

VTCA

VTCA WOMEN'S HANDBOOK
SEASON 2026/2027

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CODES

BEHAVIOUR CODE

The "Spirit of Cricket" is part of the Laws of Cricket and therefore applies to all forms of VTCA matches.

PREAMBLE

Cricket has a distinct place in Australian culture, society and history. It is a well-established sport and recognized as one of the nation's most favourite sports, enjoyed and played by men and women, boys and girls. It is a key element in the country's national identity. This status brings with it particular responsibilities for all personnel involved in the game, whether it be those participating in the game on the field as a player, captains and coaches, club administrators, members of a club, and of course, supporters of a team or the game. Such that it should be played not only in accordance with t responsibilities require players, coaches, club administrators to club officials to act and perform to a high standard of fair play, and behaviours on and off the field.

Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only in accordance to the laws of cricket, but also within the "Spirit of the Game". While generally speaking, the laws of cricket are broad and various in definition, the major responsibility for ensuring the laws and upheld and complied with, and the game is played within the "Spirit of the Game" is bestowed upon club administrators and officials, captains and coaches and or course – the players. In junior cricket, a greater responsibility rests with club coaches and parents of players.

Captains and club administrators play a very important role in ensuring players representing the club, play in a manner of fairness and within the "Spirit of Cricket". These personnel must ensure acceptable and tolerable standards of play and fairness are undertaken by their players. Every player on the field is entitled to enjoy playing and participating in the game without feeling intimidated, scared, or discriminated against. This also applies to officials such as VTCA personnel, including official umpires, club umpires and club officials.

Embracing the "Spirit of the Game" means embracing the rules, playing fairly within those rules, respecting teammates, opponents, umpires and club administrators. Respect is central to the "Spirit of the Game".

It is also important to exhibit self-respect, and with that – comes respect to all, including your opponents and the umpires. The Association embraces the importance of playing hard and playing fair. Playing hard does not include playing outside the rules/laws of cricket, which includes any and all of the offences located under the VTCA Code of Conduct. Accept the umpire's decision. Create a positive atmosphere, so your teammates will respect, understand and embrace your actions and behaviours.

Congratulate the opposition on their successes and thank the umpires and club administrators for their selfless and tireless work.

This Code of Behaviour is intended to protect and enshrine important qualities and standards of the game so that all may continue to enjoy the game now and in the future.

OFFENCES

1. USE OF AN AUDIBLE OBSCENITY OR PHYSICAL GESTURE

This offence refers to words commonly known to be offensive, obscene and profane either by use of language or physical gesture, which can be seen by participants of the game, whether they are teammates, opponents, umpires, club administrators, supporters, or any person who is at the match or bears witness to the obscenity. **It can include anyone**. The offence can relate to an offensive remark, swearing, a homophobic slur, a physical gesture. The offence must be interpreted to be obscene and/or profane, offensive and/or distressing. **It can be committed by anyone associated with the match, including a member or supporter of a club**. The offence can be committed before a scheduled match, during official play of a VTCA match, after a scheduled match. The word "match" also includes "game". Depending on the seriousness of the obscenity, and the interpretation of te seriousness of the obscenity by the complainant or umpire, the level of the offence can be determined as a level on to a level four offence.

A level one or level two offence can be determined by the VTCA Tribunal Manager only if the alleged offender pleads guilty to the offence. A Level three or four offence, which would include a homophobic slur, a racial slur or sexual remark against a participant of the game, or club administrator of a club or VTCA official, or where the alleged offender is reported for at least a second time in the one season, the reported player must appear before the VTCA Tribunal when required.

If a Level one or two offence applies in accordance with the interpretation of the VTCA Tribunal Manager, then the Tribunal Manager has a discretion to apply a penalty, which may include a fine which does not exceed $500.00, a good behaviour bond incorporating a period of time, a reprimand, the undertaking of an anger management course, or a combination of those penalties.

If an umpire produces a red card to a player, club administrator or any person for this offence, the matter must proceed to the VTCA Tribunal.

Where the matter has been referred directly to the Tribunal, the Tribunal Chairperson may cite the accused player's captain and the Club on a similar charge.

2. USING LANGUAGE, ACTIONS OR GESTURES WHICH DISPARAGE OR PROVOKE A REACTION FROM AN OPPONENT OR CLUB ADMINISTRATOR

This offence includes the use of language, action pr gesture by a player, administrator, club official which is directed toward an opponent, whether participating in the match as a player of otherwise, or a club administrator, which provokes the opponent or official to react in a manner interpreted by an officiating umpire as one not within the Spirit of the Game or Laws of Cricket, which could be considered to be demeaning and/or disparaging, or devalues the opponent, regardless whether the player or administrator interprets it as so. Without limitation, this offence could include excessive appealing or sledging against or towards an opponent, and overzealous celebration upon dismissal of an opponent when batting, a similar type of behaviour towards a fielder or a bowler. A further example would include verbally abusing a batter, pointing or gesturing to him/her to head towards the pavilion or the boundary line.

This offence is a level one offence (the production of a yellow card by an umpire) unless aggravating circumstances including other offences are involved.

The word "aggravating" includes such language, actions or gestures which are discriminating or homophobic in nature.

Similar to offence 1, if this matter is referred to the Tribunal, the Tribunal Chairperson may cite the accused's player's captain on the same charge.

3. EXCESSIVE APPEALING

Excessive appealing refers to consistent, often and repeating appealing, whether it relates to the one ball bowled and outcome of that ball bowled, or a number of balls bowled in close proximity of each other with the intention of placing the umpire or umpires under pressure or duress. This type of offending may include charging at or towards an umpire when appealing, whether in an aggressive manner or not, or celebrating a dismissal before the umpire has made a decision.

This offence is a level one offence (yellow card offence) unless aggravating circumstances apply.

4. UNFAIR PLAY

This commission of this offence allows an umpire to report a player, who in the opinion of the umpires or umpires has by way of act, words or gesture, brought the game into disrepute. A breach of such an offence would include, but is not limited to an attempt by an opposition player to distract a batter, whether he/she is batting at the striker's end, deliberate obstruction of a batter when running between wickets, where a batter thwarts or attempts to thwart the efforts of a fielder to field or dismiss the batter, consistently bowling down the legside of the pitch to prevent scoring, consistent dangerous bowling to injury or attempt to injure the batter, intimidatory bowling, a batter wasting time, a bowler consistently running through the protected area of the pitch despite a warning or warning from an umpire, or any other action by either a member of the fielding or batting sides which the umpire or umpires believe is an unfair action towards an opponent or the opposition team.

This can be either a level one of level two offence depending on the interpretation of the umpire as to the seriousness and deliberate action(s) of the accused player. It can be dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal manager depending on the past record of the accused player, and whether or not a suspended sentence or good behaviour bond currently exists against the accused player.

5. CONSUME ALCOHOL OR AN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE DURING A MATCH OR PARTICIPATE IN A MATCH WHILE AFFECTED BY ALCOHOL OR AN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE

A Player or officiating umpire is not permitted to engage in the partaking of alcohol or an illicit substance during the course of a match or participate in a match while under the influence of alcohol or an illicit substance.

In determining whether a player or umpire is affected by either alcohol or an illicit drug, an umpire or club administrator must make a visual and recorded note of the player or umpire's mannerisms, speech, attire, gait and general presentation on and off the field, before and during the match, before determining whether the player or umpire is so affected, they are incapable of playing or officiating under match conditions.

In the event an umpire, a captain or captains or club administrator make a determination or reach an agreement a player or umpire cannot participate in the match, the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations or Grounds Manager must be immediately notified, while arranging a club umpire or 12th or 13th person to participate in the match.

This is a level four offence and must be referred directly to the VTCA Tribunal for a hearing.

6. FROGBOX FOOTAGE – EDITED, DELETED OR MANIPULATED

This offence relates to any footage recorded before, during or after a VTCA match that has been found to have been manipulated, edited or deleted.

This is a level on or two offence that can be dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal Manager. However, if the breach is part of a tribunal matter, then it will be dealt with at a Tribunal hearing.

7. DAMAGE OR ABUSE OF CRICKET, PAVILION FIXTURES AND FITTINGS, OR GROUND (WICKET) CONDITIONS

This offence relates to the intentional destruction of cricket equipment (whether it be the equipment that belongs to the accused's club or team or not), damage to any fixture or fitting associated with a pavilion used by both or either side participating in the match, or the intentional damage to any part of the ground where the match is being played, including the actual playing wicket, the table area associated with the playing wicket, or any part of the surface of the ground.

The abuse of cricket equipment or abuse to the playing area of the ground where the match is being played does not have to be damaged or destroyed for an offence to be made out. For example, a batter, upon dismissal, may intentionally hit the stumps with his/her bat upon leaving the crease, or strike the end of his/her bat into the turf or playing area in frustration of being dismissed. In relation to the first example, the stumps do not need to be damaged or destroyed to establish abuse to the equipment.

This is both a level one and level two offence and can be dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal Manager should the alleged breach be the first allegation against the accused player in that season (unless a good behaviour bond or suspended sentence is currently in existence).

8. THREATENING BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS A PLAYER, UMPIRE, CLUB ADMINISTRATOR OR VTCA REPRESENTATIVE DURING A MATCH

When assessing the actions of a player alleged to have acted in a threatening manner towards a player during a match, or a club official or VTCA delegate during a match, factors such as to the deliberate or reckless actions of the accused player need to be considered, as does his/her manner and attitude. For example, a bowler discharging a ball at a batter needs to be assessed in the circumstances of play, a batter raising his bat in a manner considered to be threatening towards a fieldsman or bowler needs likewise assessment, as does verbal threats between players, the meaning of the threats and the position or stage the match is in.

This is both a level one and level two offence (if the threat is directed from one player to another) and can be dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal Manager should the alleged breach be the first allegation against the accused player in that season (unless a good behaviour bond or suspended sentence is currently in existence). If the threat is directed towards an umpire it is considered a level four offence and must proceed directly to the VTCA Tribunal.

9. INTIMIDATION OF A PLAYER, UMPIRE, CLUB ADMINSITRATOR OR VTCA REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER A

This offence is intended to cover any form of intimidation towards a player, umpire, club administrator or VTCA delegate before, during or after a day's play, or at the completion of a match. It includes personal, threatening and intimidating behaviour which places the person it is directed at in a position of fear or intimidation, it includes any form of verbal or physical harassment, or any form of behaviour that would cause the person to whom the conduct is being directed at, to fear injury or harm, or emotional, discrimination or mental hurt. This includes ridicule, embarrassment, belittling, or any other conduct where the person is restricted or hampered in performing at his/her best.

After a "day's play" or at the "completion of a match" would have a flexible interpretation but would need to have some form of immediacy attributable to the alleged offending, meaning for example – after play, the intimidation would need to have occurred while the player or umpire was still at the ground. "Before" play may be considered to be more flexible and could occur away from the ground and at a completely different time of day or day.

This is considered a Level 3 or level 4 offence and must be directed to the VTCA Tribunal for hearing.

10. PERSONAL ABUSE OF A PLAYER, UMPIRE, CLUB ADMINISTRATOR DURING OR AFTER A MATCH

This offence is similar in nature to a number of offences listed under the Code of Conduct with slight variances.

This offence is intended to cover language of a personal, insulting, offensive or obscene nature, directed at anyone, including a teammate, opponent, umpire, club official, VTCA representative or supporter, either during or immediately after a day's play or after a match has been completed.

The interpretation of "immediately" shall include a reasonable time after the day's play or completion of the match, including time where opponents, umpires and club officials remain present at the ground to pack equipment, clean rooms and speak with players and officials.

As to the seriousness of the breach, consideration must be given to the type of language used, whether there are aggravating circumstances involving, i.e. children and/or women present, or the personal abuse was directed at a player under the age of eighteen years.

This is a level one and level two offence. It is a yellow card offence.

It can be dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal Manager without the requirement of the matter being referred to the VTCA tribunal, **only if** the accused person has not appeared before the VTCA Manager or Tribunal and found guilty on any occasion during that season, or where there is a current good behaviour bond or suspended sentence against the accused.

11. SHOWING DISSENT AT AN UMPIRE'S DECISION DURING A MATCH

This offence refers to expressive and obvious disappointment in an umpire's decision, including the delay by that player to get on with play, accept the umpire's decision, cease argue or remonstrating with the umpire, or where the batter or batsperson is concerned – there is delay in leaving the crease because of a dispute about the decision, or batter acts in a derisive manner, pointing to his/her bat, rubbing an area of their body to indicate where the ball had struck them, snatching or forcibly grabbing at their cap of equipment when offered it by the umpire (e.g. at the end of an over), mocking a decision in a verbal or physical way, or engaging in a discussion, prolonged or otherwise, with a teammate, expressing concern or disagreement with the decision.

This is a level one and level two offence. It is a yellow card offence.

It can be dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal Manager without the requirement of the matter being referred to the VTCA tribunal, **only if** the accused person has not appeared before the VTCA Manager or Tribunal and found guilty on any occasion during that season, or where there is a current good behaviour bond or suspended sentence against the accused.

12. DISOBEYING AN INSTRUCTION BY AN UMPIRE (CLUB UMPIRE INCLUDED) DURING A MATCH

This offence includes a behaviour of a player or repeated failure of a player to accept an umpire's instruction during the course of a match.

Depending on the seriousness of the offence, this offence varies from a level one offence to a level three offence. It can be a yellow or red card offence

13. THREAT OR PHYSICAL ASSAULT TOWARDS A PLAYER, UMPIRE, CLUB OFFICIAL OR SUPPORTER BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER A MATCH

Without limitation, any person (does not need to be a person participating in the match) who threatens to physically assault another player, umpire, club official, supporter, or any other person, before, during or after a day's play, or upon the completion of the match, which causes that person or another to whom the threat was made to, fear for their safety, is liable to having committed this offence.

Consideration is required of the player, umpire, club official, VTCA delegate or any other person to whom the threat was made to, to demonstrate the seriousness of the threat and the concern/s they then had about that threat, and the impact that threat had on their ability to perform.

This type of offending, depending on the seriousness of the threat, is a level one to level three offence. It can be a yellow or red card offence.

14. PHYSICAL ASSAULT OF A PLAYER, UMPIRE, CLUB OFFICIAL OR SUPPORTER DURING OR AFTER A MATCH

Without limitation, any player who intentionally or recklessly causes injury or personal bodily harm to another player, whether teammate or otherwise, opponent, umpire, club official, supporter or any other person, is liable to having committed this offence.

When assessing the seriousness of this offence, the reporting umpire, club official or VTCA delegate making the complaint or report must take into account or state whether the physical contact was deliberate, reckless or negligent, forceful, and whether any injuries were sustained by any person, whether it be the complainant (victim) or someone else.

This is a level four offence and must be directed to the VTCA Tribunal for hearing. Upon consideration of the umpire's report, and the content of witness statements, the VTCA Tribunal Chairperson may cite the captain of the team and/or club for which the accused player represents on the same or similar charge.

15. GAINING OR ATTEMPTING TO GAIN AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE FOR A PLAYER OR THE TEAM DURING A MATCH

This offence is intended to cover any gain or attempt to gain an unfair advantage by a player for himself/herself, a teammate or the team (club) he/she is representing, by engaging in actions outside the rules or laws of cricket, or outside the spirit of the game.

It includes without limitation, an effort or action to deceive an umpire or opponent during a match in order to gain an advantage for him/herself, a teammate or the team they are representing.

For example, a player claiming to have caught a ball when the player knew or ought to have known he/she did not catch the ball. Another example would be where a player uses a foreign object to alter the surface of the match ball to gain an advantage against the batting team.

Depending on the umpire's assessment and interpretation of the incident, both the player deemed or held responsible for altering the ball, and the team captain will be held to account by the VTCA Tribunal.

This is a level four offence and must be dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal. Upon consideration of the umpire's report, and the content of witness statements, the VTCA Tribunal Chairperson may cite the captain of the team and/or club for which the accused player represents on the same or similar charge.

16. ATTEMPT TO MANIPULATE A MATCH

This offence relates to any attempt or success to manipulate a match based on inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons.

The offence is intended to prevent the manipulation of a match result or other matches for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons For example, a team with no prospects of making a finals appearance deliberately concedes the match based on an inappropriate decision to declare a batting innings, leaving the opposition an opportunity to either win on first innings runs or an outright outcome, and therefore, an opportunity to play finals matches. This manipulation of a match naturally gives one side a greater opportunity to win the game, gain vital or important percentage points, and thus points for a win or outright win.

Whether the matter is reported by an umpire or umpires, or an independent investigation establishes inappropriate manipulative conduct by one side, the VTCA Tribunal Chairperson may deal with the matter as per any recommendation of the independent investigation or as he/she believes is proper. In circumstances where it is just to deal with the matter via a tribunal hearing, the VTCA Tribunal Chairperson can cite the captain of the team and/or the club for manipulative behaviour.

This is a level four offence.

17. FAILING TO COOPERATE OR REFUSING TO COOPERATE WITH THE INSTIGATION OF A TRIBUNAL HEARING WITHOUT JUSTIFIABLE OR COMPELLING REASONS

Any player, umpire, club official or witness to a tribunal hearing who is required to give evidence in relation to that tribunal hearing, fails or refuses to do so without reasonable justification, will be deemed to have breached this offence.

A breach will include, for example a player who is directed to appear before a tribunal hearing as an accused or witness, refuses to attend and/or give evidence when asked to do so, or when called upon to do so, gives inconsistent or untruthful evidence may be considered liable to this offence.

Such behaviour will automatically be referred to the VTCA Tribunal for hearing at a different time and **must** not be included in the hearing which was presently before the tribunal.

Should a witness contact the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations citing illness a medical certificate must be furnished within 48 hours. If a witness cites work reasons for his/her inability to attend, a letter from his/her employer within 48 hours.

