c) A person who receives two Yellow Cards in the same game shall be ejected from the game after the second offence but will not be required to attend a Tribunal hearing.
- d) At the conclusion of the game, the Umpire is to record the details of the offence that led to the issue of the Yellow Card on the Yellow Card and to be sent in with the MatchCard.
- e) The Competition Coordinator shall maintain a register of Yellow Card offences. This record shall be published on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au).
- f) The first and second Yellow Card offences during a competition season shall incur no penalty.
- g) Any player that incurs a third Yellow Card, and any subsequent Yellow Card, during a season, shall be suspended from participating in the next scheduled game of the competition in which the last Yellow Card was received, as well as all games in other grades and divisions prior to the next scheduled game.
- h) A person suspended under this Playing Condition will be notified by the Competition Coordinator via their club.
- i) When a person incurs a Yellow Card suspension in the last game of the Regular Season or a Play-off game, the matter will be referred to the Tribunal. The Tribunal shall determine the timing of the suspension.
- j) A person may appeal to the Tribunal Chairman against the issue of a Yellow Card. Such appeals are to be lodged in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal and be in the hands of the Competition Coordinator within forty-eight hours of the game in which the Yellow Card was issued and shall be accompanied by a twenty (\$20.00) dollar fee.
- k) If the Tribunal Chairman deems that the appeal is not frivolous, the Tribunal Chairman shall instruct Competition Coordinator to refund the fee. Mere denial of the offence does not constitute grounds for an appeal and will result in the loss of the fee.



- l) Upon receiving a properly made appeal, the Tribunal Chairman shall decide if the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for resolution, such decision being final.
- m) The Tribunal shall hear an appeal referred under this Playing Condition by convening a hearing with the offender and the Umpire. The Tribunal may determine to:
  - i) Uphold the appeal, cancel the Yellow Card and advise the Umpire; or
  - ii) Dismiss the appeal and confirm the Yellow Card; or
  - iii) Consider the offence warranted an ejection and impose a penalty; and
  - iv) Decide to retain or return the deposit.
- n) Decisions of the Tribunal are final and not subject to further appeal.

## 25) Ejected Persons

- a) Any umpire in control of any game played under the auspices of the Summer League and Baseball Victoria is empowered to report any person who, in the umpire's opinion, engages in conduct detrimental to the best interests of the game of baseball. This includes any practice game to which a BUAV official has been appointed.
- b) The ejected persons must leave the playing field immediately and cannot re-enter the playing field while the Umpire is still on the ground. Rule of Baseball 6.04 shall be enforced insofar as they are practicable in the circumstances of that particular game.
- c) Ejected persons must not approach the Umpire after being ejected.
- d) The reporting umpire and ejected persons shall adhere to the Reported Persons Procedures.

## 26) Melee Rule

- a) Under all circumstances, the Victorian Summer Baseball League (VSBL) will not tolerate the clearing of players and coaches from a bench or position of play to engage in a melee. As such, any player, coach or person that leaves the bench or their designated area to engage in a melee will be penalized an automatic one (1) game suspension for the next sanctioned match for their team. The Tribunal will then meet as per the Reported Person Procedures, to adjudicate on further actions and penalties on individuals who instigate the situation or increase the severity of the situation.
- b) b) If a player is granted a one (1) game suspension and believes they are innocent with supporting evidence, may appeal their case on an individual basis to the Tribunal Committee. See Next Page
- c) c) If a team participates in more than one (1) melee in the same season, the above penalties will apply for each incident, in addition to losing 0.07% of their win

percentage at the conclusion of the season for each additional melee participated in.

#### 27) Zero Tolerance

- a) The Summer League and the BUAV will enforce the concept of 'zero tolerance' in order to ensure that Coaches and Managers take a proactive role in eliminating Umpire abuse.
- b) If, in the Umpire's opinion, a player:
  - i) Abuses an Umpire; or
  - ii) Displays dissent towards an Umpire; or
  - iii) Argues judgement decisions (e.g. balls and strikes, etc.).

The Umpire may immediately eject the player and the Head Coach/Manager from the game.

- c) The ejected player shall adhere to the Reported Persons Procedures. No further penalty shall be imposed on a Head Coach/Manager who is ejected under this rule.

#### 28) Prohibited Substances

- a) A person shall be ejected from a game for smoking, consuming an alcoholic beverage or chewing/dipping of tobacco and shall be fined. For the purpose of this Playing Condition, a game is deemed to commence when the umpire enters the playing field in compliance with Rule of Baseball 4.03(e). Any player, coach or umpire who, at or from that time, indulges in any of the activities mentioned in this Playing Condition may be reported for breach of this Playing Condition.
- b) An ejected person under this Playing Condition shall comply with the rule of baseball for an ejected person and apart from the mandatory fine and the ejection; no further action will be taken.
- c) Costs incurred to clean the mess created by chewing tobacco at Altona will be charged back to clubs.

#### 29) Results - Match Report Card and Phoning of Scores

- a) Match Report Cards are the official record for each game played. The card records information including the scores, names of the umpires and players and details of importance.
- b) It is the responsibility of the umpire to ensure all details are accurate and complete. Assistance is to be provided by the scorers and the team coaches or managers.
- c) The home team must ensure that the match card is received by the Competition Coordinator within 72 hours from the end of the game. The home team will be fined, as per Schedule 1, should the card not be received or be received late.

- i) Club Officials must submit the match report with completed MVP votes for all Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 (first nine), Women's Division 1 and Division 4 games.
  
- d) The home club must phone the scores from completed games hosted to Competition Coordinator within 1 hour from the end of the game. The home club will be fined, as per Schedule 1, should the scores not be received or are received late.

### 30) Umpires and Scorers

- a) Umpires and Scorers are the appointed officials for the game. It is their responsibility to ensure the game is conducted in a fair manner that complies with all rules and regulations.
- b) If no official Umpire is appointed or if the appointed Umpire is late, the HOME team must supply the Plate Umpire and the AWAY team must supply a Base Umpire. The team/s will be fined, as per Schedule 1, should they not provide an umpire.
- c) Both teams must supply a scorer, who must be seated together behind the back net. Should a team not provide a scorer or the scorer is late, the offending club will be fined as per Schedule 1.
- d) Any breach to this rule must be noted on the Match report sheet prior to being received by the Competition Coordinator.

### 31) Meetings and Events

- a) Baseball Victoria or the Summer League will from time to time require compulsory attendance to meeting and events, including the following but not exclusively:
  - i) Presidents and Secretaries Meeting (6 annually, usually bi-monthly);
  - ii) Annual Awards Night (once annually)
  - iii) Annual General Meeting for the Association (once annually)
  - iv) Other meetings as prescribed by the Association.
- b) Clubs that do not attend the prescribed meetings and events will be fined as per Schedule 1.
- c) For the Annual Awards Night, Baseball Victoria will allocate clubs a number of tickets, as follows, for compulsory purchase:
  - i) Division 1 Clubs (8 tickets);
  - ii) Division 2 Clubs (6 tickets);
  - iii) Division 3 Clubs (4 tickets);
  - iv) Other Clubs (2 tickets).

## Part 2 - Senior Playing Conditions

### 32) Regular Season Competition Structure

- a) For Division 1 Firsts and Division 2 Firsts competition, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 24 games and a maximum of 33 games.
- b) For all other subsequent senior competitions, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 16 games and a maximum of 20 games.
- c) Within the guidelines established in 32a and 32b, the number of games fixtured in a given season will be at the discretion of the Pathways and Competition Manager, following a process of consultation involving the Competition Coordinator and the clubs.
  - i) The Competition Coordinator may alter the number of games if required due to extenuating circumstances, but shall be responsible for ensuring the number of games fixtured in the regular season reflects the priorities of consistency from the preceding season and an equal participation experience between Division 1 and Division 2.
- d) The Division One Firsts regular season fixture shall be based on the participating Clubs being evenly divided into two conferences. The Competition Coordinator shall determine each club's alignment to a conference by the following method:
  - i) All Clubs located true east of the longitudinal line 145°03'29.9"E, running directly through the Glen Iris Post Office (the geographical population centre of Melbourne), shall be aligned to the East Conference.
  - ii) All Clubs located true west of the longitudinal line 145°03'29.9"E, running directly through the Glen Iris Post Office, shall be aligned to the West Conference.
  - iii) In the event this method does not evenly divide participating Clubs into the two conferences, Clubs located on a longitude closest in proximity to Longitude 145°03'29.9"E shall be realigned until all Clubs are evenly divided between both conferences.
- e) All other senior competition regular season fixtures shall be based on the participating Clubs being aligned to a single-league competition structure.

