

Melbourne Winter Baseball League (Inc.)



MATCH CONDITIONS

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**2025 MATCH CONDITIONS
FOR SENIORS, WOMEN'S AND JUNIOR GAMES**

COVER
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1. MWBL LEAGUE BOARD AND OFFICIALS

Role	Official	Email	Phone
President	Natalie Kilby	president@mwbl.com.au	0423 369 688
Vice President City West Juniors	Mark Riches	cw@mwbl.com.au	0417 537 621
Vice President Diamond Valley Juniors	Matt Whyte	dv@mwbl.com.au	0425 737 909
Vice President Ringwood District Juniors	Ali Moini	rd@mwbl.com.au	0468 999 617
Vice President Women's Competition	Megan Kelly	womens_vp@mwbl.com.au	0459 264 429
Vice President Pennant Chair	Patrick White	pennant@mwbl.com.au	0438 402 249
Secretary	Slade Squire	secretary@mwbl.com.au	0408 706 321
Treasurer		treasurer@mwbl.com.au	
Umpires Chair	Geoff Dunn	umpires@mwbl.com.au	0412 972 075
Administrator	Michael Chambers	administrator@mwbl.com.au	0451 521 236
Scores and Match Sheets		scores@mwbl.com.au	



2. WINTER CARNIVAL DATES

Carnival	Date	Location
Seniors	7 – 9 June 2025	Geelong Baseball Association
Women's	7 – 9 June 2025	Geelong Baseball Association
U15's Girls Invitational	7 – 9 June 2025	Geelong Baseball Association
U17's (17 and Under)	12 – 13 July 2025	Bendigo Baseball Association
U15's	5 – 6 July 2025	Latrobe Valley Baseball Association
U13's	19 – 20 July 2025	North East Baseball Association

3. CLUB GROUND LOCATIONS

Club	Ground	Address
Alfredton	Prince of Wales Park	Gillies St, Ballarat
Croydon	Barneong Reserve	Bambra St, Croydon North
Diamond Creek	Campbell St Reserve	Campbell St, Diamond Creek
Diamond Valley Juniors	Mill Park Rec Reserve	Morang Rd, Mill Park
Doncaster	Deep Creek Reserve	Warrandyte Rd, Doncaster East
Essendon	Boeing Reserve	Boeing Rd, Strathmore Heights
Footscray	Mclvor Reserve	Francis St, Yarraville
Forest Hill	Billabong Park	Weeden Dr, Vermont South
Glen Iris	Surrey Park	Canterbury Rd, Box Hill
GMBC	Malcolm Blair Reserve	Karingal Dr, Greensborough
Greensborough	Elder St Reserve	Manfred St, Watsonia
Heathmont	Heathmont Reserve	Waterloo St, Heathmont
Knox	Gilbert Park	Forbes Cl, Knoxfield
La Trobe Uni	Ganbu Djila Sports Park	Kingsbury Dr, Macleod
Melbourne	Surrey Park	Canterbury Rd, Box Hill
Mitchell Majors	Broadford Rec Reserve	Pinniger St, Broadford
Monash Uni	Gladeswood Reserve	Gladeswood Dr, Mulgrave
North Balwyn	Myrtle Park	Gildan St, North Balwyn
North Coburg	Parker Reserve	Keady St, North Coburg
Northcote	Merri Park	St Georges Rd, Fitzroy
Point Cook	Brookdale Rd Reserve	Brookdale Rd, Point Cook
Port Melbourne	JL Murphy Reserve	Williamstown Rd, Port Melbourne
Research Lower Plenty	Glenauburn Park	Glenauburn Rd, Lower Plenty
Ringwood	Proclamation Park	Sylvia Gr, Ringwood
South East Warriors	Police Paddocks	Brady Rd, Endeavour Hills
St Kilda	Tom O'Halloran Field	Hockey Dr, Albert Park
Sunshine	Barclay Reserve	Talmage St, Albion
University of Melbourne	Ross Straw Field	Manningham St, Parkville
Watsonia	Loyola Reserve Yulong Reserve	Gleeson Dr, Bundoora Cnr Cameron Pde and Bent St, Bundoora
Waverley	Napier Park	High Street Rd, Glen Waverley
Werribee	President's Park	McGrath Rd, Wyndham Vale
Westgarth	Merri Park	St Georges Rd, Fitzroy
Williamstown	Greenwich Reserve	The Strand, Newport

**4. CLUB OFFICIALS: SENIOR DELEGATES**

Club	Official	Email	Phone
Alfredton	Rick Trezise	rdat@bigpond.net.au	0402 884 374
Croydon	Marc Livingston	marc.livingston@education.vic.gov.au	0432 746 369
Diamond Creek	Danny O'Loughlin	vp@dcbc.com.au	0432 357 988
Doncaster	Peter Ervin	doncasterbaseballsecretary@gmail.com	0412 527 887
Essendon	Julie Jones	secretary.essendonbc@gmail.com	0408 170 695
Footscray	Shane Cole-Hayhow	info@footscraybulldogs.com.au	0438 015 584
Forest Hill	Dorothy Campbell	fhbaseball@gmail.com	0417 506 759
Glen Iris	Neal McIntyre	info@glenirisbaseball.com.au	0422 162 506
GMBC	Slade Squire	secretary@montybaseball.com.au	0408 706 321
Greensborough	Michael Sullivan	presidentforgbc@gmail.com	0417 575 642
Heathmont	Natalie Kilby	heathmontbaseballclub@gmail.com	0423 369 688
Knox	Peter Williams	knox.baseball.secretary@gmail.com	0400 658 498
La Trobe Uni	Lesley Hutchinson	latrobebaseball+sec@gmail.com	0402 794 014
Melbourne	Andrew Williams	andrew.williams@mccbbaseball.org.au	0411 311 897
Mitchell Majors	Kristy McGowan	majorssecretary@gmail.com	0408 350 616
Monash Uni	Rory Gibson	monashbaseball@yahoo.com.au	0404 175 145
North Balwyn	Mitch Kennedy	president@northbalwynbaseball.com.au	0408 764 216
North Coburg	Danielle Senyschyn	committee@rebelsbc.com	0403 078 656
Northcote	Tony Wyatt	wyatt.tony@gmail.com	0419 372 806
Point Cook	Elijah Bate	secretary@pointcookbsc.com.au	0434 042 400
Port Melbourne	Daniella Garofolo	president.portmarinersbc@gmail.com	0437 785 313
Research Lower Plenty	Don McKay	rlpbc@outlook.com	0404 881 423
Ringwood	Jimmy Bent	ringwoodsaints@gmail.com	0431 305 204
South East Warriors	Daniel de Sachau	president@warriorsbaseball.com.au	0430 977 314
St Kilda	Cindy Gee	exec@stkildabaseball.org.au	0407 512 840
Sunshine	Glenn Letts	glennjmg@hotmail.com	0421 970 767
University of Melbourne	Jordan Sinnamon	uombaseball@gmail.com	0439 705 942
Watsonia	Chelsea Power	watsoniapresident@gmail.com	0407 078 806
Waverley	Robyn Karlsen	secretary@waverleybaseball.com.au	0421 177 158
Werribee			
Westgarth	Ross Pringle	westgarthbaseball@hotmail.com	0438 390 656
Williamstown			



5. CLUB OFFICIALS: WOMEN'S DELEGATES

Club	Official	Email	Phone
Alfredton			
Croydon			
Diamond Creek	Sherryn Medlicott	secretary@dcbc.com.au	0417 383 224
Doncaster			
Essendon			
Footscray			
Forest Hill			
Glen Iris			
GMBC	Slade Squire	secretary@montybaseball.com.au	0408 706 321
Greensborough	Michael Sullivan	presidentforgbc@gmail.com	0417 575 642
Heathmont	Darell Holden	heathmontbaseballclub@gmail.com	0466 489 468
Knox			
La Trobe Uni	Lesley Hutchinson	latrobebaseball+sec@gmail.com	0402 794 014
Melbourne			
Mitchell Majors			
Monash Uni	Judd Neilson	monashbaseball@yahoo.com.au	0456 689 880
North Balwyn	Sarah Anton	sarah.anton01@gmail.com	0423 927 990
North Coburg			
Northcote			
Point Cook			
Port Melbourne			
Research Lower Plenty	Adam Bird	rlpbc@outlook.com	0423 846 950
Ringwood			
South East Warriors	Jennifer James	womens@warriorsbaseball.com.au	0427 910 229
St Kilda	Cindy Gee	exec@stkildabaseball.org.au	0431 100 385
Sunshine	Glenn Letts	glennjmg@hotmail.com	0421 970 767
University of Melbourne	Megan Kelly	megan.kelly.2711@gmail.com	0459 264 429
Watsonia			
Waverley	Kane Longstaff	secretary@waverleybaseball.com.au	0418 512 435
Werribee			
Westgarth			
Williamstown			



6. CLUB OFFICIALS: JUNIOR DELEGATES

Club	Official	Email	Phone
Alfredton			
Croydon	Sam Mather	sammather78@gmail.com	0417 564 269
Diamond Creek	Dave Rossa	juniors@dcbc.com.au	0468 467 616
Doncaster	Rox Shafiq-Antonacci	doncasterbaseballjuniors@gmail.com	0414 440 156
Essendon	Adam McKelvie	adam.mckelvie@metrotrains.com.au	0431 927 343
Footscray	Sabrina Kinlough	footscrayjuniors@gmail.com	0439 602 067
Forest Hill	George Bush	georgie.b.84@gmail.com	0410 942 177
Glen Iris			
GMBC	Andrea Haxton	juniors@montybaseball.com.au	0413 315 566
Greensborough	Michael Sullivan	presidentforgbc@gmail.com	0417 575 642
Heathmont	Jenna Phillips	heathmontbaseball.juniors@gmail.com	0423 330 604
Knox	Bel Sadler	bel@knoxbbc.com.au	0439 733 731
La Trobe Uni			
Melbourne			
Mitchell Majors	Corey McGowan	majorssecretary@gmail.com	0400 977 768
Monash Uni			
North Balwyn	Ali Moini	juniors@northbalwynbaseball.com.au	0468 999 617
North Coburg	Paul Clarke	committee@rebelsbc.com	
Northcote			
Point Cook			
Port Melbourne	Carla Jamieson	juniors.portmarinersbc@gmail.com	0417 554 586
Research Lower Plenty	Adam Bird	rlpbc@outlook.com	0423 846 950
Ringwood	Jacque Bright	ringwoodsaintsjuniors@gmail.com	0407 115 155
South East Warriors	Daniel de Sachau	juniors@warriorsbaseball.com.au	0430 977 314
St Kilda	Jeff Kuhl	easonkuhl@ozemail.com.au	0418 836 834
Sunshine	Glenn Letts	glennjmg@hotmail.com	0421 970 767
University of Melbourne			
Watsonia	Luke Asbury	watsoniajuniors@gmail.com	0492 868 638
Waverley	Nicole Clowes	juniors@waverleybaseball.com.au	0407 096 661
Werribee	Jayden Sulufaiga	jayden.sulu@gmail.com	0423 500 675
Westgarth	Cale Volitakis	cale.volitakis@hotmail.com	0439 635 356
Williamstown	Di Di Blasi	juniors.wolves@gmail.com	0418 575 949



7. GENERAL MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
1a	Governance	These Melbourne Winter Baseball League (MWBL) Match Conditions are made as Regulations in accordance with the MWBL constitution.
1b	Governance	A recommendation for amendment to these MWBL Match Conditions must be supported by the majority of MWBL Clubs. Note: The MWBL Pennant Committee reserve the right to amend these MWBL Match Conditions in accordance with any Victoria State Government health advice.
2a	Definitions	“League” means the Melbourne Winter Baseball League Inc (MWBL).
2b	Definitions	“Board” means the MWBL League Board.
2c	Definitions	“Club” means an Incorporated Club responsible for the administration of baseball club in the MWBL.
2d	Definitions	“Grade” means a competition comprising of Regular Season and Finals between baseball clubs that are members of the League. For Juniors, this is inclusive of the age group as defined by the league age of the participants.
2e	Definitions	“Pennant Committee” means the MWBL Pennant Committee (MWBLPC) whose Chair is voted in at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and is responsible for the development of the MWBL Match Conditions.
2f	Definitions	“Seniors” means any open age grades.
2g	Definitions	“Women’s” means any open age Women’s grades.
2h	Definitions	“Juniors” means any junior grades or any player under 18 years of age.
3a	General	Except where otherwise stated in these Match Conditions, the Official Baseball Rules (OBR) are to be apply to all MWBL Competitions.
4a	Code of Conduct	<p>Players and Officials:</p> <p>This Code shall be read in conjunction with the Statement of Purposes and Rules, By-Laws and Match Conditions, and shall be binding on all Members of the MWBL. For the purpose of the Code “Players and Officials” means any person who is a registered member of a Club in this in this League;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Coach, • a Scorer, • a Team Manager, • an Umpire, or • any person who acts in any official capacity within a Club in this League. <p>Players and Officials are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by the “Code of Conduct” and all other rules of the MWBL, and to accept all disciplinary measures, including suspension, imposed for any breach of the Code and Rules; • Refrain from assaulting or attempting to assault an umpire, other players, any officials of the games or spectators; • Refrain from verbal abuse against umpires, scorers, opposing players or spectators; • Refrain from using crude or abusive language, or using crude or abusive hand signals, or engage in conduct detrimental to the game; • Refrain from reacting with unnecessary obvious dissension, displeasure or disapproval either toward an umpire, their decision, or following an umpiring decision; • Neither take nor use drugs or stimulants nor participate in other doping practices prohibited by the Australian Sports Commission and Baseball Australia; • Co-operate with all team members; • Show respect for opponents and their skills, be friendly to all participants; • Refrain from profanity at all times; • Refrain from any activity likely to result in loss or wilful damage to private property or to cause a disturbance; • Accept victory and defeat with dignity and grace; • Refrain from equipment abuse such as throwing helmets and bats; and • Abide by the rules and spirit of baseball.



