

MWBL Senior Match Conditions for Finals – 2024

SINGLE GAMES		TRIPLE & DOUBLE HEADER GAMES	
Game Start Time	1.30 pm	Triple Header game	10.00 am.
		Double Header Game	12.30 pm for double header game or 30 minutes after completion of Triple Header game if late finish but no earlier than 12.00pm
		Last Game	30 minutes after completion of Double Header Game if a late finish but no <u>earlier</u> than 3.00 pm
Game Finish Time	A Res, B Res, C Grade, C Res, A3, A4, B3, B4, D Grade, D Res, E Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 innings game or 2 hours with a Five minute rule (Whichever comes first) Extra innings if scores tied after 9 innings or after 2 hours with Five minute rule. Game to be played until completion or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe 	A Res, B Res, C Grade, C Res, A3, A4, B3, B4, D Grade, D Res E Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 innings game or 2 hours with a Five minute rule (Whichever comes first) Late game to be played until Completion or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe
	A Grade B Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 innings game Extra innings if scores tied. after 9 innings Game to be played until Completion or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe 	A Grade B Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 innings game Extra innings if scores tied. after 9 innings Game to be played until Completion or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe
Minimum Game Requirements	For A and B Grade games only - 5 innings minimum. For all other grades 5 innings or 65 minutes of play. If a game is ceased after 65 minutes and the innings are uneven, and the HOME team is behind then scores will revert back to the last complete inning.		
Interruptions	A No-Result Rule applies to all games if Minimum Game Requirements are not met.		
Washout or unplayable conditions	If game not commenced by 2.30pm No-Result Rule applies	Triple Header Game	If game not commenced by 11.00am No-Result Rule applies.
		Double Header game	If game not commenced by 1.30pm No-Result Rule applies
		Last Game	If game not commenced by 4.40pm No-Result Rule applies.
Re-entry Rule	Does Not Apply	Applies for A Res to A, B Res to B Grades, only after the end of the second innings. Refer Re-entry rule for finals matches	

Seven Run Rule: For B3, B4, D Grades, D Reserves Grades and E Grade only - 7 runs per innings rule applies.

Extended Batting Line-up: Refer to The MWBL Match Conditions Rule 20.

Five Minute Rule Applies: All games with a scheduled finish time shall be subject to the 'Five Minute Rule'. If, at the completion of even innings, from the call of 'side out' and there remains more than five minutes of time before the scheduled completion time, a further complete innings shall be played. If, at five minutes before the scheduled time of completion, and with the home team to bat, then: - If the **HOME TEAM** is **AHEAD** – the game ceases immediately - If the **HOME TEAM** is **BEHIND** or the game **TIED** – game continues until the winning run is scored or side is retired.

Mercy Rule: A team leading by 10 or more runs at the end of 7 complete innings, will be declared the winner.
 A team leading by 15 or more runs at the end of 5 complete innings, will be declared the winner.

No-Result Rule: Where wet or inclement weather or ground conditions prevent a game not achieving the Minimum Game Requirements (For A & B Grades – 5 innings) (For All other grades - 65 minutes or 5 innings) or reaching the maximum playing time without a result, the following procedure will apply:

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If Game Tied: If in the event of a tied game that has met the minimum game requirements or has played out all available time as deemed by the Finals Match Conditions for 2023, the highest placed team moves to the next round, or next available time as determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee.

1. **SEMI FINALS:** A & B Grades Only – Saturday Game Day / Sunday in case of Saturday washout Highest placed team moves to next round if Sunday washed out All other grades - if game is not completed on Saturday, then Highest placed team moves on
2. **PRELIMINARY FINALS:** A & B Grade Only – Saturday Game Day / Sunday in case of Saturday washout Highest placed team moves to next round if Sunday washed out All other grades - if game is not completed on Saturday, then Highest placed team moves on
3. **GRAND FINALS:** All Grades – Saturday Game Day / Sunday in case of washout
4. **GRAND FINAL REPLAYS IF REQUIRED:** All Grades – Saturday Game Day / Sunday in case of Saturday washout In the event of a tied game, the following weekend will be used to replay the match. If week four washed out, dual premiers will be declared.

