

MWBL MATCH CONDITIONS FOR FINALS UNDER 17 – 2024 SEASON

RULES APPLICABLE TO FINAL SERIES

The following rules apply to Finals Series and should be read in conjunction with the Junior Playing Conditions and the Official Rules of Baseball and the Constitution of the Melbourne Winter Baseball League.

- a) **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS SERIES (SINGLE TEAM CLUBS)**
For a player to be eligible to compete in a Final Series they should have played at least **5 games**, for their club in the Home and Away Junior competition.
- b) **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS SERIES (MULTIPLE TEAM CLUBS)**
Clubs with two or more teams in the same age group/section are advised that a player is only eligible to play with the team in which they have played the most number of games during the home and away Junior competition. If a player has played equal number of games with two or more teams during the home and away Junior competition, written application must be made to the MWBL Administrator for permission and determination by the Pennant Committee as to the team in which they are eligible to play.
- c) **PLAYER PLAYING IN HIGHER AGE GROUP.**
Whilst a player is allowed permission to play in a higher age group in the Junior season and subject to the Rules, such player/s will not be allowed to play in the finals of the lower age group if they have played more games in the higher age group during the junior season.
- d) **TIME OF PLAY FOR UNDER 17 FINALS SERIES MATCHES**
Time of play for all Under 17 final series matches will be from 8.45am to 10.30am, except when a game is tied at 10.30, when the Umpire shall require the teams to continue play in order to achieve a result.
Such extended play SHALL NOT CONTINUE BEYOND 11AM.
If a result is achieved between 10.30am and 11.00am the match shall finish immediately.
If there is no result after the game being extended to 11.00am, in the semi and preliminary finals – the higher placed team on the ladder will advance to the next final.
For the grand final the match will be replayed the following week.
- e) **APPLICATION OF THE FIVE MINUTE RULE**
(i) If at the completion of even innings (from the call of “Side Out”) there remains more than five minutes of time before the scheduled time of completion of the game, a further complete innings shall be played, except where the HOME team needs only part of its half inning to achieve a result.
If, at five minutes before the scheduled time of completion, the HOME team score is:
AHEAD: the game ceases immediately.
TIED or BEHIND: the game continues until the winning run is scored or the side is retired.
(ii) In any game if five minutes or less remains at the completion of even innings the game shall end.
- f) **INSUFFICIENT PLAYERS FOR A TEAM(S) IN FINAL SERIES MATCHES**
(i) All Umpires are instructed to start the game at the scheduled time if both teams have seven or more players present. Failure to take to the field when instructed by the Umpire will result in the offending team having the game called against them, except in the following cases:
(ii) Should a team have less than seven players present at the scheduled starting time the Umpire shall allow up to ten minutes grace to find the required number of players. If, at the expiration of ten minutes grace, the team is still short of the minimum number of players, the Umpire must award the game against the offending team.
- NOTE: It is essential that the watches of the Umpires and the Managers/Coaches be synchronised before the start of play.
- g) **COMPLETION AND FORWARDING OF MATCH CARDS**
The HOME teams must forward completed Match Report cards to the League Administrator within 72 hours of the completion of the match as well as **emailing the league Administrator with the result by 8.00 pm on the day of the game. Email: scores@mwbl.com.au**
- h) **SUPPLY OF BASEBALLS FOR FINAL SERIES**
Competing teams are to supply a minimum of two (2) baseballs per game. If teams supply different brands, then the clubs are to agree on the brand to be used, and if they cannot agree then the home team brand will be used. Competing clubs to have a sufficient stock of baseballs on hand to be able to complete the game in case of damage or lost baseballs

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- i) **SUPPLY OF UMPIRES FOR FINALS SERIES**
Umpires may be appointed to the Finals games were possible. Should official(s) fail to appear, it will be necessary for the Manager/Coaches of the competing teams to appoint a person to umpire the match.
Clubs will be notified by the league administrator in regard to umpires for finals, in particular for the need of club umpires
- j) **MARKING AND DEFINING OF GROUNDS USED FOR FINALS SERIES**
All clubs providing a ground for finals series are expected to have the playing field properly marked and defined with particular emphasis on the boundary limits. The HOME teams shall be that team which finished higher on the ladder during the home and away series.
A back-net must be provided.
The club is also responsible for the provision of bases, home and pitcher's plates and foul flags.
Bases etc must be whitened. Players benches must be provided for games.
- k) **FINALS PLAYOFF SERIES**
The Play-Off series will be played over two weeks.
Week 1 – Semi Finals – 1 v 4, 2 v 3.
Week 2 – Grand Finals winners of each semi-final series.
The HOME teams shall be the team which finished higher on the ladder during the home and away series.
- l) **EFFECT OF ADVERSE WEATHER ON FINALS SERIES GAMES**
If, through adverse weather conditions, part of the first round of the finals is washed out, then the highest placed teams of the ladder in the home and away season will advance.
Where wet weather prevents a result in the grand final then the game will be replayed next week. If no result achieved the following week for whatever reason, then the team that finished higher on the ladder shall be declared premiers.
- m) **PITCHING RULE FOR UNDER 17**
12 defensive outs or 80 Pitches
Pitchers can complete the batter after 80 pitches have been pitched during that batters turn at bat.
- n) **PITCHING / CATCHING**
A player shall not pitch and catch or catch and pitch in the same game
- o) **SEVEN RUN RULE**
Is applicable in finals
- p) **FOOTWEAR**
Metal cleats must **NOT** be worn by any junior player as per MWBL Match Conditions
- q) **NOTE: For the finals - teams are able to bat through batting line-up if less than 9 players or more than 9 players – no blanks in the batting line-up**