Note: All geographical locations are sourced from Google maps.

### 33) Game Start Times

- a) Start times for all Regular Season games and Play-offs shall be as published in the fixture. The fixture will be published on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au).

34) Game Duration

The duration of Seniors Regular Season games shall be as specified in Table 37 below:

Division	Game Duration
Division 1, 2 & 3 Firsts	
• Weekend Games	9 innings with no time limit
• Midweek Games	9 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule, whichever occurs first.
Division 1,2 & 3 Reserves	
Weekend & Midweek Games	Weekend and Mid-Week 9 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule, whichever occurs first.
All Other	Weekend and Mid-Week 7 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule, whichever occurs first.

- a) A “Legal Game” is when a game:
- i) Scheduled to be complete after nine (9) innings (with no timelimit) completes a minimum of five (5) innings.
  - ii) Scheduled to complete after seven (7) innings (with no time limit) completes a minimum of four (4) innings.
  - iii) Scheduled to complete after nine (9) innings or two (2) hours, whichever comes first, completes a minimum of five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes of play.
  - iv) Scheduled to complete after seven (7) innings or two (2) hours, whichever comes first, completes a minimum of four (4) innings or sixty- five (65) minutes of play.
  - v) Or as set forth in Rule of Baseball 7.01(c).
  - vi) If tied after nine (9) innings, the game may continue only if scheduled time remains.

35) Mercy Rule

- a) If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after seven (7) completed innings in a game scheduled for nine (9) innings (including games with a time limit), the game shall be ‘Called’.

- b) If the home team is or becomes ten (10) or more runs ahead innings in a game scheduled for nine (9) innings (including games with a time limit), the bottom half of the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) innings and subsequent innings shall not be played or completed.
- c) If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) completed innings in a game scheduled for seven (7) innings (including games with a time limit), the game shall be 'Called.'
- d) If the home team is or becomes ten (10) or more runs ahead innings in a game scheduled for seven (7) innings (including games with a time limit), the bottom half of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) innings and subsequent innings shall not be played or completed.
- e) If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08 and 7.01 apply.
- f) For Division 4 regular season games, the scoring of the seventh run will end the innings: only seven runs may be counted in any innings.

### 36) Mid-Week Games

- a) If tied after nine (9) innings, the game may continue only if scheduled time remains.
- b) A Substitute Runner (SR) must be used for the catcher when the catcher reaches base. The SR shall be a bench player and may be a player substituted from the game. The current Designated Hitter (DH) may not be a SR.
- c) If the current pitcher bats, a SR must be used for that pitcher upon reaching base.
- d) If, after reaching base, the catcher or pitcher is not to continue in that role, the Umpire is to be advised and a SR need not be used.
- e) Warm-ups between innings and pitching changes must be prompt and minimal at the Umpire's direction.

### 37) Designated Hitters (DH)

- a) A designated hitter is available for all Seniors competitions Rule of Baseball 5.11, with the following local amendment:
  - i) Delete from the third last paragraph the sentence in brackets, "The game pitcher may only pinch hit for the designated hitter." and replace with, "The game pitcher may be substituted to bat or run for any player but the designated hitter rule shall then terminate."

38) Designated Pitcher Rule (DP)

- a) The following Playing Conditions only apply to Seniors Division 1 Reserves, Division 2 Reserves & Division 3 Reserves:
  - i) A Club must nominate their top two (2) pitchers to the Competition Coordinator. The starting pitchers will be published on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au).
  - ii) Players that Clubs nominate as their DPs must be:
    - (1) Australian (not a 'non-national), as per Clause 98);
    - (2) Under the age of 30 years at 1st January; and
    - (3) Not considered one of the top two (2) pitchers within the Club.
  - iii) The DP is required to be the starting pitcher and only pitch in the Reserves game and then must start the Firsts game on the same day in a position other than pitcher. The use of the DP must be declared to the Umpire before the start of the both games.
  - iv) In the Reserves game, a DH must be used for the DP.
  - v) If the DP plays in the Reserves game in a position other than as a pitcher, the DP becomes a normal player and may not participate in the Firsts game on the same day except by the provisions of the Two Games/One Day Rule in these Playing Conditions, Clause 42.
  - vi) Any DP used in the Reserves game shall be marked as "DP" on the Line-up Sheet and the Match Report Card and all pitchers used in the Firsts game shall be marked as "P". Umpires and Team Managers shall ensure correct recording.
- b) Umpires shall administer the DP Playing Conditions in both games on the same day. An Umpire may direct that a DP not to participate in either game if in his or her opinion the player is in contravention of these Playing Conditions, but an Umpire is not expected to exercise authority as to knowledge of the approved pitchers.
- c) The penalty for contravention of the DP Playing Conditions is "Forfeiture" of the game in which such contravention took place. The Competition Manager shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on the offending club, as per Schedule 1.
- d) Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each section for eligibility for Play-offs.
- e) The DP rule is not available for the Play-offs.

- f) Clubs must apply in writing to the Competition Coordinator to change their approved pitchers by stating their extenuating circumstances.

#### 39) Two Games/One Day Rule

- a) Any player who participates in a Senior Division 1 Reserves, Division 2 Reserves, or Division 3 Reserves game can only participate in the respective division's Firsts game later that day provided the player does not enter the game prior to the end of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) inning, except in the case of the DP, who must start both games.
- b) Any player who participates in any other grade can participate from any point in a game later that day, including the start, provided the player is participating in a higher grade than the initial grade played in the earlier game. (Example: A Division 1 Fourths player can start in the Division 1 Thirds on the same day, or where all four teams are at the same venue, could start the Division 1 Firsts.)
- c) A pitcher in the early game cannot then pitch in the late game.
- d) Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each section for finals eligibility.
- e) Contravention of this Playing Condition shall result in forfeiture of the second game. The Competition Manager shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on the offending club as per Schedule 1.
- f) Participates of one grade cannot participate from any point in a game later that day of the same Division during finals games.

#### 40) Juniors Playing Seniors

- a) A junior player is eligible to play seniors once he/she has reached the age of 14 years.
- b) A Junior playing in Seniors participates under the rules of that competition except in the following instances:
  - i) Pitching Rules - The pitching restrictions prescribed in the By-law 18 applies to juniors pitching in all senior competitions.
  - ii) Pitching and Catching in Same Day – The restrictions prescribed in



By-law 18 applies to juniors who have pitched or caught in a junior game on the same day.

- c) Contravention of this Playing Condition shall result in “Forfeiture” of the game. The Competition Coordinator shall impose a “Forfeiture” fine on the offending club as per Schedule 1.

#### 41) Play-offs Eligibility

- a) To be eligible to participate in a Play-off series, a player must have competed in ‘a minimum of four (4) senior competition games’ for the club during the Regular Season.
- b) Games played in Masters, Women’s and Junior competitions are deemed separate competitions for eligibility purposes and are therefore unable to be counted towards finals eligibility in any other competition.
- c) The lowest grade that a player can participate in a Play-off series is that grade in which the player has played more than half of their weekend Regular Season games. (i.e. 3 games in the Reserves, 2 in the Thirds and 3 in the Fourths - this player would be eligible for the Thirds - half or more (5 of 8) games have been played in the Thirds or below).