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
4b	Code of Conduct	<p>Scorers:</p> <p>The Council of Australian Baseball Scorers (CABS) Code of Conduct has been developed for all scorers to abide by whilst participating in an official capacity at any baseball game. It is recognised that scorers play an integral role in our sport and their performance and professionalism is observed by all in the baseball community in their capacity as a scorer.</p> <p>CABS Scorers acknowledge responsibility and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept responsibility for all their actions/decisions; • Sit with the opposition scorer in a neutral scoring location; • Remain in the designated scoring location until all post-game duties have been completed; • Be impartial on scoring deliberations; • Ensure scoring deliberations are made solely by the appointed scoring panel; • Declare a conflict of interest as necessary; • Keep abreast of rules and changing techniques of scoring; • Be respectful and open to discussion; and • Share scoring expertise and knowledge with other scorers and be a good role model for other officials. <p>In the role as a scorer, the scorer shall not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be guilty of barracking whilst scoring; • Be guilty of making criticism of other scorers, umpires, coaches or team players by word or gesture; • Draw players or coaches attention to rule infringements, during the progress of the game; • Prompt the umpire about a ruling or status of pitch count unless invited; • Change a recorded scoring decision without regard for the recognised official procedure for the instance; • Use mobile telephone whilst scoring; • Smoke or drink alcohol whilst scoring; • Make comment to the media unless authorised by the appropriate personnel; and • Discretion should be used prior to releasing information during a game to a non-team or tournament Official. <p>Note: Unofficial visitors are not to be encouraged to remain in the score box / game scoring area</p>
4c	Code of Conduct	<p>Anti-Discrimination:</p> <p>Under Victoria's Equal Opportunity Act 2010, anti-discrimination laws also apply to all Sporting Organisations. Members are reminded that it is unlawful to discriminate or vilify against a person on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age, • Disability, • Industrial activity, • Lawful sexual activity / sexual orientation, • Marital, parental or carer status, • Physical features, • Political beliefs or activity, • Pregnancy, • Race, • Religious belief or activity, or • Personal association with a person who is identified by reference to any of the above attributes. <p>Any violation of the Act will be dealt with in accordance with the rules of the MWBL & Baseball Australia, and those of the Equal Opportunity Commission.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<p>For detailed information regarding MWBL / Baseball Victoria Policy Documents, please refer to the Baseball Victoria Policy Overview Document. This document can be supplied upon request or can be found at www.baseballvictoria.com.au or www.mwbl.baseball.com.au.</p> <p>The MWBL is a full member of Baseball Victoria and endorses the Policy Overview Document. The MWBL is an independently run sporting organisation, therefore all member clubs are required to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Match Conditions as presented by the MWBL.</p>
4d	Code of Conduct	<p>Behaviour of Players, Coaches, Officials and Spectators: Players and Officials are required to: Abide by the MWBL ‘Code of Conduct’ and all other Rules, By-Laws and Statement of Purposes and Match Conditions that shall be binding on all members of the Melbourne Winter Baseball League Inc. For information, please refer to MWBL Code of Conduct – Players and Officials (Match Condition 4a) for details.</p> <p>IN PARTICULAR: Good relationships must be fostered between clubs and their teams before, during and particularly after games. The authority and decisions of the Umpire must be respected. Abuse and intimidating language and tactics must not be directed to any Umpire by any person.</p> <p>The Coach of each team must insist that their players behave in a sportsmanlike manner, especially towards members of the opposing team, at all times. The use of intemperate or unseemly language by players or coaches is absolutely forbidden. Spectators should not only support their own team, but show appreciation of good play by the opposition, and never barrack against or belittle their opponents.</p> <p>Club representatives of each team, including coaches and managers, are required to draw the attention of their spectators or own players to the above conditions, regarding behaviour, if these conditions are being disregarded.</p>
4e	Code of Conduct	<p>Prohibited Substances: No smoking/vaping, consuming an alcoholic beverage or chewing/dipping of tobacco will be allowed on the playing field or benches, offenders will be ejected from the game without warning and the club fined \$50 for each offence. Umpires shall enter each offence on match sheet.</p> <p>For the purpose of this Match Condition, a game is deemed to commence when the umpire enters the playing field in compliance with Official Baseball Rule 4.03(e). Any player, coach or official who, at or from that time, indulges in any of the activities mentioned in this Match Condition will be reported for breach of this Match Condition.</p>
5a	Baseballs	<p>The Home team is to provide match balls and have sufficient reserve balls in match condition to enable the game to continue without undue delay. The umpire(s) shall be the sole judge of fitness of any ball for play.</p> <p>The Home team is to provide balls meeting the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved Winter Baseball; • Of the same make; • Leather; and • Waterproof. <p>For A, B, and C Grade, a min. of two (2) new balls are to be provided at the start of the game.</p> <p>For all other Grades, a min. of one (1) new and one (1) in good condition balls are to be provided at the start of the game.</p> <p>NOTE: If ground conditions allow, non-waterproof baseballs may be used BUT both teams are to agree to the ball change prior to the game and not at the plate meeting. If one team does not agree to the ball change, then waterproof baseballs are to be used as per the above.</p>
5b	Baseballs	<p>For finals, a min. of two (2) new balls are to be provided at the start of the game from each team. If teams supply different brands, then the clubs to agree on brand to be used. If teams 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.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
6a	Game Start	<p>Game Times: Games shall commence at times stated in the fixture or these Match Conditions, as relevant, subject to the Umpire being satisfied that the playing field is fit for the playing of the match in accordance with Match Condition 8a.</p>
6b	Game Start	<p>Unable to field a starting 9: All teams require a minimum of seven (7) players to start the game. A team with less than seven players in attendance at a game start time may claim a ten (10) minute period for additional players to arrive. Play will commence as soon as both teams have seven or more players present. No extra time will be added to the scheduled finishing time. A team with less than seven players, ten (10) minutes after schedule starting time will forfeit the game and be fined \$50, plus the full umpiring fees for the match when officially appointed umpires are present.</p>
6c	Game Start	<p>Line-Ups: A blank is where anyone of the nine (9) positions in the batting line-up are not filled by a player. Blanks will only constitute an out in A, A Res, B, B Res and C Grades. Where a team starts with nine (9) (or more players) in the batting line-up, Match Condition 15a will be in effect.</p>
6d	Game Start	<p>Courtesy Fielders: A and B Grade teams must start with nine (9) players. If an A or B Grade team has only seven (7) or eight (8) players at the start of the game, then a player can be used as a substitute fielder (i.e. substitute fielder but does not bat) until the completion of the second innings when a re-entry player/s can be used. If a team uses a substitute player as a fielder at the start of the game, then that player CANNOT be used as a re-entry player after the second innings and shall be immediately removed from the game and may not take any further part in the game except in a coaching capacity.</p>
7a	Forfeits and Walkovers	<p>If either team has less than the required regulation team of seven (7) players in attendance at the scheduled starting time, the defaulting team will be given TEN (10) MINUTES grace in which to find the required number of players. If after ten (10) minutes a team is unable to find seven (7) players, the match will be forfeited to their opponent and a score of nil (0) runs to nine (9) will be recorded against them. The team winning by default will be credited with a score of nine (9) runs to nil (0). Should both teams be at fault the Umpire will declare a "NO GAME" and both teams will have a score of nil (0) runs to nine (9) debited against them. For forfeiting a match or conceding a walk-over a fine will be imposed, plus any other penalty the MWBL may decide.</p>
7b	Forfeits and Walkovers	<p>Prior to game day: Clubs giving a walkover prior to game day are required to forfeit the clubs lowest grade team and to notify the opposing club and the League Administrator as soon as possible. Penalty for teams giving the walkover prior to game day: Senior Team - \$50 fine and no match points. Junior Team - \$30 fine and no match points. Clubs that do not forfeit the lowest grade team will be fined as above and also two (2) match points will be deducted from all teams below the grade that forfeited. Walkovers will be scrutinized by the Pennant Committee and clubs found to not have followed protocol may have a further penalty applied at the discretion of the Pennant Committee</p>
7c	Forfeits and Walkovers	<p>At the ground on game day: The team giving a walkover must report on the match card the names of the players in attendance. The team receiving the forfeit must record on the card not less than seven (7) players. Players named on the match card are ineligible to play in another match of the same round. Penalty for teams giving the walkover on game day: Senior Team - \$50 fine and no match points plus appointed umpire's fees (if attended). Junior Team - \$30 fine and no match points plus appointed umpire's fees (if attended).</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
8a	Grounds Conditions	<p>The order of authority for determining the fitness to play of any ground is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Home Club Grounds Manager or representative will be the sole judge of fitness to play at their ground prior to the arrival of an MWBL appointed Umpire; 2. For Junior Area Centres, then the centre manager shall be the sole judge of whether or not games will start or not start at all, in the event of adverse or wet weather conditions; 3. Upon arrival, MWBL appointed umpire(s) will be the sole judge of the fitness to play of any ground. The Senior umpire will have the final decision. 4. If at club grounds with no MWBL appointed umpire, then the two coaches to get together and judge the game start time or not at all in the event of adverse weather. If the coaches cannot agree then the Club appointed Umpire will be the sole judge. <p>A team shall be allowed not more than fifteen (15) minutes from scheduled starting time to prepare the ground and ground markings before the Umpire will decide on the fitness to play on the ground.</p> <p>Once the umpires have informed both clubs of their decision, this decision will be final.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Appointed umpires to remain in attendance for adjudication for the late game if the early game of a double header is not played due to unplayable ground conditions.</p> <p>NOTE 2: No scheduled match shall be relocated or scheduled for an alternate time without the prior approval of the MWBL Pennant Committee Chairperson or nominee.</p>
8b	Grounds Conditions	<p>Approved Lights:</p> <p>Clubs with Baseball Victoria approved lights are permitted to use artificial lighting during games to supplement natural light due to dark conditions. Artificial Lights are to be approved by Baseball Victoria prior to use for scheduled night games as fixtured. The following venues are approved for use of lights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Field at Surrey Park, Melbourne • Bicentennial Park, Bonbeach • Ganbu Djila Sports Park, La Trobe University / Preston • Geelong Baseball Centre, Geelong • Gilbert Park, Knox • Kings Park, Upwey Ferntree Gully • Longstaff Field at JL Murphy Reserve, Port Melbourne • Melbourne Ballpark, Altona • Prince of Wales Recreational Reserve, Ballarat • Robert Booth Reserve, Dandenong / Mulgrave
8c	Ground Conditions	<p>Washouts:</p> <p>Where games are abandoned due to adverse wet weather or unsuitable ground conditions, etc, the following procedure is to be followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where games do not commence then the match card is to be completed to reflect abandoned game and to be signed by both clubs and umpires and forwarded to the MWBL Administrator. 2. Clubs may enter a minimum of seven (7) players names on the match card, that have played previously with the club in that season prior to the washout or any new player registrations (as per the "Registrations of Players" By-Law). Players names that appear on the match card that have not played previously will be an illegal player and the penalty will be \$50 per player and the loss of one (1) match point. 3. If the washout, etc, occurs in round 1 – then clubs are permitted to use names of currently registered players or new registrations. 4. In the event that clubs call off games early and notify the away club to prevent unnecessary travel, then the away club are not required to sign the match card or enter names on the match card. 5. The away team may submit a separate match card to the league Administrator with a minimum of seven (7) eligible players' names within seven (7) days after the abandoned game. 6. For all grades, if at least one (1) match is completed, the round for that grade will be considered as played. 7. Refer to Match Condition 8a for additional information around fitness of grounds.



