



Baseball Victoria 2021/22 COVID-19 REGULATIONS - V2

Baseball Victoria strives to provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive experience for all members participating in the 2021/22 Victorian Summer Baseball League season.

As the governing body, we will provide the policies, regulations, and roadmaps to help clubs operate in a COVID safe environment.

Baseball Victoria will focus on what can be done to return to play as soon as it's safe to do so. These COVID regulations support community baseball for a return to play in 2021/22. It will remove ambiguity around decision-making and clearly outline the way forward in a simple, concise, and easy-to-understand format.

In the COVID environment, we need to establish a minimum viable season that will be a version of our normal with enough features to be usable by stakeholders.

Baseball Victoria's priority is to return to play in a safe and welcoming environment.

These regulations are developed to ensure a viable VSBL season that allows participants to participate and feel connected again with their community.

To the extent these Regulations are inconsistent with any other Baseball Victoria regulations including (but not limited to) the 2021/22 VSBL Playing Conditions, these Regulations shall apply to the extent of the inconsistency.

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

- That the health and safety of the community remains the highest priority
- That the VSBL season including finals will be concluded by 27 March 2022
- Washouts and forfeits are deemed as completed games.
- That a minor premiership can be awarded once a minimum of 50% of scheduled home and away games are completed.
- That a minimum viable season which triggers a finals series will be 50% of scheduled games completed and not influenced by traditional fixture requirements and expectations
- That a finals series be played with a minimum of one week (1 v 2) and up to a traditional finals series of two weeks
- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these COVID Playing Conditions then the matter shall be referred to Baseball Victoria as the Competition Manager to determine at their absolute discretion
- Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, Baseball Victoria cannot guarantee that the full VSBL season will be conducted, or even whether 50% of games will be played. The safety of VSBL participants is paramount and Baseball Victoria will at all times ensure that it complies with any COVID-19 Directions issued by the Victorian Chief Health Officer and any associated directions issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure its participants are safe

1. POSITIVE COVID TEST

If a participant returns a positive COVID-19 test or an outbreak of COVID-19 does occur within the baseball community, Baseball Victoria and its members must fully cooperate with the relevant local and state authorities and members must comply with any associated directions given by Baseball Victoria. Should an outbreak occur, we must be ready to act quickly following instructions which may include restriction of activity, team quarantine, and close contacts for a specified period. If a participant or someone who attended a VSBL venue tests positive to COVID-19 (Relevant Person), the following steps must be followed:



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- 1.1 Relevant Person to immediately call DHHS COVID-19 Hotline
- 1.2 Relevant Person to immediately notify club official.
- 1.3 Club official to immediately notify public health authority.
- 1.4 Club official to immediately notify CEO of Baseball Victoria at ceo@baseballvictoria.com.au.
- 1.5 CEO of Baseball Victoria to notify VSBL Manager.
- 1.6 CEO of Baseball Victoria confirm notification with public health authority.
- 1.7 Club to follow advice of the public health authority
- 1.8 DHHS to liaise with operators where someone has been at a venue/facility while infectious.

2. IMPACT OF A COVID INTERRUPTION ON SCHEDULED GAMES

- For **ALL** matches that are unable to be completed as a result from a directive from local or state authorities to isolate or quarantine, the game will be classified as a “no game” if not able to be rescheduled.
- To the extent practicable, and subject at all times to any COVID-19 directions of local and state authorities the season shall continue until the date the finals are scheduled to commence

3. LOCKDOWN OF A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Any player or official living within an area under state-imposed lockdown will not be able to participate in any activities associated with the 2021/22 VSBL season.

If the lockdown results in the two competing clubs unable to provide a team:

1. Baseball Victoria and the two clubs will open discussions about the prospect of rescheduling the match later in the season to be held prior to the final home and away round.
2. If the match cannot be rescheduled within four rounds, the match will be considered a “no game”.

4. LOCKDOWN OF THE STATE

In the event a geographical lockdown measure impacting 50% or more of the clubs within a division, Baseball Victoria will cancel all matches until the lockdown is relaxed. All games missed will be declared a “no game”.

Any player or official living within an area under state-imposed lockdown will not be able to participate in any activities associated with the 2021/22 VSBL season.

5. RETURN TO PLAY FOLLOWING A COVID INTERRUPTED ROUND OR MATCH

First and foremost, the advice of the public health authority will drive a return to play strategy, outside of these impacts:

1. If less than four consecutive rounds are unable to play, scheduled competition will resume without a required training period
2. If more than four consecutive rounds are unable to play, scheduled competition will resume after a 14 day training period.