#### 42) Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions

- a) All Senior competitions’ ladder and Play-off positions shall be ranked by WIN percentage, as follows:
  - i) The win percentage of each team is calculated using the equation specified below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.  
$$\text{Win Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws (half)}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$
  - ii) Where two or more teams are equally ranked with the same WIN percentage, the “Head to Head” method will be used to separate them. If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:
    - iii) Head to Head - Where one team has an advantage in the games won against the others with the same win %, that team will be ranked the highest team.
  - (1) The fewest runs allowed in the game(s) contested by these teams will gain the highest ranking, and then the remaining

teams will revert to “Head to Head”. If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and then back “Head to Head” and so forth.

- (2) If teams are still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the competition, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher ranking team, and then the remaining teams will revert to “Head to Head”. If remaining teams are still tied, then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method, then back to “Head to Head” and so forth.
- (3) The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the “Head to Head” process.

#### 43) Play-off Series

- a) The Play-off series for Seniors Division 1 Firsts will be played over two weeks as follows:

Week 1

Semi Finals:

Best of three game series

1<sup>st</sup> Place Conference 1 vs

2<sup>nd</sup> Conference 1

1<sup>st</sup> Place Conference 2 vs the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Conference 2

The team which qualifies with the best overall record at the end of the regular season shall be home team for games 1 & 2. The other team which qualifies shall be home team for game 3.

Week 2

Grand Final:

Best of three game series

the winners of each Semi Final series the team which qualifies with the best overall record at the end of the regular season shall be home team for games 1 & 3. The other team which qualifies shall be home team for game 2.

- b) The Play-off series for the Division 2 First will be played over two weeks as follows:

Week 1

Semi Finals:

Best of three game

- series 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
vs 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Week 2  
Grand Final: Best of three game series  
the winners of each Semi Final series
- c) The Play-off series for Division 3 and Division 3 Reserves will be played over two weeks.
- Week 1  
Semi Finals: 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Week 2  
Grand Final Winner of each Semi Final Series
- d) The Play-off series for all other Senior Divisions will be played over two weeks.
- Week 1  
Semi Finals: 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Week 2  
Grand Final: Winner of each Semi Final Series
- e) The game duration for Seniors Play-off games shall be as follows:
- i) Division 1 Firsts and Reserves, Division 2 Firsts and Reserves, Division 3 Firsts and Reserves - Play-off games being 9 innings with no time limit.
  - ii) All other Divisions Play-off games being 7 innings with no timelimit.

#### 44) Grounds and Ground Equipment

- a) The host club of all Summer League games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements:
- i) Seniors Division 1, Division 1 Reserves, Division 2 and Division 2 Reserves must meet all requirements stated in the 2017 Rules of Baseball- 1.04, 1.05, 1.06, 1.07, 1.08.
  - ii) All other Senior Divisions, the following exceptions can be made to 2017 Rules of Baseball – 1.04, 1.05, 1.06, 1.07, 1.08:

- (1) The playing area shall be enclosed, if possible. On all grounds that are not enclosed, a net at least 30 feet wide by 9 feet high shall be located directly behind the plate at the distance specified in By-law 12 (Passed Ball Line). Each dugout/bench shall also be fronted by protective netting, covered with a roof where possible and have seating. Lines shall be marked parallel with the respective base lines at the Passed Ball Line distance specified in By-law 12. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria. Conditions to be established by the Managers with the Umpire before the game.
- (2) A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used.
- (3) If a home run fence is not provided, home run limits shall be defined by locating witches hats; no discs or metal plates permitted. Home run boundary riders must be supplied. The minimum home run limits are noted within By-law 12. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria.

#### 45) Uniforms

- a) Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 19 in Part1;
  - i) All players in Seniors Division 1 Firsts and Division 2 Firsts must wear the registered club uniform in all games. Away teams are to wear alternative 'clash' tops should the home team wear the same colour top.
  - ii) In all other senior competitions, at least seven players must wear the registered club uniform and remaining members shall wear attire as near as possible to the registered club uniform.
  - iii) All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Card.
  - iv) A pitcher may not bat wearing a jacket but, upon reaching base, may put on their jacket provided it is readily available with the base coach. No other player may wear a jacket whilst playing.
  - v) At the umpires discretion. Outfielders may wear a jacket while playing during cold weather conditions
- b) The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty, as per Schedule 1, for a breach of these uniform conditions.

#### 46) Baseball Bats

- a) All baseball bats must conform to the Rule of Baseball 3.02.
  - i) For all Senior Mens competitions, wood, wood composite and wood laminate baseball bats shall only be used.

47) Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench

- a) Rule of Baseball 5.10 applies with the following conditions:
  - i) All teams competing in VSBL competitions shall be restricted to a maximum of 24 participants on the bench during the game (this includes players listed in the starting line-up).
    - (1) Participants include the manager, coaches and players. Excludes bat boy / girl who is 13 years or younger and must wear 2 eared helmet at all times.
    - (2) Executive Officers, Non-Coaching Team Managers, and Trainers may enter the bench area to attend to responsibilities directly related to their role, however must remove themselves from the bench area as soon as their responsibilities are fulfilled.
  - ii) For a participant to be eligible to occupy the bench during a game:
    - (1) The participant's name must be included on the official line-up sheet handed to the umpire at the plate meeting prior to the game, and;
    - (2) The participant must be dressed in the uniform of the team he/she is representing, or acceptable attire as outlined in Playing Conditions 45aiii, 63ai, 78ai, & 95ai.
- b) As Executive Officers, Non-Coaching Team Managers, and Trainers are not permitted to remain permanently on the bench, names of these participants are not required on the official line-up sheet.
- c) Executive Officers, Non-Coaching Team Managers, and Trainers are not required to wear the team uniform while performing responsibilities on a bench during the game.
  - i) Players not included on the official line-up sheet may be substituted into the game providing:
    - (1) The manager notifies the umpire the substitute is not listed on the line-up sheet.
    - (2) The manager notifies the umpire of a player to be removed from line-up sheet, with that player then required to be removed from the bench area for the remainder of the game, unless subsequently substituted into the game.
  - ii) In the event a participant(s) is found in contravention of this Playing Condition, the umpire shall order the offender(s) from the bench area to the club house.
    - (1) The manager of the offending team shall have the privilege of recalling to the playing field only those players needed for substitution in the game.

- (2) Non-playing participants removed to the club house may only return to the dugout area to attend to responsibilities directly related to their role during breaks between innings and only after permission is granted by the umpire.

### Part 3 - Women's Playing Conditions

#### 48) Women's Competition Structure

- a) Division 1: A maximum of six (6) teams.
  - i) No team may enter Division 1 without first earning promotion from Division 2, as set forth in Playing Condition 50.
- b) Division 2: A minimum of five (5) teams.
  - i) Clubs entering a team/teams into the Women's competition for the first time, or re-entering after a minimum of two (2) years absence from any Summer League competition, may apply to the Competition Coordinator to enter the competition in Division 2. The Competition Coordinator shall have discretion to determine any new team's ability when considering such an application.
- c) Division 3: A minimum of four (4) teams.

#### 49) Regular Season Games

- a) For Division 1, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 20 games.
- b) For Division 2, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 18 games and a maximum of 20 games.
- c) For Division 3, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 16.
- d) Within the guidelines established in 49a, 49b, and 49c the number of games fixtured in a given season will be at the discretion of the Pathways and Competition Manager, following a process of consultation involving the Competition Coordinator and the clubs.
  - i) The Competition Coordinator may alter the number of games if required due to extenuating circumstances, but shall be responsible for ensuring the number of games fixtured in the regular season reflects the priorities of consistency from the preceding season and a progressive participation experience between Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3.