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
9a	Grounds and Equipment	<p>Grounds: It is required that back nets must be provided for all games.</p> <p>Pitching mats may be used in all games. All mounds must have a regulation approved pitching plate affixed to the mound, with a rubber (or similar material) strip in the front of the pitching plate, minimum 400mm in length & minimum width of the pitching plate.</p> <p>All bases, pitcher's plate and home plate must be whitened at start of game or be of an acceptable standard. For Seniors and Women's games, the bases and pitching plate must be pegged. For Juniors games, the bases must be sliding bases. The home plate must not be fixed or pegged unless flush with the surface. The home team is to supply ALL bases and other field equipment unless other arrangements have been made. PENALTY: Fine of \$10 for each item unpegged per game.</p> <p>The Plate Umpire will be the sole judges of fitness and marking of grounds.</p>
9b	Grounds and Equipment	<p>Dugouts: Clubs are required to provide bench areas for both the home and away teams of a similar standard. All benches are to have protection screens in front – either permanent or temporary to protect the players from stray balls.</p> <p>Failure to do so will result in an appearance before the MWBL Executive and a penalty may be applied by the MWBL Executive. Failure to comply will result in loss of two (2) match points for first offence and after second offence games will not be scheduled at that ground until protection is provided to the satisfaction of the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p>
9c	Grounds and Equipment	<p>Home Run Fence and Marshals: On open grounds, home run markers must be supplied. A white line must be drawn between each foul line to define the home run fence. It is encouraged that home run marshals be provided by each competing team, otherwise the "HONESTY SYSTEM" of outfielders will prevail.</p> <p>For Finals games on open grounds, one (1) boundary rider to be supplied by each competing club, and in position when managers meet with umpires. Umpires will not start game until boundary riders are in position. If a boundary rider leaves their position whilst game is in progress, umpires will suspend play for a maximum of five (5) minutes. If play cannot resume, the defaulting club will forfeit game.</p>
9d	Grounds and Equipment	<p>Out of Play: For consistency throughout the league, boundaries defined by witches' hats, metal uprights or the like will be regarded as out of play. Any ball rebounding from such an object will be declared DEAD. Batters and runners will advance, in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball.</p>
9e	Grounds and Equipment	<p>Catch and Carry: To clarify the legality of catches made next to the Dead Ball Line (DBL), on open grounds the following interpretation is to be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a catch to be legal, no part of the fielder's body can be grounded outside of the DBL. If part of the fielder's body over the DBL is in the air at the time of the catch, the catch is still legal. If the catch is taken in Live Ball Territory (LBT) and the fielder's momentum carries him over the DBL line, the catch is legal, the ball is dead, and any base runners will advance one base. If a fielder's momentum carries him into DBT there can be no spectator interference. The fielder enters the DBT at their own risk.
10a	Protective Equipment – Helmets	<p>All batters and runners MUST wear double-eared helmets with appropriate padding. Any player refusing to do so will be declared out. Any runner deliberately discarding or carrying a helmet will be declared out.</p>
10b	Protective Equipment – Helmets	<p>The Umpire(s) has the right to inspect any helmet for safety, and not permit the use of any helmet which, in their opinion, is unsafe.</p> <p>Should a batter appear at the plate without a helmet, the Umpire shall call TIME and instruct the defaulting player to obtain a helmet before they will be allowed to take their time at bat.</p>
10c	Protective Equipment – Helmets	<p>Base coaches in ALL MWBL games at all levels of baseball must wear a helmet at all times. Helmets can be skull caps. Junior players are to wear double-eared helmets if they are base coaching in any MWBL game. Junior players must have attained the age of 14 years old to base coach in a Seniors or Women's game.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
11a	Protective Equipment – Protectors and Mouthguards	It is recommended that players wear appropriate protection whilst on the field during a game.
12a	Protective Equipment – Catchers	<p>All catchers MUST wear helmets or combined mask/helmet combination. It is compulsory for junior catchers to wear helmet, mask, throat guard, chest plate and leggings when catching.</p> <p>All players warming up pitchers MUST wear masks.</p> <p>Catcher’s helmets, masks or full mask/helmet combination is to be used. Catchers, coaches, parents and other junior players will wear catcher’s helmet, mask, and throat guard when warming up pitchers. Senior players participating in a Seniors game must wear catcher’s mask as a minimum standard when warming up pitcher.</p>
13a	Collisions at the Plate	<p>A runner attempting to score may not deviate from their direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the Catcher (or other player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the Umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the Umpire shall declare the runner out (even if the player covering home plate loses possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the Umpire shall call the ball dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.</p> <p>Please refer to OBR 7.13 for further details.</p>
14a	Pre-Match Warm-Up	<p>Seniors and Women’s: Twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the home team may use the diamond for a maximum of seven (7) minutes.</p> <p>Twelve (12) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the away team may use the diamond for a maximum of seven (7) minutes.</p> <p>Team managers by mutual agreement can reverse order of team’s pre-game 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 ground rules, match conditions and to exchange team line-ups.</p>
14b	Pre-Match Warm-Up	<p>Juniors: Fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the home team may use the diamond for a maximum of five (5) minutes.</p> <p>Ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start time, the away team may use the diamond for a maximum of five (5) minutes.</p> <p>Team managers by mutual agreement can reverse order of team’s pre-game 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 ground rules, match conditions and to exchange team line-ups.</p>
15a	Extended Line-Up	<p>An extended batting line-up (15 players maximum) may be used in all Seniors and Women’s Grades except for A, A Res, B, B Res and C Grade.</p> <p>Any team wishing to use the extended line-up must indicate their intention to do so prior to the start of the game, with the umpire(s) and opposition manager in attendance. It is not compulsory for both teams to use this rule.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Bench players who have not participated in the game may take the place of an injured or removed player. If teams do not use the extended line-up, then they are bound by the traditional removal of players and bench players coming into the game.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
15b	Extended Line-Up	<p>Line-Up Compression (Not allowed in A3, A4, B3, B4 and C Res Grade) If a player on the extended batting line up does not take their turn at bat for any reason, then that batter is deemed to have been removed from the game and is then removed from the batting line up. The player can no longer participate in the game, and a blank will be declared which will result in an automatic out for the fielding team, i.e. batting line up is not to be compressed.</p> <p>Line-Up Compression (All Other Grades except Juniors) If a player on the extended batting line up does not take their turn at bat for any reason, then that batter is deemed to have been removed from the game and is then removed from the batting line up. The player can no longer participate in the game, and the line-up is compressed (no blanks) with all subsequent batters batting in order skipping the removed player.</p> <p>NOTE: A team can only compress an extended line-up back to nine (9) batters. Any additional players removed from the line-up (compression to seven (7) or eight (8) batters in the line-up) will result in a blank (and automatic out) in place of the removed players.</p>
16a	Five-Minute Rule	<p>If five minutes or less remains at the completion of even innings, the match shall end.</p> <p>Note: If, at five minutes before the scheduled time of completion, the home team is at bat and is ahead, the match shall end.</p> <p>The five-minute rule shall apply to all Seniors and Women’s MWBL games, except for A and B Grade Finals.</p>
16b	Five-Minute Rule	<p>Early Games: The five-minute rule shall apply to all early games where two (2) or more Seniors or Women’s games are scheduled at the same ground on the same day with the following variation.</p> <p>If the five-minute rule applies a maximum of ten (10) minutes from the scheduled finish time will be allowed for the completion of the innings which commenced as per criteria listed above. The ten-minute time extension will apply to all situations and no time lost during the game will be added on to the extension of play. When the extra ten (10) minutes time has elapsed, umpires are to allow that batter to finish their time at bat or if during their at-bat, an out is made before ending the game.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: A match with a scheduled finish time of 2.15pm will have ten (10) minutes of allowable time added on should the five-minute rule be declared by the umpire. At 2.25pm (ten (10) minutes after the scheduled finish time, if there is no result (teams tied) or the innings has not been completed, the match will cease (end of game) and the scores revert back to the last even Innings prior to the five-minute rule commencing (unless the home team has tied the game at 2.25pm).</p> <p>NOTE: Time is not to be added on to the length of games due to wet weather interruptions, unsafe ground conditions, etc. Games tied at the game time end (after equal innings) shall be recorded as a tied game.</p>
16c	Five-Minute Rule	<p>Late or Single Games: All late games and single games with a scheduled finish time shall be subject to the ‘Five-Minute Rule’ as listed in Match Condition 16a. There shall be no time limit to complete any inning started before the five-minute rule is in effect.</p>
17a	Determination of Results in Time Games	<p>In regard to final scores in TIME games, various examples are given below.</p> <p>Definition: An innings refers to when each team has had a time at bat. The basic principle to keep in mind is, When an UNEQUAL number of innings has been played, the score reverts back to the last completed number of equal innings except where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The home team (batting second) is ahead. The home team (batting second), having scored an equal number to, or less runs than the away team (batting first) by the end of the last completed number of innings, has in the incomplete inning, scored sufficient runs to make the score a TIE. <p>In each of the following examples, “A” is the away team (batting first), and “B” the home team (batting second).</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition				
		TEAM	RUNS TO 6 th	RUN IN 7 th	TOTAL SCORE	CORRECT SCORE
1		A	6	1	7	A: 6
		B	4	2 (Incomplete)	6	B: 4 (score reverts back to 6 th , Team A wins)
2		A	6	0	6	A: 6
		B	4	2 (Incomplete)	6	B: 6 (match is a draw)
3		A	6	0	6	A: 6
		B	4	3 (Incomplete)	7	B: 7 (Team B wins the game)
4		A	5	0	5	A: 5
		B	5	1 (Incomplete)	6	B: 6 (Team B wins the game)
5		A	5	1	6	A: 5
		B	5	0 (Incomplete)	5	B: 5 (score reverts back to 6 th , match is a draw)
6		A	5	1	6	A: 6
		B	5	1 (Incomplete)	6	B: 6 (match is a draw)
7		A	4	2	6	A: 6
		B	7	- (did not bat)	7	B: 7 (Team B wins the game)
8		A	4	1	5	A: 5
		B	7	3 (Incomplete)	10	B: 10 (Team B wins the game)
9		A	4	4	8	A: 4
		B	7	0 (Incomplete)	7	B: 7 (score reverts back to 6 th , Team B wins)
10		A	4	4	8	A: 4
		B	7	1 (Incomplete)	8	B: 7 (score reverts back to 6 th , Team B wins)
11		A	4	1	5	A: 5
		B	7	0 (Incomplete)	7	B: 7 (Team B wins the game)
18a	3 Batter Minimum	Official Baseball Rule 5.10 (g) does not apply to any MWBL Leagues.				
19a	Batters to remain in Batter's Box	<p>Batters shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless they make a request for 'time' and the umpire feels that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the umpire grant time out. If no runners are on base, the batter should not be granted time and not permitted to leave the Batter's box unless, in the opinion of the umpire, unusual circumstances exist which make the request a reasonable one.</p> <p>NOTE: For games umpired by a club umpire, the club umpire is to keep in mind what the intent of the rule is (to stop time wasting) and is not to be used in an unreasonable manner to create unnecessary issues during the game.</p> <p>As per the Official Baseball Rules 6.02: The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat, unless one of the following exceptions applies, in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The batter swings at a pitch; ii. The batter is forced out of the batter's box by a pitch; iii. A member of either team requests and is granted time; iv. A defensive player attempts a play on a runner at any base; v. The batter feints a bunt; vi. A wild pitch or passed ball occurs; vii. The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving the ball; or viii. The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals. 				
20a	Defensive Visits	<p>As per the Official Baseball Rules 5.10(l) and 5.10(m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. This rule limits the number of trips a manager or coach may make to any one pitcher in any one inning. b. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the mound but can remain in the game. c. The manager or coach is prohibited from making a second visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat; but, d. If a pinch hitter is substituted for the batter, the manager or coach may make a second visit to the mound but must remove the pitcher. A manager or coach is considered to have concluded a visit to the mound when having left the 18-foot circle surrounding the pitching rubber. e. Mound visits without a pitching change shall be limited to four (4) per team, per nine (9) innings. For any extra-innings played, each team shall be entitled to one (1) additional non-pitching change mound visit per inning. 				



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<p>If the manager or coach goes to the catcher or infielder and that player then goes to the mound or the pitcher goes to that player at that player's position before there is an intervening play (a pitch or other play), that will be the same as the manager or coach going to the mound. Any attempt to evade or circumvent this rule by the manager or coach going to the catcher or an infielder and then that player going to the mound to confer with the pitcher shall constitute a trip to the mound.</p> <p>It will remain solely the umpire's judgement as to whether a visit to the mound by an on-field manager, coach or player to converse with the pitcher is considered an official pitching visit or as a visit 'in play' and not for coaching purposes.</p> <p>If the coach goes to the mound and removes a pitcher and then the manager goes to the mound to talk with the new pitcher, that will constitute one trip to that new pitcher in that inning. In the case where a manager has made a first trip to the mound and then returns the second time to the mound in the same inning with the same pitcher in the game and the same batter at bat after being warned by the umpire not to return to the mound, then the manager shall be removed from the game and the pitcher is required to pitch to the batter until the batter is retired or gets on base. After the batter is retired, or becomes a base runner, then this pitcher must be removed from the game. The manager should be notified that the pitcher will be removed from the game after pitching to one hitter so a substitute pitcher can be warmed up. The substitute pitcher will be allowed eight warm up pitches or more if, in the umpire's judgement, circumstances justify</p>
21a	Uniforms	<p>All players and coaches must wear approved uniform of the club. A, A Res, B and B Res Grades must have ALL players in approved uniform. All other grades must have a minimum seven (7) players in approved uniform. Caps when worn MUST be approved club cap. Fine of \$10 for each player wearing an incorrect uniform.</p> <p>Advertising on Uniforms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Selective advertising is permissible on the back or sleeve of Seniors, Women's and Juniors uniforms. All such advertising must be approved by the MWBL. Clubs are cautioned that cigarette, liquor and hotel advertising will not be permitted.
22a	Blood and Concussion	<p>Blood Rule:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. When the umpire removes a player from the field under this rule, a reserve player can take his place and field and bat in his place until the removed player is able to return. If he cannot return before the expiry of one complete inning (six (6) outs from the removal) the reserve player becomes a normal substitute. The umpire's judgement as to whether the removed player is able to return will prevail. He would take into consideration the extent of the injury. In the case where there is no reserve player to take his place, another player who has previously been substituted can run and field in his place and can bat in the replacement batting position of the replaced player, as long as this at bat falls within the allotted six (6) outs from the removal of the injured player. Outside of these six (6) outs, the replacement player in this instance cannot bat. This would create a blank in the batting order and be an out in the inning. If no reserve is available then a team member is allowed to run only for the removed player as a proxy runner, but the runner must not be in the next four (4) batters in the batting order after the batter at the plate. If ten (10) 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.
22b	Blood and Concussion	<p>Concussion Rule:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A player for any reason suspected of having sustained concussion during a game is to be removed immediately from the game in accordance with the Baseball Victoria Concussion Policy. The umpire is to be informed that the player is being removed due to concussion and the player's name and the time that the player is directed to leave the playing field shall be marked in the scorebook. A reserve player can take their place and field and bat in their place until the removed player has had the recommended concussion test and is able to return to play. If the player cannot return, then the replacement player then becomes a normal substitute and bats and fields in their place.



