

Melbourne Winter Baseball League (Inc.)

Registration No: A0014011Y
ABN: 15 741 618 170



MATCH CONDITIONS

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**2026 MATCH CONDITIONS
FOR SENIORS, WOMEN'S AND JUNIOR GAMES**



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MWBL LEAGUE BOARD AND OFFICIALS

Role	Official	Email	Phone
President	Natalie Kilby	president@mwbl.com.au	0423 369 688
Vice President Juniors City West	Dean Hayhow	cw@mwbl.com.au	0431 303 729
Vice President Juniors Diamond Valley	Ali Moini	dv@mwbl.com.au	0468 999 617
Vice President Juniors Ringwood District		rd@mwbl.com.au	
Vice President Women's Competition	Sarah Anton	womens_vp@mwbl.com.au	0423 927 990
Vice President Pennant Chair	Patrick White	pennant@mwbl.com.au	0438 402 249
Secretary	Slade Squire	secretary@mwbl.com.au	0408 706 321
Treasurer	Peter Clapp	treasurer@mwbl.com.au	0408 693 301
Umpires Chair	Geoff Dunn	umpires@mwbl.com.au	0412 972 075
Competition Manager	Michael Chambers	administrator@mwbl.com.au	
Competition Manager (Juniors)	Michael Chambers	administrator@mwbl.com.au	
Scores and Match Sheets		scores@mwbl.com.au	

WINTER CARNIVAL DATES

Carnival	Date	Location	Host
Seniors	06 – 08 June 2026	Cheltenham Baseball Club	DBA
Women's	06 – 08 June 2026	Guild Baseball Club (Geelong)	GBA
U15's Girls Invitational	13 – 14 June 2026	Point Cook Baseball Club	MWBL
U15's	27 – 28 June 2026	Morwell and Moe/Newborough Baseball Clubs	LVBA
17's and Under	04 – 05 July 2026	Wangaratta Baseball Club	NEBA
U13's	11 – 12 July 2026	Scots and Falcons Baseball Clubs (Bendigo)	BBA

**CLUB GROUND LOCATIONS**

Club	Ground	Address
Alfredton	Prince of Wales Park	Gillies St, Ballarat
Croydon	Barngeong 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 Yulong Reserve	Karingal Dr, Greensborough Cnr Cameron Pde and Bent St, Bundoora
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
Newport	KC White Reserve	Park Cres, Williamstown North
North Balwyn	Myrtle Park	Gildan St, North Balwyn
North Coburg	Parker Reserve	Keady St, North Coburg
North Western Titans	McPherson Park	Coburns Rd, Harkness
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
RMIT	Wadsworth Field	Glenferrie Rd, Malvern
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
Westgarth	Merri Park	St Georges Rd, Fitzroy
Williamstown	Greenwich Reserve	The Strand, Newport



CLUB OFFICIALS: SENIOR DELEGATES

Club	Official	Email	Phone
Alfredton	Andrew Hoare	ahoare@powercor.com.au	0475 260 065
Croydon	Paul Wilson	paul_wilson85@hotmail.com	0411 167 930
Diamond Creek	Danny O'Loughlin	president@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	Dean Hayhow	footscraybc1925@gmail.com	0431 303 729
Forest Hill	Andrew Weller	weller21@bigpond.com	0455 262 911
Glen Iris	Neal McIntyre	info@glenirisbaseball.com	0422 162 506
GMBC	Wayne Roberts	wayne.roberts@toyota.com.au	0409 647 094
Greensborough	Michael Sullivan	presidentforgbc@gmail.com	0417 575 642
Heathmont	Natalie Kilby	heathmontbaseballclub@gmail.com	0423 369 688
Knox	Richard Ferguson	richard@knoxbbc.com.au	0433 578 319
La Trobe Uni	Lesley Hutchison	latrobebaseball+sec@gmail.com	0403 763 433
Melbourne	Andrew Williams	andrew.williams@mccbbaseball.org.au	0411 311 897
Mitchell Majors	Kristy McGowan	majorssecretary@gmail.com	0408 350 616
Monash Uni	Judd Neilson	monashbaseball@yahoo.com.au	0456 689 880
Newport			
North Balwyn	Mitch Kennedy	president@northbalwynbaseball.com.au	0408 764 216
North Coburg	Danielle Senyschyn	committee@rebelsbc.com	0403 078 656
North Western Titans			
Northcote	Tony Wyatt	wyatt.tony@gmail.com	0419 372 806
Point Cook	Elijah Bate	seniors@pointcookbsc.com.au	0434 042 400
Port Melbourne	Daniella Garofolo	president.portmarinersbc@gmail.com	0437 785 313
Research Lower Plenty	Chris Fisher	rlpbc@outlook.com	0407 858 629
Ringwood	Travis Fitton	rsbcpresident@gmail.com	0401 043 219
RMIT	Stephen Winship	stephenwinship2011@gmail.com	0429 662 996
South East Warriors	Bryce Pelham	sewbaseball.president@outlook.com	0468 695 908
St Kilda	Cindy Gee	exec@stkildabaseball.org.au	0431 100 385
Sunshine	Ana Meljen Quach	anameljen5@yahoo.com.au	0413 520 853
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
Westgarth	Cale Volitakis	cale.volitakis@hotmail.com	0439 635 356
Williamstown			



CLUB OFFICIALS: WOMEN'S DELEGATES

Club	Official	Email	Phone
Alfredton	Erin Grant	erinryland1@gmail.com	0421 987 790
Croydon			
Diamond Creek	Sherryn Medlicott	vp@dcbc.com.au	0417 383 224
Doncaster			
Essendon			
Footscray			
Forest Hill			
Glen Iris			
GMBC		womens@montybaseball.com.au	
Greensborough			
Heathmont	Darrell Holden	heathmontbaseballclub@gmail.com	0466 489 468
Knox	Jess McDonald	jess@knoxbbc.com.au	0412 154 170
La Trobe Uni	Lesley Hutchison	latrobebaseball+sec@gmail.com	0403 763 433
Melbourne			
Mitchell Majors	Kristy McGowan	kcrs10@gmail.com	0408 350 616
Monash Uni	Michael Morgan	mlmorgan218@gmail.com	0401 134 221
Newport			
North Balwyn	Sarah Anton	sarah.anton01@gmail.com	0423 927 990
North Coburg	Danielle Senyschyn	committee@rebelsbc.com	
North Western Titans	Belinda Murphy	president.nwtitansbaseball@outlook.com	0400 557 486
Northcote			
Point Cook	Elijah Bate	womens@pointcookbsc.com.au	0434 042 400
Port Melbourne			
Research Lower Plenty	Kristy Fairservice	rlpbc@outlook.com	0415 561 443
Ringwood			
RMIT			
South East Warriors	Jennifer James	sewbaseball.president@outlook.com	0408 776 658
St Kilda	Cindy Gee	exec@stkildabaseball.org.au	0431 100 385
Sunshine			
University of Melbourne	Megan Kelly	megan.kelly.2711@gmail.com	0459 264 429
Watsonia			
Waverley	Kane Longstaff	secretary@waverleybaseball.com.au	0418 512 435
Westgarth			
Williamstown			