#### 50) Women's Promotion and Relegation

- a) The following team shall be promoted from Division 2 to Division 1 for the following season:

- i) The team that is the winner of the Division 2 Grand Final, or Champion Team.
- ii) This team will be promoted in place of the team that finished last in Division 1 at the end of the Regular Season, with the last placed team in Division 1 then relegated to Division 2.
- b) The following team shall be promoted from Division 3 to Division 2 for the following season:
  - i) The team that is the winner of the Division 3 Grand Final, or Champion Team.
  - ii) This team will be promoted in place of the team that finished last in Division 2 at the end of the Regular Season, with the last placed team in Division 2 then relegated to Division 3.

51) Game Start Times

- a) Start times for Regular Season games and Play-offs shall be as published in the fixture. The fixture shall be published on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au)

52) Game Duration

- a) The duration of Women’s Regular Season games shall be as specified in the Table below.

Division	Game Duration
Women’s mid-week games	7 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule
Women’s Division 1	7 innings or 2½ hours with 5 minute rule
Women’s Division 2 and Women’s Division 3	7 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule

*Table 54 Women’s Game Durations*

- b) A “Legal Game” is when a game has been played for a minimum of four (4) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes of play or a regulation game per Rule of Baseball 7.01.
- c) Additional innings may be played if the scores are tied once the above maximum innings have been played, only as long as timepermits.

53) Mercy Rule

- a) If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) completed innings, the game shall be ‘Called’.
- b) If the home team is or becomes ten (10) or more runs ahead, the bottom half of the fifth (5th) innings or subsequent innings shall not be played or completed.

- c) If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08, and 7.01 apply.

54) Seven Run Rule

- a) For Women's Midweek, Division 2 and Division 3 Regular Season games the scoring of the seventh run will end the innings: only seven runs may be counted in any innings.

55) Designated Hitters (DH)

- a) A designated hitter is available for Women's competitions Rule of Baseball 5.11, with the following local amendment:
  - i) Delete from the third last paragraph the sentence in brackets, "The game pitcher may only pinch hit for the designated hitter." And replace with,  
  
"The game pitcher may be substituted to bat or run for any player but the designated hitter rule shall then terminate."

56) Women's Two Games/One Day

- a) Any player, who participates in a Women's Division 2 or Division 3 game may participate from any point in a game later that day, including the start, provided the player is participating in a higher grade than the initial grade player in the earlier game.
- b) Notwithstanding other restrictions for playing in two games in one day, any player that no longer qualifies for a junior grade below Under 18 that pitches less than 40 pitches (classed as a 'minor' assignment) in an early game shall be permitted to also pitch less than 40 pitches in a later game that day.
- c) A pitcher reaching the maximum limit of a second minor assignment on the same day must be removed from the game once she has completed the batter. However, if the pitcher retires the batter as the third out, the pitcher may take her place as a batter in the next half inning and remain in the game as a defensive player.
- d) Any player that qualifies for a junior grade below Under 18 that pitches in an early game cannot then pitch in a late game.
- e) Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each section for finals eligibility.
- f) Participates of one grade cannot participate from any point in a game later that day of the same Division during finals games.
- g) Contravention of this Playing Condition shall result in forfeiture of the second game. The Competition Coordinator shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on the



offending club as per Schedule 1.

57) Interchange Rule Division 1

- a) Any players who are replaced at the end of the third innings may return to the game at the end of the fifth innings. The timing of the interchange of a player may not be varied.
- b) Division 2 and 3 Competition Procedure “Playing Conditions 16”
- c) Contravention of this Playing Condition shall result in forfeiture of the game. Competition Coordinator shall impose a “Forfeiture” fine on the offending club as per Schedule 1.

58) Juniors Playing Seniors

- a) A junior female player is eligible to play in the Women’s competition once she has reached the age of 14 years of age to participate in the Division 1 or Division 2 Competition or 13 years of age for Division 3.
- b) A Junior playing in the Women’s competition participates under the rules of that competition except in the following instances:
  - i) Pitching Rules – The pitching restrictions prescribed in By-law 18 applies to juniors pitching in Women’s competition.
  - ii) Pitching and Catching in Same Day – The restrictions prescribed in By-law 18 applies to juniors who have pitched or caught in a junior game on the same day.
- c) Contravention of this Playing Condition shall result in forfeiture of the game. Competition Coordinator shall impose a “Forfeiture” fine on the offending club as per Schedule 1.

59) Play-offs Eligibility

- a) To be eligible to participate in a Play-off series, a player must have competed in a minimum of Four (4) Women’s competition games for the club during the Regular season’.
- b) Games played in seniors; Masters and Junior competitions are deemed separate competitions for criteria purposes and are therefore unable to be counted towards finals eligibility in any other competition.
- c) The lowest grade that a player can participate in a Play-off series is that grade in

which the player has played more than half of their weekend Regular Season games. (i.e. 3 games in the Women's Division 1, 2 in Division 2 and 3 in the Division 3 - this player would be eligible for the Women's Division 2 team - half or more (5 of 8) games have been played in Division 2 or below).

#### 60) Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions

- a) All Women's competitions' ladder and Play-off positions shall be determined by WIN percentage, as follows:
- i) The win percentage of each team is calculated using the equation specified below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.

$$\text{Win Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws (half)}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$

- ii) Where two or more teams score the same WIN percentage, the "Head to Head" method will be used to separate them. If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:
- iii) Head to Head is where one team has an advantage in games won against the teams that they contested during the regular season with the same WIN percentage.
- (1) Head to Head - Where one team has an advantage in the games won against the others with the same win %, that team will be ranked the highest team.
  - (2) The fewest runs allowed in the game(s) contested by these teams will gain the highest ranking, then the remaining teams will revert to "Head to Head". If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and the back "Head to Head" and so forth.
  - (3) If teams are still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the competition, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher ranking team, and then the remaining teams will revert to "Head to Head". If remaining teams are still tied, then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method, then back to "Head to Head"

and so forth.

- (4) The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the “Head to Head” process.

#### 61) Play-off Series

The Play-offs for Women’s competitions will be played under the “Page System” over three weeks as follows;

Week 1

Semi Finals: 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup>

Week 2

Preliminary Final Loser 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup> plays Winner 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup>

Week 3

Grand Final Winner 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup> plays Preliminary Final Winner

- a) The game duration for Women’s Play-off games shall be as follows:
- i) Women Division 1 Play-off games being 7 innings with no timelimit.
  - ii) All other Women’s Divisions Play-off games being 7 innings or 2 hour time limit with 5 minute rule.

#### 62) Grounds and Ground Equipment

- a) The host club of all Women’s competition games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements:
- i) All requirements stated in Rules of Baseball 2.01, 2.02, 2.03, and 2.04, with the following exceptions allowed to Rule of Baseball 2.01:
    - (1) The playing area shall be enclosed, if possible. On all grounds that are not enclosed, a net at least 30 feet wide by 9 feet high shall be located directly behind the plate at the distance specified in By-law 12 (Passed Ball Line). Each dugout/bench shall also be fronted by protective netting, covered with a roof and have seating. Lines shall be marked parallel with the respective base lines at the Passed Ball Line distance specified in By-law 12. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria. Conditions to be established by the Managers with the Umpire before the game.
    - (2) A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used.

- (3) If a home run fence is not provided, home run limits shall be defined by locating witches hats; no discs or metal plates permitted. The minimum home run limits are noted within the By-laws. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria.

#### 63) Uniforms

- a) Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 19 in Part1;
  - i) In Women's competitions, at least seven players must wear the registered club uniform and remaining members shall wear attire as near as possible to the registered club uniform.
  - ii) All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Card.
  - iii) A pitcher may bat wearing a jacket and once reaching base may remove or put on their jacket provided it is readily available with the base coach. No other player may wear a jacket whilst playing.
- b) The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty for a breach of these uniform conditions as per Schedule 1.

#### 64) Baseball Bats

- a) All baseball bats must conform with the Rule of Baseball 3.02.
  - i) Wood, wood composite, wood laminate and aluminium baseball bats may be used.

