

Baseball Victoria
VICTORIAN SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUE

2023/24
PLAYING CONDITIONS

V.5
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GOVERNANCE

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| 1a | Governance | These Summer League Playing Conditions are made as Regulations pursuant to Rule 34.1 of the Baseball Victoria Constitution Rules ("Rules"). |
| 1b | Governance | A recommendation for amendment to these Summer League Playing Conditions must be supported when required by the majority of the Victorian Summer Baseball League Pennant Committee, in accordance with Baseball Victoria By-Law 5. |
| 2a | Interpretations | In these Playing Conditions, unless contrary intention appears: |
| 2a (i) | Interpretations | "Association" means Baseball Victoria Incorporated (ABN 78 603 120 057) |
| 2a (ii) | Interpretations | "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Association |
| 2a (iii) | Interpretations | "Club" means an Incorporated Club responsible for the administration of a baseball Club participating in a League |
| 2a (iv) | Interpretations | "Defunct Club" means a Club that has been declared 'defunct' by the Association |
| 2a (v) | Interpretations | "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'. |
| 2a (vi) | Interpretations | "Division" means the age group within the league as defined by the league age of participants |
| 2a (vii) | Interpretations | "League" means a competition comprising Regular Season games and Play-offs between baseball clubs that are members of the Association. |
| 2a (viii) | Interpretations | "Recessed Club" means a club that has been declared 'recessed' by the Association. |
| 2a (ix) | Interpretations | "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. |
| 2a (x) | Interpretations | "Summer League Committee" means the "Victorian Summer Baseball League Pennant Committee" (VSBLLPC) appointed by the Association responsible for the development of these Playing Conditions. |
| 2a (xi) | Interpretations | "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. |
| 2a (xii) | Interpretations | "Regular Season" means games played to determine if a team qualifies for the Play offs |
| 2a (xiii) | Interpretations | "Play offs" means games played to determine the winner of the Season. |
| 2b | Interpretations | In these Playing Conditions a reference to a "Rule of Baseball" shall mean a reference to the "Official Rules of Baseball". |
| 2c | Interpretations | 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

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| 3a | Application of General Playing Conditions | 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. |
| 3b | Registration of Players | All Baseball Victoria registered players, coaches, officials and parents of registered players remain bound by the rules of Baseball Victoria, including these playing conditions, Baseball Victoria By-laws, policies and procedures and Codes of Conduct. |
| 4a | Competition Scheduling | Summer League Clubs must nominate teams for Divisions that they are qualified to enter teams into no later than 31 July prior to the scheduled commencement of the Regular Season. The Competition Coordinator may consider nominations received later than this time at their discretion. |
| 4b | Competition Scheduling | Clubs that have more than four (4) teams must confirm access to and availability of a second field (in accordance with By-Law 12) with Baseball Victoria no later than the 31st July. Clubs that have more than four (4) teams must confirm access and availability of a second field. |
| 4c | Competition Scheduling | The Competition Coordinator shall determine the fixture for the Regular Season for all Summer League Senior, Women's, Master's and Junior competitions. |
| 4d | Competition Scheduling | Rookie Ball or modified competition schedules will be completed by the clubs or areas and submitted to the Association for approval and publishing. |
| 4e | Competition Scheduling | The approved Summer League Fixtures shall be published on the Baseball Victoria Website. |
| 4f | Competition Scheduling | The Competition Coordinator may amend the fixture as needed at any time during the Regular Season. |
| 4g | Competition Scheduling | If the Competition Coordinator amends the fixture, Baseball Victoria shall update the online fixture and notify the Presidents and Secretaries of the affected Clubs and officials as soon as possible. All changes will also be posted to the Baseball Victoria Website as a list of changes and communicated via the Baseball Victoria Memorandum, provided each Friday (or a day to be determined each week). |
| 5a | Season Duration | The Summer League Senior regular season fixture will commence no earlier than the last weekend of September. |
| 5b | Season Duration | The Summer League Senior playoffs will conclude by the end of March. |
| 6a | Christmas/New Year Schedule Blackout | The Competition Coordinator shall not fixture Summer League competitions any later in a year than December 23. |
| 6b | Christmas/New Year Schedule Blackout | The Competition Coordinator shall not fixture Summer League competitions any earlier in a year than January 16. |
| 6c | Christmas/New Year Schedule Blackout | Where this restriction reduces the minimum required weekends to achieve the minimum number of games set forth in Playing Condition 32 & 49, 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. |

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| 7a | Game Start | 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. |
| 7b | Game Start | 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. |
| 7c | Game Start | Competition Coordinator may 'Call' games prior to the commencement of play due to the fitness of playing conditions or weather. |
| 7d | Game Start | Rule of baseball 4.04 and 4.05 also apply |
| 7e | Game Length | 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 official who, at or from that time, indulges in any improper conduct may be reported until up to 1hr following the match completion. |
| 7f | Game Start – Unable to Field Starting 9 | Blanks will only constitute an out in the following divisions: Senior Premier League Firsts and State League Firsts Women's Premier League Firsts |
| 7g | Game Start – Courtesy Fielders | Courtesy fielders are not allowed in Senior Premier League Firsts, State League Firsts and Women's Premier League. Courtesy fielders are allowed in all other divisions and juniors. Courtesy fielders shall not be listed on the line-up sheet and shall not be permitted to take the place of a blank in the batting line-up. |
| 7h | Game Start – Warm Up Pitches | Limits on Warm Up Pitches – Unless a pitcher enters a game to replace a pitcher who has been injured or ejected, they shall be permitted a maximum of 90 seconds including a minimum of five (5) warm up pitches. This same time limit shall apply to pitchers warming up prior to the start of each inning. Should either team take longer than the 90 seconds to make the changeover between innings, penalties will be invoked as per: |
| 7h (i) | Game Start – Warm Up Pitches | On the first occasion, the team Manager will be given a warning by the Plate Umpire. |
| 7h (ii) | Game Start – Warm Up Pitches | Any further transgressions shall result in a called strike (if it is the batting team that offends) or a called ball (if it is the pitching team which offends). |
| 7h (iii) | Game Start – Warm Up Pitches | The 90 second time limit commences immediately the third out of the previous inning is completed. |
| 7h (iv) | Game Start – Warm Up Pitches | The active pitcher will be permitted to warm up prior to taking the mound by throwing in foul territory but beyond the 1st and 3rd base areas toward the outfield. |
| 7h (v) | Game Start – Warm Up Pitches | Umpires should use discretion to prevent conflict when applying this rule. |
| 8a | Late Start and Forfeiture | 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. |
| 8b | Late Start and Forfeiture | 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 |

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| | | that caused the late start on the Match Report Sheet. The Competition Coordinator shall impose a "Late Start" fine on the defaulting team, as per Schedule 1. |
| 8c | Late Start and Forfeiture | 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 "Forfeiture" fine on the defaulting team, as per Schedule 1, and a score of 0-9. The cost of umpire fees will be paid by the defaulting club. |
| 8d | Late Start and Forfeiture | 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 Sheet Competition Coordinator shall impose a "Forfeiture" fine on both teams. The cost of the umpire fees shall be shared between the defaulting teams. |
| 8e | Late Start and Forfeiture | When a game is forfeited the names of the players in attendance from the defaulting team(s) must be recorded in the Match Report Sheet. The non-defaulting team must record a minimum of seven players and a maximum of nine, of the players in attendance. |
| 8e (i) | Late Start and Forfeiture | Players recorded on the Match Report Sheet under this Playing Condition may not play in another game in that round, except under the Two Games/One Round Rule as stipulated in these Playing Conditions. |
| 8f | Late Start and Forfeiture | Where a team forfeits after midnight Thursday before a round the Competition Coordinator shall impose a "Forfeiture of game" fine on the defaulting team, as per Schedule 1. All forfeits must be in writing. |
| 9a | Extreme Weather | For all games affected by rain, lightning or heat refer to By-Law 24. |
| 9b | Extreme Weather | See Baseball Victoria By-Laws 12 (c) for lighting standards. |
| 10a (i) | Rescheduling of Games | Senior/women's/Masters regular season games incomplete or not played due to adverse weather, forfeit or other unsuitable playing conditions will not be rescheduled. |
| 10 a (ii) | Rescheduling of Junior Games | Junior Games that are called before becoming a regulation game shall be considered completed as per the score at the point of even innings. There will be no suspended games. |
| 10b | Rescheduling of Games - | Playoff games incomplete or not played due to adverse weather may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator. |
| 11a | Melbourne Aces and National Championships | 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 website as required and directly to the affected Presidents, Secretaries and Officials. |
| 12a | Pre-Match Warm-Up | Twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the Away team may use the diamond for a maximum of seven (7) minutes. |
| 12b | Pre-Match Warm-Up | Twelve (12) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the Home team may use the diamond for a maximum of seven (7) minutes. |
| 12c | Pre-Match Warm-Up | 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 |