If a person cited for an offence is unable to attend a tribunal hearing because of work purposes, he/she must give notice to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. A letter from the employer must be forwarded to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations before the hearing date.

If the Tribunal Manager is dissatisfied with the reason/s offered or tendered by the accused player or witness, then the matter will be heard *ex-parte* (in the absence of the person).

18. PUBLIC OR MEDIA COMMENT THAT IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF CRICKET OR TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE VTCA

Any player, umpire, club administrator or club official will be deemed to have made a comment detrimental to the interests of cricket, and in doing so;
In breach of this offence, if a comment is made on any social media platform, including but not limited to Facebook (whether it be on the Association's Facebook page, their own, or a Friend's, SnapChat, Twitter (X), YouTube, LinkedIn, an Online tabloid, any Print Newspaper or Magazine, or any other media outlet, which denigrates or criticizes the VTCA Board of Management, another VTCA cricketer, umpire, administrator, official, member of the VTCA Executive, Board of Management or a member of any VTCA Sub-Committee, over the outcome or in regard to an official VTCA cricket match played, any actions undertaken by the VTCA Management or member of a delegated sub-committee, over decisions made in relation to cricket played under the VTCA banner.

This also includes an investigation undertaken by an independent investigative committee, a VTCA Tribunal hearing, or any sub-committee meeting which impacts the VTCA Association in any capacity.

For example, a registered VTCA player recording comment on the VTCA Facebook page which criticizes another player over an incident during a match, a VTCA Tribunal hearing over a report, or criticism over the hearing or outcome of a VTCA Tribunal matter. Another example might be where there is adverse comment or criticism regarding umpiring standards or the structure of the T20 competition. For the avoidance of doubt, any posting by a player. Umpire, club official or administrator or even a delegate of the VTCA, whether it be from the Executive or Board of Management, in such forums listed above, shall be deemed to be "public" for the purposes of this offence.

Depending on the seriousness of the offence, this offence varies from a level one offence to a level four offence
It will be a matter for the VTCA Board of Management and/or the VTCA Tribunal Manager to determine what level it is. If the breach is determined to be a Level three or four offence the matter will be referred directly to be heard by the VTCA Tribunal.

19. CONDUCT UNBECOMING – CONDUCT THAT IS INTERPRETED TO BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME, OR CONDUCT WHICH COULD BE HARMFUL TO THE INTERESTS OF CRICKET OR CONDUCT WHICH DOES OR COULD BRING THE GAME OF CRICKET INTO DISREPUTE

This offence is designed to be a "catch-all" offence, having the provision to cover all types of conduct that are not adequately by the specific offences outlined.

The type of offence has a wide definition and ambit and may cover offences recorded as offence type 1 through to offence type 4. It therefore has a potential of being a yellow coloured and red coloured card.

Interpretation of this offence is a level is a matter for the Tribunal Manager or for an Investigations Tribunal to consider.

20. VILIFICATION – RACIAL AND/OR SEXUAL

No participating or non-participating player of a club, or umpire, club official or administrator, club member, or member or supporter shall use language or gestures that offends, insults, humiliates intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person or persons on the basis of that person's race, religion, religion, colour, decent, sexuality or national or ethnic origins by way of words, actions, engagement in media or electronic outlets.

This is a level 4 offence and is to be referred directly to the VTCA Tribunal.

The VTCA Tribunal Manager or the VTCA Tribunal Chair may, upon the review of material to be relied upon in an investigation or tribunal hearing, may lay the same charge against the club.

OFFENCE LEVELS
LEVEL 1

Where a player, umpire, club official, club administrator, club member or club supporter is reported for any offence defined as a Level 1 Offence, the reported player may elect, in most circumstances, have the matter heard and determined by the VTCA Tribunal Manager alone. However, if there is a combination of offences the reported player is facing that are deemed to be both level of level 3 or 4 offences, the matter must be referred to the VTCA Tribunal for hearing.

Also, if it is the second occasion where the reported player is cited for any offence, the matter must be referred to the VTCA Tribunal.

Where the matter is to be determined by the VTCA Tribunal Manager, it must be the case the reported person has pleaded guilty to the offence or offences. If the person decides to plead not guilty, the matter is to be referred to the VTCA Tribunal.

The VTCA Tribunal Manager, in most circumstances, where the reported person has pleaded guilty to a level one, can appropriately deal with the matter in a number of ways, including, but not limited to –

1. Formally reprimand the person; and/or
2. Fine the reported player to a maximum amount of $500.00; and/or
3. Place the reported person on a good behaviour bond for a period not exceeding one full season; and/or
4. Order the reported person to complete a therapeutic course at a cost to the reported player, or at a cost to the reported player's club; and/or
5. (in case of repeat reported persons) placing a reported person on a period of suspension not exceeding two matches; or
6. Withdraw the charge against the reported person on the basis the charge against the reported player was frivolous.

In the event the reported person presents on a level 1 offence or offences after a red card has been issued by an officiating umpire, then the VTCA Tribunal Manager must direct the matter to the VTCA Tribunal for hearing.

In the event the reported person elects to have his/her case heard before the VTCA Tribunal, the VTCA Tribunal Manager must present the reported person to the VTCA Tribunal at the next and most appropriate date for hearing.

The VTCA Tribunal Manager, having reviewed the circumstances surrounding the matter (offence/s) of the reported person, has the authority to refer the matter directly to the VTCA Tribunal Chairman without seeking to resolve the matter; or in the event of the offence requiring an explanation and understanding of the incident from the captain of the team for which the reported player or person is a representative of, may charge or refer the captain of that reported player to stand before the same hearing on a similar charge.

LEVEL 2

Where a player, umpire, club official, club administrator, club member or supporter is reported for an offence defined as level 2 offence, providing there is no other offences for may determine the which the reported person is charged, the reported person can elect in most circumstances, to have the matter determined in one of two ways.

If the reported person is charged with one offence deemed to be a level two offence, and pleads guilty to that offence, the VTCA Tribunal Manager may determine the matter by;

1. Formally reprimand the person; and/or
2. Fine the reported player a maximum amount of $750.00; and/or
3. Place the reported person on a good behaviour bond for a period not exceeding one full season; and/or
4. Order the player, umpire or club official or administrator to write a Letter of Apology to the complainant in the matter; and/or
5. Order the reported person to complete a therapeutic course at a cost to the reported player, or at a cost to the reported player's club; and/or
6. (in case of repeat reported persons) placing a reported person on a period of suspended sentence not exceeding four matches; or
7. Suspending the reported person for a maximum of two official Saturday matches (does not or will not include T20 matches); or
8. Withdraw the charges against the reported person on the basis the charge against the reported player was frivolous.

In the event the reported person elects to have his/her case heard before the VTCA Tribunal, the VTCA Tribunal Manager must present the reported person to the VTCA Tribunal at the next and most appropriate date for hearing.

However, where the reported person is a repeat offender or recidivist offender, or where the reported person is facing a number of charges, the VTCA Tribunal Manager **must refer the matter** to the next hearing date of the VTCA Tribunal. The same procedure applies if the reported person is presented on a red coloured card from the officiating umpire(s).

LEVEL 3 and LEVEL 4

Where a player, umpire, club official, club administrator, club or club supporter is reported or cited for a level 3 or 4 offence that reported person (and/or club) must be directed to appear before the next VTCA Tribunal hearing.

The word "cite" is used where a report has not been recorded through the channels of an umpire's report or from a directive to the VTCA secretary from the umpire or umpire's director, but rather, because an independent investigation has recommended

a charge or charges or has cited the player, club or official concerned as a result of the outcome of the investigation, or the Tribunal Chairman has initiated a charge as a result of evidence through an earlier tribunal hearing or during a tribunal hearing.

If a reported person pleads guilty or is found guilty of a level 3 or level 4 offence a penalty involving an immediate suspension from playing in the VTCA competition will apply. Based on a plea of guilty to a Level 3 offence, the reported person is entitled to a discounted sentence, however the penalty may also include a period of a suspended sentence, the requirement to complete a therapeutic program or course, such as an Anger Management Course, and a fine.

Where a Club has been found guilty of a Level 3 or Level 4 offence, fines, team/club suspensions may apply, as well as a loss of match points. There are only certain offences for which a Club can be reported for or cited on.

Club offences

A Club may be reported or cited for any of the following offences listed under the Code of Conduct.

Where a Club is reported or cited for any offence where a player, administrator, official, member or supporter is reported for an offence recognized as a Level 3 or Level 4 offence, the Club shall make available one of its Executive Members to appear on behalf of the Club to hear and answer the charge.

Where a Club is charged with certain offences recognized by the VTCA Tribunal as serious to the future of the Club fielding teams in relevant VTCA competitions, the Club will be required to exhibit to the tribunal panel its own Code of Conduct and produce minutes that the Code has been explained and signed by members of senior teams of the Club.

YELLOW and RED CARD PENALTIES CODE

PREAMBLE

The VTCA Board of Management encourages every Club to structure and identify with and play within its own Code of Conduct, which is suitably endorsed by the VTCA Executive.

Suffice to state, the VTCA Board recognize the importance of playing with the Rules of Cricket and the Spirit of the Game. It must support the genuine efforts of Clubs attempting to enshrine the spirit of the game in its teams, while supporting the umpiring fraternity, the VTCA's number one stakeholder.

To improve and maintain player behaviour, the VTCA Board of Management has introduced rules which allows umpires to immediately deal with misbehaviour so that the match may be conducted within the true spirit of the game.

The scheme requires umpires to immediately penalize players and club officials who breach the VTCA Codes of Behaviour. The player and/or club official may also be reported and if found guilty answerable to the VTCA Tribunal and any penalties imposed by it as a result of the findings of any hearing resulting from the report. Clubs may also be reported or cited for an offence.

For most breaches of these rules a yellow card will, be issued by an officiating umpire to the offending player/s or club official. This should be done both verbally to the person and shown around the same time. There will be occasions where the card is not produced, but it is important to inform the player or club official as soon as practicable after the alleged breach that they have been issued with a yellow card. Attracting a second yellow card in the same match will result in that player or official receiving a red card, which shall serve as an immediate send off from the ground, or from participating in the match any further. It will also result in the relevant charge by issued by the VTCA Tribunal Manager or VTCA Secretary, and where applicable, sent to the VTCA Tribunal for hearing.

When the breach involves a serious offence, i.e. a level 3 or level 4 offence, the officiating umpire shall issue the player or players or the club official with a red card. Again, the issue of the red card is an automatic send-off from the ground, prohibiting the player from any further involvement in the game.

Multiple Offences by a Player, Official or Club Administrator in the same Season

Where a player has received more than one yellow card for an alleged offence during the same season, irrespective of the type of offence of the level of the offence, they shall be referred directly to the VTCA Tribunal for hearing.

This does not mean where a player receives two yellow cards in the same match, which automatically becomes a red card, and they are sent from the playing arena by the umpire or umpires responsible.

The multiple offences refer to offences alleged in different matches.

DEFINITIONS

(i) **"Audible Obscenity"** includes, but is not limited to, a single outburst of indecent or obscene language directed at another player, umpire, club administrator or official, which is heard by an umpire, who interrupts the language to be offensive, obscene or indecent, and:

a. if made on the field, is one which in the opinion of the umpire or umpires, could be heard by a person outside the playing field; or
b. if made off the field, is heard by the umpire or umpires.
c. It is not necessary that if the audible obscenity was directed to a specific person who didn't hear it, so long as it was either heard by an umpire, or in their opinion, could have been heard by a person outside the playing field

(ii) **"Reportable Offence"** includes all offences which may be heard and determined, where applicable by either the VTCA Tribunal Manager or the VTCA Tribunal.

(iii) **"Homophobic comment"** includes comments from or having a fear or dislike of gay people or queer people (i.e. people who do not fit a society's traditional ideas about gender or sexuality). **A homophobic comment or bullying can include physical violence, name-calling, so-called 'jokes' about the person, sexual harassment or online bullying.**

(iv) **"Serious Reportable Offence"** includes:

a. Physically assaulting a player, umpire, club administrator, club official, a person representing the VTCA, and spectator;
b. Threatening to physically harm any person mention in a) who fears the person making the threat intended to physically assault that person;
c. Any act of violence on or off the playing field; or
d. Sustained and serious verbal abuse of a person mentioned in a);
e. Any breach of the VTCA Code of Behavior deemed by an umpire or umpires, VTCA Tribunal Manager or VTCA Tribunal Chair, to be a serious offence.

(v) **"Umpire"** means a VTCA appointed umpire and/or a club appointed umpire, acting on behalf of the VTCA in a VTCA match.

YELLOW CARD

A yellow card shall be issued, at an umpire's discretion, to a player, club administrator of club official who engages in any of the following breaches of the VTCA Rules:

a. An audible obscenity where the obscenity is directed at an umpire, player, opponent, club administrator, club official or representative of the VTCA:
b. Dissent by word or action where the player, club administrator or club official shows dissent by word or action towards an umpire.
c. Breaches of the VTCA Code of Behavior – where the person issued the yellow card has engaged in unsporting behavior and/or in breach of the VTCA Code of Behavior:
d. Breaches of the VTCA Rules - where a person engages in unsporting behavior in breach of the VTCA Rules: and
e. Breaches to the Spirit of the Game of Cricket – where a person engages in unsporting behavior in breach of the Spirit of the Game of Cricket

Where a player, club administrator or club official receives a yellow card, the umpire(s) in the determination of how serious the offence is for which the yellow card was issued, can, when reporting the issue of the yellow card, recommend the matter to the VTCA Tribunal instead of being dealt with by the VTCA Tribunal Manager. The statement or statements of the umpire or umpires reflecting on the offence, would need to clarify the offence, and the seriousness of it.

It is imperative when issuing or citing a person for a yellow card "offence" the umpire(s) involved verbally announce the issuing of the card as well as physically showing the card to the cited person.

Of course, the issue of a second yellow card to the same person during the same match equates to an indirect red card "offence" and must result in that person appearing before the next available convened VTCA Tribunal hearing.

The umpires must note in the match report the name of any person receiving a yellow card. The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations shall keep a record of such breaches and if a player receives a combined total of three yellow cards from three separate matches they were involved in, then that person, if a player in a VTCA match on each occasion, will be suspended for one match (not including T20 games).

Any person found guilty of an offence where a suspended sentence was in existence from a previous incident and relevant to the current season, shall commence serving the term(s) of the suspended sentence immediately.

RED CARD

Where a person receives a red card or commits a serious breach of the VTCA Code of Behavior, the VTCA Rules, or outside the Spirit of the Game of Cricket, that in the opinion of the umpire or umpires, VTCA tribunal Manager or VTCA Tribunal Chair, is greater than a yellow card "offense" the umpire shall physically show the person the red card. **That person, if it is indeed a player, shall leave the playing arena immediately, and have no further involvement in that match.**

If it is a player issued a red card, the officiating umpire(s) must cite the player with an offence, which is reflective in the match report and their statement.

Where a player or official refuses to leave the ground, the umpire shall call upon the relevant club captain and advise him of the circumstances and inform them that if the person in question continues to remain on the playing arena, the game will be forfeited to the opposition team.

A player issued with a red card cannot be substituted by another person in the match.

Where two umpires officiate in a match, one or both umpires can issue yellow and red cards.

REPORTING PROCEDURE:

Where an umpire acts under these rules and a player is reported for an offence, the umpire must follow the procedure set out in the VTCA Tribunal Procedures and in the Administrative Rules particularly:

- Umpires must report all infringements of the rules.
- Any umpire reporting any player must advise the captain or an official club representative where practicable at the completion of the match of such report, and lodge in writing with the VTCA Tribunal Manager by 9:00pm on the Sunday after the completion of the match.

Nothing in these rules prevents an umpire from making a decision after the close of play where they report a player/s, club administrator or club official. Where the umpire makes such a decision they must follow the procedure set out in the VTCA Tribunal Procedures and in the Administrative Rules.

WEBSITE, INTERNET and SOCIAL MEDIA USE CODE

The VTCA publishes here the terms and conditions of its 'Acceptable Use Policy' ("**AUP**") regulating the use of both the VTCA website, My Cricket sites and VTCA affiliated Club web sites and social media sites, to be known collectively hereafter as "the website".

1. You must use the website in a responsible manner, taking into account the effect your use of the website may have on other members of the Association and the community. It is incumbent upon the manager of the website to ensure that its content does not bring the game of cricket into disrepute and that it is within the spirit of cricket.
2. You must not use the website, or allow anyone else to use the website:
   (a) for any unlawful, illegal, malicious or improper purpose;
   (b) to knowingly transmit a computer virus or other malicious computer program;
   (c) in any way which interferes with its availability for other users or otherwise interferes in the proper operation of the website;
   (d) to access or damage another's computer system without permission;
   (e) to infringe another's intellectual property rights;
   (f) to disclose private or confidential information of another;
   (g) to store, publish, display, distribute or post material that is obscene, offensive, defamatory, abusive or that violates any law or regulation;
   (h) to harass or menace any person;
   (i) to breach any laws or infringe any third-party rights (including without limitation, copyright) or to breach any standards, content requirements or codes promulgated by any relevant authority or industry body; or
   (j) to transmit messages which vilify, threaten, abuse, defame, or are vulgar, obscene or otherwise objectionable.
   (k) to transmit messages which encourage conduct that constitutes a criminal offence or infringe upon the publicity or privacy rights or any other rights of any person or party
3. The VTCA is not responsible for any information or materials posted or transmitted via the website and disclaims all liability whether for negligence or otherwise for any loss suffered as a result of any information posted on the website by a member.
4. The VTCA reserves the right to remove, edit or instruct the removal of any information on the website as in its absolute discretion it thinks fit and without reference to others.
5. Access to the ability to post content to the website must be restricted to authorised persons only and the source of this content must be readily auditable.
6. The VTCA reserves the right to alter these terms and conditions from time to time by notice posted on this website.
7. This Code applies to VTCA controlled or related sites. The VTCA cannot control the material published on internet forums, Facebooks, chatrooms, blogs, emails and the like. However, VTCA players or Club officials who choose to publish materials on such sites should be mindful of the offence of Conduct Unbecoming as set out in the VTCA Behaviour Code.
8. Any member that posts inappropriate comments or material will be removed and banned from participation from all VTCA social media sites on a permanent basis.