### Part 4 - Masters Playing Conditions

#### 65) Game Start Times

- a) Start times for Masters Regular Season games shall be as specified in the fixture. The fixture shall be published on the Victorian Summer Baseball League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au).

#### 66) Game Duration

- a) The duration of Masters Regular Season games shall be 9 innings or 1¾ hours (i.e. 105 minutes) with 5 minute rule.
- b) If tied after nine innings, the game may continue only if scheduled time remains.
- c) A "Legal Game" is when a game has been played for a minimum of five (4) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes of play or a regulation game per Rule 7.01.

67) Mercy Rule

- a) If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after seven (7) completed innings, the game shall be 'Called'.
- b) If the home team is or becomes ten (10) or more runs ahead, the bottom half of the seven (7th) innings or subsequent innings shall not be played or completed.
- c) If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08 and 7.01 apply.

68) Seven Run Rule

- a) For Masters Regular Season games the scoring of the seventh run will end the innings. Only seven runs may be counted in anyinnings.

69) Interchange Rule

- a) Players may be substituted and re-enter provided that the replacement player completed one innings in the field, and one turn at bat if the team is not batting all available players, before being substituted.

70) Unable to field a starting nine

- a) Should a team start the game with less than nine (9) players, and have no less than seven (7) players, the team:
  - i) Shall be required to allocate a blank (or blanks) in the line-up where a player is unable to take his place in the line-up, with each blank constituting an out each time a player is unable to take that place in the line-up.
  - ii) May use courtesy fielders to cover a defensive position. Replacement fielders shall not be listed on the line-up sheet and shall not be permitted to take the place of a blank in theline-up.

71) Age Rules

- a) To participate in Masters 38 Division 1 and Masters 38 Division 2, a player must be a minimum age of 38 years.
- b) To participate in Masters 45, a player must be a minimum age of 45years.
  - i) A maximum of two (2) players per team of a minimum age of 43 shall be permitted to participate in Masters 45. No written permission is needed for these players to participate.

72) Pitching Rules

- a) To pitch in Masters 38 Division 1 and Masters 38 Division 2, a player must be

a minimum age of 40 years

- b) There is no minimum age requirement to pitch in Masters45
- c) No player may pitch for more than a total of four (4) innings in any game. One pitch in any innings will constitute an innings pitched.

### 73) Batting and Base Running Rules

- a) Playing Condition 13, the Extended Line-up, applies.
- b) A Designated Hitter (DH) is available for Masters competitions Rule of Baseball 5.11, with the following local amendment:  
“The game pitcher may only pinch hit for the designated hitter.” And replace with ,  
“The game pitcher may be substituted to bat or run for any player but the Designated hitter rule shall then terminate.”
- c) The DH will not be eligible for Most Valuable Player votes.
- d) A runner who replaces a player who is injured or unable to run will not be permitted to steal bases.
- e) A Substitute runner may be used in any game provided the opposing team manager and Umpire are advised before the game.
- f) Any substitute runner replacing the Pitcher or Catcher may only steal on the last out.
- g) The substitute runner must be the following:
  - i) The first Substitute runner must be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning.
  - ii) The second substitute runner must be the batter, (or substitute batter) preceding the first substitute runner used.
  - iii) The third and subsequent runner must be the batter, (or substitute batter) preceding the second and subsequent runner used.

### 74) Play-offs Eligibility

- a) To be eligible to participate in a Play-off series, a player must have competed in a minimum of four (4) Masters Competition games for the club during the Regular Season.
- b) Games played in seniors and Women’s competitions are deemed separate competitions for eligibility purposes and are therefore unable to be counted

towards finals eligibility in any other competition.

- c) The lowest grade that a player can participate in a Play-off series is that grade in which the player has played more than half of their Regular Season games.

#### 75) Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions

- a) Ladder and Play-off positions for the Master's competitions shall be determined by WIN percentage, as follows:
  - i) The win percentage of each team is calculated using the equation specified at Equation 2 Win Percentage below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.

$$\text{Win Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws (}/\text{half)}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$

##### *Equation 2 Win Percentage*

- ii) Where two or more teams score the same WIN percentage, the "Head to Head" method will be used to separate them. If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:
  - iii) Head to Head - Where one team has an advantage in the games won against the others with the same win %, that team will be ranked the highest team.
    - (1) The fewest runs allowed in the game(s) contested by these teams will gain the highest ranking then the remaining teams will revert to "Head to Head". If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and the back "Head to Head" and so forth.
    - (2) If teams are still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the competition, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher ranking team then the remaining teams will revert to "Head to Head". If remaining teams are still tied, then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and then back to "Head to Head" and so forth.
    - (3) The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the "Head to Head" process.

#### 76) Play-off Series

- a) All Masters Competitions will compete in the Single Elimination System Finals and games will be 9 innings or 1¾ hour time limit with 5 minute rule. The Single Elimination System Finals shall be played as follows:

Week 1

Semi Finals: 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>

Week 2

Grand Final Winner 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> plays Winner 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>

- b) Where possible, Masters play-off games shall be scheduled at the highest ranked team's home venue.
- c) The Competition Coordinator shall schedule Play-off games in accordance with Playing Condition 20.

## 77) Grounds and Ground Equipment

- a) The host club of all Masters games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements:
- i) All requirements stated in Rules of Baseball 2.01, 2.02, 2.03, and 2.04, with the following exceptions allowed to Rule of Baseball 2.01:
- (1) The playing area shall be enclosed, if possible. On all grounds that are not enclosed, a net at least 30 feet wide by 9 feet high shall be located directly behind the plate at the distance specified in By-law 12 (Passed Ball Line). Each dugout/bench shall also be fronted by protective netting, covered with a roof and have seating. Lines shall be marked parallel with the respective base lines at the Passed Ball Line distance specified in By-law 12. Other distances must be approved by the Competition Coordinator. Conditions to be established by the Managers with the Umpire before the game.
  - (2) A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used.
  - (3) If a home run fence is not provided, home run limits shall be defined by locating witches hats; no discs or metal plates permitted. The minimum home run limits are noted within By-law 12. Home run boundary riders must be supplied. Other distances must be approved by the Competition Coordinator.

## 78) Uniforms

- a) Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 19 in Part1;



- i) In Masters Competitions, at least seven players must wear the registered club uniform and remaining members shall wear attire as near as possible to the registered club uniform.
- ii) All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Card.
- iii) A pitcher may bat wearing a jacket and once reaching base may remove or put on their jacket provided it is readily available with the base coach. No other player may wear a jacket whilst playing.
- b) The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty for a breach of these uniform conditions as per Schedule 1.

79) **Baseball Bats**

- a) All baseball bats must conform with the Rule of Baseball 3.02.
  - i) For all Masters Divisions - wood, wood composite, wood laminate may only be used.

Part 5 – Junior Playing Conditions

80) **Little League Competitions**

- a) The VSBL acknowledges Baseball Victoria’s position as the peak body in Victoria responsible for appointing a Little League Administrator for the purpose of establishing and administrating Little League competitions compliant with Baseball Australia’s National Development and Retention Pathway.
- b) The VSBL endorses all official Little League competitions and recognizes any junior team entered by a VSBL Club competing in a Little League competition as it would any junior team competing directly in a VSBL junior competition.
- c) The VSBL notes the official rules set forth by Little League International are the rules under which competitions administrated by Baseball Victoria’s Little League Administrator shall operate.

81) **Game Start Times**

- a) Start times for all Regular Season and Play-off games shall be as published in the fixture. The fixture will be published on the Baseball Victoria Summer League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au).  
Table 81 specifies the usual game times.

Competition	Start Time
VSBL State and VSBL Metro	9:00am, Sunday
Area Centres and Club Leagues	as published in the fixture

*Table 81 Junior Play-Off Game Start Times*

82) Game Duration

- a) The duration of all Regular Season and Play-off games shall be as specified in Table 82.