CLUB OFFICIALS: JUNIOR DELEGATES

Club	Official	Email	Phone
Alfredton			
Croydon	Cooper Rowntree	cooper.towntree@gmail.com	0457 520 624
Diamond Creek	Dave Rossa	juniors@dcbc.com.au	0468 467 616
Doncaster		doncasterbaseballjuniors@gmail.com	
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	Leesa Butterworth	kenleesa@bigpond.com	0407 322 743
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			
Monash Uni			
Newport			
North Balwyn		juniors@northbalwynbaseball.com.au	
North Coburg	Nicolas Papanikolou	committee@rebelsbc.com	
North Western Titans			
Northcote			
Point Cook	Andrew Fieldon	juniors@pointcookbsc.com.au	0490 494 356
Port Melbourne			
Research Lower Plenty	Chris Fisher	rlpbc@outlook.com	0407 858 629
Ringwood	Natalie Whiteford	ringwoodsaintsjuniors@gmail.com	0410 559 084
RMIT			
South East Warriors	Daniel de Sachau	sewbaseball.president@outlook.com	0430 977 314
St Kilda	Jeff Kuhl	juniors@stkildabaseball.org.au	0418 836 834
Sunshine	Kerry Leigh	sbcjuniors@outlook.com	0411 146 676
University of Melbourne			
Watsonia	Luke Asbury	watsoniajuniors@gmail.com	0492 868 638
Waverley	Nicole Clowes	juniors@waverleybaseball.com.au	0407 096 661
Westgarth	Sean Farrell	seantfarrell@optusnet.com.au	0432 761 879
Williamstown	Dianne DiBlasi	juniors.wolves@gmail.com	0418 575 949



GENERAL MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Match Condition
1. GOVERNANCE	
1(a)	These Melbourne Winter Baseball League (MWBL) Match Conditions are made as Regulations in accordance with the MWBL constitution.
1(b)	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.
2. DEFINITIONS	
2(a)	“League” means the Melbourne Winter Baseball League Inc (MWBL).
2(b)	“Board” means the MWBL League Board.
2(c)	“Club” means an Incorporated Club responsible for the administration of baseball club in the MWBL.
2(d)	“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.
2(e)	“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.
2(f)	“Seniors” means any open age Grades for any players aged 14 years and above.
2(g)	“Women’s” means any open age Women’s Grades for female players aged 13 years and above.
2(h)	“Juniors” means any Junior Grades or any player under 18 years of age.
3. GENERAL	
3(a)	Except where otherwise stated in these Match Conditions, the Official Baseball Rules (OBR) are to be apply to all MWBL Competitions.
4. MEMBERSHIP AND CODE OF CONDUCT	
4(a)	Registration: All MWBL Members must be registered in accordance with the MWBL By-Laws (By-Law 15).
4(b)	Clearances: Clearances for MWBL clubs and members close on the 30th of June each season for players registered within Victoria in the MWBL and/or other competing Winter baseball leagues/Associations. Please refer to the MWBL By-Laws (By-Law 16 and By-Law 17) for details around clearance procedures.
4(c)	Code of Conduct: All members of the MWBL, players, officials, scorers and spectators are required to follow the Codes of Conduct found in the MWBL Statement of Purpose and Rules (Part D – Code of Conduct). This includes abiding by the anti-discrimination policy (Part E – Antidiscrimination) and the behavioural expectations.
4(d)	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. 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.
4(e)	Melees: 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.



Ref.	Match Condition
4(f)	<p>Reported Persons:</p> <p>All reported persons shall be subject to MWBL Reported Persons and Tribunal Procedure (By-Law 29). The MWBL adopts a zero tolerance policy with the power of umpires to provide either a Yellow Card and /or Blue Card. This includes officials and spectators, which the MWBL reserves the right to investigate reports on any member of the MWBL and take such action as it deems necessary. The MWBL administrator shall be informed in writing, including the reasons to justify the report, so the report can be investigated by the MWBL.</p>
5. BASEBALLS	
5(a)	<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. The Home team is to provide balls meeting the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approved Winter Baseball; (ii) Of the same make; (iii) Leather; and (iv) 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>
5(b)	<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>
6. GAME START	
6(a)	<p>Game Times:</p> <p>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 8(a).</p>
6(b)	<p>Unable to Field a Starting Nine (9):</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
6(c)	<p>Line-Ups:</p> <p>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 15(a) will be in effect.</p>
6(d)	<p>Courtesy Fielders:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>



Ref.	Match Condition
7. FORFEITS AND WALKOVERS	
7(a)	<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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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>
7(b)	<p>Prior to Game Day:</p> <p>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. Clubs that do not forfeit the lowest grade team will be fined as below and also two (2) match points will be deducted from all teams below the grade that forfeited.</p> <p>Note: Clubs may apply to the MWBL Pennant Committee at least seven (7) days in advance to request the forfeiture of a higher ranked team, but this be accompanied with good reason, and be approved by the MWBL Pennant Committee. Higher ranked teams that forfeit may be subject to Match Condition 32(a) (Byes) or other limitations at the discretion of the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>Penalty for teams giving the walkover prior to game day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Senior Team - \$50 fine and no match points. (ii) Junior Team - \$30 fine and no match points. <p>Walkovers will be scrutinised 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. This includes clubs that forfeit multiple times in the same season who may be subject to the disqualification of finals eligibility for individual team(s), if found to have forfeited without good reason.</p>
7(c)	<p>At the Ground on Game Day:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Penalty for teams giving the walkover on game day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Senior Team: \$50 fine and no match points plus appointed umpire’s fees (if attended). (ii) Junior Team: \$30 fine and no match points plus appointed umpire’s fees (if attended).
8. GROUND CONDITIONS	
8(a)	<p>The order of authority for determining the fitness to play of any ground is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 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; (ii) 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; (iii) 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. (iv) 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. 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>



Ref.	Match Condition
8(b)	<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 and grounds must be on Baseball Victoria's approved list.</p>
8(c)	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 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. (ii) 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. (iii) If the washout, etc, occurs in round 1 – then clubs are permitted to use names of currently registered players or new registrations. (iv) 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. (v) 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. (vi) For all grades, if at least one (1) match is completed, the round for that grade will be considered as played. (vii) Refer to Match Condition 8(a) for additional information around fitness of grounds.
9.	GROUNDS AND EQUIPMENT
9(a)	<p>Grounds:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
9(b)	<p>Dugouts:</p> <p>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>
9(c)	<p>Home Run Fence and Marshals:</p> <p>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>
9(d)	<p>Out of Play:</p> <p>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>



Ref.	Match Condition
9(e)	<p>Catch and Carry:</p> <p>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> <p>(i) 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.</p> <p>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 (1) 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.</p>
10. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – HELMETS	
10(a)	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.
10(b)	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. 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.
10(c)	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 fourteen (14) years old to base coach in a Seniors or Women's game.
11. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – PROTECTORS AND MOUTHGUARDS	
11(a)	It is recommended that players wear appropriate protection whilst on the field during a game.
12. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – CATCHERS	
12(a)	<p>ALL PERSONS WARMING UP PITCHERS MUST WEAR A MASK.</p> <p>All catchers MUST wear catchers helmets, masks or combined mask/helmet combination whenever they are catching in a warmup or game. This includes catchers, coaches, parents and other junior players who are catching any pitcher.</p>
12(b)	<p>Junior Catchers:</p> <p>It is compulsory for junior catchers to wear helmet, mask, throat guard, chest plate and leggings when catching.</p>
13. COLLISIONS AT THE PLATE	
13(a)	<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>
14. PRE-MATCH WARM-UP	
14(a)	<p>Seniors and Women's:</p> <p>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>
14(b)	<p>Juniors:</p> <p>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>



Ref.	Match Condition
15.	EXTENDED LINE-UP
15(a)	<p>Applicable to all Seniors and Women’s Grades except for A, A Res, B, B Res and C Grade</p> <p>An extended batting line-up (15 players maximum) may be used in applicable grades, and 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>
15(b)	<p>Line-Up Compression (Applicable to all Seniors and Women’s Grades except for A, A Res, B, B Res and C Grade)</p> <p>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>
16.	FIVE-MINUTE RULE
16(a)	<p>Applicable to all Seniors and Women’s MWBL games, except for A and B Grade Finals.</p> <p>If five minutes or less remains at the completion of even innings, the match shall end. If, at five minutes before the scheduled time of completion, the home team is at bat and is ahead, the match shall end.</p>
16(b)	<p>Applicable to all Early Games:</p> <p>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>
16(c)	<p>Late or Single Games:</p> <p>All late games and single games with a scheduled finish time shall be subject to the ‘Five-Minute Rule’ as listed in Match Condition 16(a). There shall be no time limit to complete any inning started before the five-minute rule is in effect.</p>



Ref. Match Condition

17. DETERMINATION OF RESULTS IN TIME GAMES

17(a) In regard to final scores in TIME games, various examples are given below.