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| | | ground rules, playing conditions and to exchange team line-ups. |
| 13 | Extended Line up – up to 12 batters | This Rule does not apply to Premier League Firsts and Reserves, State League Firsts and Reserves and Women’s Premier League and Reserves |
| 13a | Extended Line up – up to 12 batters | A team, other than those stated in Rule 13, 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. An U14 or U12 junior team may have unlimited players on their extended line-up. |
| 13b | Extended Line up – up to 12 batters | 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. |
| 13c | Extended Line up – up to 12 batters | 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. |
| 13d | Extended Line up – up to 12 batters | If a player on the extended line up does not take their allotted at bat, the player 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. |
| 13e | Extended Line up – up to 12 batters | If a DH is being used, the Pitcher can bat for themselves 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. |
| 14a | Five Minute Rule | 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. |
| 14b | Five Minute Rule | If, at five minutes before the scheduled time of completion, the home team is at bat and is: |
| 14b (i) | Five Minute Rule | Ahead - the game ceases immediately. |
| 14b (ii) | Five Minute Rule | Tied or behind - the game continues until the winning run is scored or the side is retired |
| 14c | Five Minute Rule | If five minutes or less remains at the completion of even innings, the game shall end. |
| 14d | Five Minute Rule | U12 and U14 If the home team is unable to tie/win due to a maximum number of runs per innings rule – the game ceases immediately. |
| 14e | Five Minute Rule | Juniors: No game can continue more than 20 minutes past the scheduled completion time. If at 20 minutes past the scheduled completion time the innings is not complete, the game will end, and scores will revert back to the last completed full innings. If the Home team has been able to tie the game at this point, the tie result will stand. |
| 15a | Visits to the Pitcher by a Coach or a Manager | Rule of Baseball 5.10 (L) shall apply to all junior, Senior, Masters and Women’s, regular season and play-off games with the following exception: |

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| 15a (i) | Visits to the Pitcher by a Coach or a Manager | 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 |
| 15b | Visits to the Pitcher by a Coach or a Manager | For U12 State, U14, U16 and U18 State and Metro Competitions, the 3rd visit to the same pitcher during the game, the player must be removed as a pitcher (the player may move to another position on the field) |
| 15c | Visits to the Pitcher by a Coach or a Manager | For U12 Metro Competitions, the 4th visit to the same pitcher, the player must be removed as a pitcher (the player may move to another position on the field) |
| 16a | Time Wasting | 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 Sheet for consideration of action by the Competition Coordinator. |
| 17a | Allocation of Play-off Venues | The Competition Coordinator shall schedule Play-off games. The scheduling of Play-offs published by the Competition Coordinator is final |
| 17b | Allocation of Play-off Venues | 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 |
| 17b (i) | Allocation of Play-off Venues | 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; |
| 17b (ii) | Allocation of Play-off Venues | 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; |
| 17b (iii) | Allocation of Play-off Venues | The Play-off game for the lower section shall be scheduled at a neutral venue as determined by the Competition Coordinator. |
| 17c | Allocation of Play-Off Venues | 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. |

| DIVISION | FULLY ENCLOSED | SEMI ENCLOSED | MOUND | COVERED DUGOUT | COVERED SCORERS | CLUB ROOMS |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Premier League and State League Firsts & Reserves | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Other Senior | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Women's | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Masters | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Juniors | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Table 20.1

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| 18a | Dugout Protection | All benches/dugouts constructed within a permanent baseball field require protection or screening to protect players from the field of play and weather. |
| 18b | Dugout Protection | 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 |
| 19a | Uniforms | 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. The items in which a club must seek approval for include: |
| 19a (i) | Uniforms | Playing jersey & undershirt/sleeves; and |
| 19a (ii) | Uniforms | Playing pants, belt and socks; and |
| 19a (iii) | Uniforms | Playing cap |
| 19b | Uniforms | The Competition Coordinator reserves the right to reject or request changes to colours or design of new uniforms. |
| 19c | Uniforms | Baseball Victoria holds rights over the following areas of team uniforms for the display of competition sponsor logos: |
| 19c (i) | Uniforms | The left breast of the team playing jersey (the size of the logo representation will not exceed 60cm sq); and |
| 19c (ii) | Uniforms | The left sleeve of the team playing jersey (the size of the logo representation will not exceed 120cm sq). |
| 19d | Uniforms | Baseball Victoria will not approve advertising of cigarettes/tobacco, liquor, gambling companies or any company conflicting with any Baseball Victoria sponsor. |
| 19e | Uniforms | Clubs may place the approved sponsor logos on the following areas of their team uniform and equipment: |
| 19e (i) | Uniforms | The right sleeve of the team playing jersey (the size of the logo representation must not exceed 120cm sq); and |
| 19e (ii) | Uniforms | 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). |
| 19f | Uniforms | The following areas of the uniform must be void of all sponsor logos, with exception to the usual manufacturer's marks: |
| 19f (i) | Uniforms | 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 |
| 19f (ii) | Uniforms | The playing pants; and |
| 19f (iii) | Uniforms | The playing cap; and |
| 19f (iv) | Uniforms | Batting, Catcher's and Coaches' helmets; and |
| 19f (v) | Uniforms | Catcher's chest plate; and |
| 19f (vi) | Uniforms | Any other item used during a match. |

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| 19g | Uniforms | Players and Coaches that participate in games out of uniform will be fined in accordance with Schedule 1. |
| 20a | Baseballs | For games, Clubs must provide at least four match balls, in good condition, meeting the following requirements: |
| 20a (i) | Baseballs | meet the specifications defined in Rule of Baseball 3.01, and |
| 20a (ii) | Baseballs | Are white in colour |
| 20a (iii) | Baseballs | Have a premium leather covering |
| 20a (iv) | Baseballs | Be of the same brand and model |
| 20b | Baseballs | Adequate replacement balls must be available to replace lost or damaged match balls during a game. |
| 20c | Baseballs | The Main Umpire shall adjudge whether the baseballs supplied are of suitable quality and meet the requirements stated in this Playing Condition. |
| 20d | Baseballs | Baseballs for playoffs will be supplied by Baseball Victoria to the following divisions: Men's Premier League Firsts, State League Firsts and Women's Premier League Firsts |
| 20e | Baseballs | Where BV does not supply baseballs for playoffs, the visiting club is to supply minimum 2 new balls of the same brand to the home team. The home team is to provide the umpire with 4 new balls of the same brand for use during the game. |
| 21a | Blood Rule Concussion Policy | 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. If a substitute player is available in the team, they may bat in place of the injured person if required during the 10 minute period (21b). If no substitute player is available, the batting order progresses to the next batter and no blank recorded. After the 10 minutes elapse and no substitute available, and the player has not returned, the blank is recorded in that batting position. |
| 21b | Blood Rule Concussion Policy | 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. |
| 21c | Blood Rule Concussion Policy | Any player with a suspected concussion based on the Baseball Victoria Concussion Policy will be replaced via normal substitution manner and not allowed to return to game. |
| 22a | Player eligibility – two or more teams from the same club in the same Division | 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). |

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| 22b | Player eligibility – two or more teams from the same club in the same Division | For every third and subsequent team a club enters, a further seven (7) core players are required to be submitted to the Competition Coordinator. |
| 22c | Player eligibility – two or more teams from the same club in the same Division | The remaining players that are not in the core group can alternate between the two teams for the duration of the Regular Season. |
| 22d | Player eligibility – two or more teams from the same club in the same Division | Play-off eligibility rule for the two teams are as follows: |
| 22d (i) | Player eligibility – two or more teams from the same club in the same Division | A player may only participate in a playoff game for which team they have played more games for. If there is an equal number 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 the play-offs. The player may participate only with the chosen team during the play-off series and not with any other team in that division. |
| 22d (ii) | Player eligibility – two or more teams from the same club in the same Division | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 22d (iii) | Player eligibility – two or more teams from the same club in the same Division | 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. |
| 23a | Disputes and Protests | 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: |
| 23a (i) | Disputes and Protests | 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. |
| 23a (ii) | Disputes and Protests | 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. |

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| 23a (iii) | Disputes and Protests | 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 the relevant reference to the Rules of the Association, Rules of Baseball or By-Laws or Playing Conditions. |
| 23b | Disputes and Protests | The VSBLPC shall hear the protest as soon as practicable following receipt of a properly lodged appeal |
| 23c | Disputes and Protests | If the VSBLPC considers that the protest is not frivolous, the Competition Coordinator shall return the fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee to the protesting club. |
| 23d | Disputes and Protests | The VSBLPC 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. |
| 23e | Disputes and Protests | There are no protests in Tee Ball |
| 24a | Yellow Card Rule | This rule may be invoked for offences committed of a minor nature including, but not limited to: |
| 24a (i) | Yellow Card Rule | Dissent |
| 24a (ii) | Yellow Card Rule | Minor obscenities; and |
| 24a (iii) | Yellow Card Rule | Misconduct |
| 24b | Yellow Card Rule | 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. |
| 24c | Yellow Card Rule | 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. |
| 24d | Yellow Card Rule | At the conclusion of the game, the Umpire is to record and note the details of the offence that led to the issue of the Yellow Card on the match sheet. Place YC next to the players name. |
| 24e | Yellow Card Rule | The Competition Coordinator shall maintain a register of Yellow Card offences. |
| 24f | Yellow Card Rule | The first and second Yellow Card offences during a competition season shall incur no penalty. If two (2) yellow cards are issued to the same person on the same day, refer Rule 24c. |
| 24g | Yellow Card Rule | 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. |
| 24h | Yellow Card Rule | A person suspended under this Playing Condition will be notified by the Competition Coordinator via their club. |
| 24i | Yellow Card Rule | 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. |