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<p>3. A replacement player can be either a reserve player that has not previously played in that game or in the case of no reserve player then another player that has previously been substituted in that game. Any replacement player that has played until the player removed has been cleared to be able return to play following a concussion test can then return to the bench and is now a legal reserve player and can re-enter the game as a normal substitute player.</p>
23a	Jewellery	<p>Exposed jewellery such as wrist watches, bracelets and types of earrings, neck chains, or any other items judged as dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game. Medical bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewellery, but if worn must be taped to the body. Players must be asked to remove jewellery and if they fail to do so will be ejected from the game.</p>
24a	Footwear	<p>Metal cleats must NOT be worn by any junior player in junior games. Umpires can inspect shoes at the start of the game. If a player is found to be wearing metal cleats during the game, then the player is to be ejected from the game and issued a \$25 fine. Only moulded rubber/plastic stops, plastic cleats, sandshoes, gym boots, sneakers are permitted. Plastic stops are permitted as long as there is no metal protruding through the plastic stops.</p> <p>NOTE: Junior players can wear metal cleats in Seniors or Women’s games.</p>
25a	Umpires	<p>Game Day: Where no league appointed umpire is present at the game, the Home Club shall appoint an “Plate Umpire” to call balls and strikes. The Visiting team should supply a “Base Umpire”. Club Umpires shall have the same authority as an MWBL appointed umpire. If the home team is not able to supply an “Plate Umpire” then the away side is permitted to. It is desirable that the “Plate Umpire” call from behind the catcher, however it is also practical to call balls and strikes from behind the pitching mound. It should be undertaken to ensure that only one person umpire the entire game. If this is not practical, then only one change shall be permitted.</p> <p>PENALTY: Failure by a Club to comply with any of the conditions concerning umpires may result in the offending Club being fined for each offence.</p>
25b	Umpires	<p>Helmets: It is recommended that all umpires (including MWBL appointed and club umpires) when umpiring as a single umpire from behind the pitching mound wear a skull cap type helmet. Normal line umpires are not required to wear skull helmets.</p>
25c	Umpires	<p>Change Rooms: Clubs are to provide appropriately clean and clear of equipment separate private area for umpires to be able to change into their gear and clothing without being exposed to the general public. If the change area is within the general pavilion area, then appropriate screening (temporary or permanent) are required to be provided. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the club being brought before the MWBL Pennant Committee, fine applied and non-appointment of umpires to games at that ground.</p>
26a	Disputes and Protests	<p>In the event of any dispute or protest (other than a judgement decision, which may not be disputed) the protest must be lodged at the time of the objection with the umpire who must be given the opportunity to consider the point raised by the manager. Should the Manager decide to continue the protest, the umpire shall be advised and before play continues the scorers must endorse both score books, ensuring the following details are marked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Position of runners on base; (ii) Time of day; (iii) Ball and strike count on batter; (iv) Score at time of protest; and (v) Number of outs <p>The Manager of the protesting team shall, at the conclusion of the match, advise the umpire whether the protest is to be proceeded with. It is then the responsibility of the protesting Manager to request the umpires to endorse upon the Match Report Card that a protest has been lodged.</p> <p>Notice of the protest must be lodged in writing, be delivered to the Administrator within forty-eight (48) hours of completion of the game and be accompanied by a one-hundred-dollar (\$100) fee, which shall be returned if the Pennant Committee does not consider the protest frivolous. The notice of protest shall include reference to the Official Baseball Rule being protested and full reasons why the protest is being entered.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
27a	Zero Tolerance	<p>The MWBL practices the concept of ZERO TOLERANCE in order to ensure that coaches / managers take a proactive role in eliminating umpire abuse. Zero Tolerance will relate to all ejectable offences that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse of umpire; • Dissent; and • Arguing decisions (balls/strikes, safe/outs, etc.). <p>In the event of a ZERO TOLERANCE ejection as prescribed in Match Conditions, the nominated manager will be ejected along with the player. The team must then nominate the manager to take over from this point. THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE MWBL PENNANT COMMITTEE</p>
28a	Reported Persons	Reported Persons shall be subject to MWBL By-Law 29, Reported Persons and Tribunal Procedure.
28b	Reported Persons	The MWBL reserves the right to investigate reports on umpiring and take such action as it deems necessary. If a manager or coach of a senior, women or junior team feels that the umpire has not acted correctly in their duties, they should inform the MWBL administrator in writing, including the reasons to justify the report so the report can be investigated by the MWBL.
28c	Reported Persons	<p>Alternative Penalty: Players and coaches that are reported and accept a penalty offer from the Report Review Person or found guilty of an offence at the tribunal may be offered the option of an alternate penalty by umpiring games instead of serving the full penalty.</p> <p>The Pennant Committee will be the responsible body for offering the alternate penalty option of umpiring. The Pennant Committee reserves the right to not offer persons the alternate penalty. Persons that accept the alternate penalty to umpire will not be paid for games umpired and will not umpire their club games.</p> <p>The umpiring of games will be under the supervision of an appointed MWBL umpire. The alternate penalty offer cannot be served during the finals but will carry over until the following season. Persons whose choose to take the alternative penalty but then FAIL to carry out the alternative penalty of umpiring will have an additional one week added to their original penalty and the umpiring option withdrawn.</p> <p>Example: If a person has agreed to a penalty offer or been found guilty of an offence at the tribunal with a four (4) match penalty applied, then that person can accept the pennant committee offered alternative penalty of umpiring for two weeks (two double headers of games). If a player has a three (3) match alternate penalty applied, then one (1) week (a double header of games) of umpiring will be required, in addition to serving a one (1) week penalty.</p>
29a	Card Rules	<p>Yellow Card Rule:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The principle of this rule is to allow an umpire to issue a formal warning to persons committing minor offences without the necessity of ejection from the game and subsequent Tribunal appearances. Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include, but not be limited to: Dangerous play, Dissent, Equipment abuse, Minor offensive language, Misconduct. If, in the opinion of the umpire, an offence has occurred as provided for by this rule, the player shall be informed of a Yellow Card offence and where possible a yellow card shown to the offender and the team manager be informed of the nature of the offence. The umpire shall complete the details required on the Yellow Card and return it to the MWBL Administrator with match report card. A register of Yellow Card offences shall be maintained by the MWBL Administrator. The first and second Yellow Card issued to a person will incur no penalty but the third, and any subsequent Yellow Card offence by that player during the currency of a season shall incur suspension of that player from participating in any team until the competition round after the next in which the team from where the third or subsequent offence occurred competes (not inclusive of any bye). For Example: A player that receives their third and fourth Yellow Card in the same game will be subject to a two (2) games suspension. 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. A person suspended under clause (f), will be notified by the MWBL Administrator via their Club.



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. When a person incurs a Yellow Card suspension in the last round of the season or a finals game, the matter will be referred to the Tribunal to determine the timing of the suspension. j. A person may appeal to the Tribunal Chairperson against the issue of a Yellow Card, such appeal to be lodged in writing stating reasons for the appeal to the MWBL Administrator within forty-eight (48) hours of the game in which the offence occurred and shall be accompanied by a \$20 deposit which will be returned only if the Tribunal Chairperson deems the appeal not to be frivolous. Mere denial of the offence does not constitute grounds for referral to the Tribunal and will result in loss of the deposit. k. Upon receiving an appeal in accordance with clause (j), the Tribunal Chairperson shall decide if the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for resolution, such decision being final. l. The Tribunal will hear an appeal referred to it under clause (k) by convening a hearing with the offender and the umpire. The Tribunal may determine to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Uphold the appeal, cancel the Yellow Card and advise the umpire, or ii. Dismiss the appeal and confirm the Yellow Card, or iii. Consider the offence warranted an ejection and impose a penalty, or iv. Decide to return or retain the deposit. <p>Such decisions of the Tribunal are final and not subject to further appeal.</p>
29b	Card Rules	<p>Blue Card Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The principle of the rule is to allow an umpire to issue a blue card to a player for offences committed with immediate ejection from the game without facing the Tribunal. b. Players ejected under the blue card rule will serve a further one (1) game suspension without a Tribunal appearance. c. Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include, but not be limited to: Audible Offensive Language, Misconduct. d. If, in the opinion of the umpire, an offence has occurred as provided for by this rule, the player shall be informed of a Blue Card offence and where possible a blue card shown to the offender and the team manager be informed of the nature of the offence. e. The umpire shall complete the details required on the Blue Card and return it to the MWBL Administrator with match report card. f. A register of Blue Card offences shall be maintained by the MWBL Administrator. g. A second Blue Card issued to a person will incur an automatic two (2) game suspension. h. A third Blue Card offence by a player during the currency of a season will mean an automatic appearance before the Tribunal. i. A person suspended under clause (e) and (f) will be notified by the MWBL Administrator via the Club. j. When a person incurs a Blue Card suspension in the last round of the season or a finals game, the suspension will be served at the start of the next season and/or matter can be referred to the Tribunal to determine the timing of the suspension. k. A person may appeal to the Tribunal Chairperson against the issue of a Blue Card, such appeal to be made to the MWBL Administrator within 48 hours of the game in which the card is issued. l. Upon receiving an appeal in accordance with clause (i), the matter shall be referred to the Tribunal Chairperson who shall decide if the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for resolution. Such decision will be final. m. The Tribunal will hear an appeal referred to it under clause (k) by convening a hearing with the offender. The Tribunal may determine to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Uphold the appeal, cancel the Blue Card and advise the umpire or ii. Dismiss the appeal and confirm the Blue Card, or iii. Consider the offence warranted and increase the penalty. <p>Such decisions of the Tribunal are final and not subject to further appeal</p>
30a	Melees	<p>If team/s are found by the league to have been involved in a melee, prior, during or after a game, then the club/s involved will be fined \$500 (not a bond) and if any second offence by the club in any grade, then that team (players listed on the match sheet) will be suspended for at least one (1) game. Player(s) involved in the melee can still be reported by the umpire/s for any other offence and face possible discipline by the league tribunal.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
31a	Match Reports	<p>For all games, both team managers are to report to the scorer's area to check and sign the Match Report Sheet, which shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box score of the game; • Full names printed of all players of both teams who competed in the game; • Junior pitch counts for junior players; and • Best player votes also noted on the card for Seniors and Women's games. <p>Both Home and Away teams are responsible for correct information submitted on the Match Report Sheet. Fines will be applied to both clubs for incorrect Match Report Sheet.</p> <p>Please Note: No team member may enter any remarks on the MATCH REPORT SHEET. Fine of \$25.00 for first offence. Second offence shall be as determined by the Pennant Committee.</p>
31b	Match Reports	<p>Emailing Of Scores: Scores must be emailed to the MWBL Administrator by 8.00pm the day of the game, or two (2) hours after the completion of the game (whichever is the latter). \$20 fine per score for no or late advice of match day score. Email: scores@mwbl.com.au</p> <p>HOME TEAMS are to email scores during the Home and Away Games APPOINTED UMPIRES are to email scores during the Finals Series. In the event of no MWBL appointed umpires, the HOME TEAM is to email scores during the Finals Series.</p> <p>Match Report Sheet: Match Report Sheets can be sent to the MWBL Administrator by email within seventy-two (72) hours after the day of the game. Sheets sent via email or other electronic means MUST be legible to be accepted as received. \$10 fine / per sheet / per week for late sheets will be applied.</p> <p>Note: Rookie Ball Games are not played for match points. All details of the game shall be recorded on a Match Report Sheets as normal and forwarded to the MWBL Administrator. However, no ladders will be maintained, and finals not played.</p>
31c	Match Reports	<p>Scorers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scorers shall be responsible for recording of match details and will sit together. Clubs shall provide suitable facility for scorers. The home team shall advise the Association of the match details as directed. Scorer's must follow the CABS Scorer's Code of Conduct (Match Condition 4b) at all times, regardless of their level of accreditation. Scorer's must notify the plate umpire when a Junior reaches ten (10) pitches remaining in their pitch count. The umpire will notify the Manager of the appropriate team. Scorer's must cross reference their pitch count with the opposition scorer on a regular basis to ensure they have the correct count. If one count is higher, the higher count shall be deemed correct.
32a	Managers and Coaches	<p>Seniors and Women's:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each team will nominate the team manager on the line-up card and make this clear to the umpire. During the match, the nominated team manager will be the only person to approach the umpires unless otherwise instructed. In the event of a ZERO TOLERANCE ejection as prescribed in Match Condition 27a, the nominated manager will be ejected along with the player. The team must then nominate the manager to take over from this point. <p>The nominated manager (at the end of the match) is responsible for sighting and signing all match or report cards on behalf of their club. If a protest or dispute is referred to the MWBL, the person signing the Match Card as manager will be deemed by the MWBL as being that manager on the day and will represent as such at any subsequent hearing.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
32b	Managers and Coaches	<p>Juniors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Two adult Managers or Coaches may be used on the base line at either first or third base.b. Players, Managers and Coaches must remain on the benches or in the prescribed area during a game.c. If a Manager or Coach goes onto the playing field (crosses a base line) more than once during the defensive half of an inning while the same player is pitching, such a Manager or Coach must make a pitching change. A third visit or any subsequent visit will also force the Manager or Coach to make a pitching change. This rule will be enforced by the Umpire. A Manager or Coach may, at any time, without penalty, go onto the ground for the sole purpose of giving aid to a sick or injured player.d. In U11's Rookie and U13's Minor, one (1) Adult defensive coach is permitted on the field during play to coach and encourage but must be situated behind second base and is not allowed on the field.e. Adult Manager or coaches in junior games are NOT to wear steel cleats.f. In the event of a ZERO TOLERANCE ejection as prescribed in Match Condition 27a, the nominated manager will be ejected along with the player. The team must then nominate the manager to take over from this point.