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:

- (i) The home team (batting second) is ahead.
- (ii) 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.

In each of the following examples, "A" is the away team (batting first), and "B" the home team (batting second).

	TEAM	RUNS TO 6 th	RUN IN 7 th	TOTAL SCORE	CORRECT SCORE	RESULT
1	A	6	1	7	A: 6	Score reverts back to 6 th , Team A wins
	B	4	2 (Incomplete)	6	B: 4	
2	A	6	0	6	A: 6	Match is a Draw
	B	4	2 (Incomplete)	6	B: 6	
3	A	6	0	6	A: 6	Team B wins the game
	B	4	3 (Incomplete)	7	B: 7	
4	A	5	0	5	A: 5	Team B wins the game
	B	5	1 (Incomplete)	6	B: 6	
5	A	5	1	6	A: 5	Score reverts back to 6 th , Match is a Draw
	B	5	0 (Incomplete)	5	B: 5	
6	A	5	1	6	A: 6	Match is a Draw
	B	5	1 (Incomplete)	6	B: 6	
7	A	4	2	6	A: 6	Team B wins the game
	B	7	- (did not bat)	7	B: 7	
8	A	4	1	5	A: 5	Team B wins the game
	B	7	3 (Incomplete)	10	B: 10	
9	A	4	4	8	A: 4	Score reverts back to 6 th , Team B wins the game
	B	7	0 (Incomplete)	7	B: 7	
10	A	4	4	8	A: 4	Score reverts back to 6 th , Team B wins the game
	B	7	1 (Incomplete)	8	B: 7	
11	A	4	1	5	A: 5	Team B wins the game
	B	7	0 (Incomplete)	7	B: 7	

18. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

18(a) Players are not permitted to pitch in two (2) games on the same day. This includes if a player pitches in a JUNIOR game, that player may not pitch in a SENIOR game on the same day. Coaches are responsible for overseeing this rule.

If this rule is violated the penalty to apply will be as follows: Forfeit of game in which violation occurred and/or a fine to apply. Further penalties may be determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee.

NOTE: Players are however permitted to pitch in one (1) Game on Saturday and then pitch in one (1) Game on Sunday. Junior Pitchers will be subject to the rest requirements of Match Condition 18(b).



Ref.	Match Condition																																																						
18(b)	<p>Junior Pitch Restrictions and Rest Requirements:</p> <p>The following table describes how many pitches a Junior Player may pitch in any MWBL Game and the required rest following their outing:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">League Age</th> <th rowspan="2">Max Pitches in a Game*</th> <th colspan="5">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>7 – 8</td> <td>50</td> <td>1 – 20</td> <td>21 – 35</td> <td>36 – 50</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 – 10</td> <td>75</td> <td>1 – 20</td> <td>21 – 35</td> <td>36 – 50</td> <td>51 – 65</td> <td>66 – 75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 – 12</td> <td>85</td> <td>1 – 20</td> <td>21 – 35</td> <td>36 – 50</td> <td>51 – 65</td> <td>66 – 85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 – 14</td> <td>95</td> <td>1 – 20</td> <td>21 – 35</td> <td>36 – 50</td> <td>51 – 65</td> <td>66 – 95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 – 16</td> <td>95</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 – 18</td> <td>105</td> <td>1 – 30</td> <td>31 – 45</td> <td>46 – 60</td> <td>61 – 75</td> <td>76 – 105</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(i) Defensive Outs: Applicable to Junior Games Only</p> <p>In all MWBL Junior Games, in addition to the maximum number of pitches, a Junior Player is also restricted to a maximum number of defensive outs and must be removed from pitching once whichever is completed first (pitch limit or defensive out limit).</p> <p>(a) U11's Rookie Ball: Nine (9) defensive outs;</p> <p>(b) U13's Minor: Nine (9) defensive outs;</p> <p>(c) U13's Major: Nine (9) defensive outs;</p> <p>(d) U15's: Twelve (12) defensive outs; and</p> <p>(e) U17's: Twelve (12) defensive outs.</p> <p><i>These limits are provided to encourage clubs to develop multiple Juniors as pitchers rather than relying on the same player to pitch every week.</i></p> <p>NOTE: Where a side is retired due to the five (5) run mercy (Match Condition 60(d)), any remaining outs in the inning will be added to the pitchers defensive outs tally, up to the limit of the age group. EXCEPTION: There will be no penalty if a player exceeds the defensive out limit of their age group as result of this clause.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: If a player has pitched three (3) defensive outs at the start of an inning and there is then one (1) out when the mercy (innings) is called, that player will now be attributed with six (6) defensive outs prior to the start of the next innings.</p> <p>(ii) All Junior Players are restricted by the pitch count relevant to their League Age, regardless of if they are playing in a higher age group, Seniors, or Women's.</p> <p>(iii) Scorers are to notify the Plate Umpire and each team when a pitcher is within ten (10) pitches of a maximum allowable number or have reached their maximum defensive outs.</p> <p>(iv) A balk or an illegal pitch delivered to the plate, whether it be hit or not, shall not be considered to be valid for the purpose of recording the "number of pitches".</p> <p>(v) A pitcher reaching their maximum number of pitches is immediately removed from the mound after they have completed that batter. 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 they have not pitched to the batter before the 'pick off' or 'run down' play. <i>For Junior Games: 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 should be replaced.</i></p> <p>(vi) For the purpose of this rule, players are to go by their League Age which is based on their birthday between September 1st and August 31st in any given year. All pitch counts for junior age players shall be marked on match card.</p>	League Age	Max Pitches in a Game*	Rest Required					0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	7 – 8	50	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	N/A	N/A	9 – 10	75	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66 – 75	11 – 12	85	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66 – 85	13 – 14	95	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66 – 95	15 – 16	95	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 95	17 – 18	105	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 105
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17 – 18	105	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76 – 105																																																	
18(c)	A junior player under eighteen (18) years old may not pitch and catch on the same day and is subject to the rest requirements before they can pitch or catch on subsequent days.																																																						
18(d)	<p>Three (3) Batter Minimum:</p> <p>Official Baseball Rule 5.10 (g) does not apply to any MWBL Games.</p>																																																						