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| 24j | Yellow Card Rule | 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. |
| 24k | Yellow Card Rule | 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. |
| 24l | Yellow Card Rule | 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. |
| 24m | Yellow Card Rule | 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: |
| 24m (i) | Yellow Card Rule | Uphold the appeal, cancel the Yellow Card and advise the Umpire; or |
| 24m (ii) | Yellow Card Rule | Dismiss the appeal and confirm the Yellow Card; or |
| 24m (iii) | Yellow Card Rule | Consider the offence warranted an ejection and impose a penalty; and |
| 24m (iv) | Yellow Card Rule | Decide to retain or return the deposit. |
| 24n | Yellow Card Rule | Decisions of the Tribunal are final and not subject to further appeal. |
| 25a | Ejected Persons | 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 an official has been appointed. |
| 25b | Ejected Persons | 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. Junior players may sit in the stands with their parents/guardian. |
| 25c | Ejected Persons | Ejected persons must not approach the Umpire after being ejected. |
| 25d | Ejected Persons | The reporting umpire and ejected persons shall adhere to the Reported Persons Procedures & Rule of Baseball 6.04 |
| 26a | Melee Rule | 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. The Pennant Committee will determine if a melee took place after reviewing a report submitted by the appointed match official. As such, any player, coach or person that leaves the bench or their designated area to engage in a melee will be penalized as per the reported persons procedures and VSBL Sanctions |
| 26b | Melee Rule | If a player is penalised and believes they are innocent, may appeal their case on an individual basis to the Tribunal Committee |
| 26c | Melee Rule | 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. |

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| 27a | Zero Tolerance | The Summer League will enforce the concept of 'zero tolerance' in order to ensure that Coaches and Managers take a proactive role in eliminating Umpire abuse. |
| 27b | Zero Tolerance | If, in the Umpire's opinion, a player: |
| 27b (i) | Zero Tolerance | Abuses an umpire; or |
| 27b (ii) | Zero Tolerance | Displays dissent towards an Umpire; or |
| 27b (iii) | Zero Tolerance | Argues judgement decisions (e.g. balls and strikes, etc.), the Umpire may immediately eject the player and the Head Coach/Manager from the game. |
| 27c | Zero Tolerance | 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. |
| 28a | Prohibited Substances | A person shall be ejected from a game for smoking/vaping, consuming an alcoholic beverage or chewing/dipping of tobacco and shall be fined as per schedule 1. 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 official 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. |
| 28b | Prohibited Substances | An ejected person under this Playing Condition shall comply with the rule of baseball 6.04 for an ejected person and apart from the mandatory fine and the ejection; no further action will be taken |
| 28c | Prohibited Substances | Costs incurred to clean the mess created by chewing tobacco or seeds at Altona will be charged back to clubs. |
| 29a | Results – Match Report Sheet and Scores | Match Report Sheets 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. |
| 29b | Results – Match Report Sheets and Scores | 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. |
| 29c | Results – Match Report Sheets and Scores | Match Report Sheets 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. |
| 29d | Results – Match Report Sheets and Scores | Names of Players / Managers / Umpires (including Club / Volunteer Umpires) must be completed, and legible on the Match Report Sheet |
| 29c | Results – Match Report Sheet and Scores | The home team must ensure that the Match Report Sheet is received by the Competition Coordinator within 48 hours from the end of the game. The home team will be fined, as per Schedule 1, should the sheet not be received or be received late. All senior match report sheets are to be sent electronically to: seniorscores@baseballvictoria.com.au All junior match report sheets are to be sent electronically to: juniorscores@baseballvictoria.com.au |
| 29c (i) | Results – Match Report Sheet and Scores | Club Officials must submit the Match Report Sheet with completed Umpire adjudicated MVP votes for all Senior, Women's and Master's divisions games electronically to: seniorscores@baseballvictoria.com.au |

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| 29d | Results – Match Report Sheet and Scores | The home club must enter the scores electronically 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. |
| 29e | Results – Statistics Sheets | Statistic sheets for Premier League Firsts, State League Firsts and Women’s Premier League Firsts to be forwarded to seniorscores@baseballvictoria.com.au by 10am the following day. |
| 30a | Umpires and Scorers | 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. |
| 30b | Umpires and Scorers | 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. |
| 30c | Umpires and Scorers | 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. |
| 30d | Umpires and Scorers | Any breach to this rule must be noted on the Match report sheet prior to being received by the Competition Coordinator. |
| 31a | Meetings and Events | Baseball Victoria or the VSBLPC will from time to time require compulsory attendance to meeting and events, including the following but not exclusively: |
| 31a (i) | | Presidents, Secretaries and Coaches Meetings |
| 31a (ii) | | Annual Awards Night (once annually when conducted) |
| 31a (iii) | | Annual General Meeting for the Association |
| 31a (iv) | | Other meetings as prescribed by the Association. |
| 31b | | Clubs that do not attend the prescribed meetings and events will be fined as per Schedule 1. |

PART 2 SENIOR PLAYING CONDITIONS

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| 32a | Regular Season Competition Structure | For Premier League Firsts and State League Firsts, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 22 games |
| 32b | Regular Season Competition Structure | For all other subsequent senior competitions, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 18 games |
| 32c | Regular Season Competition Structure | Within the guidelines established in 32a and 32b, the number of games fixtured in a given season will be at the discretion of the VSBLPC and Competition Coordinator. |
| 32c (i) | Regular Season Competition Structure | The Competition Coordinator may alter the number of games if required due to extenuating circumstances. |
| 32d | Regular Season Competition Structure | All senior competition regular season fixtures shall be based on the participating Clubs being aligned to a single-league competition structure. being aligned to a single-league competition structure. |
| 33a | Game Start Time | Start times for all Regular Season games and Play-offs shall be as published in the fixture. The fixture will be published through SportsTG Passport and BV website |
| 34 | Game Duration | The duration of Seniors Regular Season games shall be as specified in Table 34 below: |
| 34a | Game Duration | <p>Division Game Duration</p> <p>Premier League Firsts and State League Firsts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekend Games 9 innings with no time limit (Legal Game 5 innings) • Midweek Games 9 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule, whichever occurs first. (Legal Game 5 innings or 65 minutes of play) <p>Premier League Reserves and State League Reserves</p> <p>Weekend & Midweek Games 9 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule, whichever occurs first. (Legal Game 5 innings or 65 minutes of play)</p> <p>All Other Divisions</p> <p>Weekend and Mid-Week 7 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule, whichever occurs first. (Legal Game 4 innings or 65 minutes of play)</p> |
| 34b | Game Duration International Tie-Breaker | <p>If the game remains tied after the completion of a scheduled nine (9) innings or seven (7) innings and time remains, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:</p> <p>Each team will begin the 10th or 8th inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.</p> <p>The runners placed on first base and second base will be the last two batters from the preceding innings – the runner placed on first base will be the last batter from the previous inning and the runner placed on second base will be the second last batter from the preceding inning.</p> |

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| | | <p>For example, if the #5 hitter in the line-up is due up to bat, then the #3 hitter will be placed at 2nd base and the #4 hitter will be placed at 1st base. However, teams can put pinch runners on base at the beginning of the inning, but they will replace the existing batters and be permanent substitutes for the remainder of the game.</p> <p>No player re-entry is permitted during extra innings.</p> <p>The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.</p> <p>Any runner that starts on 2nd base or on 1st base in a Tie-Breaker inning will not be credited with a Plate Appearance (PA) or Time at Bat (AB) and any run scored by the players starting as runners at first and second base shall always be an unearned run.</p> |
| 35a | Mercy Rule | 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'. |
| 35b | Mercy Rule | 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 (7th) innings and subsequent innings shall not be played or completed. |
| 35c | Mercy Rule | 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.' |
| 35d | Mercy Rule | 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 (5th) innings and subsequent innings shall not be played or completed. |
| 35e | Mercy Rule | If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08 and 7.01 apply. |
| 35f | Mercy Rule | For all Metro Regional regular season and finals games, the scoring of the seventh run will end the innings: only seven runs may be counted in any innings. |
| 36a | Mid-Weeks Games | If tied after nine (9) innings, and scheduled time remains the game may continue using the International tie-breaker Refer Rule 34b (vi). |
| 36 | Mid-Week Games | Warm-ups between innings and pitching changes must be prompt and minimal at the Umpire's direction. |
| 37 | Designated Hitters (DH) | A designated hitter is available for all Seniors competitions Rule of Baseball 5.11, with the following local amendment: |
| 37a (i) | Designated Hitters (DH) | Delete Rule of Baseball 6.10(b), "The game pitcher may only pinch hit for the designated hitter." and replace with, <i>"The game pitcher may be substituted to bat or run for any player, but the designated hitter rule shall then terminate."</i> |
| 38a | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | The following Playing Conditions only apply to Premier League Firsts, State League First and Premier League Women Firsts |

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| 38a (i) | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | Clubs are to nominate their two (2) top pitchers to the Competition Coordinator for approval. These players cannot be utilised as a Designated Pitcher throughout the season. |
| 38a (ii) | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | A designated pitcher must be: |
| 38a (ii) 1 | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | Australian (not a 'non-national), as per Clause (98); |
| 38a (ii) 2 | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | Under the age of 30 years at 1st January; and |
| 38a (ii) 3 | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | Not considered one of the top two (2) pitchers within the Club. |
| 38a (iii) | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | 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 both games. |
| 38a (iv) | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | In the Reserves game, a DH must be used for the DP. |
| 38a (v) | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | 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 Round Rule in these Playing Conditions, Clause 39. |
| 38a (vi) | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | Any DP used in the Reserves game shall be marked as "DP" on the Line- up Sheet and the Match Report Sheet and all pitchers used in the Firsts game shall be marked as "P". Umpires and Team Managers shall ensure correct recording. |
| 38b | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | 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 the player is in contravention of these Playing Conditions. |
| 38c | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | 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. |
| 38d | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each section for eligibility for Play-offs. |
| 38e | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | The DP rule is not available for the Play-offs. |
| 38f | Designated Pitcher Rule (DP) | Clubs must apply in writing to the Competition Coordinator to change their approved pitchers by stating their extenuating circumstances. |
| 39a | Two games/One Round Rule | Any player who participates in a Premier League Reserves or State League Reserves, game can only participate in the respective division's Firsts game later that round provided the player does not enter the game prior to the end of the second (2nd) inning, except in the case of the DP, who must start both games. |