8. SENIORS MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
33a	Age Limit	<p>A Junior player is eligible to play Seniors once they have reached fourteen (14) years of age. No player under the age of fourteen (14) years shall be permitted to play Senior baseball.</p> <p>Note 1: Penalty of \$50 fine and loss of two (2) match points, further penalties may apply as determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>Note 2: All players under the age of eighteen (18) will be deemed a junior player as defined by Baseball Australia.</p>
34a	Senior Games	<p>Game Length: All grades – two (2) hours or nine (9) innings with the five-minute rule (Match Condition 15ba) and Mercy Rule (Match Condition 34e) in effect. If time permits extra innings can be played in accordance with Match Condition 34d.</p>
34b	Senior Games	<p>Game Times: Game Times will be published with the MWBL Fixtures. Should competing clubs wish to change a game start time, both clubs must submit, in writing, an application to the MWBL Administrator with the request to be reviewed by the MWBL Pennant Committee. Any requests must be made at least seven (7) days in advance of the game.</p> <p>Early Games and Single Games: 12:15pm, unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>Late Game: 2:40pm or scheduled to start time twenty-five (25) minutes after early game has finished but not before the scheduled start time unless agreed to by both managers and umpires. Game is to remain two (2) hours or nine (9) innings game, weather and light permitting, from the start time agreed.</p>
34c	Senior Games	<p>Regulation Game: A legal minimum game shall consist of 5 innings (4.5 innings if home team ahead) in accordance with Official Baseball Rules OR not less than sixty-five (65) minutes play.</p> <p>Early Game: If there is any stoppage after 2:00pm due to bad weather, the game is to be stopped and scores will revert back to equal innings. For night games if there is any stoppage due to bad weather, two (2) hours after scheduled starting time, the game is to be stopped and scores will revert back to equal innings.</p> <p>Single and Late Games: The game will not start unless there is sixty-five (65) minutes playing time left, the five-minute rule may apply after sixty-five (65) minutes, but any stoppage during the sixty-five (65) minutes and the five-minute rule will not apply.</p> <p>Night Games: For night games, if there is any stoppage due to bad weather two (2) hours after scheduled starting time the game is to be stopped and scores will revert back to equal innings.</p>
34d	Senior Games	<p>Extra Innings: If time permits at the completion of the scheduled nine (9) innings, and the game remains tied, extra innings can be played. International Tiebreaker rules will be in effect.</p> <p>Each team is to start each extra inning with the last two batters from the previous innings, where the last batter is placed on 1st base and the second last batter is placed on 2nd base. Example: If Batter #5 is due to lead off the extra inning, then Batter #4 will be placed at 1st base and Batter #3 will be placed at 2nd base. All existing substitution rules will apply.</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> <p>This rule is not in effect for MWBL finals games, with any extra innings to be played with no placed runners.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
34e	Senior Games	<p>Mercy (Games): A ten (10) run mercy rule will apply in all grades and is also applicable to all finals games.</p> <p>If after seven (7) equal innings a team in any grade is leading by more than ten (10) runs, the game shall be called.</p> <p>COMMENT: It is the intention of this rule to prevent, as far as practicable, games which are so dominated by one team, that their opponents lose interest in the game.</p>
34f	Senior Games	<p>Mercy (Innings): Applicable to all Seniors Games except for A, A Res, B, B Res and C Grade. A seven (7) run mercy rule (per batting innings) will apply and is also applicable to all finals games.</p> <p>Should seven (7) runs score during the one (1) batting innings and there are less than three (3) outs, the umpire shall call time. The batting side will be retired with seven (7) runs being scored for the innings. The scoring of the seventh run will end the inning even if subsequent runs score on the same play (automatic double or home run etc).</p>
35a	Byes	<p>When a senior team has a bye, any player of the team having the bye that played in the previous round shall NOT be permitted to play in a lower graded team for that round.</p> <p>Example: If a B Grade team has a bye in Round 4, then any player that started the game (not a re-entry) in Round 3, shall not be able to play for a lower graded team in Round 4.</p>
36a	Designated Hitter	Designated Hitters may be used in all Seniors games.
37a	Designated Pitcher	<p>Applicable A Res, B Res, and C Res ONLY.</p> <p>The principle of the rule is to allow first nine (9) players, who are under twenty-six (26) years of age and less than top rating as pitchers, to pitch in the Reserves game. This player shall then start in the late game on the same day other than as a pitcher. A player who is no longer eligible to play juniors but has not attained the age of eighteen (18) may be approved as a DP provided that the player complies with the requirements as set out in these rules. If approved, then that player will be restricted to U18 pitching rules as laid out in the Match Condition 40b:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A club may use a player, to be the starting pitcher and only pitch in the Reserves game, then play other than as a pitcher in the later first nine (9) game on the same day. This player is known as the Designated Pitcher, DP. Before a DP is allowed to play in any game there must be nine (9) other players present and named on the scoresheet. All DPs are to be approved by the Pennant Committee before being used by the club. A maximum of TWO (2) DPs per club nominated in their higher grade. EXCEPTION: A club competing with teams in A, B and C Grade will be allowed TWO (2) approved DPs in each of these grades. In the Reserves game, a Designated Hitter shall be used for the DP. The use of a DP shall be declared to the umpire before the game commences. If the DP then plays in the Reserves game other than as a pitcher, or bats, the DP becomes a normal Reserves game player and may not participate in the late game on the same day except by the provisions of the Re-entry Rule. On the batting order list and Match Report Card any DP used in the Reserves game shall be marked "DP" and all pitchers in the late game shall be marked "P". Umpires and Managers are to ensure correct recording. The Administrator shall keep eligibility of DPs and report any breaches to the Pennant Committee. Umpires shall administer this rule as to participating in both Reserves and the late game on the same day. An umpire has the right to direct that a DP may not, if in contravention of this rule, participate in either game. Penalty for contravention is forfeiture of the game in which such contravention took place. Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each grade, for finals eligibility. <p>This rule is not available for the finals.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
37b	Designated Fielder for Pitcher	<p>Position Players other than the catcher may be removed from the game in order to prepare to re-enter the game as the pitcher. A player removed from the game under this re-entry rule may only return as the pitcher and must do so during the current fielding inning in which they were removed, or they must begin the next fielding inning as the pitcher. Only one (1) player at any time can be removed from the game under this rule to warmup as a pitcher.</p> <p>Any player that re-enters the game must pitch to at least one (1) complete batter, unless;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The pitcher sustains an injury, ii. The umpire-in-chief calls the game for any reason, iii. An out occurs on the basepaths which would end the current inning. <p>After pitching to one (1) complete batter, the player is eligible to be moved to any other fielding position.</p> <p>Any player removed from the game under this rule will remain in the batting order and take their turn at bat as it occurs and would continue to accrue defensive outs.</p> <p>The designated fielder (the player who enters the game to allow a player to be removed from the game to prepare to pitch) will not be entered into the scorebook or match card (similar to the substitute runner for the pitcher / catcher). The substitute player must be a bench player eligible to enter the game. If the removed player does not re-enter the game in the current fielding innings or to start the following innings, the designated fielder will become a legal substitution for the removed player.</p> <p>The designated fielder will not have a turn at bat and will not accrue defensive outs while playing as the designated fielder for a player removed to prepare to pitch. A designated fielder entered under this rule, plays defence only in the position of the removed player whilst they prepare to pitch. Once the removed player re-enters the game, the designated fielder comes out of the game but remains eligible to re-enter the game as a normal substitute.</p> <p>The manager is to inform the umpire-in-chief (and the scorers) when they use the designated fielder for the pitcher. Failure to do so will result in the in the change becoming a legal substitution and the removed player will not be able to re-enter the game.</p>
38a	Re-Entry Rule	<p>A and B Grade:</p> <p>A player who has participated in A Res or B Res games may also participate in the late game at the same venue on the same day but may not jump more than one (1) grade to do so, provided that the player does not enter the late game before the end of the second innings, except in the case of a Designated Pitcher from early game who should start in the late game.</p> <p>A maximum of fifteen (15) players may be used in any game, i.e. nine (9) starting players and six (6) re-entry players or any combination of fifteen (15) maximum. Please refer to Match Condition 6d for games with a courtesy fielder.</p> <p>Note: Names of potential re-entry players are NOT required to be submitted to the home plate umpire before the game.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of each team coach or manager to apply the rule as written. Re-entry games will not be counted towards finals eligibility.</p> <p>Exception: That if any re-entry player pitches in the late game, then that player will be recorded with a game played in the late game and not recorded with a game played in the early game.</p> <p>NOTE: Misuse of this rule shall mean loss of match points and fine as per schedule. Points and a score will be awarded to opposing side, that score will be 9-0 unless it is to the disadvantage of that side. i.e. The opposing side may have won the game by a greater margin than 9-0.</p> <p>Should the Pennant Committee believe any club is using the re-entry rule for a competitive advantage, it deserves the right to penalise that club accordingly, which could include loss of match points in either or both games, as well as the possible suspension of coach/s or club official/s deemed to be abusing the rule.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition																																								
38b	Re-Entry Rule	<p>All other Senior Grades:</p> <p>Any player who participates in any of these grades A4, B4, C Res, D Res, & E Grade can participate from any point in a game later that day at the same venue, including from the start, except for A and B Grade.</p> <p>Note: A maximum of fifteen (15) players can be used by any team, whether substitute players or re-entry players from the earlier game.</p> <p>Example: A D Res player can start in any C Grade game on the same day.</p> <p>Note: Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each grade for finals eligibility. Contravention of this Match Condition shall result in forfeiture of the second game, and an impose of a "Forfeiture" fine on the offending club.</p>																																								
39a	Speed-Up Rule	<p>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 (9) players available, the player last out can be used. It is optional to use a substitute runner for the pitcher or catcher 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.</p>																																								
40a	Pitching Restrictions	<p>Players are not permitted to pitch in two games in the one day. If a player pitches in a JUNIOR game, that player may not pitch in a SENIOR game on the same day or in the same round.</p> <p>Coaches are responsible for overseeing this rule. If this rule is violated the penalty to apply will be as follows: Loss of match points or game in which violation occurred and/or a Fine to apply and any further penalty will be determined by the Pennant Committee.</p>																																								
40b	Pitching Restrictions	<p>The following table describes how many pitchers a Junior Player may pitch in a Senior Game and the required rest following their outing:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Age</th> <th rowspan="2">Max Pitches in a Day</th> <th colspan="5">Days' Rest Required</th> </tr> <tr> <th>0 Days</th> <th>1 Day</th> <th>2 Days</th> <th>3 Days</th> <th>4 Days</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9-12</td> <td>60</td> <td>1 – 15</td> <td>15 – 30</td> <td>31 – 40</td> <td>41 – 50</td> <td>51 – 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13-14</td> <td>80</td> <td>1 – 20</td> <td>21 – 35</td> <td>36 – 50</td> <td>51 – 65</td> <td>66 – 80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-16</td> <td>90</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17-18</td> <td>100</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>a. A Player, playing in a higher age group is still restricted to the lower age pitch group.</p> <p>b. A pitcher reaching their maximum number of pitches is immediately removed from the mound after they have completed that batter.</p> <p>c. Scorers are to notify the Plate Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within ten (10) pitches of a maximum allowable number.</p> <p>d. Any ball delivered to the plate including a balk or an illegal pitch, whether it be hit or not, shall not be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".</p> <p>For the purpose of this rule, players cease to be in a particular age group the day they reach that age (i.e.) U18 player turns 18. All pitch counts for junior age players shall be marked on match card.</p>	Age	Max Pitches in a Day	Days' Rest Required					0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	9-12	60	1 – 15	15 – 30	31 – 40	41 – 50	51 – 60	13-14	80	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66 – 80	15-16	90	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 90	17-18	100	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 100
Age	Max Pitches in a Day	Days' Rest Required																																								
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15-16	90	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 90																																				
17-18	100	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 100																																				
40c	Pitching Restrictions	<p>A junior player under 18 years old may not pitch and catch in the same day.</p>																																								
41a	Catching	<p>Any junior player under 18 years old can catch only catch in a maximum of two (2) games in a day. If they catch in the juniors in the morning, they can only catch in one (1) senior game in the afternoon.</p> <p>If a junior player catches in three (3) games in one (1) day, (re-enters the late game to catch after catching in the juniors and early game), then this will result in a penalty of \$50 fine and loss of two (2) match points for the third game the player has participated as a catcher in the one (1) day.</p> <p>Note: Scorers to mark junior catchers and innings caught on the match sheets.</p>																																								
42a	Intentional Walks	<p>Applicable A, A Res, B and B Res ONLY.</p> <p>If a batter is to be intentionally walked by the fielding team at any time during the batters turn at bat, a no pitch intentional walk can be awarded to the batter by the plate umpire. The intentional walk must be signalled by the fielding team manager (and only by the manager), directly to and acknowledged by the plate umpire. The plate umpire shall signal the no pitch intentional walk by holding up four (4) fingers. The plate umpire will also inform the scorers of the no pitch intentional walk.</p>																																								