Competition	Age Group	Game Duration
VSBL State League	Under 18	7 innings or two (2) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule.
VSBL Metro League	Under 16	
Area Centre and Club League	Under 12/Little League	6 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule.
	All other age groups	7 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule.

Table 82 Junior Game

- b) For VSBL State Leagues and VSBL Metro Leagues, a “Legal Game” is when a game has been played for a minimum of five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes of play or a regulation game per Rule of Baseball 7.01.

83) Mercy Rule

- a) If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) completed innings, the game shall be ‘Called’.
- b) If the home team is or becomes ten (10) or more runs ahead, the bottom half of the fifth (5th) innings or subsequent innings shall not be played or completed.
- c) If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08 and 7.01 apply.

84) Seven Run Rule

- a) For all Junior Regular Season games the scoring of the seventh (7th) run will end the innings, only seven runs may be counted in anyinnings.
- b) This rule does not apply in Play-off games.

85) Age Qualifications

- a) The minimum age that a player must have attained for participation in age groupings are as specified in Table 85.

Age Group	Minimum Age
Under 16	13 years of age
Under 18	15 years of age

Table 85 Junior Age Grouping Minimum Ages

- b) A player is eligible to take part in their respective age grouping provided he/she is under the age of 16 or 18 on 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year in which the competition commenced.
- c) A maximum of two players per team will be allowed to play in a higher age group than allowed under this Playing Condition. No written permission is needed for these players, however these players are required to meet the minimum age requirement as set out in Table 87.
- d) A Club may apply to the Competition Coordinator to play more than two players in a higher age group than allowed under this Playing Condition, such approval shall be granted at the Competition Coordinator discretion.
- e) On application from a Club, the Competition Coordinator may permit a player to participate in an age group lower than they would otherwise be eligible to participate in. Such application must include specific reasons for the application.
- f) All players playing outside their age group must be identified and have their age stated on the Match Report Card.
- g) Failure of a club to comply with this Playing Condition will result in forfeiture of game and imposition of an "Illegal Player" fine by the Competition Coordinator, as per Schedule 1.
- h) A designated hitter is not available for junior competitions.

#### 86) Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions

- a) The Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions specified in By-Law 18, as well as those listed below, apply to all Junior Summer League competitions.
- b) After a pitching change a maximum of eight warm up pitches or ninety seconds will be allowed.
- c) Under no circumstances will any player be allowed to pitch and catch in the same game.
- d) Teams found to be breaching this Playing Condition will be deemed to have played an "Illegal Player" and therefore the penalty is loss of the game. The loss will be recorded as a 9-0 loss. The non-offending team shall receive either a 3-0 win or the score of the game at the time of the infringement, whichever score is better.

#### 87) Rule Applicable to Area Centres and Club Leagues

- a) In circumstances where a team is unable to field seven (7) players, players may play in another team within that Centre/League. The Competition Administrator of the Centre/League shall determine appropriate arrangements. Games played on assignment shall be

counted towards finals eligibility with the player's usual team.

- b) Players may be substituted and re-enter provided that the replacement player completed one innings in the field and had one chance to bat (i.e. a plate appearance) before being substituted.
- c) Special Playing Conditions may be determined by a Centre/League, for example, use a different type of baseball and coach pitch after a pitcher issues a walk. All such changes must be approved by Baseball Victoria before being used within Centre/League competitions.

## 88) Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions

- a) All Junior competitions' ladder and Play-off positions shall be determined by WIN percentage, as follows:
  - i) The win percentage of each team is calculated using the equation specified at Equation 3 Win Percentage below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.

$$\text{Win Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws (half)}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$

### Equation 3 Win Percentage

- ii) Where two or more teams score the same WIN percentage, the "Head to Head" method will be used to separate them. If this fails to separate the teams, the following method will be used:
  - iii) Head to Head - Where one team has an advantage in the games won against the others with the same win %, that team will be ranked the highest team.
    - (1) The fewest runs allowed in the game(s) contested by these teams will gain the highest ranking then the remaining teams will revert to "Head to Head". If remaining teams are tied then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and the back "Head to Head" and so forth.
    - (2) If teams are still tied, go to the runs allowed by each of the tied teams against the highest ranked team in the competition, then the next highest team and so on. The team with the least runs allowed will be the higher ranking team then the remaining teams will revert to "Head to Head". If remaining teams are still tied, then the tiebreaker reverts to the fewest runs allowed in the games contested by those teams method and then back to "Head to Head" and so forth.
    - (3) The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation

will be determined by the “Head to Head” process.

89) Play-off Series

- a) The Play-off series for VSBL State Leagues and VSBL Metro Leagues and Area Centres and Club Leagues will compete in the Single Elimination System Finals. The Single Elimination System Finals shall be played over two weeks as follows:
  - Week 1
  - Semi Finals: 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Week 2
  - Grand Final: Winner 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> plays Winner 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>
- b) The game start and duration of all Play-off games shall be the same as the Regular Season.
- c) Should scores be tied at the scheduled finish time in Play-off games only;
  - i) For VSBL State Leagues and VSBL Metro Leagues, play will continue until a result is achieved, or until 12:00pm, or until another time which is determined by the Competition Coordinator.
  - ii) For Area Centres and Club Leagues, play will continue until a result is achieved, or while light permits, or until another time which is determined by the Competition Coordinator.

90) Play-off Eligibility

- a) For a player to be eligible to participate in Play-offs matches, he/she must have played at least three (3) games in that competition.
- b) Games played in Seniors and Women’s competitions, and games played in different Junior competitions (e.g. games played in an Area Centre) do not count towards qualification for VSBL State Leagues or VSBL Metro Leagues. These are deemed to be separate competitions for criteria purposes and are therefore unable to be counted towards finals eligibility in any other competition.
- c) Players who play in a Club who have more than one team in the same age group or section are only eligible for the team which they have played most games.
- d) If a player has played an equal amount of games with more than one team during the Regular Season, the Club must apply in writing to the Competition Manager for permission to play the player in a particular team. Once approved by the Competition Coordinator, the player is eligible to play only in the team indicated in the application.
- e) Players who have played in a higher age group will only be eligible for the lower age group Play-off if he/she has played less games in the higher age group than

the lower.

91) Umpires

- a) During the Regular Season, when Umpires are not appointed by BUAV, the HOME team is to supply a Plate Umpire and the Away team is to supply a Base Umpire.
- b) During the Play-offs, where possible, Umpires will be appointed to officiate. Competing Clubs will be advised of Umpire Appointments.
  - i) If an Umpire is unable to be appointed, then the HOME team is to supply a Plate Umpire and the Away team is to supply a Base Umpire.
  - ii) If only one Umpire is appointed the HOME team is to supply a Base Umpire.
- c) The Centre Manager of an Area Centre or Club League may also appoint Umpires to those competitions.

92) Match Report Cards

- a) Match Report Cards are to be completed by the Scorers, then checked and signed to acknowledge accuracy by signing where indicated on the card by the Team Managers and Umpires.
- b) Match Report Cards are to be forwarded by the HOME team.

93) Play-off Playing Preparation

- a) Clubs hosting any final are to have the field properly marked and defined, benches provided for both teams with front screen protection, scoring table and chairs for both scorers behind the back net, whitened bases and home plate, boundary markers and foul flags/poles.
- b) Should this not occur, a report may be made on the Match Report Card and the Competition Coordinator may take action.

94) Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions

- a) The host club of all Junior games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements:
  - i) All requirements stated in Rules of Baseball 2.01, 2.02, 2.03, and 2.04 with the following exceptions allowed to Rule of Baseball 2.01:

- (1) The playing area shall be enclosed, if possible. On all grounds that are not enclosed, a net at least 30 feet wide by 9 feet high shall be located directly behind the plate at the distance specified in By-law 12 (Passed Ball Line). Each dugout/bench shall also be fronted by protective netting, covered with a roof and have seating. Lines shall be marked parallel with the respective base lines at the Passed Ball Line distance specified in By-law 12. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria. Conditions to be established by the Managers with the Umpire before the game.
  - (2) A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used.
  - (3) If a home run fence is not provided, home run limits shall be defined by locating witches hats; no discs or metal plates permitted. The minimum home run limits are noted within By-law 12. Home run boundary riders must be supplied. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria.
- b) Playing field dimensions specified in Rule of Baseball 2.01 shall be replaced by the distances specified in By-law 12, with the following exception:
- i) Area Centres and Club Leagues only shall use the shorter pitching distance specified in each age group.
  - ii) Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria.