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| 39b | Two games/One Round Rule | <p>Any player who participates in any other grade can only participate in a game later that round provided the player does not enter the game prior to the end of the second innings and the player is participating in a higher grade than the initial grade played in the earlier game.</p> <p>In these grades, three players may enter the game at any point earlier than the second innings, including the start.</p> <p>(Example: No more than three Premier League Fourths players can start in the Thirds, Reserves or Firsts on the same day)</p> |
| 39c | Two games/One Round Rule | A pitcher in the early game cannot then pitch in the late game. |
| 39d | Two games/One Round Rule | Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each section for finals eligibility. |
| 39e | Two games/One Round Rule | <p>Contravention of this Playing Condition shall result in forfeiture of the second game.</p> <p>The Competition Coordinator shall impose a “Forfeiture” fine on the offending club as per Schedule 1.</p> |
| 39f | Two games/One Round Rule | Participants of one grade cannot participate from any point in a game later that day of the same Division during finals games. |
| 40a | Juniors Playing Seniors | <p>A junior player is eligible to play seniors once they have reached the age of 14 years.</p> <p>A female junior player is eligible to play senior women’s once they have reached the age of 13 years.</p> |
| 40b | Juniors Playing Seniors | A Junior playing in Seniors participates under the rules of that competition except in the following instances: |
| 40b (i) | Juniors Playing Seniors | Pitching Rules - The pitching restrictions prescribed in the By-law 18 applies to juniors pitching in all senior competitions. |
| 40b (ii) | Juniors Playing Seniors | 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. |
| 40c | Juniors Playing Seniors | 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. |
| 41a | Play-Offs Eligibility | <p>To be eligible to participate in a Play-off series, a player must have competed in a minimum number of competition games for the club during the Regular Season as per following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier League Firsts and State League Firsts – 6 games • All other divisions – 4 games |
| 41b | Play-Offs Eligibility | 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. |

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| 41c | Play-Offs Eligibility | <p>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.</p> <p>(ie: 3 games in the Premier 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).</p> <p>Ranking of teams is as follow: Premier League, Reserves, Thirds and Fourths State Leagues Firsts, Reserves, Thirds and Fourths Metro Major Metro Minor Metro Regional</p> |
| 42a | Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions | All Senior competitions' ladder and Play-off positions shall be ranked by WIN percentage, as follows: |
| 42a (i) | Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions | <p>The win percentage of each team is calculated using the equation specified below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.</p> $\text{Win Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws} (\text{alf})}{\text{Total Games Played}}$ |
| 42a (ii) | Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions | 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: |
| 42a (iii) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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. |
| 42a (iii) 1 | Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions | 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. |
| 42 (iii) 2 | Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions | <p>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 son on.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 42a (iii) 3 | Determining Ladder and Play-Off Positions | The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the "Head to Head" process. |

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| 43a | Play-off Series | <p>The Play-off series for Senior Premier League Firsts will be played over two weeks as follows:</p> <p>Week 1</p> <p>Semi Finals: Best of three game series</p> <p>1st vs 4th</p> <p>2nd vs 3rd</p> <p>The team which qualifies with the best overall record at the end of the regular season shall be home team for games 1 and 2. The other team which qualifies shall be home team for game 3.</p> <p>Week 2</p> <p>Grand Final: Best of three game series</p> <p>The winners of each Semi Final series: The winner of Semi Final 1v4 shall be the home team for games 1 and 3. The winner of Semi Final 2v3 will be home team for game 2.</p> <p>1st game midweek, 2nd game Saturday and 3rd game on Saturday if required</p> |
| 43b | Play-off Series | <p>The Play-off series for Seniors State League Firsts will be played over two weeks as follows:</p> <p>Week 1</p> <p>Semi Finals: Best of three game series</p> <p>1st vs 4th</p> <p>2nd vs 3rd</p> <p>The team which qualifies with the best overall record at the end of the regular season shall be home team for games 1 and 2. The other team which qualifies shall be home team for game 3.</p> <p>1st game midweek, 2nd game Saturday and 3rd game on Saturday if required</p> |
| 43d | Play-off Series | <p>The Play-off series for all other Senior Divisions will be played over two weeks.</p> <p>Week 1</p> <p>Semi Finals:</p> <p>1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd</p> <p>Week 2</p> <p>Grand Final:</p> <p>Winner of each Semi Final Series</p> |
| 43e | Play-off Series | The game duration for Seniors Play-off games shall be as follows: |
| 43e (i) | Play-off Series | Premier League Firsts and Reserves, State League Firsts and Reserves Play-off games being 9 innings with no time limit. |
| 43e (ii) | Play-off Series | All other Divisions Play-off games being 7 innings with no time limit. |
| 44a | Grounds and Ground Equipment | The host club of all Summer League games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements: |

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| 44a (i) | Grounds and Ground Equipment | Premier League Firsts and Reserves, State Firsts and Reserves must meet all requirements stated in the Rules of Baseball - 2.01, 2.02, 2.03, 2.04, 2.05 |
| 44a (ii) | Grounds and Ground Equipment | All other Senior Divisions, the following exceptions can be made to Rules of Baseball - 2.01, 2.02, 2.03, 2.04, 2.05 |
| 44a (ii) 1 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | 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. |
| 44a (ii) 2 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used. |
| 44a (ii) 3 | Ground Equipment | <p>If a home run fence is not provided, home run limits shall be defined by locating witches hats; no discs or metal plates permitted.</p> <p>The minimum home run limits are noted within By-Law 12. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria.</p> |
| 45 | Uniforms | Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 19 in Part 1. |
| 45a (i) | Uniforms | All players in Premier League Firsts and Reserves, State League Firsts and Reserves must wear the registered club uniform in all games. |
| 45a (ii) | Uniforms | 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. |
| 45a (iii) | Uniforms | All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Sheet. |
| 45a (iv) | Uniforms | A pitcher may not bat wearing a jacket but, upon reaching base, may put on their club uniform jacket provided it is readily available with the base coach. |
| 45a (v) | Uniforms | At the umpire's discretion outfielders may wear a jacket while playing during cold weather conditions. |
| 45b | Uniforms | The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty, as per Schedule 1, for a breach of these uniform conditions. |
| 46a | Baseball Bats | All baseball bats must conform to the Rule of Baseball 3.02. |
| 46a (i) | Baseball Bats | For all Senior competitions, wood, wood composite and wood laminate baseball bats shall only be used. |
| 47a | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | Rule of Baseball 5.10 applies with the following conditions: |

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| 47a (i) | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | 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). |
| 47a (i) 1 | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | Participants include the manager, coaches and players. Excludes bat boy/girl who is 13 years or younger who must wear a 2 eared helmet at all times. |
| 47a (i) 2 | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | Executives, 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. |
| 47a (ii) | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | For a participant to be eligible to occupy the bench during a game: |
| 47a (ii) 2 | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | The participants must be dressed in the uniform of the team they are representing, or acceptable attire as outlined in Playing Conditions 45aiii, 63ai, 78ai, & 95ai. |
| 47b | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | As Executives, 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 |
| 47c | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | 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. |
| 47c (i) | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | Players not included on the official line-up sheet may be substituted into the game providing: |
| 47c (i) 1 | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | The manager notifies the umpire the substitute is not listed on the line-up sheet. |
| 47b (i) 2 | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | 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. |
| 47b (ii) | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | 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. |
| 47b (ii) 1 | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | 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. |
| 47b (ii) 2 | Number of participants eligible to sit on the bench | 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

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| 48a | Women's Competition Structure | Women's Premier League: A maximum of eight (8) teams. Women's State League: A minimum of six (6) teams Women's Metro Regional: A minimum of four (4) teams | |
| 48a (i) | Women's Competition Structure | No team may enter Women's Premier League without first earning promotion from Women's State League, as set forth in Playing Condition 50. The VSBLPC may increase the number of teams in Women's Premier League. | |
| 48b (i) | Women's Competition Structure | 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 Women's State League. The Competition Coordinator shall have discretion to determine any new team's ability when considering such and application. | |
| 49a | Regular Season Games | For Women's Premier League, the regular season will consist of a minimum of 16 games. | |
| 49b | Regular Season Games | For Women's State League the regular season will consist of a minimum of 16 game. | |
| 49c | Regular Season Games | For Women's Metro Regional the regular season will consist of a minimum of 16 games. | |
| 49d | Regular Season Games | 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 VSBLPC and Competition Coordinator, following a process of consultation involving the Competition Coordinator and the clubs. | |
| 49d (i) | Regular Season Games | The Competition Coordinator may alter the number of games if required due to extenuating circumstances. | |
| 50a | Women's Promotion and Relegation | The following team shall be promoted from Women's State League to Women's Premier League for the following season: | |
| 50a (i) | Women's Promotion and Relegation | The team that is the winner of the Women's State League Grand Final, or Champion Team. | |
| 50a (ii) | Women's Promotion and Relegation | This team will be promoted in place of the team that finished last in Women's Premier League at the end of the Regular Season, with the last placed team in Women's Premier League then relegated to Women's State League | |
| 51a | Game Start Times | Start times for Regular Season games and Play-offs shall be as published in the fixture. | |
| 52a | Game Duration | The duration of Women's Regular Season games shall be as specified in the Table below. | |
| 52a | Game Duration | DIVISION | GAME DURATION |
| | | Women's mid-week games | 7 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule |
| | | Women's Premier League | 7 innings or 2½ hours with 5 minute rule |
| | | Women's Premier League Reserves Women's State League and Women's Metro Regional | 7 innings or 2 hours with 5 minute rule |
| 52b | Game | A "Legal Game" is when a game has been played for a minimum of four (4) innings or | |