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
43a	Baseball Bats	All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02
43b	Baseball Bats	For all Senior competitions, wood, wood composite and wood laminate baseball bats as approved by the Baseball Australia shall be used only.
44a	Best Player Votes	In all Senior grades the Plate Umpire shall award votes for the best player on the basis of three (3) votes for the best player, two (2) votes for the second-best player, one (1) vote for the third-best player and noted on the match card. Any player suspended for an offence by the Tribunal shall be ineligible to win a Best Player Award.
45a	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Points: For all grades, teams will be allocated two (2) points for a win, zero (0) points for a loss and one (1) point for a draw and/or a washout.</p> <p>Note 1: A bye will be worth zero (0) points and not counted as a game played.</p> <p>Note 2: A washout will be considered a draw for the purposes of Ladder Positions.</p>
45b	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Winning Percentage: For all grades where there are byes, Winning Percentage will be used to determine the final ladder position. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{No. of Wins} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ No. of Draws}}{\text{Total Games}}$
45c	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Percentage: If teams in any grade have equal match points or winning percentage for that grade, then their position on the ladder shall be determined by percentage. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{Runs For}}{\text{Runs For} + \text{Runs Against}} \times 1000$
45d	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Finals Eligibility – Player: No player shall be eligible to participate in the Senior Final Series for a Club unless the player has played at least six (6) rounds of Competition Games in the MWBL during the season of finals eligibility. Only senior rounds competed in will count for grading of players in senior grade finals. Junior rounds completed can count towards total number of rounds for senior finals eligibility. But only one senior or junior game on the same weekend will be counted.</p> <p>A player, coach or manager representing the MWBL representative teams (except the Senior Winter Championship) will have that representation counted for one (1) round only. Players will be credited with only one (1) representative team selection. Players must be present at all representative games for their selected team for this round to be counted towards finals eligibility.</p> <p>Note: A Player that has played an even number of games in different grades is eligible to play in either the higher or lower grade, provided the higher-grade team is still competing in finals. If the higher-grade team is eliminated, then the player is eligible to play in the lower grade provided they now have more games (inclusive of finals) in the lower grade. However, if the player has played in an even number of games (inclusive of finals) and the higher-grade team is eliminated, then that player is no longer eligible for the lower grade.</p> <p>Example 1: Player A plays eight (8) games in A Grade and nine (9) Games in A Res is eligible to play in both A Grade and A Res Finals. Player A plays the 1st week of finals in A Grade, and he is now deemed to have played 9 Games in A Grade and 9 Games in A Res. If the A Grade team is eliminated, he cannot return to A Res as he has played an even number of games, and the higher graded team has been eliminated.</p> <p>Example 2: Player A plays seven (7) Games in C Grade and nine (9) Games in C Res and one (1) game in D Grade. Player A is then eligible to play in C Grade, C Res Finals and above. If Player A plays the 1st week of finals in C Grade and this team is eliminated, he is still eligible to play C Res Finals from the 2nd week (i.e. eight (8) games in C Grade and nine (9) games in C Res after 1st week of finals) as he will have played more total games in lower grades than C Grade. However, if Player A plays the first 2 weeks of finals in C Grade and then this team is eliminated, he cannot return to C Res as he has played an even number of games, and the higher graded team has been eliminated.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<p>NOTE: A club can apply for a manager to be granted finals eligibility. The club must ensure the listed manager appears on the line-up sheet presented to the umpire and noted on the match report sheet. The managers name must be indicated to both scorers prior to the commencement of the game and must be noted on both scorebooks. The managers current season and previous season(s) match report sheet notations may be considered should such a dispensation appeal be lodged.</p>
45e	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Finals Eligibility – A Grade Clubs: A minimum of twenty-four (24) registered junior players competing in the current winter season are required per club for the club to be able to participate in the A Grade and A Res finals series as well as for consideration for promotion/relegation. Each junior player must play a minimum of six (6) rounds of the season (except T-Ball) to be countered as a player.</p> <p>*EXCEPTION FOR UNIVERSITY CLUBS* A minimum of twelve (12) registered female players, competing in the current winter seniors or women’s competition, are required per university club to be eligible to participate in the A Grade and A Res finals series, as well as for consideration for promotion/relegation. Each female player must play a minimum of six (6) rounds (in either the seniors and/or women’s) of the season to be counted as a player.</p>
45f	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Finals Eligibility – B Grade Clubs: A minimum of sixteen (16) registered junior players competing in the current winter season are required per club for the club to be able to participate in the B Grade and B Res finals series as well as for consideration for promotion/relegation. Each junior player must play a minimum of six (6) rounds of the season (except T-Ball) to be countered as a player.</p> <p>*EXCEPTION FOR UNIVERSITY CLUBS* A minimum of eight (8) registered female players, competing in the current winter seniors or women’s competition, are required per university club to be eligible to participate in the B Grade and B Res final series, as well as for consideration for promotion/relegation. Each female player must play a minimum of six (6) rounds (in either the seniors and/or women’s) of the season to be counted as a player.</p>
46a	Finals	<p>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. Finals in all grades will be for the top 4 teams in the competition played over three (3) weeks.</p> <p>Week 1: Semi Finals G1: 1st v 2nd, G2: 3rd v 4th Week 2: Preliminary Finals G3: Loser G1 v Winner G2 Week 3: Grand Finals G4: Winner G1 v Winner G3 Week 4: Grand Final Replay G4 replayed if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home team will be team that finishes higher on ladder at completion of home and away series. • For All Finals, the Pennant Committee will decide venues. No correspondence will be entered into once a decision on grounds is made. <p>NOTE: For Finals 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. If away teams using their home ground - then they can use their usual dugout.</p>
46b	Finals	<p>Grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Refer to Match Condition 9c for Home run marshals in finals.
46c	Finals	<p>For Finals, all previous match conditions apply except for the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hard-stop in any early games, meaning games to be played until completion or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe; • No time limit in A and B Grade games, meaning games are 9 innings with extra innings possible if scores are tied at the conclusion of 9 innings.
46d	Finals	<p>No Result Rules:</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<p>The Umpires will be the SOLE judges of fitness and marking of grounds. Where wet or inclement weather or ground conditions prevent a game not achieving the Minimum Game Requirements (outlined below) or not achieving a result in the maximum playing time, the following procedures will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A and B Grade: Five (5) innings; or • All other Grades: Five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes <p>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 these Match Conditions, the highest placed team moves to the next round, or next available time as determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>Semi Finals and Preliminary Finals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A and B Grade: Games are scheduled on the Saturday with Sunday available in case Saturday is deemed unplayable. If no game is able to be played, the highest ranked team will progress. • All other Grades: Games are scheduled on Saturday. If no game is able to be played on Saturday, the highest ranked team will progress. <p>Grand Finals: All Grades: Games are scheduled on the Saturday with Sunday available in case Saturday is deemed unplayable. If no game is able to be played and/or in the event of a tie, the following weekend will be used to replay the match. If no game is able to be played and/or in the event of a tie in Week 4, dual premiers will be declared.</p>
46e	Finals	<p>Re-Entry Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A and 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. • All other Grades, in double header games, players can enter from the start or anytime as per Match Condition 38, assuming they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Match Condition 45d. <p>A maximum of fifteen (15) players can be used by any team, whether substitute players or re-entry players from the earlier game.</p>
46f	Finals	<p>Umpires and Match Sheets: Umpires to be appointed by the MWBL or if non available then competing clubs to supply in accordance with Match Condition 25a. Match sheets are required for Finals Series games and to be sent to the MWBL Administrator no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the game by the umpires in accordance with Match Condition 31b.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
47a	Promotion and Relegation	<p>Promotion to a higher grade or relegation to a lower grade is by application in writing by clubs to the MWBL for consideration by the MWBL Pennant Committee, who will consider all applications and decide on the promotion and relegation of teams.</p> <p>The B Grade Premiers (Winner of the Grand Final) will have the first opportunity to apply for promotion, followed by the runners-up, 3rd place team and so on. One (1) club will be promoted from B Grade to A Grade in any given year, except at the discretion of the Pennant Committee. When a club is promoted from B Grade to A Grade, the team that finished last in the A grade standings will be relegated to B Grade for the following year.</p> <p>** Please refer to Junior Participation Requirements for finals participation in A Grade and B Grade (Match Condition 45e and 45f), which may be considered when deciding any applicable application. All other grades will be determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee upon application or for grading purposes.</p>



9. WOMEN'S MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
48a	Age Limit	A Junior player is eligible to play Women's once they have reached thirteen (13) years of age. No Player under the age of thirteen (13) years shall be permitted to play Women's baseball. Note 1: Penalty of \$50 fine and loss of two (2) match points, further penalties may apply as determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee. Note 2: All players under the age of eighteen (18) will be deemed a junior player as defined by Baseball Australia.
49a	Women's Games	Game Length: All grades – two (2) hours or nine (9) innings with the five-minute rule (Match Condition 15ba) and Mercy Rule (Match Condition 49d) in effect. If time permits extra innings can be played.
49b	Women's Games	Game Times: Game Times will be published with the MWBL Fixtures. Should competing clubs wish to change a game start time, both clubs must submit, in writing, an application to the MWBL Administrator with the request to be reviewed by the MWBL Pennant Committee. Any requests must be made at least seven (7) days in advance of the game. Early Games and Single Games 12:00pm, unless otherwise stated. Late Game 2:30pm or scheduled to start time twenty-five (25) minutes after early game has finished but not before the scheduled start time unless agreed to by both managers and umpires. Game is to remain two (2) hours or nine (9) innings game, weather and light permitting, from the start time agreed.
49c	Women's Games	Regulation Game: A legal minimum game shall consist of 5 innings (4.5 innings if home team ahead) in accordance with Official Baseball Rules or not less than sixty-five (65) minutes play. Early Game: If there is any stoppage after 1:45pm due to adverse weather, the game is to be stopped and scores will revert back to equal innings. For night games if there is any stoppage due to adverse weather two (2) hours after scheduled starting time the game is to be stopped and scores will revert back to equal innings. Late Game: The game will not start unless there is sixty-five (65) minutes playing time left, the five-minute rule may apply after sixty-five (65) minutes, but any stoppage during the sixty-five (65) minutes and the five-minute rule will not apply. For night games, if there is any stoppage due to adverse weather two (2) hours after scheduled starting time the game is to be stopped and scores will revert back to equal innings.
49d	Women's Games	Mercy (Games): A ten (10) run mercy rule will apply in all grades and is also applicable to all finals games. If after seven (7) equal innings a team in any grade is leading by more than ten (10) runs, the game shall be called. COMMENT: It is the intention of this rule to prevent, as far as practicable, games which are so dominated by one team, that their opponents lose interest in the game.
49e	Women's Games	Mercy (Innings): A seven (7) run mercy rule (per batting innings) will apply and is also applicable to all finals games. Should seven (7) runs score during the one (1) batting innings and there are less than three outs, the umpire shall call time. The batting side will be retired with seven (7) runs being scored for the innings.
50a	Designated Hitter	Designated Hitters are not permitted in Women's Grades.
51a	Re-Entry Rule	Any player who participates in any Women's grade can participate from any point in a game later that day at the same venue, including from the start. Note: A maximum of fifteen (15) players can be used by any team , whether substitute players or re-entry players from the earlier game.



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition																																								
		<p>A pitcher in the early game cannot then pitch in the late game. Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each grade for finals eligibility.</p> <p>Contravention of this Match Condition shall result in forfeiture of the second game, and an impose of a "Forfeiture" fine on the offending club.</p>																																								
52a	Speed-Up Rule	<p>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 (9) players available the player last out can be used. It is optional to use a substitute runner for the pitcher or catcher 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.</p>																																								
53a	Pitching Restrictions	<p>Players are not permitted to pitch in two (2) games in the one day. If a player pitches in a JUNIOR game, that player may not pitch in a SENIOR game on the same day or in the same round. Coaches are responsible for overseeing this rule. If this rule is violated the penalty to apply will be as follows: Loss of match points or game in which violation occurred and/or a Fine to apply and any further penalty will be determined by the Pennant Committee.</p>																																								
53b	Pitching Restrictions	<p>The following table describes how many pitchers a Junior Player may pitch in a Senior Game and the required rest following their outing:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Age</th> <th rowspan="2">Max Pitches in a Day</th> <th colspan="5">Days' Rest Required</th> </tr> <tr> <th>0 Days</th> <th>1 Day</th> <th>2 Days</th> <th>3 Days</th> <th>4 Days</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9-12</td> <td>60</td> <td>1 – 15</td> <td>15 – 30</td> <td>31 – 40</td> <td>41 – 50</td> <td>51 – 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13-14</td> <td>80</td> <td>1 – 20</td> <td>21 – 35</td> <td>36 – 50</td> <td>51 – 65</td> <td>66 – 80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-16</td> <td>90</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17-18</td> <td>100</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>a. A Player, playing in a higher age group is still restricted to the lower age pitch group. b. A pitcher reaching their maximum number of pitches is immediately removed from the mound after they have completed that batter. c. Scorers are to notify the Plate Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within ten (10) pitches of a maximum allowable number. d. Any ball delivered to the plate including a balk or an illegal pitch, whether it be hit or not, shall not be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".</p> <p>For the purpose of this rule, players cease to be in a particular age group the day they reach that age (i.e.) U18 player turns 18. All pitch counts for junior age players shall be marked on match card.</p>	Age	Max Pitches in a Day	Days' Rest Required					0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	9-12	60	1 – 15	15 – 30	31 – 40	41 – 50	51 – 60	13-14	80	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66 – 80	15-16	90	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 90	17-18	100	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 100
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15-16	90	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 90																																				
17-18	100	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 100																																				
53c	Pitching Restrictions	<p>A junior player under 18 years old may not pitch and catch in the same day. Any junior player under 16 years old can only pitch or catch in one game in a day. Any junior player aged 16 or 17 years old can catch a maximum nine (9) innings in the one day with a maximum of three (3) innings in the seniors if also caught in the juniors. Scorers to mark junior catchers and innings caught on the match sheets. Clubs to apply to the Pennant Committee for approval for catchers to be able to catch in the juniors and then in the seniors prior to use of this rule.</p>																																								
53d	Pitching Restrictions	<p>For Women's B Grade, pitchers, upon agreement from both coaches, may pitch from 54 ft to assist in minimising walks in these games.</p>																																								
54a	Baseball Bats	<p>All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02</p>																																								
54b	Baseball Bats	<p>For all Women's competitions, wood, wood composite, wood laminate and aluminium baseball bats as approved by the Baseball Australia shall be used only.</p>																																								
55a	Best Player Votes	<p>In all Women's grades, the Plate Umpire shall award votes for the best player on the basis of three (3) votes for the best player, two (2) votes for the second-best player, one (1) vote for the third-best player and noted on the match card. Any player suspended for an offence by the Tribunal shall be ineligible to win a Best Player Award.</p>																																								
56a	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Points: For all grades, teams will be allocated two (2) points for a win, zero (0) points for a loss and one (1) point for a draw and/or a washout. Note 1: A bye will be worth zero (0) points and not counted as a game played. Note 2: A washout will be considered a draw for the purposes of Ladder Positions.</p>																																								