#### 95) Uniforms

- a) Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 22 in Part1;
  - i) In Junior competitions, at least seven players must wear the registered club uniform and remaining members shall wear attire as near as possible to the registered club uniform.
  - ii) All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Card.
- b) The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty for a breach of these uniform conditions as per Schedule 1.

#### 96) Baseball Bats

- a) All baseball bats must conform with Rule of Baseball 3.02.
  - i) For all Under 18 VSBL State League competitions - wood, wood composite and wood laminate baseball bats may only be used.

- ii) For all other VSBL State League and VSBL Metro League competitions, including all Qualifying Rounds - wood, wood composite, wood laminate and aluminum baseball bats may be used.

## Part 6 – Administrative Rules

### 97) Registration of Players

- a) Refer to By Law 25

### 98) Non-National Players

- a) A player will be deemed 'non-national' if they are not an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident or have not continuously resided in Australia for the six months immediately prior to the commencement of the season in which a Club wishes to register them as a player.
- b) Baseball Victoria accepts no responsibility for fulfilling any obligations or requirements for the entry of a non-national player into Australia, or any obligations or requirements noted within any contractual agreements between a Club and a non-national player.
- c) A Club may only register and play one (1) non-national player in their first nine seniors and one (1) non-national player in their Division 1 first nine Women's for any season.
- d) There is no restriction on the number of non-national players a Club may register and play in any other team for the season of registration. No new Non-National player registrations will be accepted after the 1<sup>st</sup> of December of each year.
- e) A Club wishing to register non-national players for a season must identify the non-national players at the time of registration and nominate the non-national players that is to play in the first nine Seniors and the Division 1 first nine Women's, as relevant, for the season of registration at the time of registration.
- f) The non-national nomination must be received and approved by the Competition Coordinator prior to the player being able to participate in the Summer League competition.
- g) A Club may request approval from the Competition Coordinator to change the non-national player nominated to play in the first nine for the season of registration due to injury or other extenuating circumstances.
- h) The Competition Coordinator or the office of the Summer League may seek evidence on any player it deems to possibly be a non-national that has not been declared by their Club. The Competition Coordinator or the Summer League may determine the form of this evidence at the time of the request.
- i) Junior players who are non-nationals and are eligible to play in the first nine



of a Club will not count towards the non-national player limit specified in this Playing Condition if selected by the Club to play in the first nine.

- j) Failure of a club to comply with this Playing Condition will result in forfeiture of all games and imposition of an “Illegal Player” fine by Baseball Victoria as per Schedule 1.
- k) At the end of a season a Club that has registered non-national players is to submit a statement to the Competition Coordinator advising whether the non-national players fulfilled their contractual obligations to the Club and, where the Club alleges that a player did not fulfil their contractual obligations, provide details of the alleged breaches of their obligations. Such statements will only be used by the Competition Coordinator in considering granting approval for future registration or clearance of that player.
- l) All non-national players shall be subject to the clearance provisions set out in these Playing Conditions.
- m) A non-national player who has not participated in the Summer League competition for one (1) season, despite being registered by a Club, shall be deemed a free agent if the Club with which that player was registered nominates and registers a different non-national player as the first nine player in any succeeding season. A clearance from the original Club shall not be required for the player who becomes a free agent under this playing condition, should a different Club desire to register the player provided that the Competition Coordinator is satisfied that there was no breach of the player’s contract with the original Club.
- n) Pitching Restrictions for Women non-national- players must pitch in a maximum of:
  - i) 12 games during the Regular Season; and
  - ii) 15 innings during the Play-offs.
- o) Pitching Restrictions for Division 3 Senior Non-Nationals may only pitch in every second game scheduled during the Regular Season and Play-offs.

#### 99) Clearance Procedures

- a) The player wishing to apply for a clearance is responsible for the completion of the Summer League Clearance Form, as published on the Summer League website, and submits it to the Competition Coordinator and the player’s current club.
- b) The “Transfer of Players and Coaches” By-law 8 applies.
- c) Clubs are not permitted to approach Players regarding a clearance between 1<sup>st</sup> December and the completion of the Play-offs.
- d) The Summer League will not accept clearance forms between 1<sup>st</sup> December and the end of the Play-offs, unless the form has commenced its process prior to 1<sup>st</sup>

December.

- e) Prior to any clearance application, a Club intending to interview a player about a clearance from the Club where they currently play, or that has been approached by a player from another Club who states intention to be cleared, must send a Letter of Intent to the player's Club, with a copy being sent to the Competition Coordinator. Such letters must be provided prior to 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- f) Once the Letter of Intent has been provided to the player's Club, the Club may proceed to interview the player.
- g) Clearances may be granted immediately if the player's Club has no objection.
- h) Within 14 days after the Clearance Form has been received by the Competition Manager, the player's current club must accept or refuse the player's clearance request.
- i) Should the player's current club refuse the clearance, the current club must
  - i) invite the player to the next properly constituted committee meeting if the date of refusal on the Summer League Clearance Form is prior to 1st August, or
  - ii) A properly constituted committee meeting within fourteen days of the date of refusal on the Summer League Clearance Form if the date is after 1st August.
- j) A clearance may be refused without the player being invited to a meeting if:
  - i) The player is un-financial. Details of a player's un-financial status shall be furnished with the refused Clearance Form and shall be made available to Competition Coordinator or Summer League on request.
  - ii) A Letter of Intent in accordance with these Playing Conditions has not been received by the player's current Club and the Competition Coordinator.
  - iii) The player is a senior player and is seeking to depart a Division 2 or 3 Club for a Club in a higher Division after the Club had just been relegated in the immediate past season.
- k) Once the clearance is granted and processed, the Competition Coordinator on receiving the approved Summer League Clearance Form shall register the player on the IMG database and the Approved Clearance List displayed on the Summer League Website. At this time only is the player permitted to participate in the Summer League with the destination club.

- l) A player whose clearance application has been refused may appeal to the Summer League Committee against refusal. The appeal must be made on the Appeal Application Form as published on the Baseball Victoria website from time to time, and must be accompanied by the refused Clearance Form and be submitted to the Competition Coordinator, for consideration by the Summer League Committee. Reasons for making the appeal must be shown on the Appeal Application Form and must be relevant to matter discussed at the meeting with the player. The Summer League Committee shall hear any such appeals, as per Appendix H.
- m) A player shall be allowed two (2) appeals against the refusal of a clearance in any one (1) season providing that, in the judgment of the Chairman of the Summer League Committee, the reasons for requesting the second appeal are significantly different from the reasons on which the first appeal was based.
- n) Any player who is not under suspension or disqualified by The Summer League who has not participated in a Baseball Victoria Summer League competition or been a registered member of a club for four (4) years, shall be deemed to be a free agent and may register with any club.

#### 100) Permit Procedures

- a) The “Transfer of Players and Coaches” By-law 8 applies.
- b) The “Clearance Procedures” Playing Condition 101 applies.
- c) A player or coach wishing to apply for a Permit is to complete the Summer League Permit Form, as published on the Summer League website from time to time and submit the form to Competition Coordinator.
- d) Women’s and Masters players can play for separate clubs in the Seniors, and Masters competitions without the need of Permits or Clearances, however the player must be registered at each club, as per Playing Condition 99. (For example, a player plays in a senior’s competition with Club A, and is registered to also play Masters for Club B).
- e) Any Senior player shall have the ability to apply to play a maximum of five (5) games in any one season with another Club other than the Club with which the player is registered, provided that;
  - i) The Permit form is completed in the prescribed manner;
  - ii) The games shall be played only in the Seniors First nine;
  - iii) A Club may only be able to host a maximum of two (2) players under permit in its first nine;
  - iv) The permit does not extend beyond 1<sup>st</sup> December;
  - v) There shall be no right to appeal a refused permit application.