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| | Duration | sixty-five (65) minutes of play or a regulation game per Rule of Baseball 7.01. |
| 52c | Game Duration International Tie-breaker | <p>If the game remains tied after the completion of seven (7) innings and time remains, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:</p> <p>Each team will begin the 8th inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.</p> <p>The runners placed on first base and second base will be the last two batters from the preceding innings – the runner placed on first base will be the last batter from the previous inning and the runner placed on second base will be the second last batter from the preceding inning.</p> <p>For example, if the #5 hitter in the line-up is due up to bat, then the #3 hitter will be placed at 2nd base and the #4 hitter will be placed at 1st base. However, teams can put pinch runners on base at the beginning of the inning, but they will replace the existing batters and be permanent substitutes for the remainder of the game.</p> <p>No player re-entry is permitted during extra innings.</p> <p>The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.</p> <p>Any runner that starts on 2nd base or on 1st base in a Tie-Breaker inning will not be credited with a Plate Appearance (PA) or Time at Bat (AB) and any run scored by the players starting as runners at first and second base shall always be an unearned run.</p> |
| 53a | Pitching – Women’s Metro Regional | The standard pitching distance for Women’s Metro Regional is 60’ 6” as per the Official Rules of Baseball. |
| 53b | Pitching – Women’s Metro Regional | Where it is deemed to be in the best interest of the game, the manager may request that a new/developing pitcher be able to pitch from a reduced distance. |
| 53c | Pitching – Women’s Metro Regional | Provided both teams agree, and continue to be in agreement, the pitching distance may be reduced to a minimum of 54’ to assist any new/developing pitchers. |
| 53d | Pitching – Women’s Metro Regional | As part of this rule, a new/developing pitcher will be required to start and finish each batter from the standard or reduced distance without change during that batter’s time at bat. They may however change the pitching distance during the same inning/outing |
| 53e | Pitching – Women’s Metro Regional | No current Australian or Victorian Representative player can pitch or hit in Women’s Metro Regional under this format. |
| 54a | Mercy Rule | If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) completed innings, the game shall be ‘Called’. |
| 54b | Mercy Rule | 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. |
| 54c | Mercy Rule | If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08, and 7.01 apply. |

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| 54d | Seven Run Rule | For Women's State League and Metro Regional Regular Season and play-off games the scoring of the seventh run will end the innings: only seven runs may be counted in any innings. |
| 55a | Designated Hitters (DH) | A designated hitter is available for Women's competitions Rule of Baseball 5.11, with the following local amendment: |
| 55a (i) | Designated Hitters (DH) | Delete from the third last paragraph the sentence in brackets, "The game pitcher may only pinch hit for the designated hitter." And replace with, <i>"The game pitcher may be substituted to bat or run for any player, but the designated hitter rule shall then terminate."</i> |
| 56a | Women's Two Games/One Round | Any player who participates in a Premier Women's Reserves, Women's State League or Women's Metro Regional game can only participate in a game later that round provided the player does not enter the game prior to the end of the second innings and the player is participating in a higher grade than the initial grade played in the earlier game. In these grades, three players may enter the game at any point earlier than the second innings, including the start. (Example: No more than three Women's State League players can start in the Women's Premier League on the same day) |
| 56b | Women's Two Games/One Round | Any player that pitches in an early game cannot then pitch in a late game. |
| 56c | Women's Two Games/One Round | Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each section for play-off eligibility. |
| 56d | Women's Two Games/One Round | Participants of one grade cannot participate from any point in a game later that day of the same Division during play-off games. |
| 56e | Women's Two Games/One Round | 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. |
| 57a | Interchange Rule Premier League | Any players who are replaced before or 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. |
| 57b | Interchange Rule Division 1 | 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. |
| 58a | Juniors Playing Seniors | A junior female player is eligible to play in the Women's competition once she has reached the age of 13 years of age. |
| 58b | Juniors Playing Seniors | A Junior playing in the Women's competition participates under the rules of that competition except in the following instances: |
| 58 b (i) | Juniors Playing Seniors | Pitching Rules – The pitching restrictions prescribed in By-law 18 applies to juniors pitching in Women's competition. |

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| 58b (ii) | Juniors Playing Seniors | 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. |
| 58c | Juniors Playing Seniors | 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. |
| 59a | Play-offs Eligibility | 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. |
| 59b | Play-offs Eligibility | 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. |
| 59c | Play-offs Eligibility | 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 Premier League, 2 in Women’s State League and 3 in the Metro Regional - this player would be eligible for the Women’s State League team - half or more (5 of 8) games have been played in State League or below). |
| 60a | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | All Women’s competitions’ ladder and Play-off positions shall be determined by WIN percentage, as follows: |
| 60a (i) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | <p>The win percentage of each team is calculated using the equation specified below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order.</p> $\text{Win Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws} (\text{alf})}{\text{Total Games Played}^h}$ |
| 60a (ii) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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: |
| 60a (iii) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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. |
| 60a (iii) 1 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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 |
| 60a (iii) 2 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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. |
| 60a (iii) 3 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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 son 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. |

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| 60a (iii) 4 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the “Head to Head” process. |
| 61 | Play-off Series | All Women’s Competitions will compete in the Single Elimination System Finals and shall be played as follows: Week 1 Semi Finals: 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3 rd Week 2 Grand Final: Winner 1st vs 4th plays Winner 2nd vs 3 rd |
| 61a | Play-off Series | The game duration for Women’s Play-off games shall be as follows: |
| 61a (i) | Play-off Series | Women Premier League Play-off games being 7 innings with no time limit. |
| 61a (ii) | Play-off Series | All other Women’s Divisions Play-off games being 7 innings or 2-hour time limit with 5 minute rule. Only seven runs may be counted in any innings. |
| 62a | Grounds and Ground Equipment | The host club of all Women’s competition games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements: |
| 62a (i) | Grounds and Ground Equipment | 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: |
| 62a (i) 1 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | 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. |
| 62a (i) 2 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used. |
| 62a (i) 3 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | 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. |
| 63a | Uniforms | Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 19 in Part 1; |
| 63a (i) | Uniforms | 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. |
| 63a (ii) | Uniforms | All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Sheet. |
| 63a (iii) | Uniforms | 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. |

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| 63b | Uniforms | The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty for a breach of these uniform conditions as per Schedule 1. |
| 64a | Baseball Bats | All baseball bats must conform with the Rule of Baseball 3.02. |
| 64a (i) | Baseball Bats | Wood, wood composite, wood laminate and aluminium baseball bats may be used. |

PART 4 MASTERS PLAYING CONDITIONS

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| 65a | Game Start Times | Start times for Masters Regular Season games shall be as specified in the fixture. |
| 66a | Game Duration | The duration of Masters Regular Season games shall be 9 innings or 1¾ hours (i.e. 105 minutes) with 5 minute rule. |
| 66b | Game Duration | If tied after nine innings, the game may continue only if scheduled time remains. |
| 66c | Game Duration | 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 7.01. |
| 67a | Mercy Rule | If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after seven (7) completed innings, the game shall be ‘Called’. |
| 67b | Mercy Rule | 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. |
| 67c | Mercy Rule | If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08 and 7.01 apply. |
| 68a | Seven Run Rule | For Masters Regular Season and play-off games the scoring of the seventh run will end the innings. Only seven runs may be counted in any innings. |
| 69a | Interchange Rule | 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. |
| 70a | Unable to field a starting nine | A team may start the game with less than nine (9) players, and have no less than seven (7) players. |
| 70b | Unable to field a starting nine | If a team starts a game with less than 9 players, blanks are not recorded as outs. |
| 71a | Age Rules | To participate in Masters 38 Division 1 and Masters 38 Division 2, a player must be a minimum age of 38 years. |
| 71b | Age Rules | To participate in Masters 45, a player must be a minimum age of 45 years. |
| 71b (i) | Age Rules | 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. |
| 72a | Pitching Rules | To pitch in Masters 38 Division 1 and Masters 38 Division 2, a player must be a minimum age of 40 years. |
| 72b | Pitching Rules | There is no minimum age requirement to pitch in Masters 45. |
| 72c | Pitching Rules | 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. |

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| 73a | Batting and base Running Rules | Playing Condition 13, the Extended Line-up, applies. |
| 73b | Batting and base Running Rules | 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.” |
| 73d | Batting and base Running Rules | A runner who replaces a player who is injured or unable to run will not be permitted to steal bases. |
| 73e | Batting and base Running Rules | A Substitute runner may be used in any game provided the opposing team manager and Umpire are advised before the game. |
| 73f | Batting and base Running Rules | Any substitute runner replacing the Pitcher or Catcher may only steal on the last out. |
| 73g | Batting and base Running Rules | The substitute runner must be the following: |
| 73g (i) | Batting and base Running Rules | The first Substitute runner must be the batter, (or substitute batter), immediately preceding the batter who leads off the inning. |
| 73g (ii) | Batting and base Running Rules | The second substitute runner must be the batter, (or substitute batter) preceding the first substitute runner used. |
| 73g (iii) | Batting and base Running Rules | The third and subsequent runner must be the batter, (or substitute batter) preceding the second and subsequent runner used. |
| 74a | Play-offs Eligibility | 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. |
| 74b | Play-offs Eligibility | 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. |
| 75a | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | Ladder and Play-off positions for the Master’s competitions shall be determined by WIN percentage, as follows: |
| 75a (i) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | The win percentage of each team is calculated using the Win Percentage equation specified below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order. h Win Percentage = $\frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws} (alf)}{\text{Total Games Played}}$ |
| 75a (ii) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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: |
| 75a (iii) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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. |