PROCEDURES

TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

All interested parties should note that the VTCA is empowered to conduct a Tribunal hearing as per **Clauses 2.2(h-j)** of the VTCA Constitution.

b) hear and determine any allegation, complaint or charge pursuant to its rules or by-laws in relation to the rules, by-laws or laws of Cricket, or in relation to any matter which in the opinion of the Board of Management affects the interests of the game of Cricket or affects the interests of the Association itself;

c) impose any sanction, including fines, suspension or expulsion as may be deemed appropriate, where any allegation, complaint or change is sustained by the Association or its appointees, including the Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board, against any affiliated club, player, umpire or individual pursuant to the Association's rules or by-laws;

d) control and discipline any player or official of any team participating in a competition organised or sanctioned by the Association in relation to conduct occurring before, during or after the playing of a match;

The Tribunals roles are to:

a) hear any reports referred to it by the VTCA Tribunal Manager.
b) investigate any other complaint or matter referred to it by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations, or the Board of Management.

As well as these procedures, Umpires, Players and Clubs should note the following:

1. Where an Umpire reports a player, club official or club member, they must, as soon as practicable after the completion of the day's play or match notify:
   a) an Official or representative of the reported players' Club.
   b) and lodge in writing with the VTCA Tribunal Manager (phone: 0416 010 003, email: tribunals@vtca.com.au) by 9:00pm on the Sunday after the completion of the match.

2. Umpires and the reported or charged player/administrator's club shall provide the VTCA Tribunal Manager with written particular/s of the relevant incident which pertains to the reported person by no later than **9:00pm on the Sunday** after the completion of the match, and in such detail that the reported player will clearly understand with respect to the allegations and report against them.

3a. Club officials and/or advocates of the reported or charged player/administrator are to ensure all relevant material, including signed witness statements (including that of the reported or charged person if they so elects), character references, medical reports, video footage and any other relevant material is provided to the VTCA Tribunal Manager **no later than 48 hours** prior to the hearing time of 7:00pm of the hearing date. Any material provided outside that time will be considered at the discretion of the VTCA Tribunal Panel.

3. The VTCA Tribunal Manager will advise the Club of the details of the report as provided by the Umpires or reporting Club. The Tribunal Manager and/or the Tribunal Chair may at any time (before or during a hearing) recommend further charges that in their opinion arise from statements.

4. The VTCA Tribunal Manager will refer the charge to the Tribunal for a hearing on Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm at Deer Park Club or any other specified venue.

5. A reported person, if directed to do so by the VTCA Tribunal Manager or a delegate on their behalf, **must** attend the Tribunal hearing on the designated date and at the allotted time **unless** the procedure pursuant to ***Clause 7*** of the Tribunal Procedure is adopted.
   a) If the player or reported person cannot attend due to work commitments or illness, they, whether directly or via the assistance of the club delegate (must be a club delegate), may write to the Tribunal Manager requesting that the hearing be adjourned to a later date. Should such request be sought, the player or reported person **must** provide evidence by means of a general medical practitioner's medical certificate or short letter on letterhead from their employer, which is dated and signed.
   b) In the event the player or reported person does not attend the hearing, the VTCA Tribunal Chair may elect to hear the matter, ex-parte, and determine the case.
   c) In the event the player or reported person does not provide a copy of the general practitioner's medical certificate or letter from their employer, the matter will proceed ex-parte and be determined.
   d) In the event the hearing into the offence against the player or reported person is adjourned, the player so-alleged to have breached a particular offence, **is not eligible to recommence playing until their matter is heard before the VTCA Tribunal.**

   In the event that the hearing is adjourned the player will be ineligible to play until appearing.

6. If a reported player elects not to appear, before the VTCA Tribunal yet pleads guilty to any or all charges, they must advise the VTCA Tribunal Manager within 48 hours (Monday 5:00pm) of the completed match in which they were reported, that they;
   a) Intends to plead guilty to the offence(s) so alleged;
   b) Agrees with the allegations contained in the report;
   c) Expresses remorse for their behaviour, and puts forward reasons for their actions;
   d) Provides a letter of apology to the VTCA for such behaviour and

e) Provides relevant character references;

If the matter is solely determined by the VTCA Tribunal Manager and a plea of guilty is entered, determination as to a lenient penalty will be given consideration.

7. A reported player who wishes to plead guilty to any offence(s) they are charged with, but seeks to put certain materials in the form of medical reports, a letter from an employer, character references to mitigate penalty to the offence(s), or a reported person seeking to call witnesses to give character evidence on their behalf **must attend the hearing**. Any reported person who pleads not guilty to an offence or offences where they are directed to appear before the VTCA Tribunal cannot elect to have the matter heard in their absence.

8. Witnesses are not entitled nor permitted to be present during procedures before the VTCA Tribunal while other parties are required to give evidence, unless given permission by the Tribunal Chair.

Other than the reported person and their delegate, the complainant and their advocate, the officiating umpire(s) and their delegate and required witnesses to the hearing, no other person is to be granted permission to bear witness to the hearing/proceedings. The reported person is entitled to be present to hear all of the evidence.

On the request of the Tribunal Chair, the VTCA Tribunal Manager and/or the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations may be required to provide evidence as some juncture in the proceedings and therefore, will be permitted to be present throughout the hearing/proceeding at all times.

If necessary and required, a support person will be allowed to assist a witness upon the expressed permission of the VTCA Tribunal Chair.

If a person under the age of eighteen (18) years is a reported person or attends the hearing as a witness to the proceedings, that person is entitled to have at least one parent, a guardian or an older sibling present during the hearing.

No member of the media is permitted to be present during the hearing without the expressed permission of the VTCA Tribunal Chair.

Once a witness has provided their evidence, they are to remain in the tribunal Hearing room (or leave the premises and make no contact with those witnesses who are still to provide their evidence).

9. It is a decision for the reported person to appear at a tribunal hearing with or without an advocate. While it is not imperative the reported person has an advocate in such proceedings, the VTCA Tribunal Chair strongly recommends that a reported person has a person familiar in the process of tribunal hearings to assist in the reported person's position of innocence or where a not guilty plea is entertained.

An advocate cannot be a witness to the proceedings or give a personal reference. The advocate must maintain a high standard of independence and professionalism and act on instructions from the reported person.

<u>An advocate cannot be a person employed in the legal fraternity, nor be employed as a legal consultant, solicitor, or barrister.</u>

An advocate will only engage the hearing when invited to do so and must only question a witness on the disputed facts of the charge or charges, and not engage in any frivolous, underhanded manner or outside the instructions of the person reported.

11. The VTCA Tribunal Chair and panel members, upon their discretion may, reject or dismiss any material or part of that material before it which presents in the form of witness statements that consist of;

a) derogatory comments about the victim/complainant or umpire;
b) consist of general and hearsay comments about the incident in question;
c) opinion based material;
d) are unsigned.

12. Where the reported person or complainant is personally known to any or all of the VTCA Tribunal panel the decision to hear the matter will be based on the decision of the Tribunal Chair. If in the event a tribunal member wishes to abstain from the proceedings for personal reasons, this decision will be made known to both parties involved in the hearing before the hearing is to commence. In such likelihood, a replacement person will be sought as soon as possible.

13. The reported person is entitled to have in his possession at least 48 hours before the tribunal hearing, all relevant materials to be relied upon by the tribunal panel, including copies of all signed statements, the umpire's report and umpire's statement, copies of any documents to be presented by the VTCA Tribunal Coordinator or VTCA Director of Cricket Operations, unless the material relied upon is from a person under the age of 18 years, or of a confidential nature from the Director of Cricket Operations of the VTCA.

14. Tribunal Hearings (and subsequent Appeal hearings) will be recorded at the discretion of the VTCA Tribunal. No Club is permitted or allowed (including players, witnesses, or Delegates to record tribunal hearings).

TRIBUNAL HEARING PROCEDURE

1. The procedure at the Tribunal hearing will be that:
   a) Upon assembly, the Umpire and their advocate (if any), the Player and their advocate (if any) shall be summoned before the Tribunal. Advocates may be delegates or officials of clubs but shall not be a lawyer.

   b) The Umpire/Investigation Officer's written report is read by the Tribunal Chairman who shall be in possession of the report and any other relevant correspondence.

   c) The charged player is asked how they plead.

   d) The Tribunal will first hear evidence for the umpires/investigators case against the player. The umpire/investigator's advocate may then question the umpire. Any member of the Tribunal Panel at any time during the proceeding may also ask questions of the umpire/investigator or witness on behalf of the complainant. In the event the VTCA Executive have initiated a charge against a player/administrator or club, the Tribunal Panel will first hear from the representative of the VTCA Executive as to the foundation and issuing of the charge, and the allegation(s) alleged against the charged party. The Executive will then be held to account in the same format as any complainant who has initiated an offence against a player/administrator of club. Tribunal will first hear the Umpires/Investigators case against the player.

   e) The player's advocate may then question the Umpire/Investigating Officer.

   f) The player/administrator/club will then be asked to present their defence and may be questioned by their advocate and the umpire's advocate, or any member of the Tribunal Panel.

   g) The charged player/administrator/club may then call their witnesses. Once a witness is called to give evidence, they must remain in the room until the case is finished. Each witness is asked to give their version of the incident and may be questioned by either advocate of a member of the Tribunal Panel during the course of their evidence. Should the witness not appear on behalf of the charged player/administrator/club, yet tenders a signed statement on behalf of the charged player/administrator/club, that evidence will be given sufficiently less weight as to allegations before the Tribunal Panel.

   h) The Chairperson of the Tribunal Panel or any member of the Tribunal Panel may, at any time throughout the proceedings, ask questions of any person, as they see fit. Questions may evolve from the evidence given from any witness during the proceedings, or information the Tribunal Panel has informed itself of as a result of evidence given by any witness or advocate during the proceedings.

   i) After all the evidence is either given or tendered during the tribunal proceeding, the respective advocates will be invited to give a closing address(summary) to the Tribunals Panel. When the Tribunal Panel is satisfied that it has all relevant material and evidence before it to enable it to form an unanimous or quorum decision, the Tribunal will adjourn the proceedings for an indeterminable period, to consider the case and reach a finding based on the material and evidence as to the facts of the charge.

   j) Once the Tribunal has reached its finding, all the parties to the proceeding will be invited to re-assemble in order for the Chairperson to announce the decision of the Tribunal Panel as to the proceedings before it. If the player/administrator/club is found guilty of any charge before the Tribunal panel, the relevant advocate will then be invited to make a submission on behalf of the player/administrator/club. Character references, previous matters/records before the Tribunal may be tendered at this stage. The Tribunal will then consider matters put in mitigation of the player/administrator/club before considering any penalty as to each and every charge.

   k) Once the Tribunal has reached a decision on penalty, the relevant parties to the proceedings will be invited to re-assemble, and the Chairperson will read the penalty or penalties handed down.

2. Any suspended player or administrator has the right to appeal the decision handed down by the Tribunal Panel to the VTCA Appeals Board. VTCA Appeals Board rules will then apply. No member of the Tribunal Panel can appear on the Appeals Board.

3. There will be no stay of sentence for any appeal.

4. Any player or administrator previously found guilty of an offence and whereby a suspend sentence was issued, will be subject to the imposition of that suspension immediately following the receipt of any yellow or red coloured umpire's match card.

5. A reported/charged player shall be eligible to play in a VTCA mid-week T20 match pending an official VTCA Tribunal hearing, subject to the discretion of the VTCA Tribunal Chair.

6. All Players/administrators or clubs reported or charged with an offence pursuant to the VTCA Code of Conduct will be required to have their or its matter heard by the VTCA Tribunal Panel on the following Wednesday to Thursday evening. In the event of a reported or charged player is unavailable or does not attend the tribunal hearing set down to hear the charge, the hearing will proceed and be heard by the VTCA Tribunal Panel in their absence. In the event the reported or charged player is unwell, the VTCA Tribunal Panel may exercise a discretion to adjourn or delay the hearing against the player on the production of medical evidence (certificate). In the event the reported or charged player is required to perform formal employment duties, the VTCA Tribunal Panel may exercise a discretion to adjourn or delay the hearing against the player on the production of a

signed letter from their employer. Where a reported or charged player can not appear before the VTCA Tribunal Panel during the following Wednesday or Thursday evening because they are unwell, or they are committed to their employment, that player will not be eligible to play in any official VTCA mid-week T20 match until their matter is heard.

7. In the event a club or administrator is charged with an offence pursuant to the VTCA Code of Conduct, the VTCA Tribunal Panel will hear the matter against the administrator and/or Club at the most earliest and convenient time, unless the administrator is also a registered player at a VTCA club, where as the charge will be heard as per Rule 6.

8. A suspended player is not entitled to participate in any official VTCA match, either as player. Club official(official match scorer, 12th person, drinks person, club umpire etc.), but may officiate as an umpire if the VTCA Tribunal Panel direct as part of their sentence/penalty, they can serve part of their sentence/penalty by officiating as an appointed VTCA Umpire. Subject to competition rules, they may be able to coach junior teams.

MEETINGS OF VTCA TRIBUNAL

All tribunal hearings during the season are held on the Wednesday evening prior to the commencement of the next game at a venue determined by the Tribunal Manager.

Players, Umpires and Witnesses should be in attendance by 7.00pm

APPEALS PROCEDURE

1. APPEALS BOARD

1.1 The VTCA Appeals Board shall consist of three persons, independent of the VTCA Board of Management and the VTCA Tribunal, who shall from time to time be appointed by that Board of Management to hear and determine appeals.

2. WHO MAY APPEAL

2.1 *A Player*

A Player who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Tribunal or a VTCA disciplinary decision, where that player has received a suspension in excess of one game.

2.2 *A Club*

A Club dissatisfied with a decision of the Tribunal or a VTCA disciplinary decision, where that Club has lost match points and/or percentage may lodge an appeal.

2.3 *The VTCA*

The Director of Cricket Operations of the VTCA may appeal a decision of the Tribunal in the following exceptional circumstances:

(a) If the Tribunal has not applied the Rules in making its decision
(b) If the Tribunal has erred in the application of the Rules.
(c) If the Tribunal sentence is deemed inadequate.

3. PROCESS OF APPEAL

3.1 *A Player*

(i) The Player may lodge or cause to be lodged by his Club with the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations Notice of Appeal. Such Notice shall be in writing and shall be lodged **no later than 24 hours after** the decision of the Tribunal or VTCA disciplinary decision.

(ii) Where a player appeals, an Appeal Fee of **$750 must** be lodged no later than 24 hours after the decision of the Tribunal. The Appeals Board may in its discretion refund all or part of the fee.

3.2 *A Club*

(i) The Club may lodge or cause to be lodged with the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations Notice of Appeal. Such Notice shall be in writing and shall be lodged no later than 24 hours after the decision of the Tribunal or VTCA disciplinary decision.

(ii) Where a Club appeals, an Appeal Fee of **$1000 must** be lodged no later than 24 hours after the decision of the Tribunal or the VTCA disciplinary decision. The Appeals Board may in its discretion refund all or part of the fee.

3.3 *The VTCA*

(i) The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations may lodge or cause to be lodged with the VTCA Chairperson, Notice of an Appeal. Such Notice shall be in writing and shall be lodged no later than 24 hours after the decision of the Tribunal.

4. HEARING OF APPEALS

4.1 The Appeals Board shall hear the appeal as soon as practicable.

4.2(a). The hearing of an appeal by the Appeals Board shall constitute a Hearing De novo (fresh hearing) and the rules and procedures that apply to a hearing by the Tribunal shall apply to the hearing of an appeal by the Appeals Board, except in instances the appeal is specifically based on the length of the sentence given.

4.2(b) **Any new evidence** tabled must be provided to both parties within **72 hours** prior to the commencement of the appeals hearing. No new evidence can be provided without the knowledge of both parties.

4.3 In exceptional circumstances, the Chairperson of the Appeals Board may extend the time for the lodging of a Notice of Appeal and/or the lodging of the Appeal Fee.

4.4 The lodging of the Notice of Appeal and the Appeal Fee does not stay the operation of any suspension imposed on the player.

4.5 The Appeals Board may otherwise regulate its own procedures and shall act as an inquisitorial Board.

4.6 The Appeals Board shall ensure that any Appellant is provided with procedural fairness.

4.7 The decision of the Appeals Board shall be by way of majority decision.

4.8 There is no obligation on the Appeals Board to state reasons for its decision.

4.9 Where the appeal is by a player against the decision of the tribunal, there is a right of appeal to the Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union (**VMCU**) from a decision of the Appeals Board. In all other appeals the decision of the Appeals Board is final and there is no right of appeal to the VMCU.

VTCA VILIFICATION CODE and PROCEDURE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this Code is to:

(i) Recognise the commitment of the VTCA to the elimination of racial and religious vilification of players/officials.

(ii) Establish a framework for handling complaints made by players/officials who believe they have been subjected to racial or religious vilification by another player/official.

1.2 A player/official who is participating in a VTCA match will not engage in any conduct, act towards or speak to any other player/official which offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies the other player/official on the basis of that player's/official's race, religion, colour, descent, sexual orientation or national or ethnic origin.