Ref.	Match Condition
19.	BATTER'S TO REMAIN IN BATTER'S BOX
19(a)	<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>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.
20.	DEFENSIVE VISITS
20(a)	<p>As per the Official Baseball Rules 5.10(l) and 5.10(m):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) This rule limits the number of trips a manager or coach may make to any one pitcher in any one inning.(ii) 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.(iii) The manager or coach is prohibited from making a second visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat; but,(iv) 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.(v) 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. <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>
21.	UNIFORMS
21(a)	<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: 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.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
22. BLOOD AND CONCUSSION	
22(a)	<p>Blood Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 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. (ii) 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. (iii) 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. <p>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.</p>
22(b)	<p>Concussion Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 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. (ii) 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. <p>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>
23. JEWELLERY	
23(a)	<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>
24. FOOTWEAR	
24(a)	<p>Juniors - U11's, U13's and U15's:</p> <p>Players are permitted to wear moulded/plastic cleats (or football style boots), turf shoes or sneakers in any U11's, U13's or U15's games.</p> <p>NOTE: Metal cleats must NOT be worn by any junior player in games for these age groups. 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 asked to replace their metal cleats with appropriate footwear. Failure to adhere to this direction may result in an ejection from the game and the club issued a \$25 fine.</p>
24(b)	<p>Juniors - U17's, Seniors and Women's:</p> <p>Players are permitted to wear metal cleats, moulded/plastic cleats (or football style boots), turf shoes or sneakers in any U17's, Senior or Women's games.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
25. UMPIRES	
25(a)	<p>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>
25(b)	<p>Helmets:</p> <p>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>
25(c)	<p>Change Rooms:</p> <p>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 many result in the club being brought before the MWBL Pennant Committee, fine applied and non-appointment of umpires to games at that ground.</p>
26. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS	
26(a)	<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>
27. MATCH REPORTS	
27(a)	<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"> (i) Box score of the game; (ii) Full names printed of all players of both teams who competed in the game; (iii) Junior pitch counts for junior players; and (iv) 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>NOTE: No team member may enter any remarks on the MATCH REPORT SHEET. Fine of \$25 for first offence. Second offence shall be as determined by the Pennant Committee.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
27(b)	<p>Emailing Of Scores:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Email: scores@mwbl.com.au</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) HOME TEAMS are to email scores during the Home and Away Games (ii) 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>Match Report Sheet:</p> <p>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>
27(c)	<p>Scorers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Each club must supply a scorer for all MWBL games. Penalties subject to Schedule 1 of the By-Laws will apply to any club that fails to provide a scorer. (ii) Scorers shall be responsible for recording of match details and will sit together. (iii) Clubs shall provide suitable facility for scorers. (iv) The home team shall advise the League of the match details as directed. (v) Scorer's must follow the BASAP Scorer's Code of Conduct (Statement of Purpose and Rules – Part D) at all times, regardless of their level of accreditation. <p>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.</p>
28. MANAGERS AND COACHES	
28(a)	<p>Seniors and Women's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Each team will nominate the team manager on the line-up card and make this clear to the umpire. (ii) During the match, the nominated team manager will be the only person to approach the umpires unless otherwise instructed. (iii) In the event of a ZERO TOLERANCE ejection as prescribed in Match Condition 4(c) / By-Law 29(h)(iv), 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>
28(b)	<p>Juniors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Two adult Managers or Coaches may be used on the base line at either first or third base. (ii) Players, Managers and Coaches must remain on the benches or in the prescribed area during a game. (iii) 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. (iv) 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 infield. (v) Adult Manager or coaches in junior games are NOT to wear metal cleats. <p>In the event of a ZERO TOLERANCE ejection as prescribed in Match Condition 4(c) / By-Law 29(h)(iv), the nominated manager will be ejected along with the player. The team must then nominate the manager to take over from this point.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
29.	NON-NATIONAL PLAYERS
29(a)	<p>Definition of ‘Non-National’ Player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A player will be deemed ‘Non-National’ if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Are not an Australian Citizen; or (b) Are not an Australian Permanent Resident. (ii) Clubs may request an exemption to the MWBL Pennant Committee for a ‘Non-National’ player to be granted ‘National’ status if the player meets one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Player is a ‘Junior’ and under eighteen (18) years of age; (b) Player is on a Student VISA studying in Australia at a University or TAFE (with their enrolment documents provided to MWBL for confirmation); (c) Player is in Australia for their employment on the appropriate Working VISA; or (d) Player has competed in at least six (6) rounds of the MWBL Competition in each of the previous two (2) MWBL seasons. <p>NOTE 1: The MWBL reserve the right to investigate any player suspected as a ‘Non-National’ that have not been declared by a club and request evidence to support citizenship, permanent residency or VISA status.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Approval by the MWBL Pennant Committee must be confirmed prior to the exemption taking effect and the MWBL Pennant Committee decision on Non-National Status will be final.</p> <p>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. At the end of the season, all ‘Non-National’ players shall be subject to the clearance provisions set out in MWBL By-Law, should they choose to play for another club.</p>
29(b)	<p>Specific Rules for Non-National Players:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A club may register as many ‘Non-National’ players as they choose, however, approval must be sought by the MWBL Pennant Committee prior to any ‘Non-National’ participating in the A, B or C Grade. (ii) There is no restriction on the number of ‘Non-National’ players that a club may register and play in any grade except for A, B, and C Grade. (iii) A club may only have one (1) ‘Non-National’ in their active line-up (in A, B or C Grade ‘Firsts’ team) at any time, including the designated hitter (DH). These players must be identified with a ‘NN’ designation on the match sheet. <p>NOTE 1: If a club plays more than one (1) ‘Non-National’ in their active line-up at any time in their A, B or C Grade team in any round, the penalty will be that the club will forfeit the game and the club imposed an ‘illegal player’ fine as per Schedule 1.</p>
29(c)	<p>Pitching Restrictions (Regular Season):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) For A, B and C Grade Games: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A club may only have any ‘Non-National’ pitch a maximum of eighteen (18) defensive outs across two (2) consecutive rounds. This restriction applies as a collective to each team and not individual players. (ii) For all other Grades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Once a ‘Non-National’ has appeared in an A, B, or C Grade game, they will be ineligible to pitch in any other grade. All other players will be eligible to pitch without restriction. <p>NOTE 1: In the case of a final play being made where more than one out is recorded (therefore puts the pitcher over the eighteen (18) outs) this will not be considered as a breach.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Defensive outs must be recorded on the match sheet for Non-National Pitchers.</p> <p>NOTE 3: Should a Non National Player who has pitched in an A, B or C Grade game, pitch in another grade, they will be deemed an illegal player and subject to the resulting penalties.</p>
29(d)	<p>Pitching Restrictions (Finals):</p> <p>For ALL ‘Non-National’ players in ALL Grades of the MWBL:</p> <p>A club may only have any ‘Non-National’ pitch up to eighteen (18) defensive outs per every scheduled finals round in all MWBL Grade games. This restriction applies as a collective to each team and not individual players.</p>



SENIORS MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Match Condition
30.	AGE LIMIT
30(a)	<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>
31.	SENIOR GAMES
31(a)	<p>Game Length: All Grades – two (2) hours or nine (9) innings with the five-minute rule (Match Condition 16(a)) and Mercy Rule (Match Condition 31(f)) in effect. If time permits extra innings can be played in accordance with Match Condition 31(d).</p>
31(b)	<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: Saturdays at 12:15pm, unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>Late Game: Saturdays at 2:40pm, unless otherwise stated or scheduled to start 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>
31(c)	<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.</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>
31(d)	<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. All existing substitution rules will apply.</p> <p>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.</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. This rule is not in effect for MWBL finals games, with any extra innings to be played with no placed runners.</p>
31(e)	<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. 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>
31(f)	<p>Mercy (Games): Applicable to all Seniors Games. A ten (10) run mercy rule will apply and is also applicable to all finals games. If after five (5) 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>