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| 75a (iii) 1 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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. |
| 75a (iii) 2 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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 son 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. |
| 75a (iii) 3 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the “Head to Head” process. |
| 76a | Play-off Series | All Masters Competitions will compete in the Single Elimination System play-offs and games will be 9 innings or 1¾ hour time limit with 5 minute rule. The Single Elimination System play-offs shall be played as follows: Week 1 Semi Final: 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd Week 2 Grand Final: Winner 1st vs 4th plays Winner 2nd vs 3 rd |
| 76b | Play-off Series | Where possible, Masters play-off games shall be scheduled at the highest ranked team’s home venue. |
| 76c | Play-off Series | The Competition Coordinator shall schedule Play-off games in accordance with Playing Condition 17. |
| 77a | Grounds and Ground Equipment | The host club of all Masters games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements: |
| 77a (i) | Grounds and Ground Equipment | 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: |
| 77a (i) 1 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | 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. |
| 77a (i) 2 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used. |
| 77a (i) 3 | Grounds and Ground Equipment | 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. |

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| 78a | Uniforms | Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 19 in Part 1. |
| 78a (i) | Uniforms | 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. |
| 78a (ii) | Uniforms | All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Sheet. |
| 78a (iii) | Uniforms | A pitcher may not bat wearing a jacket but, upon reaching base, may put on their club uniform jacket provided it is readily available with the base coach. |
| 78b | Uniforms | The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty for a breach of these uniform conditions as per Schedule 1. |
| 79a | Baseball Bats | All baseball bats must confirm with the Rule of Baseball 3.02 |
| 79a (i) | Baseball Bats | For all Masters Divisions - wood, wood composite, wood laminate may only be used. |

PART 5 JUNIOR PLAYING CONDITIONS

| 80a | Junior Competition | Junior Baseball is geared to provide an outlet of healthy activity and training under good leadership in an atmosphere of community participation. It is designed to inspire them with goals and enrich their lives towards the day when they take their place in the world. It will establish the values of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. Those entrusted with the administration and delivery of junior baseball need to instil these ethics, along with encouraging a love for the sport and a drive to increase the participation. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 81a | Game Start times Table 81 | <p>Start times for all Regular Season and Play-off games shall be as published in the fixture.</p> <p>Table 81 specifies the usual game times.</p> <table><tr><th>COMPETITION</th><th>START TIME</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>U12, U14, U16 & U18 State and Metro</td><td>9am Sunday</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Area Centres and Club Leagues as published in the fixture.</p> | | | COMPETITION | START TIME | | U12, U14, U16 & U18 State and Metro | 9am Sunday | | | | | | | | |
| COMPETITION | START TIME | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U12, U14, U16 & U18 State and Metro | 9am Sunday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 82a | Game Duration | The duration of all Regular Season and Play-off games shall be as specified in Table 82. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Game Duration Table 82 | <table><tr><th>COMPETITION</th><th>AGE GROUP</th><th>GAME DURATION</th></tr><tr><td>VSBL State League VSBL Metro League</td><td>Under 18 Under 16 Under 14</td><td>7 innings or two (2) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule.</td></tr><tr><td>VSBL State</td><td>Under 12</td><td>6 innings or two (2) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule.</td></tr><tr><td>VSBL Metro</td><td>Under 12</td><td>6 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule.</td></tr><tr><td>Area Centre and Club League</td><td>All other age groups eg Rookie Ball and modified competitions</td><td>6 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule.</td></tr></table> | COMPETITION | AGE GROUP | GAME DURATION | VSBL State League VSBL Metro League | Under 18 Under 16 Under 14 | 7 innings or two (2) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. | VSBL State | Under 12 | 6 innings or two (2) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. | VSBL Metro | Under 12 | 6 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. | Area Centre and Club League | All other age groups eg Rookie Ball and modified competitions | 6 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. |
| COMPETITION | AGE GROUP | GAME DURATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VSBL State League VSBL Metro League | Under 18 Under 16 Under 14 | 7 innings or two (2) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VSBL State | Under 12 | 6 innings or two (2) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VSBL Metro | Under 12 | 6 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Area Centre and Club League | All other age groups eg Rookie Ball and modified competitions | 6 innings or one and a half (1½) hour time limit with five (5) minute rule. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 82c | Game Duration | For U18, U16 & U14 VSBL State Leagues and VSBL Metro Leagues, 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 82d | Game Duration | For U12 State Competitions, 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 82e | Game Duration | For U12 Metro Competitions, a “Legal Game” is when a game has been played for a minimum of four (4) innings or forty-five (45) minutes of play or a regulation game per Rule of Baseball 7.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 82f | Game Duration | U12 State, U14 State and U14 Metro Mid-week games may be scheduled as 90-minute games, as agreed by the Competitions Coordinator | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 83b | Batting Order | The use of extended line-up will be confirmed by coaches at the plate meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 83c | Batting Order | If one team is unable to field 9 players for any reason (illness/injury/etc.), no automatic out (Blank) will be enforced. Teams will bat through their line-up. Opposition teams are encouraged to provide a substitute fielder(s) in these occasions. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 84a | Run Rule | If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) completed innings, the game shall be ‘Called’. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 84b | Run Rule | 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 85c | Run Rule | If a game is ended under this Playing Condition, the game ending provisions of Rules of Baseball 5.08 and 7.01 apply. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 86a | Seven Run Rule | For all U18 and U16 Regular Season and play-off games the scoring of the seventh (7th) run will end the innings, only seven runs may be counted in any innings. This rule applies in Play-off games | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 86b | Five Run Rule | For all U14 and U12 games the scoring of the fifth (5th) run will end the innings, only five runs may be counted in any innings. This rule applies in Play-off games | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 87a | 10/15 Rule | For U12 State if after three (3) innings, (two and one-half innings if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings, (three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 87b | 10/15 Rule | If after Four (4) innings, (three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after five (5) innings, (four and one-half innings if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 87c | 10/15 Rule | If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) or ten (10) runs or more respectively, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 88a | Drop 3 rd strike | In U12 State will be played out. In U12 Metro will be an automatic out. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 88b | Designated Hitter | Under no circumstances will any player be allowed to act as a Designated Hitter. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 89a | Age Qualifications | <table><tr><td colspan="2">The minimum age that a player must have attained for participation in State and Metro competitions are:</td></tr><tr><td>U12 Metro</td><td>7 years of age</td></tr><tr><td>U12 State</td><td>9 years of age</td></tr><tr><td>U14 Metro & State</td><td>11 years of age</td></tr><tr><td>U16 State & Metro</td><td>13 years of age</td></tr><tr><td>U18 State & Metro</td><td>14 years of age</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | | The minimum age that a player must have attained for participation in State and Metro competitions are: | | U12 Metro | 7 years of age | U12 State | 9 years of age | U14 Metro & State | 11 years of age | U16 State & Metro | 13 years of age | U18 State & Metro | 14 years of age | | |
| The minimum age that a player must have attained for participation in State and Metro competitions are: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U12 Metro | 7 years of age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U12 State | 9 years of age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U14 Metro & State | 11 years of age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U16 State & Metro | 13 years of age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U18 State & Metro | 14 years of age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 89b | Age Qualifications | A player is eligible to take part in their respective age grouping provided they are under the relevant age on 31st December of the year in which the competition commenced. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 89c | Age Qualifications | 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 Rule 85a. |
| 89d | Age Qualifications | 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. |
| 89e | Age Qualifications | 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 on the Dispensation Form. |
| 89f | Age Qualifications | All players playing outside their age group must be identified and have their age stated on the Match Report Sheet. |
| 89g | Age Qualifications | Failure of a club to comply with this Playing Condition will result in coach being suspended for 1 Game and imposition of an “Illegal Player” fine by the Competition Coordinator, as per Schedule 1. If offence happens again the Coach will be suspended for 3 Games and fine will be doubled. If an offence happens a third time coach will be suspended for 20 games and club will need to face a disciplinary hearing. |
| 90a | Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions | The Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions specified in By-Law 18, as well as those listed below, apply to all Junior Summer League competitions. |
| 90b | Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions | After a pitching change a maximum of five (5) warm up pitches or ninety seconds will be allowed. |
| 90c | Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions | No player is permitted to pitch and catch in the same day in any competition. |
| 90d | Pitching and Catching Restrictions | If you are playing a modified midweek competition, you must adhere to the junior pitch count regulations. |
| 90e | Pitching and Catching Restrictions | All catchers must wear a mask, “dangling” type throat protector, and catcher’s helmet during infield/outfield practice, pitcher warm-up, and games. Skull caps are not permitted. |
| 90f | Pitching and Catching Restrictions | Pitchers aged 13 and under may only throw fast balls or straight change ups. Knuckle balls, split fingers, fork balls and curve balls are not permitted. |
| 90g | Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions | <p>Failure to comply with this Playing Condition by a coach in the first instance will result in the matter being referred to the Pennant Committee for review, following which a fine of \$250 may be imposed on the coach.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Playing Condition by a coach a second time will result in a fine of \$500 for the coach and the matter being referred to the Tribunal for an appropriate suspension ruling.</p> |
| 91a | Designated base runner | A coach may use a designated runner to replace any base runner who is injured. |
| 90b | Designated base runner | Any substitute runner should be a bench player, or last out. It must not be a player who can potentially be required to bat while on base as a substitute runner. |