2. Interrelationship with other Rules of the VTCA

The code does not restrict any other action that may be taken under the Rules of the VTCA or Code of Conduct. Nor does it prevent any player/official from pursuing any other legal rights they may have in relation to vilification.

3. Procedure

Any report or complaint of vilification will be dealt with as follows.

4. Lodging a Complaint

4.1 Where a player/official ("the Complainant") believes they have been subjected to vilification or the Umpire believes another player has breached the code, The Complainant or Umpire may lodge a complaint with the **VTCA Director of Cricket Operations by 5pm** on the first business day following the alleged breach.

4.2 The complaint must be:

i) in writing;

ii) outline the circumstances of the allegations made; and

iii) if possible, provide any supporting witness accounts and the contact details of those witnesses.

4.3 Clubs lodging vilification complaints shall comply with **Clause 3** of the Tribunal Procedures.

5. Role of the Director of Cricket Operations

5.1 The Director of Cricket Operations shall upon receipt of the complaint:

i) Advise the person alleged to have contravened the Code ("The Respondent") of the complaint and provide them with a copy of the complaint and an opportunity to respond.

ii) Advise the VTCA Board of Management, the President of both Clubs and the Captains of both teams, of the complaint.Conduct an investigation into the complaint which may include but is not limited to:

(a) Interviewing the parties to the complaint;

(b) Interviewing the Umpire;

(c) Interviewing any witnesses; and interviewing the team captains.

iii) The investigation should be completed within 48 hours.

iv) When the investigation has been completed the Director of Cricket Operations may:

(a) Dismiss the complaint if they believe there is insufficient evidence, or it is frivolous;

(b) Arrange for the complaint to be referred to conciliation; or

(c) Refer the complaint to the VTCA Tribunal.

6. Conciliation

6.1 Conciliator

Any conciliation referred to in clause 4(v)(b) of this Code will be conducted by a representative appointed by the VTCA.

6.2 The Conciliation

(i) The Complainant, the Umpire who initiated the report (if any), and the Respondent, should attend the conciliation. Both team Captains, or Vice-Captain if the Captain is a party to the complaint, and Team Managers may attend with the consent of the Conciliator.

(ii) The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations must provide the Conciliator with a copy of the:

(a) the complaint;

(b) the Respondents' response to the complaint; and

(c) any evidence relevant to the complaint obtained during the course of the investigation.

(iii) All parties attending the conciliation must participate in good faith.

(iv) The Complainant is the person who determines the course of redress to be pursued at any conciliation.

(v) Except as stated in clause 6.3(ii), both parties to the complaint and any other person aware of the details or circumstances of the conciliation, including the Director of Cricket Operations, Conciliator, and Team Captains, must at all times keep the particulars of the complaint and the conciliation confidential.

6.3 Resolution of the Complaint

(i) If the complaint is resolved at the conciliation, the complaint will be deemed withdrawn and the Complainant cannot take any further action in respect of the complaint under this code.

(ii) The resolution of the complaint may be formalised by way of a verbal agreement or a formal written agreement signed by the parties.

(iii) The Conciliator must inform the Director of Cricket Operations that the complaint has resolved.

6.4 Conciliation is unsuccessful

(i) The Conciliator must notify the Director of Cricket Operations if the matter was not resolved at conciliation.

(ii) The Director of Cricket Operations will then deal with the matter as a report and refer the matter to the VTCA Tribunal.

(iii) The Director of Cricket Operations will notify the parties within 48 hours of the matter being referred to the Tribunal of the tribunal hearing.

7. Tribunal Hearing of Vilification Matter

7.1 Where a vilification matter is referred by the Director of Cricket Operations or delegate directly to the Tribunal or is referred as a result of an unsuccessful conciliation, the Director of Cricket Operations or delegate will furnish the Tribunal with:

(a) the complaint;
(b) the Respondents' response to the complaint; and
(c) any evidence relevant to the complaint obtained during the course of the investigation.

7.2 The Tribunal will hear the matter in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice.

8. Tribunal Findings

8.1 At the completion of the hearing of evidence the Tribunal will advise the VTCA, the Complainant, and Respondent of their decision on whether they found the complaint proven or not proven.

8.2 If the Tribunal finds the complaint proven, it then must refer to the VTCA code of conduct register to ascertain any previous breach by the player; and

i) Direct the Respondent to attend an education program at the Respondent's cost;
ii) A prevention from participating in any VTCA match, until such time evidence of successful completion of the education program is received by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations.
iii) Determine a penalty for the respondent which may include:
(a) A written apology;
(b) A fine and/or suspension.

9. Appeal

9.1 Any player found in breach of the Vilification code has the opportunity to appeal against a decision made by the VTCA Tribunal to an Appeals Panel.

10. Timing

10.1 The timing and the process of any conciliation or mediation between clubs and players shall be at the direction of the VTCA Board of Management or its nominee.

FIXTURE VARIATION - PROCEDURE

The VTCA may vary published fixtures where necessary and advise the participating clubs.
Where a club wishes to play a match which varies from the fixtured draw, the following rules apply:

Policy

i) The aim of the VTCA is to play as much cricket as possible
ii) We aim to adhere to the fixtured draw, save that where possible all First XI matches will be played on Saturday.
iii) We aim to have all pitches/wickets ready for play by Day One in each season.
iv) We understand that this may not be achievable and will accommodate, where reasonable, variations to allow play to take place.
v) The VTCA will not consider changing a Saturday fixtured game to a Sunday without the agreement of both clubs, but Board of Management approval is not guaranteed.

Application to vary fixture

Where a club wishes to play a match that varies from the fixture, it must make a written application to the **VTCA Director of Cricket Operations** by **6:00pm on the Tuesday prior** to the game. The VTCA will consider late applications in exceptional circumstances. The application must provide the following:

i) reason for the proposed alteration to the fixture
ii) proposed new fixturing of the match (ie: where, when, etc.)
iii) a list of the rejected alternatives by both clubs, and their reasons.
iv) written agreement to the alteration from the opposition club

VTCA Criteria

The VTCA will consider such applications and apply criteria including the following:

i) Examining the reason for the application, particularly as to whether the home club is culpable for not having its wicket available for play as fixtured.
ii) **No match will be moved simply to avoid local inclement weather conditions**.
iii) Two-day games will be played over two weekends
iv) The choice between the proposal and alternative options
v) In any determination on ground availability, a First XI match will be given precedence, ie: a lower grade match can be moved.
vi) Where the opposition do not agree to the proposed change, the VTCA must determine whether, in the interests of cricket, a change should be approved.
vii) Where the opposition do agree to a change but do not agree to the proposed new fixturing and propose a different alternative, the VTCA will determine the appropriate fixturing, taking into account any inconvenience caused to the opposition.
viii) In considering the choice of alternative venues we propose the following order of priority.
A First XI Saturday game must be played on a Saturday at:
    1. the opposition ground.
    2. the home club's lower eleven ground
    3. the opposition club's lower eleven ground
    4. another VTCA club's vacant ground

Where a lower XI match is altered from the Saturday, then the same order of criteria will apply for a venue on the Sunday.

EXTREME HEAT PROCEDURE

On a day of extreme heat, the following procedures apply with respect to play taking place:

1. It is the responsibility of **both** captains/scorers or designated persons that the Weather App (Weatherzone) be checked 15 minutes before play is due to commence.

2. If the temperature as recorded in your designated zone is **38 degrees or more**, then play shall not commence.

3. Play shall not commence until the recorded temperature falls below 38 degrees.

4. It is the responsibility of captains/scorers or designated persons that the weather app (Weatherzone) be checked at 20 minutes intervals during play at the 00, 20 and 40 minute mark of each hour.

5. If the temperature as recorded in designated zone is 38 degrees or more, then play shall cease **immediately**.

6. Play shall not recommence until the recorded temperature falls below 38 degrees.

7. Any delay or interruption to play shall be treated in the usual way and the applicable match rules apply. Specifically, refer to rules regarding reduction of overs and normal conditions.

8. If the temperature reaches 38 degrees and play is delayed, under our match rules, the captains can agree to abandon play on the basis that the conditions are unfit for play to continue.

9. Where the captains disagree about abandoning play, the decision then rests with the appointed umpire.

10. Where the captains disagree and there is no appointed umpire then the teams remain until the temperature falls below 38 degrees, they come to an agreement, or 6:00pm arrives.

11. The VTCA Board of Management can adjust start time, earlier if the forecast predicts temperatures of 38 degrees or higher to ensure the safety of players, umpires and volunteers.

Clubs will be allocated to a Zone which will be published as **Table F**

INJURY POLICY

1. Where a player, during the course of a game, suffers an injury which causes bleeding then the Umpires shall decide that player must immediately retire from the game until such time as First Aid has been administered to prevent further bleeding. They cannot resume playing unless the bleeding has stopped, or the wound is securely covered.

2. A batter who is injured and has temporarily retired under Clause 1 or has retired after sustaining any injury and who is unable to return after the fall of the ninth wicket, shall be deemed Retired Hurt and the innings of the batting team shall be deemed closed.

3. Where an injury occurs to a batter involved in the tenth wicket partnership, a maximum of ten minutes will be allowed in order to conform to Clause 1. Where this injury occurs within 10 minutes of the scheduled tea adjournment, tea shall be taken immediately with no extra time being added.

   If that batter is unable to continue within the ten-minute time limit, then they shall be deemed Retired Hurt, and the innings of the batting team shall be deemed closed.

4. There shall be no reduction in the number of overs to be bowled when time is lost due to an injury.

5. **ALL home teams shall provide a First Aid Kit to be available at the ground for the use of both competing teams.**

   Such a Kit shall comprise, as a minimum standard:
   Bandages, Cotton Wool, Gauze, Adhesive Plaster, Band Aids, Closures, Scissors, Tweezers, Antiseptic, Disposable Gloves, Ice Pack, Disposable Plastic Bags.

   - Penalty for not providing an adequate First Aid Kit – **$50**
   - Concussion Management Guidelines - see VTCA Website

Umpires Fees Season 2026/27

VTCA advises all clubs that the following will be the umpires match fees for the 2026/27 VTCA Season.

Each club will contribute ½ costs towards each umpire appointed to their match/es.

As per AR 8.3(b), Umpires **must be paid their full amount** by the end of the tea adjournment **otherwise play will not recommence** until this has been done correctly.

As per AR 8.3(c), should a match be abandoned after the umpire/s arrive at the ground, then the umpire/s are to be paid ½ fees.

	Home & Away		Finals Matches		½ Fees (as per AR 8.3(c))	
Grade/Format	1 Umpire	2 Umpires	1 Umpire	2 Umpires	1 Umpire	2 Umpires
Senior Women & Division 1 40 over matches	$220	$170 per ump	$220	$220 per ump	$110	$85 per ump (H&A) $110 per ump (Finals)
20/20 matches	$140	$140	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Division 3 & Division 4 30/30 matches	$170	$170 per ump	$170	$170 per ump	$85	$85 per ump (H&A) $85 per ump (Finals)
20/20 matches	$140	$140	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Square Leg Umpiring

There may be occasions where you may be called on to act as a Square Leg Umpire. This position is equally as important as the main umpire, and involves a number of duties, which we list below for your information. Please read carefully:

1. Count the balls bowled in each over and confer with your partner by way of a pre-arranged signal.
2. Watch for, then call and signal any short runs at your end.
3. Give descriptions on appeals for:
   (a) Hit wicket
   (b) Stumped
   (c) Run out (at your end)
4. Call then signal No Ball when: the wicketkeeper does not remain wholly behind the wicket until the ball delivered by the bowler touches the bat or person of the striker or passes the wicket or the striker attempts a run.
5. Be ready to give advice to your partner in instances where they may have been unsighted.
6. Assist the central umpire with the identification of waist high and above deliveries as 'No Balls' and signalling as to how high the ball was placed on the batter's body. For clarity, waist height is defined as the point at which the top of the batter's trousers would conventionally be when they are standing upright at the popping crease.
7. Do not act as a coach whilst Square Leg Umpiring.

Let us all remember that when we are umpiring, we are taking on the responsibility for conducting the game in a fair and orderly manner.

P1 - Prior Permission to use a runner

(i) A player who has a permanent injury or disability who requires the use of a runner to continue to participate in VTCA matches may seek permission by applying to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations. To be considered the application must:
  (a) Cover the coming season or the season in progress.
  (b) Be accompanied by a certificate from a registered medical practitioner which is descriptive in detailing the capacity in which the player may compete.

(ii) If approved the application will stand for the coming season or season in progress only and must be renewed each subsequent season unless otherwise advised by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations.

(iii) Once approved by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations they will advise the player and their club.

P2 - Age Policy

The VTCA is an inclusive competition and does not discriminate on age or ability. With an increase in girls playing cricket over recent years a pathway has been created for females, and it is important to not risk turning players away from the game. Young players can be scared or discouraged if they play at too high a level, whilst on the flip side more experienced players who want to play in a competitive environment should be able to do so.

With the availability of all-girls cricket competitions and other cricket formats for females, the VTCA provides the following guidance on age requirements:

- No player under 12 years of age at the 1st September in the coming season shall be permitted to play in a VTCA match.
- If the player is under 15 years of age and has access to an all-girls competition, we recommend they only play in the VTCA if they have represented their region in a Victorian representative competition such as the Marg Jennings Cup and Country Cup, or their standard is at least equal to one adult team member.

The VTCA encourages mothers and daughters to play together in our competition, but if the daughter is under 15 and does not meet the standards discussed above, they can only take part in lower grade matches.

Child Safe and Member Protection policies see website - vtca.com.au

P3 - Uniform Policy

REGULATION UNIFORM

1. Clean shoes or boots which may carry the manufacturers coloured stripes logo. Shoes may be coloured.
2. Cricket pants/trousers (not shorts)
   NOTE: All players MUST be in the same uniform.
3. Club Shirt
4. Pullover
5. Hat or cap

It is advisable that a hat or cap (with the peak worn forward) and long sleeve shirt be worn during all matches.

Thigh pads - if worn must be under pants.

APPLICATION BY A PLAYER TO VARY REGULATION UNIFORM

An application, stating grounds to vary the standard uniform, must be made to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations. Once granted by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations, approval will stand throughout the player's playing career.

VARIATIONS TO REGULATION UNIFORM NOT ALLOWED

Coloured hats, State or Australian caps or caps not associated with the playing Club, must not be worn.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPTAIN AND UMPIRE

It is the responsibility of Captains to ensure their players are in correct uniform. Umpires are instructed to record any player not in regulation uniform on any day of cricket.

PLAYERS OUT OF REGULATION UNIFORM

Clubs will be fined fifty dollars ($50.00) per player not in regulation uniform except as defined above (refer AR10.1). Players who deliberately play with tuck up shirt sleeves are considered incorrectly dressed and are subject to a fine of fifty dollars ($50.00).

AR 4 – Player Registration

4.1PLAYING MEMBERS

All Players in every match must be:

(a) Registered with the VTCA as described in sections (b & c) below.
(b) All players must be registered via the competition management system prior to playing in any match.
(c) Former International, Australian State open representatives and/or WBBL player, must be granted prior approval by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations before they may compete in the VTCA. A written application, which must set out in detail the reason for seeking such approval.

4.2 PENALTIES FOR NOT REGISTERING PLAYERS

Any team failing to register any player in accordance with this procedure will be fined fifty dollars ($50.00) and lose any points gained in the match in which it played unregistered players. However, its opponents will not gain the points forfeited.

4.3 CLUBS FIELDING TEAMS IN CV WCCC AND CV PREMIER CRICKET

Where clubs field teams in both VTCA and CV Premier Cricket, or other competitions, players must be permitted to each competition. Please also refer to AR 7.8 regarding Eligibility and Permits for Semi Finals and Finals.

AR 5 – Transfer, Permits and Player movements

PERMITS

The season permits feature allows a player to participate for additional clubs in a competition season over a date range. If initiated by a club admin, it can also allow players to play for an additional competition season without needing to register. They are still members and can play for their primary affiliation club.

Season permits can be requested by the destination club in the admin portal and require approval from the source club, source association and destination association before the player can participate. The player is directly registered into the club without completing a registration form.

Participants can also create a season permit request and require approval from the destination club, source club, source association and destination association before they can participate. At the end of the approval process a player will be sent an email to register and pay any applicable fees. (Please note this is the difference between admin and participant led.

TRANSFERS

A transfer request is a request for a player to register to a new club. Transfers can be initiated by:

- A club administrator, from the Administration Portal only.

Transfers require the approval of the player's current and new club, and their association before the player can complete their registration to their new club.

Transfer requests are never required:

- for coach or team manager registrations,
- for independent (non-club) registrations,
- for the first registration within a competition, and for subsequent registrations to the same club within a competition,
- for registrations to the same club, to a different competition

FILL IN PLAYERS

The VTCA do not allow for "fill-in" players under any grade/division.

Clubs that are found to have played a "fill-in" player, shall lose the match, and any points earned including any percentage gained for the match/matches in which the player participated.

5.1 INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSTATE PLAYERS

(a) Visitors from Other Countries (Dispensation)

Visitors from other countries may be given permission to play in competition matches in Victoria. An application form completed from their intended club, outlining the level of cricket they have played must be forwarded to the VTCA for a ruling on their request to play. The application form will be available to all clubs before the season starts.

(b) Other States

A player who is or has been a registered member of an outdoor interstate cricket association may be given permission to play in competition matches in Victoria. An application form completed from their intended club, outlining the level of cricket they have played must be forwarded to the VTCA who will rule on their request to play. The application form will be available to all clubs before the season starts.

5.2. TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

(a) All players registered with any affiliated VTCA (WCCC) Club in the last two seasons must receive a transfer within PlayHQ to move clubs.