Ref.	Match Condition
32.	BYES
32(a)	<p>Applicable to A, A Res, B, and B Res</p> <p>When a senior team has a bye, any player that started the game (not a re-entry) for the team on the bye in the previous round shall not be permitted to play in a lower graded team in the current 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>
32(b)	<p>Applicable to all Grades (except A, A Res, B and B Res):</p> <p>When a senior team has a bye, any player that started the game (not a re-entry) for the team on the bye in the previous round shall be permitted to play in any grade as selected, however will not be eligible to pitch for a lower graded team.</p> <p>Example: If a A3 team has a bye in Round 4, then any player (starter, re-entry or bench player) that participated (regardless of if they pitched or not) in the A3 game in Round 3 will be eligible to play for any team they are selected in for Round 4, however they will be ineligible to pitch in Round 4 in a lower graded team (A4 or below).</p>
33.	DESIGNATED PLAYERS
33(a)	<p>Designated Hitter: Applicable to all Senior Grades</p> <p>Designated Hitters may be used in all Seniors games in accordance with Official Baseball Rule 5.11.</p>
33(b)	<p>Starting Pitcher as Designated Hitter, 'Ohtani Rule': Applicable to all Senior Grades</p> <p>In the event the starting pitcher will bat for themselves, the player can be considered two separate players for the purposes of OBR 5.11. In such cases, the manager should list 10 players on the team's lineup card, and this player should be named twice – once as the starting pitcher and once as the Designated Hitter. Thus, if the starting pitcher is replaced, that player can continue as the Designated Hitter (but can no longer pitch in the game), and if the Designated Hitter is replaced, that player can continue as the pitcher (but can no longer hit for himself).</p>
33(c)	<p>Designated Fielder for Pitcher: Applicable to all Senior Grades</p> <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. Any player that re-enters the game must pitch to at least one (1) complete batter, unless;</p> <ul 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>



Ref.	Match Condition
33(d)	<p>Designated Pitcher: Applicable to A Res, B Res and C Res Only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Each club can have up to two (2) players they nominate to use as a Designated Pitcher (DP). A DP must be:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Australian;(b) Less than League Age 25 for the MWBL Season (i.e. the player will be twenty-five (25) years of age or younger as at 31st August in an MWBL Season); and(c) Approved by the MWBL Pennant Committee prior to use in a game. <p>NOTE 1: If a club enters teams in more than one (1) of the A, B or C Grade Competitions, they shall be eligible to nominate two (2) DPs per grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(ii) The rules for use of a DP are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) A club may use a player, to be the starting pitcher in the Reserves game, then play a position other than pitcher in the 'Firsts' in the same round.(b) In the Reserves game, a Designated Hitter must 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 in the same round except by the provisions of the Re-Entry Rule.(c) The DP can then start the game in the 'Firsts' in the line-up as a position player only.(d) In the Reserves and Firsts games, on both the lineup card provided to the Umpires and the Match Sheet, any player used as a DP shall have "DP" marked next to their name.(e) Participation in each game shall count as a game played for each grade, for finals eligibility.(f) Umpires shall administer this rule as to participating in both Reserves and Firsts 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.(g) Penalty for contravention is forfeiture of the game in which such contravention took place. The Administrator shall keep eligibility of DPs and report any breaches to the Pennant Committee. <p>NOTE 2: This rule is not available for the finals.</p>
34.	RE-ENTRY RULE
34(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Applicable to A and B Grades:<p>For A and B Grade games, one (1) player who participated in the A Res or B Res game may also participate in the A or B Grade game from the start. All other players that participate in the A Res or B Res game cannot re-enter the A or B Grade game before the end of the second innings, except in the case of the Designated Pitcher from the Reserves game who must start in the A or B Grade game.</p>(ii) Applicable to A Res and B Res Grade:<p>For A Res and B Res games, one (1) player who has participated in a lower grade game at the same venue may also participate in the A Res or B Res game from the start of the game. All other players who participate in a lower grade game cannot re-enter the A Res or B Res game before the end of the second innings.</p> <p>In the event the A or B Grade game is played prior to the A Res or B Res game, all players from the A or B Grade game who started the game (or played prior to the end of the second innings) are ineligible to play in the A Res or B Res game, except for one (1) player who participated from the start. All players who re-entered the A or B Grade game after the end of the second innings, can start the A Res or B Res game, as per the normal conditions described in (i) above.</p> <p>A maximum of fifteen (15) players may be used in any game including all starting players, substitute players and/or re-entry players.</p> <p>NOTE 1: No players that have participated in a grade below the A Res or B Res can be re-entered in A or B Grade game in the same round.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Names of potential re-entry players are NOT required to be submitted to the home plate umpire before the game.</p> <p>NOTE 3: It is the responsibility of each team coach or manager to apply the rule as written.</p> <p>NOTE 4: Contravention of this Match Condition shall result in forfeiture of any game (9-0 loss, or the actual score, whatever is the greatest disadvantage to the offending team) that an ineligible player participated in, and an impose of a "Forfeiture" fine on the offending club.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
34(b)	<p>Applicable to all other Senior Grades:</p> <p>For all other grades except A, A Res, B and B Res, a player may participate from any point in a game later that day at the same venue, including from the start, in any grade. If a player participates in any A, A Res, B or B Res game, they are not able to play in a lower graded game in the same round, but for all other grades a player may play in two games so long as they are at the same venue.</p> <p>Example: A D Res player can start in the C Grade Game later on the same day, likewise a C Res player can start in the D Grade game later on the same day if they are at the same venue.</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.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Names of potential re-entry players are NOT required to be submitted to the home plate umpire before the game</p> <p>NOTE 2: It is the responsibility of each team coach or manager to apply the rule as written.</p> <p>NOTE 3: Contravention of this Match Condition shall result in forfeiture of the both games (9-0 loss, or the actual score, whatever is the greatest disadvantage to the offending team) that an ineligible player participated in, and an impose of a "Forfeiture" fine on the offending club.</p>
35.	SPEED-UP RULE
35(a)	<p>A substitute runner (SR) can be used for both the pitcher and catcher when they reach base. The substitute runner shall be any player on the line-up card, and it is encouraged to use a bench player in order to speed up the game. 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> <p>NOTE: A team may use a substitute runner for a player that reaches base who is not currently the pitcher but will commence the following inning as the pitcher (to allow the player to warm-up). If the player does not start the next immediate inning as the pitcher, they will be considered removed from the game and ineligible to take any further part. The team manager will also be ejected for bringing the game into disrepute.</p>
36.	PITCHING RESTRICTIONS
36(a)	Match Condition 18 Pitching Restrictions applies to all MWBL Seniors Games
37.	CATCHING RESTRICTIONS
37(a)	<p>Any junior player under eighteen (18) years old can catch only catch in a maximum of two (2) games in a round (weekend). If they catch in the juniors in the morning, they can only catch in one (1) senior or women's game for the rest of the round (weekend).</p> <p>If a junior player catches in three (3) games in one (1) round, (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) round.</p> <p>NOTE: Scorers to mark junior catchers and innings caught on the match sheets.</p>
38.	INTENTIONAL WALKS
38(a)	<p>Applicable A, A Res, B, B Res, C and C Res Grade 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>
38(b)	<p>Applicable to all Other Grades</p> <p>Intentional Walks are not permitted.</p>
39.	BASEBALL BATS
39(a)	All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02
39(b)	For all Senior Grades, wood, wood composite and wood laminate baseball bats as approved by the Baseball Australia shall be used only.