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| 91a | Sliding or Collision rule | For all U12 and U14 State and Metro games, where there is a play, or possibility of a play, at home plate, the runner must slide. For failing to slide, the runner will be out. |
| 91b | Sliding or Collision rule | A runner attempting to break up a double play at 2nd or 3rd base must slide directly into the base and not beyond the base. It is an illegal slide if; the runner slides away from the base line in the direction of the fielder; the runner uses a rolling or cross body block, or if the runner uses a pop-up slide into the fielder. |
| 91c | Sliding or Collision rule | When sliding the runner's lead leg must be below the knee of the infielder and should first contact the base at its nearest side. |
| 91d | Sliding or Collision rule | Contact is allowed if the runner; makes a legal slide directly to the base or is on the ground at the time of contact and the fielder moves directly down the line between the two bases to attempt a play. Interference shall NOT be called. |
| 92a | Base Running | For all U12 State and Metro games, there will be no leads. Base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and reached the batter. Rule 7.13 is applicable |
| 92b | Base Running | A runner is out when the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag |
| 92c | Base Running | U12 State and Metro games No headfirst slides are allowed. Regardless of whether the runner is advancing or returning to a base |
| 92d | Base Running | U12 Metro Once the third strike has been indicated by the Umpire, the batter is automatically out, regardless of whether the catcher catches the pitch or not. Base runners may advance at their own risk while the ball is in play. |
| 92e | Batting Rule | For all U12 State and Metro games there are no On-Deck Batters. No batter is to be handling a bat or taking swings outside of the playing area. |
| 93a | Rule applicable to Area Centres and Club Leagues | In circumstances where a team is unable to field seven (7) players, players may play in another team within that Centre/League. The Competition Coordinator of the Centre/League shall determine appropriate arrangements. Games played on assignment shall be counted towards finals eligibility with the player's usual team. |
| 92b | Rule Applicable to Area Centres and Club | 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. |
| 93c | Rule Applicable to Area Centres and Club Leagues | 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. |
| 94a | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | All Junior competitions' ladder and Play-off positions shall be determined by WIN percentage, as follows: |
| 94a (i) | Determining Ladder and Play-off | The win percentage of each team is calculated using the equation specified below. Teams are ranked on the ladder in descending order. |

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| | Positions | $\text{Win Percentage} = \frac{\text{Total Wins} + \text{Draws} (\text{alf})}{\text{Total Games Played}}$ |
| 94a (ii) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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: |
| 94a (iii) | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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. |
| 94a (iii) 1 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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. |
| 94a (iii) 2 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | 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 son 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. |
| 94a (iii) 3 | Determining Ladder and Play-off Positions | The ranking of the final two teams in the above situation will be determined by the “Head to Head” process. |
| 95a | Play-Off Series | <p>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:</p> <p>Week 1</p> <p>Semi Finals: 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd</p> <p>Week 2</p> <p>Grand Final: Winner 1st vs 4th plays Winner 2nd vs 3rd</p> |
| 95b | Play-Off Series | The game start and duration of all Play-off games shall be the same as the Regular Season. |
| 95c | Play-Off Series | Should scores be tied at the scheduled finish time in Play-Off games only, play will continue until a result is achieved, or until 12:00pm, or until another time which is determined by Baseball Victoria. |
| 95d | Play-Off Series | <p>Should scores be tied at the scheduled finish time in Play-off games only.</p> <p>If the game remains tied after the completion of seven (7) innings, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:</p> <p>Each team will begin the 8th inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.</p> <p>The runners placed on first base and second base will be the last two batters from the preceding innings – the runner placed on first base will be the last batter from the</p> |

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| | | <p>previous inning and the runner placed on second base will be the second last batter from the preceding inning.</p> <p>For example, if the #5 hitter in the line-up is due up to bat, then the #3 hitter will be placed at 2nd base and the #4 hitter will be placed at 1st base. However, teams can put pinch runners on base at the beginning of the inning, but they will replace the existing batters and be permanent substitutes for the remainder of the game.</p> <p>No player re-entry is permitted during extra innings.</p> <p>The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.</p> <p>Any runner that starts on 2nd base or on 1st base in a Tie-Breaker inning will not be credited with a Plate Appearance (PA) or Time at Bat (AB) and any run scored by the players starting as runners at first and second base shall always be an unearned run.</p> |
| 96a | Play-Off Eligibility | For a player to be eligible to participate in Play-offs matches, they must have played at least three (3) games in that competition or a lower junior competition and qualify as per rule 85a |
| 96b | Play-Off Eligibility | 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. |
| 96c | Play-Off Eligibility | 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. |
| 96d | Play-Off Eligibility | If a player has played an equal number of games with more than one team during the Regular Season, the Club must apply in writing to the Competition Coordinator 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. |
| 96e | Play-Off Eligibility | Players who have played in a higher age group will only be eligible for the lower age group Play-off if they have played less games in the higher age group than the lower. |
| 97a | Umpires | During the Regular Season, when Umpires are not appointed by BV, the HOME team is to supply a Plate Umpire and the Away team is to supply a Base Umpire. |

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| 97b | Umpires | During the Play-offs, where possible, Umpires will be appointed to officiate. Competing Clubs will be advised of Umpire Appointments. |
| 97b (i) | Umpires | 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 |
| 97b (ii) | Umpires | If only one Umpire is appointed the HOME team is to supply a Base Umpire. |
| 97c | Umpires | The Centre Manager of an Area Centre or Club League may also appoint Umpires to those competitions. |
| 98a | Match Report Sheet | Match Report Sheets 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. |
| 98b | Match Report Sheet | Match Report Sheets are to be forwarded by the HOME team |
| 99a | Play-off Playing Preparation | 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 markets and foul flags/poles. |
| 99b | Play-off Playing Preparation | Should this not occur, a report may be made on the Match Report Sheet and the Competition Coordinator may take action. |
| 100a | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | The host club of all Junior games is to provide grounds and ground equipment that meets the following minimum requirements: |
| 100a (i) | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | 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: |
| 100a (i) 1 | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | 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. |
| 100a (i) 2 | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | A secured mat covering the front of the pitching mound may be used. |
| 100a (i) 3 | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | 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. Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria. |

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| 100b | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | 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: | | | |
| 100b (i) | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | Area Centres and Club Leagues only shall use the shorter pitching distance specified in each age group. | | | |
| 100b (ii) | Grounds, Ground Equipment and Dimensions | Other distances must be approved by Baseball Victoria. | | | |
| | | U12 Metro | U12 State | U14 State & Metro | U16 & U18 State & Metro |
| | Base Paths | 60 Feet | 60 Feet | 80 Feet | |
| | Pitching Distance | 42 Feet | 46 Feet | 54 Feet | |
| | Home Run Fence | LF: 150 Ft CF: 170 Ft RF: 150 Ft | LF: 200 Ft CF: 200 Ft RF: 200 Ft | LF: 230 Ft CF: 250 Ft RF: 230 Ft | Full adult size diamond |
| | Back Net | Maximum 35 feet (10m) from home plate | Maximum 35 feet (10m) from home plate | Minimum 40 feet (12.2m) from home plate | |
| 101a (i) | Uniforms | Further to the Uniforms Playing Condition 19 in Part 1; 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. | | | |
| 101a (ii) | Uniforms | All deficiencies shall be reported by the Umpires on the Match Report Sheet. | | | |
| 101b | Uniforms | The Competition Coordinator shall impose a fine or penalty for a breach of these uniform conditions as per Schedule 1. | | | |
| 102a | Baseball Bats | All baseball bats must conform with Rule of Baseball 3.02. | | | |
| 102a (i) | Baseball Bats | For all Under 18 VSBL League competitions - wood, wood composite and wood laminate baseball bats may only be used. | | | |
| 102a (ii) | Baseball Bats | For all other VSBL State League and VSBL Metro League competitions, including all Qualifying Rounds - wood, wood composite, wood laminate and BBCORE approved aluminium baseball bats may be used. | | | |
| 102b | Baseball Bats | For U12 State Competition and below, all non-wood bats must comply with USA Bat standards and have the USA Bat certification marking | | | |
| | | U12 State and Metro | USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum | | |
| | | U14 State and Metro | USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum 2 5/8" composite barrel with BBCOR stamp | | |
| | | U16 | ALL bats must be BBCOR Wood bats are permitted | | |

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| 103 | Footwear | Shoes or cleats with metal spikes are not permitted to be worn by players, managers or base coaches at any division of Junior Baseball U16 and below. |
| 104a | Protective Helmets | All batters and base runners are required to wear two eared protective helmets as per LLOBR 1.16 |
| 105b | Protective Helmets | All Base Coaches are required to wear protective helmets as follows: |
| 105b (i) | Protective Helmets | Base Coaches who are under 18 years of age must wear two eared protective helmets as per LLOBR1.16 |
| 105b (ii) | Protective Helmets | Base Coaches who are 18 years of age and over may wear skull cap style helmets. |
| 106a | Baseballs | When grounds are damp, Weatherproof balls are permitted for use. |
| 106b | Baseballs | For Rookie Ball Competitions, a Reduce Injury Ball must be used. |
| 106c | Baseballs | The Umpire shall adjudge whether the baseballs supplied are of suitable quality and meet the requirements stated in this Playing Condition. |

PART 6. ADMINISTRATION

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| 107a | Registration of Players | Refer to By Law 29 |
| 108a | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108b | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108c | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108d | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108e | Non-national Players | 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 player that is to play in the Premier League Firsts and the Premier League Women's Firsts, for the season of registration at the time of registration. |
| 108f | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108g | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108h | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108i | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108j | Non-national Players | 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. |
| 108k | Non-national Players | All non-national players shall be subject to the clearance provisions set out in these Playing Conditions. |
| 108l | Non-national Players | 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. |