(b) Any player who has not played in a VTCA (WCCC) match in the last two seasons may apply for a transfer to play for a VTCA club. Refer also the requirements of Rule AR 7.2 (d).
(c) Any player who has played more than 50% of matches with their previous Club in CV Premier cricket must be granted dispensation by the VTCA before they can be cleared to compete.
(d) A current Open Age State Squad player (excluding rookies) cannot request a transfer to a Club which only competes in the VTCA. Note also the requirements of AR6.1 (d) regarding former Open Age State representatives and international representatives.

5.3 DEADLINES FOR TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

No player may request a transfer between the end of the home and away matches and 30th June (inclusive) in any year.

(e) No transfers are permitted after December 31st unless written approval is given by the VTCA. Any Transfer requested post December 31st, must be applied for in writing by the player or club to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations. The application is to outline the reasons for the transfer request and will be assessed by the VTCA. If approved, the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations will notify the player/club, and an official transfer request may be submitted by the relevant Club. See also Rule AR 7.4.

5.4 TRANSFER PROCEDURES

5.4.1 Any player desiring a transfer from the club they are registered with must:

5.4.1.1 Must not owe any fees with their previous club prior to application for Transfer.

5.4.1.2 Submit a transfer request via the competition management system.

5.4.1.3 The source club must grant the transfer application unless the player is on a current contract, owes money or equipment. The destination Association can refuse the Transfer if the player does not meet the by-law requirements.

5.5 PERMITS NOT GRANTED BY A CLUB

5.5.1 If the club refuses a transfer, reasons for refusing the transfer should be provided via the competition management system.

5.5.2 If the club the player wishes to leave fails to act on the transfer application within 5 days the transfer will be forwarded to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations. The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations shall investigate the application which has been refused or not acted upon. The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations is to advise all parties of its decision in writing within 5 days of assessing the application.

5.5.3 Unless an appeal is lodged by either party within 7 days of notification of the decision, the decision shall stand.

5.6 APPEALS AGAINST VTCA DECISIONS

- Any appeal by either party must be received by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations along with the nominated fee as per the Appeals Procedure.
- In the case of an appeal the player may not play in any further match until the appeal has been settled.
- The appeal will be dealt with by the Appeals Committee where all parties involved in the dispute will be asked to attend a meeting of this committee.
- This meeting must be held (if at all possible) within 10 days of the receipt of the written appeal letter.
- All correspondence in an appeal against non-granting of Transfer must be sent by email, registered mail or delivered by hand, in which case a receipt must be obtained.
- Clubs may have a maximum of three representatives present for any one appeal.

5.7 PLAYER MOVEMENTS – VTCA AND CV PREMIER

5.7.1 Any player eligible to play in CV Premier or VTCA can be named in more than one match per weekend across the two competitions, i.e. they can play for their CV Premier team on Saturday and their VTCA team on the Sunday (or vice-versa).

5.7.2 No player is permitted to be named in more than one VTCA match in any one weekend except where two games are scheduled on one day (e.g. T20 double header matches) or as allowed for in MR9 – Representative player replacement.

5.7.3 Any club found breaking this rule will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be penalised under AR 10.2.

5.8 ELIGIBILITY AND PERMITS FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

(a) Number of games played for all grades

A player must have represented their club in at least one-third of matches during the season in that format to be eligible for Semi-Final/Final matches but the VTCA may grant an Eligibility Dispensation at their discretion under AR7.8 (c) (where the required number of matches have not been played) in order to avoid teams being short of players for Semi-Final and Final matches. Under no circumstances will such a permit be granted to a team that has twelve players available who have played the required number of matches during the season.

(b) Matches played in a higher grade

At the end of Home and Away matches a player that has played more than half of the number of matches fixtured in that format in a higher grade of cricket or in CV Premier Cricket becomes a member of that team and cannot play in a lower grade or team without a permit from the VTCA. Should a club break this rule they will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will therefore forfeit the match. If the match is a Semi Final their opponent will progress to the Final. If it is a Final they will lose this match. Note: Any matches played in a higher grade, as a

representative player replacement. (as per MR 9) shall not be included in the calculation of qualification.

(c) Request for Eligibility Dispensation – requirements

Club Administrators are responsible for submitting the request for an eligibility dispensation no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the match outlining the reasons behind the request for the permit and listing all players who have played the required number of matches and any reasons they are not available. The VTCA may take into consideration lowering the number of matches if the player was listed in the player list of a club in the competition management where the opposition forfeited the match.

- Should a dispensation be requested, the Club Administrator must specify if it is required for the Semi Final, and, if the team moves into the Final, for the final as well.
- Any games played at a higher level must be specified in the dispensation application.
- Should the dispensation request not conform to the requirements of this rule it will not be considered.
- If granted, the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations will notify the opposition club of the decision and list the Dispensation on the VTCA website.
- Any Marquee players that have played more than 50% of games in CV Premier Cricket will require dispensation to be eligible. If that player has played 60% of games in CV Premier cricket they become automatically inelgibile and cannot gain dispensation approval.

(d) Playing in a Lower Grade

If a Club has more than one team in consecutive VTCA grades playing in semi-finals and final matches, players may represent their Club in any designated team. Once a team has been eliminated from semi-finals then the normal Home and Away qualifications apply for that club.

5.9 ELIGIBILITY FOR ROUNDS PLAYED AFTER CHRISTMAS

After the Christmas break eligibility to play will be as follows for Clubs with two or more teams.
If a player plays 50% of fixtured games in the above grade they can no longer play in the below grade in the Home and Away Season after Christmas and are deemed to be a member of that side.

If a Marquee player plays 60% of fixtured games in CV Premier cricket competition they will be deemed ineligible for selection in any future Home and Away games and becomes automatically ineligible for finals.

Note: If a Club fields teams in both the CV Premier cricket competition and the VTCA, teams playing in the CV Premier cricket competition are deemed to be playing in a higher grade than VTCA teams.

- Any dispensation that is granted for a player in a higher grade to be dropped to a lower grade may be conditional in terms of how long the dispensation is for and/or what involvement the player has in the match.

Note: Games where a player has acted as a Representative player, refer to MR 9 – Representative Replacement Player are not counted towards the matches played.

5.10 ELIGIBILITY FOR SENIOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES PLAYING IN THE WCCC

Current and former members of the open age Women's State Squads (inclusive of WBBL) are not permitted to play in VTCA, unless granted permission by the VTCA Board of Management in exceptional circumstances. A written application, which must set out in detail the reason for seeking such approval must be received by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations not later than the Wednesday preceding the first match for which approval is sought.

AR 6 – Umpires

6.1 APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES

Wherever possible Professional Umpires shall be appointed to all matches and such Umpires shall be accredited, or in the process of being accredited, to Cricket Australia's Representative Officiating Accreditation Program standard before appointment to any match.

6.2 UMPIRES FEES

(a) Payment of fees

Fees must be paid to Umpires by no later than 10 minutes after the toss of the coin. Play will NOT recommence until the umpire(s) have been paid the correct appropriate match payment.

(b) All Umpires payments shall be paid via PayID.

(c) Where for any reason payment via PayID is not possible, the Clubs must advise the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations as soon as practicable. Payment will then be processed through the VTCA Accounts department, and the applicable Clubs will be invoiced accordingly.

(d) Fees - Play abandoned after arrival at the ground

In the event of play being abandoned before a ball is bowled, Umpires in attendance shall receive half fees.

6.3 ONLY ONE PROFESSIONAL UMPIRE IN ATTENDANCE

If only one Umpire is in attendance a substitute Umpire may, with the approval of both Captains, be appointed with full umpiring responsibilities. Alternatively, each batting side is to supply someone to undertake Square Leg duties during their batting innings.

6.4. NO PROFESSIONAL UMPIRE IN ATTENDANCE OR UMPIRE INCAPACITATED

If there is no professional Umpire(s) in attendance, or the one Umpire in attendance is incapacitated, the Captains can agree to appoint a substitute Umpire or Umpires for such time as necessary.

6.5 MATCH PROCEDURES

(a) Start of play Umpires must:

(i) obtain a copy of the team list for each team at the toss (refer also to MR 4.1a) and must retain these copies to provide to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations if requested.

(ii) obtain the match balls to be used from both teams and check against the requirements of MR 2.2.

(iii) check their watches with the scorers' watches before play commences.

(iv) notify both Captains and take the field five (5) minutes before commencement of any period of play irrespective of whether teams are ready.

Note: If no official Umpire(s) is in attendance, each Captain must notate and sign the actual starting time of play in the opposing team's scorebook.

(b) Scorebooks

Umpires must check and sign both team's scorebooks for confirmation of agreeance.

6.6 UMPIRE'S MATCH REPORTS

All Umpires must lodge reports of matches on OfficialsHQ no later than 6:00pm on the Monday following the completion of each match.

These reports shall:

(a) record any players not in uniform. **Note**: Umpires are not empowered to order such player from the field.

(b) record the time the match commenced on the day of play.

NOTE: If an Umpire advisor seeks guidance from a club in regards to a particular rating or comment made in an umpires match assessment, they must respond with a justified reason for that rating for training and guidance purposes.

AR 7 – Averages

7.1 ELIGIBILITY – PLAYERS

Player lists for matches which are forfeits, walkovers and washouts must be submitted into PlayHQ in order for reduction of eligibility criteria to be considered.

7.2 ELIGIBILITY – CRITERIA ONE DAY MATCHES

(a) Bowling

Players must have bowled in the season of Home and Away matches:

At least	270 balls
This is reduced for each washout, forfeit, second or third bye	by 36 balls (maximum reduction is 72 balls)

(b) Batting

Players must have batted in Home and Away matches for:

At least	50% + 1 of possible innings of fixtured matches
and have an aggregate	of at least 150 runs
This is reduced for teams that have had a total of two or more combined washouts, forfeits or second or third byes by	one (1) innings and 20 runs

(c) Wicket-keeping

Players must have wicket-kept in Home and Away matches:

At least	50% + 1 of possible innings of fixtured matches
This is reduced for teams that have had a total of two or more combined washouts, forfeits or second or third byes by	one (1) innings

7.3 ELIGIBILITY – CRITERIA T20 MATCHES

(a) Bowling

Players must have bowled in the season of Home and Away matches:

At least	120 balls
This is reduced for each washout, forfeit, second or third bye	by 12 balls (maximum reduction is 24 balls)

(b) Batting

Players must have batted in Home and Away matches for:

At least	five (5) innings
and have an aggregate	of at least 100 runs
This is reduced for teams that have had a total of two or more combined washouts, forfeits or second or third byes by	one (1) innings and 20 runs

(c) Wicket-keeping

Players must have wicket-kept in Home and Away matches:

At least	five (5) innings
This is reduced for teams that have had a total of two or more combined washouts, forfeits or second or third byes by	one (1) innings

7.4 REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

In the case of a player who participates in two grades on the same weekend whilst acting as a representative player replacement (refer to MR 9) any performances will count in each grade.

AR 8 – Fines and Penalties

8.1 FINES

Fines will be imposed by VTCA for the following:

INDISCRETION		FINE
(i)	withdrawal of a team after the fixtures have been loaded to PlayHQ and Clubs have been notified	Affiliation Fee
(ii)	Forfeit of match **Unless** at least three (3) hours' notice prior to the scheduled starting time of the match is given to the opposing team and appointed Umpire(s)	$200.00 + Umpires Fee
(iii)	Late submission of Match Results (refer MR 15.1)	$50.00 each occurrence
(iv)	Late submission of Captain's Reports (refer MR 15.1)	$50.00 each occurrence
(vi)	Late payment of fines imposed	$50.00 per week after due date on invoice
(vii)	Application of MR 4.5c, minimum overs not bowled in Semi Final or Final	$50.00 per over
(viii)	incorrect use of covers (refer MR 5.5)	Up to $100
(ix)	Player out of uniform policy, refer to Uniform policy	$50.00 each player

8.2 PENALTIES

Penalties are imposed for the following:

INDISCRETION		PENALTY
(i)	Application of MR 4.1c a player not on a team list participating in the match.	Any points gained by the team in the match. **Note**: The opposition will not gain the points lost.
(ii)	Naming of ineligible player (AR 6.3 & 7.7).	Any points gained by the team in the match. **Note**: The opposition will not gain the points lost.
(iii)	Application of MR 4.5c, minimum overs not bowled, home and away matches	A penalty of 0.1 Premiership Points (Semi-Finals and Finals $50.00) shall be applied to each over of the required or reduced required minimum not commenced before the end of a requisite period

Match Rules

MR 1 – The Season

The season shall commence on the third weekend in October, unless otherwise deemed by the VTCA/NWMCA. No competition Matches shall be played on Christmas Day or Good Friday.

MR 2 – General Provisions

2.1 LAWS OF CRICKET – VARIATIONS TO THE (2017 CODE – 4th EDITION 2026)

Matches shall be played under The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code – 4th Edition 2026) except as hereinafter modified:

Delete Law 24.4 – Player returning without permission. Replace with:

- Captains must inform the Umpire (s) of any player (s) failing to take the field, leaving or returning to the field at any time.
- Players may only return to the field with the controlling Umpire(s)permission
- Delete Law 41.6 – Bowling of unfair short pitched deliveries.
- Delete Law 41.7 – Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries.
- Delete Law 41.8 – Bowling of deliberate front-foot No ball.
-

Replace Law 41.9.2 – Time wasting by the fielding side with the following:

- (i) Inform the captain of the fielding side notification of the breach will be made to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations and Club Administrator.

2.2 MATCH BALLS

(a) It is the responsibility of the competing clubs to provide their own new ball for the match, failure to do so will result in a $100 fine.

(b) The innings of each team must be commenced with a new match ball.

(c) Type of Ball

(i) Kookaburra Platinum 142g White ball is to be used within all VTCA Division 1 and Division 2 fixtures.

(ii) Kookaburra Silver 142g White ball is to be used in all VTCA Division 3 and Division 4 fixtures.

(iii) In home and away matches, each club shall provide their own match ball for the days play.

(iv) For semifinal matches the participating clubs shall provide their own ball.

(v) For all Grand Final matches the VTCA shall provide the nominated ball for each team.

2.3 TEAMS FORFEITING

(a) Requirements of teams forfeiting matches

If giving a forfeit, clubs must notify VTCA Director of Cricket Operations and the opposing team at least 3 hours prior to the scheduled starting time.

(b) In the event of a forfeit not being advised to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations and the Umpire/s are in attendance full fees must be paid by the team giving the forfeit.

(c) Any Club failing to play a match for which it is fixtured shall incur the following penalties:

1. First Forfeit: a fine of $200
2. Second or any subsequent forfeit: A loss of 3 match points, including percentage and the Club will be required to meet with the VTCA Board of Management to determine whether it may remain in the competition.

(ii) Forfeit of a match by a club with multiple teams

Any Team shall be able to forfeit a Match in the VTCA as each Team is to be treated as its' own entity (regardless of whether a club is fielding one (1) or two (2) teams).

For clarity: If a Club fields teams in both the CV Premier cricket competition and the VTCA, teams playing in the CV Premier cricket competition are deemed to be playing in a higher grade than VTCA teams.

2.4 TEAMS WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION

(a) Withdrawal of team – multi team clubs

Any club wishing to withdraw a team from any grade of a VTCA competition must withdraw its lowest graded team.

(b) Once the fixtures have been finalized, the club will be invoiced for the withdrawn team.

MR 3 – Match Format

3.1 Matches shall be either One day matches (**MR 12**) or Twenty 20 matches (**MR 13**) as determined by the VTCA.
3.2 Where it is necessary that teams play each other more than once in Home and Away matches, the return match shall be played at the opposite ground to the previous match wherever possible.
3.3 Match dates may only be amended with the opposition's agreement, and approval by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations.
(i) Any team wishing to amend the date of a match must first contact the opposition team to discuss. If the opposition agrees to the change, then follow - Fixture Variations policy.

MR 4 – Match Provisions

4.1 NOMINATION OF TEAM

(a) Team list

A maximum of twelve (12) named players, plus any sub fielder taking part in the match, are to be listed on the team sheet. The team sheet, identifying any underage players (Refer MR 7) must be provided to the opposing captain and appointed Umpire(s) prior to the toss. The 12 named players must also be selected in PlayHQ 24 hours prior to the start of the match:

(i) No more than eleven (11) players may bat.
(ii) No more than eleven (11) players may be on the field at any time, however, unrestricted interchange of the twelve (12) named players when fielding is allowed provided it causes no playing time to be lost and the umpires are informed.
(iii) All (12) twelve players are permitted to bowl.
(iv) The bowling restrictions under Law 24.2

shall….	..to a nominated player returning to the field
not apply	to interchange another nominated player and
apply	for whom a substitute other than one of the nominated twelve (12) players has been used

(v) All (12) twelve players are permitted to bowl. **Note**: If a player not nominated does participate in the match, points gained from the match for the team will be forfeited. The opposition will not gain the points lost.

(b) Sub fielders

(i) Any sub fielder taking part in the match, are to be listed on the team list.
(ii) If a sub fielder joins the match after the commencement of play, the captain of the relevant team must advise the opposition captain and the umpire to add the sub fielder to the team list before that player can take the field.

(c) Alteration to team list

No alteration to the team list is permitted after exchange, except in accordance with MR 9. Any alteration of the team list, not consistent with the Match Rules, will result in the team forfeiting all points awarded for that match.

(d) Player nominated on team list

A player whose name appears on a team list shall be deemed to have played in that match. However, should the match proceed, any player that fails to attend the match shall have their name erased from the team list by the umpire(s). Captains must be notified.

(e) Players present

Both teams must have at least seven players named on the team list present to be permitted to commence and/or continue the match.

4.2 REQUEST FOR SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

Any team not having a full team shall be permitted to ask the opposing Captain to provide up to two (2) substitutes. The opposing captain has the right to refuse the request. If the request is granted the Umpire(s) must be notified.