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
56b	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Winning Percentage: For all grades where there are byes, Winning Percentage will be used to determine the final ladder position. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{No. of Wins} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ No. of Draws}}{\text{Total Games}}$
56c	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Percentage: If teams in any grade have equal match points or winning percentage for that grade, then their position on the ladder shall be determined by percentage. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{Runs For}}{\text{Runs For} + \text{Runs Against}} \times 1000$
56d	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Finals Eligibility – Player: No player shall be eligible to participate in the Women’s Final Series for a Club unless the player has played at least six (6) rounds of Competition Games in the MWBL during the season of finals eligibility. Only senior rounds competed in will count for grading of players in senior grade finals. Junior rounds completed can count towards total number of rounds for senior finals eligibility. But only one (1) senior or junior game on the same weekend will be counted.</p> <p>A player, coach or manager representing the MWBL representative teams (except the Senior Winter Championship) will have that representation counted for one (1) round only. Players will be credited with only one (1) representative team selection. Players must be present at all representative games for their selected team for this round to be counted towards finals eligibility.</p> <p>NOTE: A club can apply for a manager to be granted finals eligibility. The club must ensure the listed manager appears on the line-up sheet presented to the umpire and noted on the match report sheet. The managers name must be indicated to both scorers prior to the commencement of the game and must be noted on both scorebooks. The managers current season and previous season(s) match report sheet notations may be considered should such a dispensation appeal be lodged.</p>
57a	Finals	<p>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. Finals in all grades will be for the top 4 teams in the competition played over 3 weeks.</p> <p>Week 1: Semi Finals G1: 1st v 2nd, G2: 3rd v 4th Week 2: Preliminary Finals G3: Loser G1 v Winner G2 Week 3: Grand Finals G4: Winner G1 v Winner G3 Week 4: Grand Final Replay G4 replayed if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home team will be team that finishes higher on ladder at completion of home and away series. • For All Finals, the Pennant Committee will decide venues. No correspondence will be entered into once a decision on grounds is made. <p>NOTE: For Finals 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. If away teams using their home ground - then they can use their usual dugout.</p>
57b	Finals	<p>Grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Refer to Match Condition 9c for Home run marshals in finals.
57c	Finals	<p>For Finals, all previous match conditions apply except for the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hard-stop in any early games, meaning games to be played until completion or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe.



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
57d	Finals	<p>No Result Rules: The Umpires will be the SOLE judges of fitness and marking of grounds.</p> <p>Where wet or inclement weather or ground conditions prevent a game not achieving the Minimum Game Requirements (five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes) or not achieving a result in the maximum playing time, the following procedures will apply:</p> <p>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 these Match Conditions, the highest placed team moves to the next round, or next available time as determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>Semi Finals and Preliminary Finals: Games are scheduled on Sunday. If no game is able to be played on Sunday, the highest ranked team will progress.</p> <p>Grand Finals: All Grades: Games are scheduled on the Sunday. If no game is able to be played and/or in the event of a tie, the following weekend will be used to replay the match. If no game is able to be played and/or in the event of a tie in Week 4, dual premiers will be declared.</p>
57e	Finals	<p>Re-Entry Rule: In double header games, players can enter from the start or anytime as per Match Condition 51a. A maximum of fifteen (15) players can be used by any team, whether substitute players or re-entry players from the earlier game.</p>
57f	Finals	<p>Umpires and Match Sheets: Umpires to be appointed by the MWBL or if non available then competing clubs to supply in accordance with Match Condition 25a. Match sheets are required for Finals Series games and to be sent to the MWBL Administrator no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the game by the umpires in accordance with Match Condition 31b.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>



10. JUNIORS MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
58a	Age Limit	<p>A player is eligible to take part in any match in the respective age groupings, provided he/she is under the age as at 31st August in the season of the competition.</p> <p>Note: A player whose date of birth is 31st August must play in the higher age group. A player whose date of birth is 1st September is eligible to play in the lower age group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Player may participate in U11's Rookie Ball until they attain their SIXTH (6) birthday; • No Player may participate in U13's Minor until they attain their EIGHTH (8) birthday; • No Player may participate in U13's Major until they attain their NINTH (9) birthday; • No Player may participate in U15's until they attain their ELEVENTH (11) birthday; and • No Player may participate in U17's until they attain their THIRTEENTH (13) birthday.
58b	Age Limit	<p>Playing Out of Age Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs seeking permission to play junior players out of their age group shall submit in writing (on the proper form) to the MWBL Administrator with the reason(s) for the special consideration. The MWBL Executive or an appointed sub-committee shall review and may receive advice and recommendations on all special consideration applications before approval is granted or not granted. Penalties will apply for misleading information or incorrect information supplied to the MWBL.
58c	Age Limit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst a player is allowed permission to play in a higher age group, such player will not be allowed to play in the finals of a lower age group if they have played more games in the higher age group during the season. Players will be permitted to play in a higher age group each week. No written permission needs to be sought from the MWBL. If a club has exceptional circumstances, where permission is sought for players other than those outlined above, then the club can make application to the MWBL in writing on the prescribed form. <p>Failure by a club to comply with any of the rules of the Match Conditions will result in the offending club forfeiting any match points gained whilst playing such ineligible player(s). Any other penalty as determined by the MWBL will be imposed.</p>
59a	Junior Games	<p>Game Length:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major: ninety (90) minutes or seven (7) innings, • U15's and U17's: one hundred and five (105) minutes or nine (9) innings. <p>EXCEPTION FOR ALL JUNIOR GRADES: If the game is tied after equal (max) innings, the match will proceed until 10.30am or until a result is achieved, but no match will proceed after 10.30am. At 10:30am, the umpires are to allow that batter to finish their time at bat or if during their at-bat, an out is made before ending the game.</p>
59b	Junior Games	<p>Game Times: Game Times will be published with the MWBL Fixtures. Should competing clubs wish to change a game start time, both clubs must submit, in writing, an application to the MWBL Administrator with the request to be reviewed by the MWBL Pennant Committee. Any requests must be made at least seven (7) days in advance of the game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major: 9:00am, • U15's and U17's: 8:45am.
59c	Junior Games	<p>Regulation Game: It shall become a regulation game when the Umpire terminates play due to adverse weather or ground conditions after three (3) completed innings OR;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major: forty-five (45) minutes of play, • U15's and U17's: sixty-five (65) minutes of play. <p>If in the opinion of the umpire and/or coaches a doubt arises as to the ground conditions being not fit for play, then the game will be declared a No Game, and each team will be awarded one (1) point. Coaches are to ensure that all players in attendance be named on the Match Report Card.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
59d	Junior Games	<p>Mercy (Games): If after five (5) equal innings a team is leading by more than ten (10) runs, then the game shall be called.</p> <p>COMMENT: It is the intention of this rule to prevent, as far as practicable, games which are so dominated by one team, that their opponents lose interest in the game, and as a result may be lost to Junior Baseball.</p>
59e	Junior Games	<p>Mercy (Innings): Should five (5) runs score during the one innings and there are less than three (3) outs, the umpire shall call time. The batting side will be retired with five (5) runs being scored for the innings. The scoring of the fifth run will end the inning even if subsequent runs score on the same play (automatic double or home run etc).</p>
60a	Core Players	<p>Clubs with multiple team entries must nominate after four (4) rounds, five (5) core players in each team. Nominated core players are not permitted to change teams within that grade during the season without permission from the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p>
61a	Designated Hitter	<p>Designated Hitters are not permitted in Junior grades.</p>
62a	Lineups	<p>Teams are to bat through the line-ups with all players present. (e.g.) If there are twelve (12) players in the team present, then the team is to bat 1 to 12 and keep the batting order the same regardless of the fielding nine or bench players.</p> <p>** EXCEPTION ** In finals, teams may choose to bat with a traditional nine (9) batter line-up (or less, only if they seven (7) or eight (8) players present).</p>
62b	Lineups	<p>There is no limit to the number of times a player can come on and off the bench (substituted). The batting order is to remain the same as per Match Condition 62a. Players should be rotated at the change of innings. Coaches are encouraged to rotate bench players as often as possible to allow as much on field involvement as possible for all players.</p> <p>This match condition does not apply in finals when a team chooses not to use an extended line-up. If a traditional nine (9) batter line-up is used, teams are subject to OBR substitution rules.</p>
62c	Lineups	<p>Blanks in Junior line-ups DO NOT constitute an out, and teams can bat through the available players in their lineup.</p>
62d	Lineups	<p>Minimum Player Numbers: Match Condition 6b will be in effect for U13's Major, U15's and U17's which requires a minimum of seven (7) players to start the game. For U11's Rookie Ball a minimum of four (4) players are required to start the game. For U13's Minor, a minimum of five (5) players are required to start the game.</p>
62e	Lineups	<p>Shortage of Players (Gameday): If a junior team is unable to field the regulation players to start a game during the home and away season, permission is hereby granted for players from another team to compete, without transfer, clearance or permit, for the team which is deficient.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any such player(s) shall field and bat as if they were members of the deficient team, except they will not be permitted to pitch or catch unless by agreement of both coaches. If the deficient team is able to field at least the minimum players in accordance with Match Condition 62d, the result of the match shall be recorded as if there had been no shortage. If the opposing team is unable to field the minimum players in accordance with Match Condition 62d, the opposing team shall have forfeit score 9-0 "for" and 0-9 "against", as the result of the match. In (c) above, the deficient team shall incur the appropriate fine for a forfeit. <p>The purpose of the rule is to prevent walkovers if possible and give junior players every opportunity to play. Clubs with an excess number of players are encouraged to give these players a chance to compete. The MWBL will not however, allow shortages to occur without additional action against defaulting clubs</p>
63a	Byes	<p>When a junior team has a bye, any player of the team having the bye may play in any other junior team that the player is eligible to play in, including teams of the same club in the same grade.</p>
64a	Midweek Games	<p>For midweek night games any player that played in a higher grade on the previous Saturday and is eligible to play in a lower age group will NOT be permitted to play in the following midweek night games.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
65a	Dropped 3 rd Strike	<p>U13's Minor and U11's Rookie Ball: The batter is "OUT" when a third strike is indicated by the Umpire, whether or not the pitch is legally caught by the catcher. A third strike which is not caught by the catcher is alive until it goes out of play and base runners may advance at their own risk.</p> <p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Dropped third strike as per Official Baseball Rules apply.</p>
66a	Passed Balls	<p>U13's Minor and U11's Rookie Ball: Runners may advance one (1) base on a passed ball or wild pitch to second (2nd) or third (3rd) base but may NOT advance home (on a steal, wild pitch or passed ball).</p> <p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Players may advance on a passed ball or wild pitch to the next base at their own risk as per Official Baseball Rules.</p>
67a	Baserunning	<p>U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor: There will be no leads and no stealing of bases is allowed. Base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and reaches the batter (or crosses home plate).</p> <p>NOTE: If an umpire detects a runner leaving the base early, time shall be called, the runner returned to the base occupied prior to the pitch and a warning issued. Two (2) warnings shall be issued in a game per team, and any further offences, the baserunner will be given OUT.</p> <p>U13's Major: There will be no leads. Base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and reaches the batter (or crosses home plate).</p> <p>NOTE: If an umpire detects a runner leaving the base early, time shall be called, the runner returned to the base occupied prior to the pitch and a warning issued. Two (2) warnings shall be issued in a game per team, and any further offences, the baserunner will be given OUT.</p> <p>U15's and U17's: Leads and Stealing as per the Official Baseball Rules apply.</p>
67b	Baserunning	<p>Sliding or Collision Rule at Home Plate (ALL Junior 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.</p>
67c	Baserunning	<p>Sliding or Collision Rule at any bases (ALL Junior Games): 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. If a player uses an illegal slide, the baserunner making the slide and the secondary baserunner the defence is attempting to retire will both be out as per Official Baseball Rules.</p>
68a	Batting Rules	<p>U11 Rookie Ball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All players will start with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. • This competition is coach pitch, or if agreed between coaches, can have players pitch. • The coach cannot walk a batter, and the batter shall continue their at-bat until they are out or put the ball in play. • If a player strikes out, then a tee is used for the player to hit. If the ball hits the coach pitcher the ball remains in play. • No bunting is allowed.
68b	Batting Rules	<p>U13 Minor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All players will start with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. • It will be player pitch until the ball is put in play, ball four (4) or a Hit By Pitch (HBP). In the event of Ball four (4) or HBP, then the count shall reset to one (1) ball and one (1) strike, and the coach shall pitch to the batter. • If the coach does pitch, the coach cannot walk a batter, and the batter shall continue their at-bat until they are out or put the ball in play.