Re-entry Rule for finals matches: For A & B Grades In double header finals games, clubs that have teams competing in both games of that double header may, any time after completion of the second innings of the late game, re-enter players from the early game.

For all other grades – In double header games players can enter the game from the start or anytime during the game as per Rule 44b.

A maximum of 15 players can be used by any team – whether substitute players or re-entry players from the earlier game.

Eligibility for Finals – refer to the MWBL Match Conditions Rule 19a – 19d.

In General

- A Finals Series is to be played immediately following completion of home and away series.
- Finals Series Formats will be as arranged by the Pennant Committee.
- The Umpires will be the SOLE judges of fitness and marking of grounds.
- HOME team will be team that finishes higher on ladder at completion of home and away series.
- Semi Final games will be played on the ground of the team finishing higher on ladder at completion of home and away series, or as otherwise decided by the Pennant Committee. No correspondence with be entered into
- For Preliminary and Grand Finals, the Pennant Committee will decide venues.
- If away teams using their home ground - then they can use their usual dugout.
- All players and coaches must be in uniform of club – **no shorts.**
- **Match balls to be supplied by the competing clubs. Teams to supply a minimum of two match balls. If teams supply different brands then the clubs to agree on brand to be used and if cannot agree then the home team brand will be used. Teams to have a sufficient stock of balls on hand to complete the game in case of balls lost or damaged.**
- Bases, markers and line marking must be supplied by club on whose ground the match is played.
- On open grounds Home Run markers must be supplied and placed beyond the white line marked between the two foul lines.
- On open grounds one boundary rider to be supplied by each competing club, and in position when managers meet with umpires. In default, umpires will not start game until boundary riders are in position. If default occurs whilst game is in progress, umpires will suspend play for a maximum of 5 minutes. If play cannot resume defaulting club will forfeit game.
- **The winner of the second semi- final (1 v 2) will become the home team for the Grand Final**
- **A maximum of 15 players can be used by any team – whether substitute players or re-entry players from the earlier game**
- NOTE: For Preliminary and Grand Final games - the named home team will use the third base bench and the named away team will use the first base bench for neutral grounds
- NOTE: Pre Game Warm Up time on ground for ALL Finals
The named HOME team shall be able to use the whole ground for pre- game warm up for 7 minutes commencing 20 minutes before scheduled game start.
The named AWAY team shall be able to use the whole ground for pre-game warm up for 7 minutes commencing 13 minutes before scheduled game start. Umpires and Managers shall meet at home plate 5 minutes before scheduled game start.

SPEED – UP RULE - FOR ALL GRADES

A substitute runner (SR) can be used for both the pitcher and catcher when they reach base.

The substitute runner shall be a bench player and may be a player substituted from the game or in the case of team having only nine players available the player last out can be used. The current Designated Hitter (DH) may not be used.

If there is none or one out it is optional to use a substitute runner for the pitcher or catcher when they reach base.

If there is two out, then it is mandatory that the pitcher and catcher be replaced with a substitute runner when they reach base.

If after reaching base the pitcher or catcher is not to continue in the role as the pitcher or catcher, then the substitution is to be advised to the umpire and that a substitute runner is not required.

UMPIRES: Umpires to be appointed by the MWBL or if non available then competing clubs to supply

- **Match sheets are required for Finals Series games and to be sent to the MWBL Administrator no later than 72 hours after the game - by the umpires.**

If games are washed out then match sheets are still required and umpires are requested to ensure that only names of players present at the game appear on the match sheet.

For the Finals Games Umpires are required to email the scores to the MWBL Administrator after the game by 8.00pm on the day of the game Email: scores@mwbl.com.au

NOTE: If conditions arise that are not covered by these rules then the matter to be referred to the Pennant Committee Chairman – David Rice
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