4.3 OVERS

(a) Composition

An "over" shall consist of six balls bowled over-arm and defined as legal within the Laws of Cricket. Note also MR12.10 and MR13.6 (b).

(b) Completion of Final Over

On any day, in any match, another over shall be started provided the Umpire:

- walking at their normal pace.
- has arrived at their position behind the stumps at the bowlers end.
- before the scheduled time for the end of the day's play has been reached.
- The over shall be completed unless weather or light conditions prevent further play or an innings is compulsorily closed during the over.

4.4 NO-BALLS

(a) Turf and Non-turf pitches

The law governing no-balls shall be followed as set out in the Laws of Cricket except that on both turf and non-turf pitches a no- ball shall be called if the ball pitches off the edge or clear of the playing surface.

(b) Full pitched deliveries – Definition
If the striker is standing upright at the crease, any delivery, judged by the Umpire which passes or would have passed on the full above waist height and likely to inflict physical injury to the striker is deemed to be dangerous and unfair. Umpires are advised that discretion is to be applied, especially to youth/beginner and spin bowlers when considering whether a bowler should be suspended for a second breach (receive a third and final warning).
Note: Balls passing high or wide of the striker are in the 2017 Laws of Cricket still a No Ball but there is no warning given. For clarity, waist height is defined as the point at which the top of the batter's trousers would conventionally be when they are standing upright at the popping crease.
(c) Umpires call/signal
In the case of a full pitched delivery as outlined in MR 4.4 (b), the Umpire at the bowler's end, or if two officially appointed Umpires are in attendance, either Umpire, shall call and signal "no ball". Any cautionary, as described in Law 42.7 and 42.8, or other action is to be implemented by the bowler's end Umpire as required. Club representatives acting as square leg umpire are not permitted to call "no ball".

4.5 REQUISITE PERIOD

(a) Definition
The requisite period commences when an innings is due to start and does not include specified intervals.
(b) Notification to Captains
Before each innings and any resumption after delays or interruptions, the Umpire (s) shall inform both captains:
In a One Day Match
(i) of the requisite period and its expiry time;
(ii) limitations for bowlers; and
(iii) how the match shall be played - overs or time whichever comes first.
In a Twenty20 Match
(i) of the overs to be bowled;
(ii) limitations for bowlers;
(iii) fielding restrictions;
(iv) the requisite period; and
(v) its expiry time.
(c) Penalty
A penalty of 0.1 Premiership Points (Semi-Finals and Finals $50.00) shall be applied to each over of the required or reduced required minimum not commenced before the end of a requisite period
(d) Application of Penalty
The penalty applies to matches played under MR 12. This rule shall not apply to an innings terminated prior to the end of a requisite period.
(e) Exemption from Penalty
A penalty shall not be imposed in respect of any over not commenced within the time period required which:
(i) would have been commenced but for circumstances of an extenuating nature.
(ii) Could not commence because of the earlier termination of an innings or of play through bad weather or light.
(f) Extenuating Circumstances
Circumstances to be considered when determining if exemption from penalty is warranted shall include the following:
(i) the normal flow of play was not needlessly or wilfully impeded.
(ii) bona fide illness or injuries to players.
(iii) necessary replacement of the ball or equipment.
(iv) cleaning and drying of the ball because of weather conditions.
(v) frequency, towards the end of the innings, of the fall of wickets
(vi) frequency of ball retrieval.
(vii) excessively hot weather
(g) Apportionment of Penalty
A record shall be kept throughout play, of unfair or unnecessary time wasted by either side, and of time lost through extenuating circumstances. This will be taken into consideration, at the rate of one (1) over for each three (3) minutes or part thereof, when determining the number of overs to incur penalties and apportionment between sides. The number of overs may be apportioned, in full overs, between the batting and bowling sides.
The Umpire(s) shall be:
(i) the sole judges of which side was responsible for required overs not being bowled as prescribed, and their decision shall be final.
If no Umpire is present:
(i) a decision will be made by the VTCA.
At the conclusion of the match the Umpires shall inform the Captain and Scorer for each side of the penalties applied. The number of overs incurring penalties, and the apportionment thereof shall be noted on the Umpire's Match report.

4.6 LATE STARTING

(a) Allowable delay in start of match
The visiting team will only be allowed fifteen (15) minutes grace from the time stipulated for commencement of play. (**Note**: Play to be extended by the difference between the stipulated start of play and when the match commences). In extreme circumstances, and subject to agreement by both captains, play may commence and/or continue after fifteen (15) minutes, but not later than thirty (30) minutes after the time stipulated for commencement of play. Overs will be reduced, calculated at one over for each full seven (7) minutes for the time lost between 15 and 30 minutes. Should the Captains disagree, the final decision regarding play shall be made by the Umpires.

(b) Loss of match due to late start
Should any team, because of late starting, cause the opponents to lose the match, the VTCA may, on report from Umpires or opposing team, deal with the matter. The penalty may be:
(i) The loss of one run for every minute the team is late, or
(ii) Loss of the match.
(c) Forfeit of the match
Should play on any day of the match not start within the time limit allowed, the late team shall forfeit the match.

MR 5 – Grounds and Pitches

5.1 PLAYING SURFACE

All matches must be played on turf or any synthetic surface. The grounds and pitches of any team shall be liable to inspection by any duly appointed representative of the VTCA, and if not approved, alterations must be made by the Club concerned before any matches will be played on its ground.

5.2 GROUNDS

(a) Change of ground
Matches during the home and away season will be played on the nominated grounds as per club affiliation on PlayHQ. Grounds may only be amended with the permission of the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations.

Any team wishing to amend the venue of a match must:	Follow - Fixture variation policy
The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations will:	• inform all teams and umpire(s) involved at least five (5) days prior to the match commencing of the decision regarding change of venue

(b) Emergency change of ground
If the proposed ground for the match to be played becomes unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances prior to the start of play, then the following shall apply:
(i) If a replacement ground can be located quickly and is approved by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations and that both Home & Away teams are happy to use for the match to proceed then let that apply.
(ii) If an adjusted commencement time is needed with an adjustment of overs at the replacement ground, then let that be applied.
(c) Requirement for Turf Clubs – Back-Up Ground
All clubs having a turf ground as their main playing ground MUST supply to the VTCA a synthetic ground as backup should the turf ground be **unavailable due to water damage**. This ground should have adequate changing facilities.

5.3 GROUND PREPARATION – HOME TEAM

The home team shall be responsible for preparing the ground for each day's play. Home teams must provide (**Note**: Failure to comply will incur a fine of $50.00):
(i) at least one (1) broom on request by the Umpire.
(ii) marking of the crease on the wicket, including wide lines.
(iii) marking of the boundary as per MR 5.6.

5.4 REQUIREMENTS FOR TURF PITCHES

Where matches are played on turf, clubs must abide by the ground's controlling body regarding the preparation of the pitch.

5.5 COVERING OF PITCHES – TURF

(a) Prior to Match day
Covers shall be laid by sunset on the day preceding the match. The use of underlay material is optional. At all other times the Curator shall be permitted to use the cover at their discretion to obtain the best possible conditions for play on match day.
(b) Minimum Requirements - Covers
For all grounds with a turf wicket, the minimum dimensions of covers to be laid over their table shall be the equivalent of a 3- pitch cover (9.14 x 27.43 metres or 30 x 90 feet).
(c) Removing the covers on Match day.
In good conditions the covers shall be removed no later than 8.30 am. Otherwise removal shall be at the discretion of the Curator or Ground Manager having regard to prevailing weather conditions and may be re-laid if necessary.
(d) Control of the covers
The Umpire(s) shall assume control of the covers 30 minutes before the scheduled start of each day's play and shall make all decisions regarding the use of covers until the end of the day's play. At all intervals or interruptions they shall directly supervise the laying and removal of the covers, where necessary, and report any failure of either side to comply with MR 5.5(d).
(e) Labour for laying or removal of covers
Until the scheduled starting time for playing the Home side shall provide any labour required for laying or removal of the covers. After that time, both sides will assist in the laying and removal of the covers.
(f) Incorrect use of covers
If a team considers the provisions of MR 5.5 have been breached, it may protest to the VTCA Director of Cricket

Operations. The VTCA may impose the following penalties:

(i) A fine of up to one hundred dollars ($100); and/or

(ii) Total or partial loss of points (Home & Away matches) or forfeiture of match (Finals matches).

5.6 BOUNDARIES

(a) Marking of Boundaries

All grounds, whether having a fenced boundary or not, shall be marked by plastic markers, rope or white line. Where fenced the boundary markers must be at least three (3) metres from the fence, gutter or kerb or any fixed objects (e.g. goal posts) within the playing area.

(b) Measurement of Boundary

The boundary, where possible, shall be not less than 45 metres and not more than 63 metres from the centre of the pitch in a One Day match. T20 boundaries are to be fixed at 45 metres from the centre of the pitch. If plastic markers are used (minimum 24), all boundaries shall be taken as a straight line between the plastic markers.

MR 6 – Adverse Weather

6.1 HEAT CONDITIONS

(a) Decision to play

In the event of forecasted temperatures for the day of play being 38C or above, a decision to proceed with the match will be made at 9:00 am on the morning of the match. The match will be abandoned if the temperature stated on the radio bulletin on ABC Local Radio 774 AM or the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website www.bom.gov.au (if using the BOM website the temperature will be determined by the Melbourne area observation closest to the match venue or relevant regional centre) or BoM app set for the location for the ground at 9:00 am exceeds 34C.

(b) Responsibility of home team

(i) listen for the temperature on the news bulletin or to log onto the BOM website or BoM app; and

(ii) inform the opposition team and the umpire (s) of the cancellation by 9:30 am.

(c) During the match

During any match, play will be suspended if the temperature, reaches 38°C or above, as per Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au or BoM app.

An Umpire can immediately suspend and/or conclude the match at any stage should they deem the playing conditions to be dangerous, unreasonable or unfit for play to continue. When there is a suspension of play it is the responsibility of the umpire/s to monitor conditions. No discussion with captains, players or officials shall be taken into account nor the current position of the match. It is the sole responsibility of the umpire/s on duty to determine if the game can resume or if play is to be abandoned.

6.2 INCLEMENT WEATHER – INSPECTION OF GROUND

(a) Home team

In the event of adverse weather, the representative of the home team must inspect the ground no later than 9am on Match Day. Clubs must contact the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations regarding the status of their ground (where rain has fallen overnight Saturday or on Sunday morning) by 9:30am on Match Day and supply photographic and/or video evidence to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations relating to ground condition at the time of inspection for determination of ground status.

(b) Neutral ground

In the event of a neutral ground being named, there shall be a joint inspection by a representative from each team.

(c) Notification - Ground considered unfit for play

If on inspection, the ground is considered unfit to play, after consultation between representatives of both teams, they may agree to cancel the day's play.

(d) Informing the Umpire(s)

In the event of adverse weather, a representative of the home team must contact the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations.

		If Within	
		40km of Melbourne CBD	More than 40km from Melbourne CBD
Prior to scheduled start of play	Not earlier than	3 hours	3 hours
	Not later than	2 ½ hours	2 ½ hours

Clubs should arrive at the ground where inclement weather is involved to inspect conditions by **9:00am at latest** for a 12:00 noon start time. Any decision around abandonment of the match and contact to opposition clubs, the Umpire/s and the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations must be made by **9:30am at latest**.

(e) Competition Round Abandonment

In the event where a clear majority of grounds are deemed unfit to play cricket on and clubs cannot access to a ground with a synthetic pitch at short notice, the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations will use their discretion to call off the Round of Play fixtured and Points will be shared between teams. Communication will be via text in the first instance and via email as secondary contact. Any forfeits that have been notified to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations and Opposing Club prior to the Abandonment will still apply.

6.3 INCLEMENT WEATHER – AFTER ARRIVAL AT THE GROUND

The Umpire(s) shall decide when and if play shall commence. (If no official Umpire is in attendance, the Captains

must agree as to when play shall commence or be abandoned).

6.4 IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS

Before commencement of play on any day the Umpire(s) shall see all necessary steps are taken to improve the ground or pitch, with a view to expediting play. Stumps shall not be drawn until the hour fixed by the Match Rules for the conclusion of the day's play, unless the Umpire(s) is satisfied there is no possibility of play.

6.5 ADVERSE WEATHER – RESULT OF MATCH

If adverse conditions cause a cessation of play, the result of the match will be taken on the state of the match when play finally ceased. If there is no play due to adverse conditions, the result shall be a "draw".

6.6 LIGHTNING

Where lightning strikes occur in the vicinity of the ground, Umpire(s) shall instruct the players to leave the field and seek suitable shelter indoors until there has been a gap of at least 30 minutes since the last lightning strike.

6.7 AIR POLLUTION POLICY

6.7.1 When a PM2.5 reading is 150+ for you Air Quality location site, play must be suspended.

6.7.2 It is the responsibility of the scorers to check the air quality level during the match. Checks must occur 25 minutes past each hour if conditions are hazy. Play. Must stop on the half-hour if the PM2.5 reading goes over 150. Players should go inside a pavilion, and if no pavilion is conveniently accessible, play must be abandoned. If the next reading taken does not drop below 150, play must be abandoned. Captains can agree to abandon their match earlier.

6.7.3 If the reading at 9:30am on match-day is above 370, play will be abandoned for the day and communicated to all club administrators and posted on the VTCA website.

All readings are to be taken from the website http://aqicn.org/ to evaluate the current level of air quality.

6.8 REDUCED OVERS AND TARGET SCORE

As per other interruptions (i.e. rain, lightning, heat, etc.), overs will be reduced and Target Score might be required to determine a target score or result if the match is interrupted.

MR 7 – Under Age Players

7.1 AGE OF PLAYER

A player's age shall be determined as of 1st September in the current season. No player under the age of 12 years at the 1st September each season shall be permitted to play in the VTCA.

7.2 HELMETS - REQUIREMENTS

Players must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 helmet:

- when batting at all times;
- fielding in-close (defined as closer than 10 metres to the stumps except slips, gully and wicketkeeper); and
- when wicket keeping up to the stumps.

Please see MR 16 for further details regarding protective equipment.

7.3 OVER RESTRICTIONS

(a) Number of overs

Under Age Bowlers of medium pace or faster (broadly defined as those to whom the wicket keeper would normally stand back) are restricted to a maximum number of consecutive overs in any one spell and a daily quota:

Age	Under 19	Under 17	Under 15	Under 14
Spell	8 overs	6 overs	5 overs	4 overs
Daily Quota	10 overs	10 overs	10 overs	8 overs

(b) Definition and requirements of a spell

(i) At the end of a bowling spell a bowler shall not resume bowling until a full five (5) minutes for each over bowled in that spell (up to a maximum of 30 minutes) has passed.

(ii) A bowler who has bowled less than the maximum numbers of overs permitted in a spell may resume bowling prior to the necessary break, but any subsequent overs shall be considered an extension of the same spell. The maximum spell limit for that underage player shall still apply. Following completion of the extended spell, the normal break between spells shall apply.

MR 8 – Points and Team Averages

8.1 Points (One Day Match)		8.2 Points (Twenty 20 Match)	
First Innings Win	6	Win	4
Match Abandoned (Draw / Washout)	3	Tie	2
Tie – each team	3	Match Abandoned (Draw)	2
Loss on First Innings	0	Loss	0
Forfeit – team which gives the forfeit	0		

8.3 POINTS – GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Points for a forfeit:
The maximum gained by any team in the grade or zone concerned during the round.

(b) Points for a bye:
0 points, except where any team (s) have incurred one more bye than the rest of the teams in the grade. Those team(s) will receive compensatory points as for a forfeit.

(c) Teams withdrawn from the competition
Should a team withdraw from any grade or zone of the WCCC, all points and statistics used for calculating team averages (percentages) which have been scored against that team will be cancelled and removed from PlayHQ.

8.4 APPLICATION AND CALCULATION OF TEAM AVERAGE

(a) Application of team average(percentage)
Should teams be equal in aggregate points on the ladder the team higher on the ladder shall be the one with the better team average (percentage).

(b) Calculation of team average (percentage)
(i) The batting average for a team shall be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored by the total number of wickets lost.
(ii) The average against such teams shall be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored against it by the total number of wickets taken.
(iii) The former shall be divided by the latter.

(c) Determination of wickets lost
In any innings which has been declared, only the wickets fallen shall be considered as lost. Any innings compulsorily closed under MR 12 & 13 shall be deemed to have lost the number of wickets, which have actually fallen.

8.5 DETERMINATION OF SEMI FINALISTS AND FINALISTS

(a) Determination of One day ladder
In all grades at the conclusion of the season's Home and Away matches teams will be ranked on the ladder from the points gained in all One Day matches. Where teams are equal on points their relative positions shall be determined by team averages.

(b) Club Eligibility for participating in Semi Finals
(i) All fines and penalties owing and any outstanding accounts forwarded by the VTCA Treasurer will be payable no later than 5 days prior to the semi-finals. Failure to pay these accounts will result in a Club being ineligible to play in any Semi Final matches.
(ii) Unfinancial clubs shall forfeit all Semi Final matches. The opposing team, providing it is financial, shall progress into the Final.

(c) Teams to contest Semi Finals and Finals

In a grade or zoned grade if there are:	The Semi Finals (unless MR8.5b applies) will be:
Six (6) teams or more	• the first team shall play the fourth team • the second team shall play the third team and the Final will be contested by: the winner of each semi-final

MR 9 – MARQUEE Player

9.1 DEFINITION

The term "Marquee Player" shall be defined as either a Premier/State/International/Overseas player.

9.2 APPLICATION

(a) Marquee Player
A Premier player is a player that played one (1) or more games in Premier cricket in the previous or current season. State, International and Overseas players that have played in those competitions in the last five (5) seasons are considered Marquee players.