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition																																								
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. No bunting is allowed. 																																								
68c	Batting Rules	U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Official Baseball Rules apply.																																								
69a	Speed-Up Rule	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 (9) players available the player last out can be used. It is optional to use a substitute runner for the pitcher or catcher 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.																																								
70a	Pitching Restrictions	<p>Junior Games Only: Maximum number of defensive outs or pitches (whichever is completed first) a pitcher can deliver are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U11's Rookie Ball: Nine (9) defensive outs or fifty (50) pitches, U13's Minor: Nine (9) defensive outs or sixty (60) pitches, U13's Major: Nine (9) defensive outs or sixty (60) pitches, U15's: Twelve (12) defensive outs or seventy (70) pitches, U17's: Twelve (12) defensive outs or eighty (80) pitches. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Player, playing in a higher age group is still restricted to the lower age pitch group. A pitcher reaching his/her maximum number of pitches is immediately removed from the mound after he/she has completed that batter. Scorers are to notify the Plate Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within ten (10) pitches of a maximum allowable number. Any ball delivered to the plate including a balk or an illegal pitch, whether it be hit or not, shall not be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches". A player that pitches during junior games in the morning shall not be permitted to pitch in any senior games in the afternoon on the same day. One pitch constitutes pitching in the morning. If a pitcher's defensive outs are exceeded as a result of a 'Triple' or 'Double' play, then the play will stand, and the pitcher then replaced. If a pitcher's defensive outs are reached as a result of a 'pick off' or 'rundown' play, then the play will stand, and the pitcher is permitted to still pitch to the batter at bat even if he has not pitched to the batter before the 'pick off' or 'run down' play. 																																								
70b	Pitching Restrictions	U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major: Pitchers are only allowed to throw fastballs or straight changeups. If any other off-speed pitch (curve, slider etc) is thrown, "NO PITCH" to be called by the Plate Umpire, but it will be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".																																								
70c	Pitching Restrictions	U15's and U17's: Pitchers are permitted to throw any type of pitch.																																								
70d	Pitching Restrictions	A player shall not pitch and catch or catch and pitch in the same game.																																								
70e	Pitching Restrictions	<p>All Junior players will be subject to the rest requirements based on the number of pitches they have thrown.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Age</th> <th rowspan="2">Max Pitches in a Day</th> <th colspan="5">Days' Rest Required</th> </tr> <tr> <th>0 Days</th> <th>1 Day</th> <th>2 Days</th> <th>3 Days</th> <th>4 Days</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9-12</td> <td>60</td> <td>1 – 15</td> <td>15 – 30</td> <td>31 – 40</td> <td>41 – 50</td> <td>51 – 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13-14</td> <td>80</td> <td>1 – 20</td> <td>21 – 35</td> <td>36 – 50</td> <td>51 – 65</td> <td>66 – 80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-16</td> <td>90</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17-18</td> <td>100</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	Max Pitches in a Day	Days' Rest Required					0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	9-12	60	1 – 15	15 – 30	31 – 40	41 – 50	51 – 60	13-14	80	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66 – 80	15-16	90	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 90	17-18	100	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 100
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70f	Pitching Restrictions	<p>Pitchers Hitting Batters: U11's Rookie Ball: At the discretion of the umpire, if the batter is hit and is hurt the batter will be awarded first base. If the batter is not hurt, then they shall be allowed to hit with a coach pitch if they choose to do so.</p>																																								



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition																									
		<p>U13's Minor, U13's Major, U15's and U17's: If a pitcher hits two batters in the same innings the umpire and coaches must confer to decide whether the pitcher should continue or be removed. If the player is not removed, then there is no right of appeal at the end of the game.</p>																									
71a	Specific Fielding Rules	<p>U11's Rookie Ball: There are to be 6 players on the field (pitcher, catcher, and 4 infielders). Note: where there is coach pitch, the pitcher must start in line or behind the pitching plate.</p> <p>U13's Minor: There are to be 7 players on the field (pitcher, catcher, 4 infielders and a sweeping outfielder). Note: where there is coach pitch, the pitcher must start in line or behind the pitching plate.</p> <p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Normal baseball positions will apply.</p>																									
72a	Baseballs	<p>U11's Rookie Ball and U13's Minor: A R.I.B (Reduced Injury Balls Size 9) are to be used in all games to reduce the risk of injury and build confidence.</p> <p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Baseballs in accordance with Match Condition 5a to be used.</p>																									
73a	Baseball Bats	All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02																									
73b	Baseball Bats	<p>U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor, U13's Major and U15's: All bats shall have the USA logo or BBCOR performance standard certification marking. NOTE: Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.</p>																									
73c	Baseball Bats	<p>U17's: All bats shall be wood, wood composite, wood laminate or aluminium baseball bats as approved by the Baseball Australia shall be used only. All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labelled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark.</p>																									
73d	Baseball Bats	If a batter is found to be using an illegal bat, then the batter will be asked to change the bat to an approved bat. If the player refuses to change the bat the then player will be declared out.																									
74a	Field Dimensions	<p>The following conditions will apply to the playing fields for Junior Grades:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>U11's Rookie U13's Minor</th> <th>U13's Major</th> <th>U15's</th> <th>U17's</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pitching Distance</td> <td>42 ft</td> <td>46 ft</td> <td>54 ft</td> <td>60 ft 6 in</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Base Distance</td> <td>60 ft</td> <td>60 ft</td> <td>80 ft</td> <td>90 ft</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Passed Ball Line</td> <td>25 ft</td> <td>25 ft</td> <td>40 ft</td> <td>60 ft</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Run Fence</td> <td>120 ft</td> <td>200 ft</td> <td>250 ft</td> <td>Senior Size</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		U11's Rookie U13's Minor	U13's Major	U15's	U17's	Pitching Distance	42 ft	46 ft	54 ft	60 ft 6 in	Base Distance	60 ft	60 ft	80 ft	90 ft	Passed Ball Line	25 ft	25 ft	40 ft	60 ft	Home Run Fence	120 ft	200 ft	250 ft	Senior Size
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75a	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Points: For all grades, teams will be allocated two (2) points for a win, zero (0) points for a loss and one (1) point for a draw and/or a washout. Note 1: A bye will be worth zero (0) points and not counted as a game played. Note 2: A washout will be considered a draw for the purposes of Ladder Positions.</p>																									
75b	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Winning Percentage: For all grades where there are byes, Winning Percentage will be used to determine the final ladder position. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{No. of Wins} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ No. of Draws}}{\text{Total Games}}$																									
75c	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>Percentage: If teams in any grade have equal match points or winning percentage for that grade, then their position on the ladder shall be determined by percentage. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{Runs For}}{\text{Runs For} + \text{Runs Against}} \times 1000$																									



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
75d	Ladder Positions and Finals Eligibility	<p>PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS SERIES (SINGLE TEAM CLUBS)</p> <p>For junior grade(s) finals, a junior player must play six (6) rounds in the Home and Away Junior competition played to be able to compete in junior finals. The MWBL Junior Sub Committee and/or MWBL Pennant Committee reserve the right to set or change the qualification rules as deemed necessary due to fixturing and/or calendar anomalies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one (1) bye will count towards qualification. • Senior grade rounds will NOT count towards junior finals eligibility. <p>PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS SERIES (MULTIPLE TEAM CLUBS)</p> <p>The same rules apply as single team clubs except where clubs with two or more teams in the same age group/section are advised that a player is only eligible to play with the team in which they have played the greatest number of games during the current season. If a player has played equal number of games with two or more teams during the home and away Games, then written application must be made to the MWBL Administrator for permission and determination as to the team in which they are eligible to play for.</p> <p>NOTE: Whilst a player is allowed permission to play in a higher age group, such player will not be allowed to play in the Finals of a lower age group if they have played more games in the higher age group during the season.</p>
76a	Finals	<p>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. Finals in all grades will be for the top 4 teams in the competition played over 2 weeks.</p> <p>Week 1: Semi Finals G1: 1st v 4th, G2: 2nd v 3rd Week 2: Grand Finals G3: Winner G1 v Winner G2 Week 3: Grand Final Replay G3 replayed if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home team will be team that finishes higher on ladder at completion of home and away series. • For All Finals, the Pennant Committee will decide venues. No correspondence will be entered into once a decision on grounds is made. <p>NOTE: For Finals 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. If away teams using their home ground - then they can use their usual dugout.</p>
76b	Finals	All Junior Finals Games will be scheduled at the regular season starting times in accordance with Match Condition 59b, except where advised by the MWBL Pennant Committee.
76c	Finals	<p>Grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Refer to Match Condition 9c for Home run marshals in finals.
76d	Finals	<p>For Finals, all previous match conditions apply except for the following changes:</p> <p>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' 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the HOME TEAM is AHEAD – the game ceases immediately. • If the HOME TEAM is BEHIND or the game TIED – the game continues until the winning run is scored or the side is retired
76e	Finals	<p>No Result Rules:</p> <p>The Umpires will be the SOLE judges of fitness and marking of grounds.</p> <p>Where wet or inclement weather or ground conditions prevent a game not achieving the Minimum Game Requirements (five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes) or not achieving a result in the maximum playing time, the following procedures will apply:</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<p>If Game Tied: If after application of the five-minute rule the game is tied at 10.30am, the Umpire shall require the teams to continue play in order to achieve a result. Such extended play SHALL NOT CONTINUE BEYOND 11.00am.</p> <p>If a result is achieved between 10.30am and 11.00am the match shall finish immediately. If there is no result after the game being extended to 11.00am then the higher placed team will be declared the winner and advance to the next final.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If game is tied in the GRAND FINAL after extra time, then the game shall be the played the following Saturday. If game not played for any reason the following Saturday, then the highest placed team will be declared the premiers. 2. For any Semi Finals, where wet weather or ground conditions prevents a result of a game (in accordance with Match Condition 59c) and finishing no later than 11.00am then the highest placed team will continue to the next final. <p>The appointed umpire for the finals games will make the decision in respect of adverse weather or condition of ground.</p>
76f	Finals	<p>Umpires and Match Sheets: Umpires to be appointed by the MWBL or if non available then competing clubs to supply in accordance with Match Condition 25a. Match sheets are required for Finals Series games and to be sent to the MWBL Administrator no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the game by the umpires in accordance with Match Condition 31b.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For the Finals Games, HOME teams are required to email the scores to the MWBL Administrator after the game by 8.00pm on the day of the game</p>



11. ADMINISTRATION

Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
77a	Registration	All Baseball Victoria registered players, coaches, officials and parents of registered players remain bound by the rules of Baseball Victoria, including these match conditions, MWBL By-laws, policies and procedures and Codes of Conduct.
78a	Clearances	Clearances close on 30th June for players registered within Victoria for the MWBL and/or other competing Winter baseball leagues/Associations. All correct clearance paperwork must be lodged with the MWBL Administrator prior to this date. For all other circumstances, please refer to the MWBL Rules & By-Laws.
79a	Non-National Players	<p>a. Pitching Restrictions Pitching Restrictions are applicable for All Non-National Junior or Senior players. Any player deemed to be a Non-National player will be allowed to only pitch in every second game for that clubs scheduled games during the Regular Season. This is applicable to all grades.</p> <p>For the Finals Series the following shall apply. A non-national player may only pitch a maximum of five (5) innings for each finals game over the final's series. For a non-national player to be eligible to play in the finals series they must have played a minimum of six (6) rounds.</p> <p>Definition of Non-National Player</p> <p>b. 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 a period of twelve (12) calendar months immediately prior to the commencement of the season in which a Club wishes to register them as a player. A 'non-national' player that is studying at an approved University or Tafe course and on an appropriate visa will not be subject to the 'non-national' rule.</p> <p>c. A player on Temporary Activity VISA 408 (Sporting Activities), will be considered as a Non-National regardless of the length of time they have been in Australia.</p> <p>d. The Melbourne Winter Baseball League accepts no responsibility for fulfilling of any obligations or requirements for 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.</p> <p>e. A Club may only register and play one (1) non-national player in their senior firsts team for any season.</p> <p>f. 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.</p> <p>g. 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 firsts senior team, for the season of registration at the time of registration.</p> <p>h. The non-national nomination must be received and approved by the Pennant Committee prior to the player being able to participate in the Melbourne Winter Baseball League competition.</p> <p>i. A Club may request approval from the Pennant Committee to change the non-national player nominated to play in the firsts senior team for the season of registration due to injury or other extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>j. The Pennant Committee or the Administrator of the Melbourne Winter Baseball League may seek evidence on any player it deems to be a non-national that has not been declared by their Club. The Pennant Committee or the Administrator of the Melbourne Winter Baseball League may determine the form of this evidence at the time of the request.</p> <p>k. Junior players who are non-nationals and are eligible to play in the firsts senior team of a Club will not count towards the non-national player limit specified in this Match Condition if selected by the Club to play in the firsts senior team.</p> <p>l. Failure of a club to comply with this Match Condition will result in forfeiture of all games and imposition of an "Illegal Player" fine by Melbourne Winter Baseball League as per Schedule 1.</p> <p>m. At the end of a season a Club that has registered non-national players is to submit a statement to the Pennant Committee advising whether the non-national players fulfilled their contractual obligations to the Club and, where the Club alleges that a player did not fulfil their contractual obligations, provide details of the alleged breaches of their obligations. Such statements will only be used by the Pennant Committee in considering granting approval for future registration or clearance of that player.</p> <p>n. All non-national players shall be subject to the clearance provisions set out in these Match Conditions.</p>



Ref.	Subject	Match Condition
		<p>o. A non-national player who has not participated in the Melbourne Winter Baseball 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 match condition, should a different Club desire to register the player provided that the Pennant Committee is satisfied that there was no breach of the player's contract with the original Club.</p>