Baseball Victoria reserve the right to implement a training period prior to the resumption of games following a period of non-activity.

6. IMPACT OF A COVID INTERRUPTION ON FINALS

In order for finals to proceed, Baseball Victoria has determined that each Team must complete at least 50% of their season prior to the date of the first weekend of finals, as per the following table:

Games scheduled	Minimum games needing to be played
21	11



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18	9
15	8
14	7
13	7
11	6

In the event that the minimum number of games has not been achieved by the end of the division home & away season, weekends that were allocated for finals may be allocated to extend the home & away season. Week 1 matches will reflect the first week of missed games as a result of lockdown.

If 50% of scheduled matches have been played following the one week extension, a grand final will be played between the two highest ranked teams.

If 50% of scheduled matches have not been played following the extension, Week 2 matches will reflect the second week of missed games as a result of the lockdown.

In order for Baseball Victoria to declare a premier, at least 50% of scheduled matches are to be played.

7. FINAL QUALIFICATIONS IN A COVID INTERRUPTED SEASON

Should a season be impacted by COVID, Baseball Victoria will adjust finals qualifications requirements based on number of rounds impacted. Finals qualifications will be pro-rated based on missed rounds.

Baseball Victoria retains the right to adjust finals qualifications at their absolute discretion.

8. VOIDING A SEASON

In the event that 50% of scheduled games have not been played by 27 March 2022, the division/season will be declared incomplete, and records will reflect this outcome.

Promotion and Relegation will only occur in a viable season.

Player statistics will be maintained for record keeping purposes.

9. REFUND POLICY

Refunds will be in line with the Baseball Victoria COVID Refund Policy 2021/22.

10. CONSEQUENCE OF A SUSPENSION IN A COVID INTERRUPTED SEASON

All suspensions MUST be served in accordance with the Baseball Victoria rules. Weeks missed due to lockdown do not count as weeks missed during suspension.

11. IMPACT OF COVID ON THE NON-NATIONALS RULE

There are to be no non-national players in the 2021/22 VSBL season.

12. COVID RULE CHANGES

Due to COVID, the following Playing Conditions will be in effect alongside – or instead of – the [2021/22 VSBL Playing Conditions](#) and [Baseball Victoria By-Laws](#).

- Playing Condition 34 – Game Duration (**prior to Christmas only**)

All games to be 7 innings with existing time limits.

- Playing Condition 34 a (vi) (**prior to Christmas only**)

If tied after the maximum number of innings is reached, the game result will be recorded as a tie.

- Playing Condition 34 a (vi) (**post Christmas only**)

If tied after the maximum number of innings is reached, the game may continue as per international tiebreaker rules only if scheduled time remains.



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- Playing Condition 36 b, c, d

Substitute Runner rule to be implemented in all timed senior and womens games – mandatory with two out.

Find a list of Playing Condition changes put in place for the 2021/22 VSBL season [HERE](#).

- By-Law 18 (*prior to Christmas only*)

The Junior Pitching Restrictions will be adjusted per the table below:

Assignment	Under 13 & Below	Under 14 & Under 15	Under 16 & Under 17	Under 18
MAJOR	No Major assignments to be thrown prior to Christmas			
SUBSTANTIAL	20 – 44 pitches	25 – 54 pitches	30 – 64 pitches	40 – 79 pitches
MINOR	Less than 20 pitches	Less than 25 pitches	Less than 30 pitches	Less than 40 pitches

13. PLAYER, OFFICIAL, VOLUNTEER, SPECTATOR VACCINATION STATUS

Baseball Victoria will comply with any COVID-19 Directions issued by the Chief Health Officer from time to time relating to community sport, including VSBL and its activities. Participants must also comply with any such Directions and any directions issued by Baseball Victoria to ensure its compliance with the same.

14. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY COVID BY LAWS

Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these COVID regulations then the matter shall be referred to Baseball Victoria to determine at their discretion



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DOCUMENT VERSIONS

DOCUMENT VERSION	APPLICABLE DATES	CHANGES
Version 1	18 October 2021	
Version 2	8 November 2021	Reviewed by Landers & Rogers <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Extent of Conditions added to introduction- Spelling and grammatical edits- Uncertainty of season included in Governing Principles- Clarity provided in Positive COVID-19 Test Process- Clarity provided in COVID-19 Interruptions- Junior Pitching Limits included- Updated wording regarding vaccination requirements