(b) Marquee player nominations
The Marquee player must be nominated prior to playing their first game of the season. The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations must receive notification of any Marquee players prior to their first game.

(c) **Marquee player team limits**

Marquee players are only able to play in the top graded side of the home club in the VTCA.

- Senior Women's and Division 1, no limit to the number of Marquee players.
- Division 3, a limit of 4 Marquee players.
  Note, if a side has multiple teams, a Marquee player may play down in the next team/grade if approved via dispensation request approved by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations. If two teams exist in the same VTCA grade they will act as separate teams and Marquee player limits will apply per team. (Div. 3 - 4 in team A and 4 in Team B)

  A list of all Marquee players will be made available for all clubs.

9.3 LOWER GRADES

When a replacement for a representative player is from a team in a lower Grade which is playing on the same day as the Grade in which they are to be a replacement, then this player is to be treated as a representative player as in MR 9.1.

9.4 CLUBS WITH TEAMS COMPETING IN WCCC AND CV PREMIER CRICKET

For clubs with teams competing in the CV Premier Competition, players from the club's VTCA team may be used as representative replacement players.

MR 10 – Match Protests and Disputes

10.1 POWERS

The VTCA, shall have the power to investigate and adjudicate all protests and disputes arising out of matches, including to decide all questions arising out of the matches not provided for in these Rules. A member of the VTCA being a representative of any club involved in the protest, decision or dispute, shall not take part in the investigation.

10.2 LODGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

All protests and disputes to the VTCA must be lodged:

(i) In writing with the Director of Cricket Operations and the club being protested against - this must provide sufficient details of the protest/dispute;

(ii) within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

10.3 MATCH IN DISPUTE - PLAYHQ

Where PlayHQ entries for a match are in dispute, teams should contact their opposition to attempt to resolve the problem before utilising the "Match in Dispute" function in PlayHQ. Refer also MR 15.2.

10.4 PROTEST UPHELD

If a protest is upheld, the VTCA will apportion a monetary penalty or distribution of the points for or awarding of the match as outlined in the rules

MR 11 – One Day Matches

11.1 DEFAULT HOURS OF PLAY AND INTERVALS

Match Commences	Match ceases (uninterrupted match)	Interval between innings	Drinks Interval
12:00pm	5:10pm	30 minutes on completion of the first innings of the match	One per innings normally taken at the end of 20 overs. In case of extreme heat, an extra drinks break may be taken with the agreement of the Umpire(s) and both captains

Note: Times of play can be negotiated between competing teams. The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations must be notified of any time changes at least 10 days prior to the match. If teams are unable to agree, the default position will stand.

If play did not commence within fifteen (15) minutes of the time appointed, without a satisfactory explanation as determined by the VTCA, each Club offending shall be fined the sum of fifty dollars ($50.00).

11.2 MINIMUM PLAY REQUIREMENTS & ABANDONMENT OF PLAY

If play has not commenced within 2.5 hours of scheduled commencement of play, thus allowing a minimum of twenty (20) overs per side with a ten (10) minute change of innings, the match shall be abandoned, the result

being a washout.

11.3 OVERS REQUIRED TO BE BOWLED

Division 1			Division 1
Maximum Overs (uninterrupted match)	40	Requisite Period	140 minutes

The requisite period shall be overs or time, whichever comes first. No extra time will be permitted to make up for any time lost, unless, in the opinion of the Umpire(s), there has been extenuating circumstances to cause loss of time. Refer MR 4.5.

Bowling shall be actioned in blocks of 5 overs in games before changing ends until the completion of the innings and/or match.

11.4 DURATION OF THE MATCH

The match finishes as soon as the team batting second is either all out for less or equal to the score of the team batting first or passes the score of the team batting first.

11.5 INNINGS OF TEAM BATTING FIRST

If….	Then…
there is no earlier termination nor loss of playing time	the innings is compulsorily closed on completion of maximum 40 overs or end of requisite period.
For a 40 over match, play is interrupted but commences within 2.5 hours of the scheduled start time	compulsory closure shall occur on completion of the adjusted minimum number of overs as calculated at one over for each full seven (7) minutes lost or the amended requisite period (Refer Table 2). The amount of time allocated for each innings shall be reduced by half the time lost, and this will be the new amended requisite period.

11.6 INNINGS OF TEAM BATTING SECOND

(a) **For the side batting second** provided there is no earlier termination of its innings the following conditions apply:

If the innings of the team batting first:	… then the team batting second shall receive	If the innings of the team batting first:	… then the team batting second shall receive
has been compulsorily closed	the same number of overs	has not been terminated compulsorily	a maximum entitlement of 40 overs only
If the innings is delayed or interrupted for an aggregate of playing time	**…then the target overs which applied when the innings was due to start**	**If the innings is delayed or interrupted for an aggregate of playing time**	**…then the target overs which applied when the innings was due to start**
not exceeding 30 minutes	will not be reduced. Play shall continue until the target overs are completed	exceeds 30 minutes	within the requisite period are to be reduced at a rate of one for every three and one half (3 ½) minutes of the aggregate time lost. If the reduced overs have been bowled by 5:40 pm the match shall end.

(b) Recoupment of playing time lost

(i) If playing time is lost the cessation time i.e. 5:10 pm shall be advanced by the time lost to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes before any adjustments with regards to overs or requisite period are enacted.

(ii) Where an interruption occurs during an advanced time of less than thirty (30) minutes, as much as is possible of the advanced time loss shall be recouped by further advancement up to 5:40 pm.

(c) Suspension of Play

If play is not in progress at the adjusted cessation time as calculated by MR 12.6b, then play shall end.

11.7 DETERMINATION OF RESULT

(a) Completed match

Except as provided for in MR 12.2 or 12.6b the winner shall be the side scoring the greater number of runs, irrespective of wickets lost. If both sides score an equal number of runs, the result shall be a tie, irrespective of wickets lost.

(b) Adverse conditions

When adverse conditions….	,,,then the result shall be	When adverse conditions….	,,,then the result shall be
prevent the side batting second from receiving its allocated overs	a draw.	reduce the overs for the side batting second	A win if the Target Score is reached or passed A loss if the Target Score is not reached A draw if the second batting team has not reached the target nor been dismissed if recalculated overs are fewer than 20 for Shield 1 Grade

(c) Target Score

(i) In a Match where an interruption to the innings of the team batting second occurs, a Target Score, relevant to the allowable overs shall be determined. To win the match, the team batting second must achieve the Target score.

(ii) The Target Score is calculated from the run rate per over of the team batting first:

CALCULATIONS			
Run rate team batting first =	Number of runs divided by Overs faced	Target Score =	number of overs available to the team batting second multiplied by run rate of team batting first +1 (rounded up to the nearest whole number)

Notes:

(a) If the reduced overs have been bowled by 5:40pm the match shall end.

(b) The total maximum of 30 minutes of recoupment must be utilised before the Target Score is invoked.

(iii) Should the team batting first be dismissed in less than 40 overs the remainder shall be deemed to have been received, i.e. the Target Score shall be calculated using 40 overs in Shield 1 grade.

(iv) Where the recalculated overs for the team batting second are fewer than 20 completed overs in Shield 1 grade the target overs shall still be based on a minimum of 20 overs in Shield 1 grade.

(v) The result shall be a draw if the batting team does not achieve the Target Score nor the bowling team dismiss the batting team if the recalculated overs is less than 20 in Shield 1 grade.

(vi) In the second innings play shall continue for the maximum number of re-calculated overs remaining (if less than 20 in Shield 1 grade) if either side decides there is a chance of a result.

11.8 NUMBER OF OVERS PER BOWLER

(a) Minimum number of bowlers to be used

A minimum of five bowlers are to be used in each innings. If a match is interrupted in the first innings before five bowlers have been used and the innings has ended the same number of bowlers in the second innings may match the overs as in the first innings.

(b) Uninterrupted match

In a 40-over match:

(i) Maximum of eight (8) overs per bowler, or 1/5 of the allocated overs.

(c) Interrupted match – team batting first

In a match where there is a delay to the start, or an interruption to play in the first innings causes the reduction of the number of the allotted overs for both teams to less than the maximum number (40 for Senior Womens) overs will be reduced:

(i) Between one and four overs lost, proportionally from bowlers allowed (8 overs).

(ii) Between five and fifteen overs, lost, proportionally from the bowlers allowed (8 overs)

Example (Senior)

The innings of Team A batting first is interrupted for 49 minutes, thus meaning each innings is reduced to 33 overs

(i) Three (3) bowlers may now bowl no more than (7) overs.

(ii) Two bowlers may bowl no more than six (6) overs.

(d) Interrupted match – team batting second

Where the number of overs for the team batting second is revised after the conclusion of the first innings, the number of overs per bowler in the second innings will be calculated as per Table 2 – 40 Over One Day matches, or Table 4 – 36 Over One Day matches - Maximum number of overs per bowler.

(e) Bowler unable to complete an over

In the event of a bowler for any reason being unable to complete an over, another bowler will bowl the remaining balls from the same end. Such part of an over will count as a full over as far as each bowler's limit is concerned. The bowler completing this over will not be allowed to bowl the next over, nor will they have bowled the previous over.

11.9 NO BALLS AND WIDES

(a) Definition and allowance – fast short pitched delivery

A bowler shall be allowed to bowl one fast short pitched delivery per over. A fast short pitched delivery is defined as a ball that would have passed above the shoulder height of the batter standing upright at the crease, but not clearly above the batter's head.

(b) No-ball

In the event of the bowler bowling more than one fast short pitched delivery in an over, the Umpire shall call and signal a no ball regardless of whether the batter hits the ball. The penalty shall be one run for the "No Ball" plus any runs scored from the delivery. Any cautionary or other action is to be implemented by the bowler's end Umpire. Note: This is not a substitute for Law 42.6 which umpires may apply at the time.

(c) Wide

(i) Any delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed over the head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease shall be called a wide. Such a delivery shall be counted in the fast short pitched limit of one allowed as in MR12.9 [a].

(ii) All balls that pass down the leg side and behind the striker shall be interpreted as negative bowling and called "wide". The delivery is not a wide if it passes on or inside the "Wide Guideline (leg side)" crease marking (line marked 30.5cm either side of middle stump to the outside edge of the wide/protected area marking and 61cm long from the back edge of the bowling crease) when the striker moved towards the off stump but remained in their normal batting stance, the ball would have struck them, thereby negating any "wide" call.

(d) Restriction of fielders on leg side

At the instant of the bowler's delivery there shall not be more than five (5) fielders on the leg side. In the event of infringement of this law the officially appointed Umpire shall call and signal No Ball.

11.10 ALLOWABLE DELIVERIES PER OVER

Overs shall be a maximum of eight (8) balls, regardless of the number of illegal deliveries, however the final over of each innings shall be completed by six (6) legal deliveries.

11.11 DECLARATION

At any time during a match either side may declare its innings closed.

11.12 COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF BATTER

MR 12.12 shall not apply.

11.13 SEMI FINALS

(a) General Conditions

The match shall be played in accordance with MR 12.

(b) Ground

(i) The match shall be played at a ground provided by the team which finished in the higher position on the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away season. Should the team which finished higher on the ladder be unable to provide a ground, its opponent will be given an opportunity to provide a ground. Such grounds will be subject to approval by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations. If neither team is able to provide a ground, the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations will seek a suitable neutral ground.

(ii) All clubs having a turf ground as their main playing ground MUST supply to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations a synthetic ground as backup should the turf ground be unavailable due to water damage. This ground should have adequate changing facilities.

(c) Play abandoned on scheduled day

If no play takes place on the scheduled day of the Semi Final, the team that was placed higher on the ladder shall progress to the Grand Final.

(d) Tied Match or Drawn Result

Should a result of a match be a tie or draw, then the side which finished in a higher position on the ladder at the conclusion of the Home and Away matches shall proceed to the Grand final match.

(e) Substitute fielder

The substitute does not need to qualify as per AR 7.8.

(f) Finals Structure

The structure of the Division 1 & Division 2 Finals will be as follows:

Week 1: Top 4 Teams - 1 v 4 (semifinal 1), 2 v 3 (Semifinal 2).

Week 2: Winner Semi Final 1 vs Winner Semi Final 2

11.14 FINALS

(a) General Conditions

The Final will be played by the teams as determined in MR 8.5.

(i) All final matches will be played in accordance with MR 12.

(ii) One reserve day shall be scheduled.

If play does not commence (i.e. if no ball is bowled) on the scheduled day, play will be rescheduled to the reserve day.

(b) Grounds

The match shall be played at a ground provided by the team which finished in the higher position on the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away season. Should the team which finished higher on the ladder be unable to provide a ground, its opponent will be given an opportunity to provide a ground. Such grounds will be subject to approval by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations. If neither team is able to provide a ground, the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations, will seek a suitable neutral ground.

(c) Change of ground

The ground may be changed with the agreement of the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations and consent of both captains.

(d) Result

(i) Should the result of the Final be a draw or abandoned without play the higher ranked team at the conclusion of the home and away series shall be declared the winner.

(ii) Should the result of the Final be a tie, the premiership shall be shared.

(e) Equipment in Finals

Teams in all Finals to organise and supply their own equipment – e.g. stumps, bails, boundary markers/ fielding restriction/crease marking paint. Both competing teams must provide First Aid Kits.

(f) Substitute fielder

In Finals any team requiring a substitute fielder may only use a registered member of that club. The substitute does not need to qualify as per AR 7.8.

MR 12 – Twenty20 Matches - Division 1 & Division 2

12 HOURS OF PLAY

Standard scheduled start and cessation times are as follows:

Format	Morning	Mid-Afternoon (1)	Mid-Afternoon (2)
First Session	11:00am – 12:15pm	12:00pm – 1:15pm	3:10pm – 4:25pm
Interval	12:15pm – 12:35pm	1:15pm – 1:25pm	4:25pm – 4:35pm
Second Session	12:35pm – 1:50pm	1:25pm – 2:40pm	4:35pm – 5:50pm

Note: The default hours of play for the matches will be mid-afternoon (1) matches. Times of play can be negotiated between competing teams. The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations must be notified of any time changes at least 10 days prior to the match. If teams are unable to agree, the default position will stand.

12.1 INTERVALS

Intervals between innings will be of twenty (20) minutes duration in a single match and 10 minutes in a double header. No drinks intervals are permitted.

12.2 EXTRA TIME

No extra time will be permitted to make up for any time lost unless in the opinion of the Umpire(s) there has been extenuating circumstances to cause loss of time, and there is sufficient time taking into consideration the conditions of the ground, weather and light so both teams may safely complete the quota of overs.

12.3 THE MATCH

(a) Length of Innings – uninterrupted match

Each team shall bat for twenty (20) overs unless dismissed earlier.

If the team…	…then the team	If the team…	…then the team
batting first is dismissed in less than twenty (20) overs	batting second shall be entitled to bat for twenty (20) overs	fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs in the scheduled time for cessation of the first innings	batting second shall be entitled to bat for twenty (20) overs

(b) Uninterrupted match - Penalty for not bowling overs

A penalty of 0.1 Premiership Points (Semi-Finals and Finals $50.00) shall be applied to each over of the required or reduced required minimum not commenced before the end of a requisite period.

(c) Delayed or interrupted match

Should the innings of either team be delayed or interrupted, and a recalculation of overs or playing time occur, the umpire/s shall advise both captains of the new playing conditions.

(d) Team batting first

Interruption to the innings of the team batting first:

In the event of a delayed start or interruption to play during the innings of the side batting first, the Umpire shall reduce the number of overs to be bowled by each side, that number remaining the same for each team. The overs to be bowled in each innings shall be reduced by one over for each seven (7) complete minutes of the time lost. The amount of time allocated for each innings shall be reduced by half the time lost.

Constitutes a match:

If delays, or interruption to play, in the innings of the team batting first exceeds 90 minutes, then the interval shall be reduced to 10 minutes, leaving both teams a minimum of 35 minutes each [if available] to bowl 10 overs.

(e) Interruptions to the innings of the side batting second

In the event of an interruption to play which prevents the team batting second from receiving the same number of overs as the team batting first, the Umpire(s) shall reduce the number of overs to be faced in the second innings by one over for every three and one half (3.5) complete minutes of time lost.

(f) Minimum Play Requirements & Abandonment of Play

Prior to the completion of the innings of the team batting first should a re-calculation in an interrupted match result in less than 10 overs being available to each team the match shall be abandoned.

12.4 COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF BATTER (ALL GRADES BELOW SHIELD 1)

MR 13.5 shall not apply.

12.5 BOWLING RESTRICTIONS AND PROCEDURES

(a) Over allocation per bowler (uninterrupted match)

No bowler may bowl more than four (4) overs.

(b) Allowable Deliveries per over

(i) Overs shall be a maximum of eight (8) balls, regardless of the number of illegal deliveries, however the final over of each innings shall be completed by six (6) legal deliveries.

(ii) Bowling shall be actioned in blocks of 5 overs in Division 1 & Division 2 in T20 games before changing ends until the completion of the innings and/or match.

(c) Over allocation per bowler (interrupted match)

In a match where there is a delay to the start, or an interruption to play in the first innings causes the reduction of the number of the allotted overs for both teams to less than twenty (20):

(i) no bowler may bowl more than one fifth of the allotted overs.

(ii) When the overs are not divisible by five, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance. e.g. In a twelve (12) over match, two bowlers may bowl three (3) overs, and no other bowler may bowl more than two (2) overs.

When the number of overs is revised during the first innings such that both teams have the opportunity to face the same number of overs, and one or more bowlers have already exceeded the revised limit, the same number of bowlers in the second innings may match these overs. e.g. the revised limit is two (2) overs, but one bowler has bowled four (4) and another three (3). In the second innings one bowler may bowl four (4) overs and another may three (3), no other may bowl more than two (2).