- f) Any Junior player, or person wishing to coach, must apply for a permit to play/coach for a maximum of one (1) season with another Club other than the Club with which the player is registered, provided that;
  - i) The Club the player is registered with does not have a team in the competition (not division or grade) in which the player is seeking a permit to play (e.g. a U14 player is registered at a club that does not enter a team into an U14 competition can apply for a permit to play for a club that does enter an U14 team);
  - ii) The player shall only play in the competition in which the permit stipulates (e.g. a junior player can only play in the Junior competition for the club which they have the endorsed permit); and
  - iii) The Permit form must be completed in the prescribed manner.
- g) Interstate Permits for players or coaches do not apply in Victoria and will not be approved by the Competition Coordinator.
- h) A player participating in contravention to this Playing Condition shall be deemed an "Illegal Player" and penalised by the Competition Coordinator by a fine and loss of the games which the player participated when breaking this condition.

#### 101) Coaching Permits

- a) From time to time, a person registered with a club may desire to coach a team at another club. In these cases, the person shall comply with the Permits Procedures Playing Condition 100.

#### 102) Senior and Junior Team Requirements

- a) The Summer League competition shall where possible consist of at least the following:
  - i) Division 1: 12 Clubs
  - ii) Division 2: up to 14 Clubs
  - iii) Subsequent Divisions are drawn as required.
- b) The eligibility criteria for a Club to play in a Division of the Summer League competition are specified in Table 102. (Review process in place.)

Victorian Summer Baseball League 2019/20 Playing Conditions

Division	Senior Teams Requirement	Junior Teams Requirement
Senior Division 1	At least four Seniors teams	At least six junior teams, one of which must be an Under 18 or Under 16 team.  A maximum of one composite team may be counted as one junior team for each Club. To be recognised as a composite team and be eligible under this requirement, a club shall have a minimum of four players who must play a minimum of three games in the current season.
Senior Division 2	At least three Seniors teams	At least three junior teams, one of which must be an Under 18 or Under 16 team.  A maximum of one composite team may be counted as one junior team for each Club. To be recognised as a composite team and be eligible under this requirement, a club shall have a minimum of four players who must play a minimum of three games in the current season.
Other Senior Divisions, Women and Masters	There are no minimum Senior team requirements.	There are no minimum junior teams requirements.

*Table 102 Team Requirements*

- c) For criteria purposes, a team will only be considered valid once it has participated in, or was available to participate in, 75 per cent of its scheduled regular season games.
- d) For criteria purposes, teams participating in Little League Minor, Major, and Junior competitions will be counted first and Little League Divisional, VSBL State League teams, and VSBL Metro League teams only counted if the Club does not have a Little League Charter team in an age group. This will eliminate players being counted twice.
- e) In all Divisions, 10 tee-ballers and every subsequent additional 10 tee-ballers, who are registered and insured with a Club and are playing in an Aussie T-Ball program, or other sanctioned structured program approved by the Competition Manager prior to commencing, can be counted as one junior criteria team.
- f) To be eligible for promotion, a club must have satisfied both of the relevant senior and junior criteria for at least one year prior to promotion.
- g) Notwithstanding any other promotion and relegations rules, any club not

fulfilling its senior or junior team requirements at the date of assessment will be afforded a probationary period of 12 months to rectify the non-compliance.

- i) Should the club show no positive growth in its participation numbers (defined specifically as an increase of one or more registered teams) during this probationary period, the club shall be relegated at season's end to the highest division in which it qualifies, based on junior and senior team numbers.
- ii) Should a club in this initial probationary period show positive growth in its participation numbers (defined specifically as an increase of one or more registered teams), the club will be afforded a second probationary period of 12 months. Should a club not reach the junior or senior team requirements after this second probationary period, the club shall be relegated at season's end to the highest division in which it qualifies, based on junior and senior team numbers.
- iii) Any probationary period ends when the Club is assessed as meeting the required criteria for its current division.

### 103) Seniors Promotion & Relegation

- a) Provided a Club satisfies the requirements specified in this Playing Condition, the following Seniors teams will be promoted from Division 2 into Division 1 and from Division 3 into Division 2:
  - i) The Firsts are the Minor Premier at the end of the Regular Season, or
  - ii) The Firsts are winner of the Grand Final or Champion Team.
    - (1) In the case that Minor Premier and the Champion Team is the same team, then provided the Club satisfies the requirements specified in the 'Senior and Junior Team Requirement' as set out in Playing Condition 102, the other team in the Grand Final will be promoted.
    - (2) If a team due to be promoted does not comply with the requirements specified in the 'Senior and Junior Team Requirements Playing Conditions 102, no other team shall take its place.
- b) Where two teams are eligible to be promoted from Division 2 into Division 1, and Division 3 into Division 2, then the bottom two teams of the overall standings (regardless of conference) will be relegated from Division 1 into Division 2 and from Division 2 into Division 3.
- c) Where only one team is eligible to be promoted from Division 2 into Division 1 and from Division 3 into Division 2, then the bottom team will be

relegated from Division 1 into Division 2 and Division 2 into Division 3.

104) Statistical Information

- a) Official Club Scorers must photocopy and complete player/pitcher statistics for Division 1 and Division 2 (first nine only) and Division 1 Women’s and forward these to the Competition Coordinator by 10:00am the following day.
- b) The Victorian Summer Baseball League Statistics Form is available on the League website [www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au](http://www.vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au) and must be signed by both scorers prior to submission.

105) Baseball Victoria and ABF Sanctioning

- a) Where required by the Baseball Australia Sanctioning Policy, as published on the Baseball Australia website [www.baseball.com.au](http://www.baseball.com.au) from time to time, Clubs must seek sanction from Baseball Victoria or the Baseball Australia, as appropriate, prior to conducting an activity, event or tour, or engaging a non-national Player.

106) Green Shirt Program

- a) The aim of the green shirt program is to make all beginner/inexperienced officials easily recognizable to all players and spectators with the objective being that people will identify that these officials are ‘learners’.
- b) The program has been successfully implemented in other sports and states. The program found that the abuse received by inexperienced officials was reduced and contributed to a greater retention of ‘inexperienced’ officials, officiating at grass roots level of sport.
- c) Newly trained officials in baseball will be provided a fluorescent green official’s shirt. Baseball Umpires Association Victoria will provide mentoring and support to the new officials and promote awareness of the program and its aims to members.

Schedule 1 - Fines

Infringement	Fine
8(b) Late Start to a game	\$50 per defaulting team
8(c)(d) Forfeiture of a game	\$100 per defaulting team and umpiring fees
101(b) Illegal Player	\$50 per player and loss of game
31(a) Prohibited Substances	\$200 per person and ejection
22(g) Player out of uniform	\$20 per player
23, 47, 64, 719, 98 Defaulting field equipment and markings	\$20 per item

29(c) Non-return of Match Report Card within 72 hours	\$30 per match report
29(d) Non-phoning of scores within 1 Hour	\$30 per team
33(b) Appointed umpire's non or late attendance	\$50 and judicial appearance
33b) Club's failure to supply an umpire	\$20
33(c) Club's failure to supply a scorer	\$20
33(b) Non-attendance to a P&S Meeting	\$50
34(b) Non-attendance at the AGM	\$100
34(b) Non-attendance at the Awards Night	Cost of the ticket

### Policies and Procedures

For all policies and procedures refer to the Victorian Summer League Website at the link below:

<http://vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au/Rules-Admin/Report-Appeal-Procedures>