Ref.	Match Condition
40.	BEST PLAYER (MVP) VOTES
40(a)	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.
41.	LADDER AND RESULTS
41(a)	<p>Winning Percentage:</p> <p>For all grades, Winning Percentage will be used to determine the final ladder position. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{No. of Wins} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ No. of Draws}}{\text{Total Games}}$ <p>NOTE 1: A bye will not be counted as a game played.</p> <p>NOTE 2: A washout will be considered a draw and a game played for the purposes of determining ladder positions.</p> <p>NOTE 3: The MWBL Pennant Committee reserves the right to determine the outcome of any games that are played in a particular grade that is scheduled by the MWBL if they will count towards the final standings for that grade, if there are team nomination changes in a season (e.g. a team withdraws after two (2) rounds).</p>
41(b)	<p>Percentage:</p> <p>If teams in any grade have equal 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> $\frac{\text{Runs For}}{\text{Runs For} + \text{Runs Against}} \times 1000$
42.	FINALS ELIGIBILITY
42(a)	<p>Finals Qualification – Player</p> <p>A player shall be marked as a game played for a particular grade if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The game is the only game they participate in for that round in any Senior Grade; (ii) During a second Senior game in the same round, they start the game or re-enter prior to the end of the second innings; or (iii) They pitch in the game. <p>All other players (who re-enter after the end of the second innings and/or do not pitch) will not be marked as a game played in that grade when they participate.</p> <p>NOTE: Innings entry needs to be correctly marked on the match sheet, or it will be assumed by the league that they have entered the game prior to the end of the second inning and be marked with a game played.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
42(b)	<p>Finals Eligibility – Player:</p> <p>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 Senior Competition Games in the MWBL during the season. 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 1: 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <p>NOTE 2: 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>
42(c)	<p>Finals Eligibility – A Grade Clubs:</p> <p>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*</p> <p>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>
42(d)	<p>Finals Eligibility – B Grade Clubs:</p> <p>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*</p> <p>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>



Ref.	Match Condition
43.	FINALS
43(a)	<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 four (4) teams in the competition played over three (3) weeks, unless otherwise advised by the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>Week 1: Semi Finals G1: 1st v 2nd, G2: 3rd v 4th</p> <p>Week 2: Preliminary Finals G3: Loser G1 v Winner G2</p> <p>Week 3: Grand Finals G4: Winner G1 v Winner G3</p> <p>Week 4: Grand Final Replay G4 replayed if required.</p> <p>(i) Home team will be team that finishes higher on ladder at completion of home and away series.</p> <p>(ii) For All Finals, the Pennant Committee will decide venues. No correspondence will be entered into once a decision on grounds is made.</p> <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>
43(b)	<p>Grounds:</p> <p>(i) Bases, markers and line marking must be supplied by club on whose ground the match is played.</p> <p>(ii) On open grounds Home Run markers must be supplied and placed beyond the white line marked between the two foul lines.</p> <p>(iii) Refer to Match Condition 9(c) for Home run marshals in finals.</p>
43(c)	<p>For Finals, all previous match conditions apply except for the following changes:</p> <p>(i) No hard-stop in any early games, meaning games to be played until completion of the inning or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe;</p> <p>(ii) No time limit in A and B Grade games, meaning games are nine (9) innings with extra innings possible if scores are tied at the conclusion of nine (9) innings.</p>
43(d)	<p>(i) No Result Rules:</p> <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> <p>(a) A and B Grade: Five (5) innings; or</p> <p>(b) All other Grades: Five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes</p> <p>(ii) If Game Tied:</p> <p>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 ranked team will move to the next round, unless a suitable alternative is determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>(iii) Semi Finals and Preliminary Finals:</p> <p>(a) 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.</p> <p>(b) 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> <p>(iv) Grand Finals:</p> <p>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>
43(e)	<p>Re-Entry Rule:</p> <p>(i) A and B Grades: In double header games, players can enter from the start or anytime as per Match Condition 34(a) assuming they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Match Condition 42(b).</p> <p>(ii) All other Grades: In double header games, players can enter from the start or anytime as per Match Condition 34(b) assuming they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Match Condition 42(b).</p> <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>



Ref.	Match Condition
43(f)	<p>Umpires and Match Sheets:</p> <p>Umpires to be appointed by the MWBL or if non available then competing clubs to supply in accordance with Match Condition 25(a). 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 27(b).</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. For the Finals Games, Umpires are required to email the scores to the MWBL Administrator after the game by 8.00pm (or two (2) hours after the completion of the game, whichever is the latter) on the day of the game.</p>
44.	PROMOTION AND RELEGATION
44(a)	<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.</p> <p>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>NOTE: Please refer to Junior Participation Requirements for finals participation in A Grade and B Grade (Match Condition 42(c) and 42(d)), 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>



WOMEN'S MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Match Condition
45.	AGE LIMIT
45(a)	<p>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 of age shall be permitted to play Women's 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>
46.	WOMEN'S GAMES
46(a)	<p>Game Length: All Grades – two (2) hours or nine (9) innings with the five-minute rule (Match Condition 16(a)) and Mercy Rule (Match Condition 31(f)) in effect. If time permits extra innings can be played in accordance with Match Condition 46(d).</p>
46(b)	<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: Sundays at 12:00pm, unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>Late Game: Sundays at 2:30pm, unless otherwise stated or scheduled to start 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>
46(c)	<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.</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>
46(d)	<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. All existing substitution rules will apply.</p> <p>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.</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. This rule is not in effect for MWBL finals games, with any extra innings to be played with no placed runners.</p>
46(e)	<p>Mercy (Innings): Applicable to all Women's Games. 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 (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>
46(f)	<p>Mercy (Games): Applicable to all Women's Games. A ten (10) run mercy rule will apply and is also applicable to all finals games. If after five (5) 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>



Ref.	Match Condition
47.	BYES
47(a)	<p>When a Women’s team has a bye, any player of the team having the bye that played in the previous round shall be permitted to play in a lower graded team for that round.</p> <p>Example: If a Women’s Div 1 team has a bye in Round 4, then any player that started the game (not a re-entry) in Round 3, shall be able to play for a Women’s Div 2 team in Round 4.</p>
48.	DESIGNATED PLAYERS
48(a)	<p>Designated Hitter: Applicable to all Women’s Grades</p> <p>Designated Hitters may NOT be used in any Women’s Games.</p>
48(b)	<p>Starting Pitcher as Designated Hitter, ‘Ohtani Rule’: Applicable to all Women’s Grades</p> <p>In the event the starting pitcher will bat for themselves, the player can be considered two separate players for the purposes of OBR 5.11. In such cases, the manager should list 10 players on the team’s lineup card, and this player should be named twice – once as the starting pitcher and once as the Designated Hitter. Thus, if the starting pitcher is replaced, that player can continue as the Designated Hitter (but can no longer pitch in the game), and if the Designated Hitter is replaced, that player can continue as the pitcher (but can no longer hit for themselves).</p>
48(c)	<p>Designated Fielder for Pitcher: Applicable to all Women’s Grades</p> <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. Any player that re-enters the game must pitch to at least one (1) complete batter, unless;</p> <ul 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>
49.	RE-ENTRY RULE
49(a)	<p>Applicable to all Women’s Grades:</p> <p>Any player who participates in any Women’s Grades can participate from any point in a game later that day, including from the start.</p> <p>A maximum of fifteen (15) players may be used in any game including all starting players, substitute players and/or re-entry players.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Names of potential re-entry players are NOT required to be submitted to the home plate umpire before the game</p> <p>NOTE 2: It is the responsibility of each team coach or manager to apply the rule as written.</p> <p>NOTE 3: Contravention of this Match Condition shall result in forfeiture of any game (9-0 loss, or the actual score, whatever is the greatest disadvantage to the offending team) that an ineligible player participated in, and an impose of a “Forfeiture” fine on the offending club.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
50.	SPEED-UP RULE
50(a)	<p>A substitute runner (SR) can be used for both the pitcher and catcher when they reach base. The substitute runner shall be any player on the line-up card, and it is encouraged to use a bench player in order to speed up the game. 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> <p>NOTE: A team may use a substitute runner for a player that reaches base who is not currently the pitcher but will commence the following inning as the pitcher (to allow the player to warm-up). If the player does not start the next immediate inning as the pitcher, they will be considered removed from the game and ineligible to take any further part. The team manager will also be ejected for bringing the game into disrepute.</p>
51.	PITCHING RESTRICTIONS
51(a)	Match Condition 18 Pitching Restrictions applies to all MWBL Women's Games
51(b)	<p>Applicable to Women's Div 2 Grade Only:</p> <p>Pitchers, upon agreement from both coaches, may pitch from 54 ft to assist in minimising walks in these games.</p>
52.	CATCHING RESTRICTIONS
52(a)	<p>Any junior player under 18 years old can catch only catch in a maximum of two (2) games in a round (weekend). If they catch in the juniors in the morning, they can only catch in one (1) senior or women's game for the rest of the round (weekend).</p> <p>If a junior player catches in three (3) games in one (1) round, (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) round.</p> <p>NOTE: Scorers to mark junior catchers and innings caught on the match sheets.</p>
53.	INTENTIONAL WALKS
53(a)	<p>Applicable to all Women's Grades</p> <p>No Intentional Walks are allowed in MWBL Women's Grades.</p>
54.	BASEBALL BATS
54(a)	All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02
54(b)	For all Women's Grades, wood, wood composite, wood laminate and aluminium baseball bats as approved by the Baseball Australia shall be used only.
55.	BEST PLAYER (MVP) VOTES
55(a)	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.
56.	LADDER AND RESULTS
56(a)	<p>Winning Percentage:</p> <p>For all grades, Winning Percentage will be used to determine the final ladder position. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{No. of Wins} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ No. of Draws}}{\text{Total Games}}$ <p>NOTE 1: A bye will not be counted as a game played.</p> <p>NOTE 2: A washout will be considered a draw and a game played for the purposes of determining ladder positions.</p> <p>NOTE 3: The MWBL Pennant Committee reserves the right to determine the outcome of any games that are played in a particular grade that is scheduled by the MWBL if they will count towards the final standings for that grade, if there are team nomination changes in a season (e.g. a team withdraws after two (2) rounds).</p>