12.6 FIELDING RESTRICTIONS

(a) Boundary and Fielding restriction circle - dimension

The boundary for a T20 match is to be fixed at 45 metres from the centre of the pitch. Two semi circles shall be drawn on the field of play with a radius of 23 metres from the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The ends of the semi circle shall be joined to the other by a straight line drawn on the same side of the pitch.

(b) Marking of boundary and fielding restriction circle

The boundary shall be marked as per MR 5.6. The fielding restriction circle shall be clearly marked by a white line, white discs or white dots. The discs/dots shall be a minimum of 25 in number and no less than about seven (7) metres
apart.

(c) Fielders on the leg side

At the instant of delivery there shall be no more than five (5) fielders on the leg side. In the event of infringement of this law the officially appointed Umpire shall call and signal No Ball.

(d) Restrictions on the placement of fielders

The number of fielders allowed outside the fielding restriction circle in each innings is as follows (irrespective of any reduction in overs):

Overs	Fielders outside the circle	Overs	Fielders outside the circle
1-5	Two (2)	11-15	Four (4)
6-10	Three (3)	16-20	Five (5)

(e) Fielding Restriction infringement

Either Umpire shall call and signal “no-ball” for infringement of MR 13.7(d).

12.7 TIMED OUT

Law 40 will apply. The incoming batter must be in position to take guard or for their partner to be ready to receive

the next ball within one and one half (1 ½) minutes of the fall of the previous wicket. The incoming batter is expected to be near the boundary and to jog to the wicket.

12.8 NO-BALLS AND WIDES

(a) Definition and allowance – fast short pitched delivery

A bowler shall be allowed to bowl one fast short pitched delivery per over. A fast short pitched delivery is defined as a ball that would have passed above the shoulder height of the batter standing upright at the crease, but not clearly above the batter's head.

(b) No-ball

In the event of the bowler bowling more than one fast short pitched delivery in an over, the Umpire shall call and signal a no ball regardless of whether the batter hits the ball. The penalty shall be one run for the "No Ball" plus any runs scored from the delivery. Any cautionary or other action is to be implemented by the bowler's end Umpire. Note: This is not a substitute for Law 42.6 which umpires may apply at the time.

(c) Wide

(i) Any delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed over the head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease shall be called a wide. Such a delivery shall be counted in the fast short pitched limit of one allowed as in MR 12.9 (a).

(ii) If a bowler delivers a ball not being a "no ball", the umpire shall adjudge it a wide if any ball passes wide at the popping crease. As a guide:

ALL GRADES:

(i) All balls that pass down the leg side and behind the striker shall be interpreted as negative bowling and called "wide". The delivery is not a wide if it passes on or inside the "Wide Guideline (leg side)" crease marking (line marked 30.5cm either side of middle stump to the outside edge of the wide/protected area marking and 61cm long from the back edge of the bowling crease) when the striker moved towards the off stump but remained in their normal batting stance, the ball would have struck them, thereby negating any "wide" call.

Note: It is understood in some instances these margins may be outside the playing surface.

If the umpire adjudges a delivery to be a wide they shall call and signal Wide ball as soon as the ball passes the striker's wicket.

(d) Restriction of fielders on leg side

At the instant of the bowler's delivery there shall not be more than five (5) fielders on the leg side. In the event of infringement of this law the officially appointed Umpire shall call and signal No Ball.

12.9 "FREE HIT"

(a) No ball foot fault– free hit

The delivery following a no-ball called for a foot fault (Laws of Cricket 21.5) shall be a "free hit" for whichever batter is facing. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the subsequent delivery will become a "free hit" for whichever batter is facing it. The Umpire will advise the on strike batter of the "free hit".

(b) Foot fault no-ball

Should a foot fault no ball occur on the 8th delivery of an over the requirement for this no ball shall be invoked immediately and the bowler shall bowl a further 9th ball in that over. Should another illegal delivery (wide or no ball) occur the over shall continue until the free hit has been utilized.

(c) Dismissed from a "free hit"

For any free hit the striker may only be dismissed under the circumstances that apply to a no ball, even if the delivery for the "free hit" is called a wide ball.

(d) Field changes

Field changes will only be permitted for a "free hit" delivery where a different batter is on strike for the "free hit" delivery.

12.10 RESULT

(a) Teams receiving equal overs

When there is no interruption after play has commenced and when both sides have had the opportunity to bat for the same agreed number of overs, the team scoring the higher number of runs (including penalty runs as per MR 13.4[b]) shall be the winner. The result will be a tie, irrespective of wickets lost, if the same number of runs have been scored.

(b) Team batting second receiving less overs than team batting first

Where there is a reduction of overs so the team batting first faces a minimum of ten (10) overs and the number of overs in the second innings is reduced to less than ten (10) and both captains agree a win is not possible, the match shall be declared a "draw".

(c) Target Score

(i) In a Match where an interruption to the innings of the team batting second occurs, a Target Score, relevant to the allowable overs shall be determined. To win the match, the team batting second must achieve the Target score.

(ii) The Target Score is calculated from the run rate per over of the team batting first:

CALCULATIONS

Run rate team batting first =	Number of runs divided by Overs faced	Target Score =	Number of overs available to the team batting second multiplied by run rate of team batting first+ 1 (rounded up to the nearest whole number)

(i) Should the team batting first be dismissed in less than 20 overs the remainder shall be deemed to have been received,
i.e. the Target Score shall be calculated using 20 overs.

(ii) Where the recalculated overs for the team batting second are fewer than 10 completed overs the Target Score shall be calculated on a minimum of 10 overs.

(iii) The result shall be:

(a) A win if the Target Score is reached or passed;

(b) A loss if the Target Score is not reached;

(c) a "draw" if the batting team does not achieve the Target Score nor the bowling team dismiss the batting team if the recalculated overs is less than 10

(d) End of Play

Once a result is achieved play will end.

MR 13 - Matches - Division 3

M13.1 GENERAL

All games shall commence at 12 noon. If in agreeance with both clubs the match may start at 10:00am, notification to the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations must be in writing by no later than 5pm on the Thursday prior to the match.

M13.2 CESSATION OF GAME:

(a) 20/20 matches shall cease once 40 overs have been bowled, except as provided for on these rules.
(b) 30/30 matches shall cease once 60 overs have been bowled, except as provided for on these rules.

M13.3 Each team must have a minimum of 7 players before the match can commence.

M13.4 A club is permitted to select twelve (12) players in a match of which all 12 can bowl/field with 11 permitted to bat.

M13.5 ORDINARY CONDITIONS OF PLAY (OCoP)

Where both sides are unable to receive:
6.7.4 20/20 matches - a minimum 10 overs each
6.7.5 30/30 matches - a minimum of 15 overs each
The match reverts to OCRoM.

M13.6 ORDINARY CONDITIONS FOR RESULT OF MATCH (OCRoM)

Occurs when the team batting second is unable to receive at least the same number of overs as the team batting first.

M13.7 FOLLOW ON

There is no follow on. Each team is limited to one innings.

M13.8 RESULT OF MATCH

Where both teams have received an equal number of overs the result shall be determined by the team with the higher score, irrespective of the number of wickets lost.

M13.9 FINISHING TIMES

13.9.1 In each innings the scorers and umpires shall acknowledge by clear signal when there are five (5) overs to go, and at the beginning of the final over. The umpires shall in turn notify the captain of the fielding team and the batter.

13.9.2 The team responsible for a late start, either at the commencement of the game, after the change of innings or after an interruption to play shall be fined $50 up to 15 minutes and $100 up to and over 30 minutes.

13.9.3 20/20 finish times - Each team is allotted 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete their bowling innings. Match finish time: 3pm

13.9.4 30/30 - each team is allotted 1 hour and 50 minutes to complete their bowling innings. Match finish time: 4pm

M13.10 - TEA BREAK

A 20 minute break shall be taken between innings.

M13.11 INTERRUPTIONS

M13.11.1 - Less than 30 minutes in 1st innings

(a) If 30 minutes or less of play is lost the number of overs to be bowled for the innings shall not be reduced.

More than 30 minutes in 1st innings

(a) The requisite number of overs shall be calculated by deducting one over for every three and a half minutes of playing time lost.

(b) The innings of the team batting first shall be compulsory closed once it has received the revised allocated number of overs for it innings.

(c) For 20/20 matches - if the team batting first is unable to face a minimum of 10 overs then the game would be declared a draw.
(d) For 30/30 matches - if the team batting first is unable to face a minimum of 15 overs then the game would be declared a draw.

M13.12. FREE HIT

(a) **No ball foot fault– free hit**

The delivery following a no-ball called for a foot fault (Laws of Cricket 21.5) shall be a "free hit" for whichever batter is facing. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the subsequent delivery will become a "free hit" for whichever batter is facing it. The Umpire will advise the on strike batter of the "free hit".

(b) **Foot fault no-ball**

Should a foot fault no ball occur on the 8th delivery of an over the requirement for this no ball shall be invoked immediately and the bowler shall bowl a further 9th ball in that over. Should another illegal delivery (wide or no ball) occur the over shall continue until the free hit has been utilized.

(c) **Dismissed from a "free hit"**

For any free hit the striker may only be dismissed under the circumstances that apply to a no ball, even if the delivery for the "free hit" is called a wide ball.

(d) **Field changes**

Field changes will only be permitted for a "free hit" delivery where a different batter is on strike for the "free hit" delivery.

M13.13 BATTERS

M13.13.1 Any batter who is not at the crease ready to face within 90 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket shall be deemed "Time Out."

M13.13.2 In all Division 3 & Division 4 matches all batter must wear a helmet with a faceguard. The match umpire is responsible for ensuring that a helmet is worn. The match umpire will not allow the match to continue during any period which a batter fails to wear a helmet.

M13.14 BOWLERS

M13.14.1 No bowler is permitted to bowl more than one fifth of the scheduled number of overs in an innings, part overs rounded up to the nearest whole number.

M13.14.2 Overs are to be bowled in from one end in blocks equal to one quarter of the overs available for the innings.

M13.14.3 If the bowler bowls a ball, not being a no Ball, the umpire shall adjudge it a wide if, the ball passes wide of where the striker is standing, and which also would have passed wide of the striker standing in a normal guard position.

M13.14.4 The ball will be considered as passing wide of the striker unless it is sufficiently within the reach for them to be able to hit with the bat by means of a normal cricket stroke.

M13.14.5 In all Division 3 & Division 4 matches, allowable deliveries per over shall be a maximum of eight (8) balls, regardless of the number of illegal deliveries, however, the final over of each innings shall be completed by six (6) legal deliveries.

M13.15 FIELDERS

M13.15.1 All players in Division 3 & Division 4 matches must wear a cricket helmet with a faceguard, when batting, fielding in-close (defined as closer than 10 metres to the stumps except slips or gully) or wicketkeeping.

M13.16 CLOTHING

M13.16.1 Clubs are required to wear coloured clothing from the commencement of season 2026/27, that has been approved by the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations.

M13.16.2 Regardless of the approval for clothing, no batter shall be allowed to wear pads the same color as the ball.

MR 14 – Scorers and Scorebooks

14.1 SCOREBOOKS

Clubs will use the VTCA supplied VTCA Scorebook in all matches. In conjunction with the Umpire(s), Team Captains (or delegates) are responsible for checking their own and the opposition scorebook for agreeance and the match result and must sign and print their name in the space provided. Refer also AR8.6.

14.2 PROVISION OF SCORER

Each team must provide a competent scorer. Any team not having a scorer during their fielding innings are

permitted to ask for a scorer from the opposition as needed.

MR 15 – Match Results

SUBMISSION OF MATCH RESULTS – PLAYHQ

Team Requirement	Deadline	Penalty (for Missing Deadline)	Team Requirement	Deadline	Penalty (for Missing Deadline)
Both Teams • Select Teams	Must be on PlayHQ 24hr prior to commencement of match	Fifty dollars ($50.00)	Home Team • Own Scorecards • Captain's Reports • Report on Umpire	6:00pm on Monday	Fifty dollars ($50.00)
Home Team • Match Result	12 midnight on match day	Fifty dollars ($50.00)	Away Team • Own Scorecards • Confirm or dispute result • Captain's Report • Report on Umpire	6:00pm on Monday	Fifty dollars ($50.00)

15.1 MATCH RESULT/DETAILS IN DISPUTE

(a) Where a match result or the batting figures, bowling figures or any catches, stumpings or run-outs are in dispute the VTCA Director of Cricket Operations will notify the affected Clubs. The VTCA Director of Cricket Operations will resolve the dispute in consultation with the VTCA Board of Management and will notify the clubs of the resolution of the dispute.

15.2 NAMING TEAMS FOR FORFEITS OR MULTIPLE BYES

If a team receives a forfeit or its second or third bye it is responsible for listing the players who would have played in this match on the PlayHQ, but a players list for the opposition is not required. In the case of a washout - **Match Abandoned**, this is only if a match has commenced both teams are responsible for a players list of their own team on PlayHQ. The purpose of listing players is for averages qualifications (see AR 8.) Note: Do not list players who were named in other teams for the Club in the same weekend except as stipulated in AR7.7.

MR 16 – Protective Equipment

(applicable for Senior Women's and Division 1 only)

Batting

(i) A batter must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at all times when batting.
(ii) Both batting pads and both gloves must be worn during all matches and practices.
(iii) Thigh guards must be worn underneath the trousers.

Wicketkeeping

(i) A wicketkeeper must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at all times when keeping up to the stumps.

Fielding

(i) A fielder must wear a British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet at all times when fielding in a position closer than ten (10) metres from the batter's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, with the exception of any fielding position behind square of the wicket on the off side.

Responsibility

(i) The match umpires shall be responsible for ensuring that a helmet is worn when required but shall not be responsible for ensuring that the helmet worn by any player is compliant with British Standard 7928:2013.
(ii) In a match with association appointed umpires, the umpires shall not allow the match to continue during any period in which any batter, wicket keeper standing up to the stumps or fielder within the prescribed area fails to wear a helmet. An umpire can mandate the use of a helmet at any time they deem a player's position at unreasonable risk of injury.
(iii) In a match without association appointed umpires, the captains of both batting and bowling teams are responsible for compliance of these clauses. The captains of both batting and bowling teams shall not permit the match to continue during any period in which any batter, wicketkeeper standing up to the stumps or fielder within the prescribed area fails to wear a helmet.
(iv) Following a significant impact helmets should be replaced immediately in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

TABLE 1 – Maximum overs per bowler - 40 over match

Senior Womens & Division 1 only

Overs Lost Per Innings	Maximum Overs				
	Bowler 1	Bowler 2	Bowler 3	Bowler 4	Bowler 5
1	10	9	8	8	4
2	9	9	8	8	4
3	9	8	8	8	4
4	8	8	8	8	4
5	8	8	8	7	4
6	8	8	7	7	4
7	8	7	7	7	4
8	7	7	7	7	4
9	7	7	7	6	4
10	7	7	6	6	4
11	7	6	6	6	4
12	6	6	6	6	4
13	6	6	6	5	4
14	6	6	5	5	4
15	6	5	5	5	4
16	5	5	5	5	4
17	5	5	5	4	4
18	5	5	4	4	4
19	5	4	4	4	4
20	4	4	4	4	4

TABLE 2 – Adjusted minimum overs - 40 over match

Senior Womens & Division 1

PML	OVS	EXP	LRP
1-3	40	2.21	139
4-5	40	2.22	138
6	40	2.23	137
7	39	2.23	137
8-9	39	2.24	136
10-11	39	2.25	135
12-13	39	2.26	134
14-15	38	2.28	133
16-17	38	2.28	132
18-19	38	2.29	131
20	38	2.30	130
21	37	2.30	130
22-23	37	2.31	129
24-25	37	2.32	128
26-27	37	2.33	127
28-29	36	2.34	126
30-31	36	2.35	125
32-33	36	2.36	124
34	36	2.37	123
35	35	2.37	123
36-37	35	2.38	122
38-39	35	2.39	121
40-41	35	2.40	120
42-43	34	2.41	119
44-45	34	2.42	118
46-47	34	2.43	117
48	34	2.44	116
49	33	2.44	116
50-51	33	2.45	115
52-53	33	2.46	114
54-55	33	2.47	113
56-57	32	2.48	112
58-59	32	2.49	111
60-61	32	2.50	110
62	32	2.51	109
63	31	2.51	109
64-65	31	2.52	108
66-67	31	2.53	107
68-69	31	2.54	106
70-71	30	2.55	105
72-73	30	2.56	104
74-75	30	2.57	103

PML	OVS	EXP	LRP
76	30	2.58	102
77	29	2.58	102
78-79	29	2.59	101
80-81	29	3.00	100
82-83	29	3.01	99
84-85	28	3.02	98
86-87	28	3.03	97
88-89	28	3.04	96
90	28	3.05	95
91	27	3.05	95
92-93	27	3.06	94
94-95	27	3.07	93
96-97	27	3.08	92
98-99	26	3.09	91
100-101	26	3.10	90
102-103	26	3.11	89
104	26	3.12	88
105	25	3.13	87
106-107	25	3.14	86
108-109	25	3.15	85
110-111	25	3.16	84
112-113	24	3.17	83
114-115	24	3.18	82
116-117	24	3.19	81
118	24	3.19	81
119	23	3.20	80
120-121	23	3.21	79
122-123	23	3.22	78
124-125	23	3.23	77
126-127	22	3.24	76
128-129	22	3.25	75
130-131	22	3.26	74
132	22	3.26	74
133	21	3.27	73
134-135	21	3.28	72
136-137	21	3.29	71
138-139	21	3.30	70
140	20	3.31	69
141-142	20	3.32	68
143-144	20	3.33	67
145-146	20	3.44	66



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