



14 June 2024

VSBL Club Presidents & Secretaries
Via email

Re: Team Nominations

Dear VSBL Club Presidents & Secretaries,

We wanted to provide some further clarifications and guidance for clubs on where they should consider entering their teams for the upcoming 2024/25 VSBL Season.

Earlier this month, we provided the following table:

2023/2024 Seniors League Structure		2024/25 Seniors League Structure	# of Teams
Premier League 1 (Ones and Reserves)	Equivalent to	Premier League 1 (Ones and Reserves)	Up to 16
State League (Ones and Reserves)	~Equivalent to	Premier League 2 (Ones and Reserves)	Up to 16
Premier League (Thirds and Fourths)	~Equivalent to	Premier League 2 or State League 1/2	8-12
Metro Majors	~Equivalent to	State League 1/2 or State League 3 /4	8-12
Metro Minors	~Equivalent to	State League 3/4 or Regional League	8-12
Metro Regionals	~Equivalent to	Regional League	8-12
Masters 38+ and 45+	~Equivalent to	Masters 38+ and 45+	Unlimited

However, we thought that some further information about the intended competition level of these different leagues might help clubs.

The **Premier League 1** will cater to a club’s most competitive teams who meet the criteria to participate in Premier league.

As stated above, Premier League 1 and Premier League 1 Reserves will be like for like with last season’s Premier League Firsts and Reserves (this is the most straight forward).

Premier League 2 should be considered as a pathway for Premier League 1 and a high level competition. This is ideal for all teams who played State League in 23/24, for clubs wanting to progress to Premier League 1, clubs who wish to have two teams play 9 innings/midweek games, and teams who finished on the higher end of the Premier League Thirds and Fourths ladder last year, as well as higher end teams who performed well at the Metro Major level.



For example, if your club's Thirds and Fourths are a competitive team, used as a pathway for players to be ready to compete in your club's Firsts and Reserves, we suggest that you enter these teams into Premier League 2.

State League 1 and 2 is the next highest level of state wide competition. This is NOT THE SAME as 23/24's State League. The intent is for Premier League 2 to be the equivalent to the 23/24 State League.

This level of competition is ideal for clubs with player who are up and coming (e.g. juniors coming through to Seniors), higher end players who wish to wind down their careers but still enjoy playing competitively across the state, teams who finished on the lower end of the Premier League Thirds and Fourths ladder last year and higher end teams who performed well (middle to higher level) in the Metro Major level.

For example, if your club's Thirds and Fourths are perhaps moving down your club's ladder as opposed to up, we suggest that you enter these teams into State League 1 and 2.

State League 3 and 4 is the next step down in competition level. This is a consideration for clubs' fifths and below, such as a parent/child team (e.g. fathers and sons) who wish to play across the state against similar level teams, clubs who's teams ended last season at the lower end of the Metro Major competition, and teams who competed in the Metro Minor Division.

Regional League is designed for teams who competed in the 23/24 season's Regional Metro competitions, however, not exclusively. This is for teams who are not wanting to travel statewide, but would rather compete more geographically, teams who are playing more for the geographical benefits of being involved in baseball rather than the competitive nature of the above leagues, teams who have a large number of juniors who may not yet be ready for the State or Premier Leagues (such as those playing Senior's for the first time) and teams who have a large contingent of older players wishing to playing in a league outside of, or in addition to, Masters.

The **Women's** Divisions this year, in the Premier League have removed the requirement to enter both a Premier and a Premier Reserves. This means that you can enter a Premier Reserves team *OR* a Premier Team. Clubs who finished in the higher levels of State League.

As always, if you have any questions, or would like to have further questions on where you think you should nominate your teams, please contact the office.

Kind Regards,

Chet Gray

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