Ref.	Match Condition
56(b)	<p>Percentage:</p> <p>If teams in any grade have equal 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> $\frac{\text{Runs For}}{\text{Runs For} + \text{Runs Against}} \times 1000$
57. FINALS ELIGIBILITY	
57(a)	<p>Finals Qualification – Player</p> <p>A player shall be marked as a game played for a particular grade if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The game is the only game they participate in for that round in any Women’s Grade; (ii) During a second Women’s game in the same round, they start the game or re-enter prior to the end of the second innings; or (iii) They pitch in the game. <p>All other players (who re-enter after the end of the second innings and/or do not pitch) will not be marked as a game played in that grade when they participate.</p> <p>NOTE: Innings entry needs to be correctly marked on the match sheet, or it will be assumed by the league that they have entered the game prior to the end of the second inning and be marked with a game played.</p>
57(b)	<p>Finals Eligibility – Player:</p> <p>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 Women’s Competition Games in the MWBL during the season of finals eligibility. Only Women’s rounds competed in will count for grading of players in women’s grade finals. Junior rounds completed can count towards total number of rounds for women’s finals eligibility. But only one (1) women’s 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 1: 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>NOTE 2: 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>
58. FINALS	
58(a)	<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 four (4) teams in the competition played over three (3) weeks, unless otherwise advised by the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>Week 1: Semi Finals G1: 1st v 2nd, G2: 3rd v 4th</p> <p>Week 2: Preliminary Finals G3: Loser G1 v Winner G2</p> <p>Week 3: Grand Finals G4: Winner G1 v Winner G3</p> <p>Week 4: Grand Final Replay G4 replayed if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Home team will be team that finishes higher on ladder at completion of home and away series. (ii) 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>



Ref.	Match Condition
58(b)	<p>Grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Bases, markers and line marking must be supplied by club on whose ground the match is played. (ii) On open grounds Home Run markers must be supplied and placed beyond the white line marked between the two foul lines. (iii) Refer to Match Condition 9(c) for Home run marshals in finals.
58(c)	<p>For Finals, all previous match conditions apply except for the following changes:</p> <p>No hard-stop in any early games, meaning games to be played until completion of the inning or until umpire deems playing conditions unsafe.</p>
58(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) No Result Rules: 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: (a) All Women's Grades: Five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes (ii) 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 ranked team will move to the next round, unless a suitable alternative is determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee. (iii) Semi Finals and Preliminary Finals: All Women's Grades: Games are scheduled on Sunday. If no game is able to be played on Sunday, the highest ranked team will progress. (iv) Grand Finals: All Women's 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.
58(e)	<p>Re-Entry Rule:</p> <p>All Women's Grades, in double header games, players can enter from the start or anytime as per Match Condition 49(a) assuming they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Match Condition 57(b).</p> <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>
58(f)	<p>Umpires and Match Sheets:</p> <p>Umpires to be appointed by the MWBL or if non available then competing clubs to supply in accordance with Match Condition 25(a). 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 27(b).</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. For the Finals Games, Umpires are required to email the scores to the MWBL Administrator after the game by 8.00pm (or two (2) hours after the completion of the game, whichever is the latter) on the day of the game.</p>



JUNIORS MATCH CONDITIONS

Ref.	Match Condition
59. AGE LIMIT	
59(a)	<p>The MWBL uses the League Age to determine which Juniors are eligible to take part in each Junior Age Group. The League Age is the age a player turns (their age) between September 1st (previous calendar year) and August 31st in the calendar year of the MWBL Season.</p> <p>Example: A player who turns eight (8) in September of the year prior to the current MWBL season and a player who will turn eight (8) in August of the current MWBL season will both be 'League Age 8'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) U11's Rookie Ball: League Age 6 to League Age 10 (ii) U13's Minor: League Age 8 to League Age 12 (iii) U13's Major: League Age 9 to League Age 12 (iv) U15's: League Age 11 to League Age 14 (v) U17's: League Age 13 to League Age 16
59(b)	<p>Playing Out of Age Group:</p> <p>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. Clubs seeking a dispensation for their Junior Player(s) to play out of their age group are to complete the Special Consideration Form.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Penalties will apply for misleading information or incorrect information supplied to the MWBL.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Any player requested to play down in age group will be ineligible to pitch or catch in the age group they wish to receive special consideration for.</p> <p>NOTE 3: Any player that does not meet the minimum age requirement will not be granted special consideration to play above their age group.</p>
60. JUNIOR GAMES	
60(a)	<p>Game Times:</p> <p>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"> (i) U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major: 9:00am, (ii) U15's and U17's: 8:45am.
60(b)	<p>Game Length:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major: Ninety (90) minutes or seven (7) innings, (ii) U15's and U17's: One hundred and five (105) minutes or seven (7) innings. <p>EXCEPTION FOR ALL JUNIOR GRADES:</p> <p>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>
60(c)	<p>Regulation Game:</p> <p>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"> (i) U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major: Forty-five (45) minutes of play, (ii) 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>
60(d)	<p>Mercy (Innings): Applicable to All Junior Games.</p> <p>A five (5) run mercy rule (per batting innings) will apply and is also applicable to all finals games. Should five (5) 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 five (5) 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>



Ref.	Match Condition
60(e)	<p>Mercy (Games): Applicable to All Junior Games</p> <p>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>
61.	CORE PLAYERS
61(a)	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.
62.	DESIGNATED PLAYERS
62(a)	<p>Designated Hitter: Applicable to all Junior Grades</p> <p>Designated Hitters may NOT be used in any Junior Games.</p>
63.	LINE-UPS
63(a)	<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 **</p> <p>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>
63(b)	<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 63(a). 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>
63(c)	Blanks in Junior line-ups DO NOT constitute an out, and teams can bat through the available players in their lineup.
63(d)	<p>Minimum Player Numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) U11's Rookie Ball: a minimum of four (4) players are required to start the game. (ii) U13's Minor: a minimum of five (5) players are required to start the game. (iii) U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Match Condition 6(b) will be in effect which requires a minimum of seven (7) players to start the game.
63(e)	<p>Shortage of Players (Gameday):</p> <p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 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. (ii) If the deficient team is able to field at least the minimum players in accordance with Match Condition 63(d), the result of the match shall be recorded as if there had been no shortage. (iii) If the opposing team is unable to field the minimum players in accordance with Match Condition 63(d), the opposing team shall have forfeit score 9-0 "for" and 0-9 "against", as the result of the match. (iv) In (iii) 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>
64.	BYES
64(a)	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.