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| 109b | Clearance Procedures | The players destination club is responsible for the completion of the Summer League Online Clearance Request using the current membership registration system. The “Transfer of Players and Coaches” By-law 8 applies. |
| 109c | Clearance Procedures | Clubs are not permitted to approach Players regarding a clearance between 1st December and the completion of the Play-offs. |
| 109d | Clearance Procedures | The Summer League will not accept clearance forms between 1st October and the end of the play-offs unless the form has commenced its process prior to 1st October. |
| 109e | Clearance Procedures | Clearances may be granted immediately if the player’s Club has no objection. |
| 109f | Clearance Procedures | Within 14 days after the Clearance Notification has been lodged, the player’s current club must accept or refuse the players clearance request |
| 109g | Clearance Procedures | Once the clearance is granted and processed by the destination club, home club and Baseball Victoria, at this time only is the player permitted to participate in the Summer League with the destination club. |
| 109h | Clearance Procedures | A player whose clearance application has been refused, may appeal to the VSB LPC 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 Notification and be submitted to the Competition Coordinator, for consideration by the VSB LPC. 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 VSB LPC shall hear any such appeals. |
| 109i | Clearance Procedures | 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, VSB LPC the reasons for requesting the second appeal are significantly different from the reasons on which the first appeal was based. |
| 109j | Clearance Procedures | 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. |
| 110a | Permit procedures | The “Transfer of Players and Coaches” By-law 8 applies. |
| 110b | Permit Procedures | The “Clearance Procedures” Playing Condition 109 applies |
| 110c | Permit procedures | A player or coach wishing to apply for a Permit is to complete the Summer League Permit Form, as published on the Baseball Victoria website from time to time and submit the form to Competition Coordinator. |
| 110d (i) | Permit procedures | Masters players can play for separate clubs in the Seniors, and Masters competitions without the need of Permits or Clearances if their primary club is not entering a team. The player must be registered at each club. (For example, a player plays in a senior’s competition with Club A and is registered to also play Masters for club B). |

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| 110d (ii) | Permit Procedures | <p>Women's players can play for separate clubs in the Seniors, and Women's competitions without the need of a Clearances if their primary club is not entering a team. The player must be registered via the online permit at the destination women's club.</p> <p>(For example, a player plays in a senior's competition with Club A and is registered to also play Women's for club B).</p> <p>If the primary club do have a women's team, players may apply for a permit to play in a higher division at another club.</p> |
| 110e | Permit Procedures | 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: |
| 110e (i) | Permit Procedures | The Permit form is completed in the prescribed manner; |
| 110e (ii) | Permit Procedures | The games shall be played only in the Seniors First nine; |
| 110e (iii) | Permit Procedures | A Club may only be able to host a maximum of two (2) players under permit in its first nine; |
| 110e (iv) | Permit Procedures | The permit does not extend beyond 1st December; |
| 110e (v) | Permit procedures | There shall be no right to appeal a refused permit application. |
| 110f | Permit Procedures | Any person wishing to coach a team not at their home club, must apply for a permit to play/coach for provided that: |
| 110f (i) | Permit Procedures | 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); |
| 110f (ii) | Permit Procedures | 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 |
| 110f (iii) | Permit Procedures | The Permit form must be completed in the prescribed manner. |
| 110g | Permit Procedures | Interstate Permits for players or coaches do not apply in Victoria and will not be approved by the Competition Coordinator. |
| 110h | Permit Procedures | 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. |
| 111a | Coaching Permits | 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 110 |
| 112a | Senior and Junior Team requirements | <p>The Summer League competition shall where possible consist of at least the following:</p> <p>Senior Premier League: 16 Clubs</p> <p>Senior State League: 12 Clubs</p> <p>Subsequent divisions are drawn as required</p> |

| 112b | Senior and Junior Team requirements | <p>The eligibility criteria for a Club to play in a Division of the Summer League competition are specified below:</p> <p>Points are gained for each Junior player and each Women’s team entered to the VSBL competition.</p> <p>For combined women’s teams, clubs will receive 1 point for each player included in the team.</p> <p>Senior Premier League teams will require 80 points to meet criteria.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="5">Premier League Criteria</th></tr><tr><th colspan="2">Juniors</th><th>Seniors</th><th rowspan="2">Total Points</th><th rowspan="2">Required Points</th></tr><tr><th>13 – 17 years</th><th>0 – 12 years</th><th>Women’s</th></tr><tr><td>1 point per player</td><td>2 points per player</td><td>10</td><td rowspan="2"></td><td rowspan="2">80</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Senior State League teams will need 60 points to meet criteria.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="5">State League Criteria</th></tr><tr><th colspan="2">Juniors</th><th>Seniors</th><th rowspan="2">Total Points</th><th rowspan="2">Required Points</th></tr><tr><th>13 – 17 years</th><th>0 – 12 years</th><th>Women’s</th></tr><tr><td>1 point per player</td><td>2 points per player</td><td>10</td><td rowspan="2"></td><td rowspan="2">60</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> | Premier League Criteria | | | | | Juniors | | Seniors | Total Points | Required Points | 13 – 17 years | 0 – 12 years | Women’s | 1 point per player | 2 points per player | 10 | | 80 | | | | State League Criteria | | | | | Juniors | | Seniors | Total Points | Required Points | 13 – 17 years | 0 – 12 years | Women’s | 1 point per player | 2 points per player | 10 | | 60 | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|---------|--|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------|--------------------|---------------------|----|--|----|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|---------|--|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------|--------------------|---------------------|----|--|----|--|--|--|
| Premier League Criteria | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Juniors | | Seniors | Total Points | Required Points | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 – 17 years | 0 – 12 years | Women’s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 point per player | 2 points per player | 10 | | 80 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State League Criteria | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Juniors | | Seniors | Total Points | Required Points | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 – 17 years | 0 – 12 years | Women’s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 point per player | 2 points per player | 10 | | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 112c | Senior and Junior Team Requirements | To be eligible for promotion, a club must have satisfied both of the relevant senior and junior criteria during the year of play. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 112d | Seniors Promotions & Relegation | Provided a Club satisfies the requirements specified in this Playing Condition, the following Seniors teams will be promoted from State League to Premier League | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 113a (i) | Seniors Promotions & Relegation | The Firsts are the Minor Premier at the end of the Regular Season, or | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 113a (ii) | Seniors Promotions & Relegation | The Firsts are winner of the Grand Final or Champion Team | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 113a (ii) 1 | Seniors Promotions & Relegation | 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 112, the other team in the Grand Final will be promoted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 113a (ii) 2 | Seniors Promotions & Relegation | If a team due to be promoted does not comply with the requirements specified in the ‘Senior and Junior Team Requirements Playing Conditions 112, no other team shall take its place. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 113b | Seniors Promotions & Relegation | Where two teams are eligible to be promoted from State League to Premier League, then the bottom two teams of the overall standings will be relegated from Premier League to State League |
| 113c | Seniors Promotions & Relegation | Where only one team is eligible to be promoted from State League to Premier League then the bottom team will be relegated from Premier League to State League |
| 114a | Statistical Information | Official Club Scorers complete player/pitcher statistics for Senior and Women's Premier League and State League (first nine only) and forward these to seniorscores@baseballvictoria.com.au by 10:00am the following day. |
| 114b | Statistical Information | The Victorian Summer Baseball League Statistics Form is available on the Baseball Victoria website and must be signed by both scorers prior to submission. |
| 115a | Baseball Victoria and Baseball Australia Sanctioning | Where required by the Baseball Australia Sanctioning Policy, as published on the Baseball Australia website 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. |
| 116a | Green Shirt Program | 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'. |
| 116b | Green Shirt Program | 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. |
| 116c | Green Shirt Program | Newly trained officials in baseball will be provided a green official's shirt. Baseball Victoria will provide mentoring and support to the new officials and promote awareness of the program and its aims to members. |
| 117a | Individual Award Criteria | Minimum criteria for Individual VSBL Awards as per Official Rules of Baseball 9.22 |
| 117b | Individual Award Criteria | Award categories are at the discretion of BV |

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| Schedule 1 | Fines | INFRINGEMENT | FINE |
| | | Late Start to a game | \$50 per defaulting team |
| | | Forfeiture of game | \$200 per defaulting team including umpiring fees |
| | | Illegal Player | \$50 per player and loss of game |
| | | Unregistered/Unfinancial Player | \$30 per player per game |
| | | Prohibited Substances | \$200 per person and ejection |
| | | Player out of uniform | \$20 per player |
| | | Non-return of Match Report | \$30 per match report |
| | | Non submission of scores within 1 hour | \$30 per team |
| | | Appointed umpire's non or late Attendance | \$50 |
| | | Club's failure to supply an umpire | \$20 |
| | | Club's failure to supply a scorer 30c | \$20 |
| | | Non-attendance to a PS&C Meeting | \$50 |
| | | Non-attendance at the AGM | \$100 |
| | | Junior Pitching and Catching Restrictions – 2 nd Breach by a coach | \$500 and judicial appearance |
| 107 | Policies and Procedures | For all policies and procedures, refer to: https://baseballvictoria.com.au/victorian-summer-baseball-league/ https://baseballvictoria.com.au/policies-and-by-laws/ | |

| Title | Date | Author | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| VSBL Playing Conditions V9 | Thursday, 10 November 2022 | Gavin Young | 2022/23 Pennant Committee |
| 2023/24 VSBL Playing Conditions V1 | Tuesday 12 September 2023 | Kellie Thomas | BV Competitions |
| 2023/24 VSBL Playing Conditions V3 | Friday 6 October 2023 | Kellie Thomas | BV Competitions |
| 2023/24 VSBL Playing Conditions V4 | Wednesday 18 October 2023 | Kellie Thomas | BV Competitions |
| 2023/24 VSBL Playing Conditions V5 | Thursday 30 November 2023 | Allie Bebbere | BV Competitions |