Ref.	Match Condition
65. MIDWEEK GAMES	
65(a)	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 week's midweek night games.
66. BATTING RULES	
66(a)	<p>U11 Rookie Ball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) All players will start with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. (ii) This competition is coach pitch, or if agreed between coaches, can have players pitch. (iii) The coach cannot walk a batter, and the batter shall continue their at-bat until they are out or put the ball in play. (iv) 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. (v) No bunting is allowed.
66(b)	<p>U13 Minor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) All players will start with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. (ii) 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. (iii) 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. (iv) 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. (v) No bunting is allowed.
66(c)	<p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Official Baseball Rules apply.</p>
67. DROPPED 3RD STRIKE	
67(a)	<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>
67(b)	<p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Dropped third strike as per Official Baseball Rules apply.</p>
68. PASSED BALLS / WILD PITCHES	
68(a)	<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>
68(b)	<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>
69. BASERUNNING	
69(a)	<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). 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>



Ref.	Match Condition
69(b)	<p>U13's Major:</p> <p>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>
69(c)	<p>U15's and U17's:</p> <p>Leads and Stealing as per the Official Baseball Rules apply.</p>
69(d)	<p>Sliding or Collisions at Home Plate: applicable to ALL Junior Games</p> <p>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>
69(e)	<p>Sliding or Collisions at any base: applicable to ALL Junior Games</p> <p>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>
70.	SPEED-UP RULE
70(a)	<p>A substitute runner (SR) can be used for both the pitcher and catcher when they reach base. The substitute runner shall be any player on the line-up card, and it is encouraged to use a bench player in order to speed up the game. 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>
71.	PITCHING RESTRICTIONS
71(a)	<p>Match Condition 18 Pitching Restrictions applies to all MWBL Juniors Games</p>
71(b)	<p>U11's Rookie Ball, U13's Minor and U13's Major:</p> <p>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".</p>
71(c)	<p>U15's and U17's:</p> <p>Pitchers are permitted to throw any type of pitch.</p>
71(d)	<p>Pitchers Hitting Batters: Applicable to U11's Rookie Ball:</p> <p>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>
71(e)	<p>Pitchers Hitting Batters: Applicable to U13's Minor, U13's Major, U15's and U17's:</p> <p>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>
72.	SPECIFIC FIELDING RULES
72(a)	<p>U11's Rookie Ball:</p> <p>There are to be six (6) players on the field (pitcher, catcher, and four (4) infielders).</p> <p>NOTE: Where there is coach pitch, the pitcher must start in line or behind the pitching plate.</p>
72(b)	<p>U13's Minor:</p> <p>There are to be seven (7) players on the field (pitcher, catcher, four (4) infielders and a sweeping outfielder).</p> <p>NOTE: Where there is coach pitch, the pitcher must start in line or behind the pitching plate.</p>
72(c)	<p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's:</p> <p>Normal baseball positions will apply.</p>



Ref.	Match Condition																									
73.	BASEBALLS																									
73(a)	<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>																									
73(b)	<p>U13's Major, U15's and U17's: Baseballs in accordance with Match Condition 5(a) to be used.</p>																									
74.	BASEBALL BATS																									
74(a)	All baseball bats must conform to the Official Baseball Rule 3.02																									
74(b)	<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>																									
74(c)	<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>																									
74(d)	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.																									
75.	FIELD DIMENSIONS																									
75(a)	<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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76.	LADDER AND RESULTS																									
76(a)	<p>Winning Percentage: For all grades, Winning Percentage will be used to determine the final ladder position. Percentage shall be calculated by using the formula:</p> $\frac{\text{No. of Wins} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ No. of Draws}}{\text{Total Games}}$ <p>NOTE 1: A bye will not be counted as a game played. NOTE 2: A washout will be considered a draw and a game played for the purposes of determining ladder positions. NOTE 3: The MWBL Pennant Committee reserves the right to determine the outcome of any games that are played in a particular grade that is scheduled by the MWBL if they will count towards the final standings for that grade, if there are team nomination changes in a season (e.g. a team withdraws after two (2) rounds).</p>																									
76(b)	<p>Percentage: If teams in any grade have equal 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.	Match Condition
77.	FINALS ELIGIBILITY
77(a)	<p>Finals Eligibility – Player (Single Team Entries):</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"> (i) Only one (1) bye will count towards qualification. (ii) Senior grade rounds will NOT count towards junior finals eligibility.
77(b)	<p>Finals Eligibility – Player (Multiple Team Entries):</p> <p>The same rules apply as single team clubs except where clubs with two or more teams in the same Junior Grade 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>
78.	FINALS
78(a)	<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 four (4) teams in the competition played over two (2) weeks, unless otherwise advised by the MWBL Pennant Committee.</p> <p>Week 1: Semi Finals G1: 1st v 4th, G2: 2nd, v 3rd</p> <p>Week 2: Grand Finals G3: Winner G1 v Winner G2</p> <p>Week 4: Grand Final Replay G3 replayed if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Home team will be team that finishes higher on ladder at completion of home and away series. (ii) 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>
78(b)	<p>Grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Bases, markers and line marking must be supplied by club on whose ground the match is played. (ii) On open grounds Home Run markers must be supplied and placed beyond the white line marked between the two foul lines. (iii) Refer to Match Condition 9(c) for Home run marshals in finals.
78(c)	<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"> (i) If the HOME TEAM is AHEAD – the game ceases immediately. (ii) If the HOME TEAM is BEHIND or the game TIED – the game continues until the winning run is scored or the side is retired



Ref.	Match Condition
78(d)	<p>(i) No Result Rules: 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> <p>(a) All Juniors Grades: Five (5) innings or sixty-five (65) minutes</p> <p>(ii) If Game Tied:</p> <p>(a) If after application of the five-minute rule the game is tied at the time limit, the Umpire shall allow the teams to continue play in order to achieve a result. Such extended play SHALL NOT CONTINUE BEYOND one hundred and twenty (120) minutes for U11's and U13's and one hundred and thirty-five (135) minutes for U15's and U17's (e.g. 11.00am).</p> <p>(b) If a result is achieved in the time extension (i.e. between 10.30am and 11.00am) the match shall finish immediately. If there is no result after the game being extended, then the higher ranked team will be declared the winner and advance to the next final.</p> <p>(c) If game is tied in the GRAND FINAL after extra time, then joint premiers will be declared.</p> <p>(d) Where wet weather or ground conditions prevents a result of a game (in accordance with Match Condition 63(c)),</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. For Semi Finals, then the highest ranked team will continue to the next final.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. For Grand Finals, joint premiers will be declared.</p> <p>(e) The appointed umpire for the finals games will make the decision in respect of adverse weather or condition of ground.</p>
78(e)	<p>Umpires and Match Sheets:</p> <p>Umpires to be appointed by the MWBL or if non available then competing clubs to supply in accordance with Match Condition 25(a). 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 27(b).</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. For the Finals Games, Umpires are required to email the scores to the MWBL Administrator after the game by 8.00pm (or two (2) hours after the completion of the game, whichever is the latter) on the day of the game.</p>