



MELBOURNE WINTER BASEBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

By-Laws

As Approved by the MWBL Member Clubs

February 2014

MELBOURNE WINTER BASEBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

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MELBOURNE WINTER BASEBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY - LAWS

These By-laws shall be read in conjunction with the statement of Purposes and Rules of the Melbourne Winter Baseball League Incorporated and shall be binding on all Members of the League,

1. Interpretations

In these By-laws, unless contrary intention appears

"Competition match" means the series of home and away matches as drawn by the Pennant Committee or Junior League and approved by the board.

"Final Series" means the series of matches played at the conclusion of the Competition Matches,

"Game" has substantially the same meaning as Match,

"Junior League" means the sub-committee of this League formed to provide and administer junior competition for players under the age of eighteen (18) years of age.

2. Power of Member Clubs in Relation to By-Laws

To create, amend or rescind any of these By-Laws, or Rules there must be a notice of motion from the MWBL Executive Board. This notice must be given (7) clear days advice in writing (or email) to all member clubs and be voted upon at a properly constituted MWBL Senior Delegates Meeting.

A simple majority will be sufficient to pass the motion.

In the case of creation, rescinding or amendment of a By-Law at such a meeting, the member clubs will be advised in writing (or email) of the change(s) and the By-Laws and Rules amended on the master document as soon as practicable, but must be within a reasonable time.

If a member club sees the need to create a new, amend or rescind any of these By-Laws or Rules, they must first advise the MWBL Executive Board in writing (or email).

The MWBL Executive Board will consider the merits of such and if deemed appropriate follow the above procedure.

3. Duties of Chairperson (President)

In addition to those duties contained in the Rules, the Chairperson (President) shall be responsible for the day to day operation of the MWBL and the supervision of appointed staff and elected Officers.

4. Duties of Executive Members (Vice Presidents)

(a) One Director shall be appointed by the Executive Board to the position of Chairperson of the Pennant Committee.

(b) Two Directors shall be appointed by the Executive Board to the position of Chairperson of the Junior League(s) Sub Committee – RDJBA & DVJBL.

5. Duties of Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each general meeting and each Executive Board meeting together with a record of names of persons present at the Executive Board meetings. The secretary shall be responsible for co-ordinating and communication for any Tribunal Hearings or subsequent appeal hearings in line with By-Law 28 – Tribunals and Appeal Hearings.

6. Duties of Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances, both revenue and expenditure for the MWBL. Included in these responsibilities will be the budget for each season, including any fees and charges applicable from external associations, government bodies, insurance, or corporations. The Treasure will be required to submit (in conjunction with the MWBL Administrator) a detailed report of the current financial position at every convened meeting or any specially convened MWBL meeting where a financial statement is required.

7. Appointment of Sub-Committees and Honorary Officers

The Secretary shall call for nominations for the following appointments by the Executive Board.

- (a) Administrator,
- (b) Honorary Auditor- who shall not be a Board Member,
- (c) Umpire's Advisor
- (d) Members of Pennant, Selection and other sub-committees deemed necessary by the Board

Should the number of nominations for any, or all, positions be insufficient, the Executive Board shall have the power to make direct appointments without recalling nominations.

The Executive Board, if receiving more than one nomination for any of the above positions, will conduct a voting procedure, with the Chairperson (President) holding the presiding vote should a tied or equal vote occur.

8. Duties of Administrator.

An Administrator shall be appointed by the Executive Board pursuant to By-law 7

As per the Position Description, the Administrator will be responsible for but not limited to the following - Duties of the Administrator shall be:

- (a) Receive all registrations and clearances and keep registers of same,
- (b) Receive all Match Report Sheets for matches played under the management of the League.
- (c) Report to the Pennant Committee or Junior League, as the case may be, the official results of all matches played under the management of the League.
- (d) Report to the Pennant Committee or Junior League, as the case may be, all breaches of the Rules and By-laws in connection with registration of players, ground preparation, player attire and any other matters contained on the Match Report Sheet.
- (e) Render a statement to the League of the amounts due by Clubs for registration fees, etc. at such intervals as directed by the Executive Board.
- (f) Render a statement of the amounts due by Club's for Umpire payments at such intervals as directed by the Executive Board.
- (g) Render a statement of all fines incurred by Clubs for breaches of Rules and By-laws at such intervals as directed by the Executive Board.
- (h) Receive, count and report the results of such count to the Executive Board of any Most Valuable Player Award.
- (i) Report to the Executive Board any umpire who fails to return Match Report Sheets within the stipulated time or fails to complete such Sheet in the prescribed manner.
- (j) Carry out any and all instructions given by the Executive Board.
- (k) Attend all Senior and Junior Delegates meetings.

9. Duties of Honorary Auditor.

An Honorary Auditor, who shall not be a member of the Board, shall be appointed by the Executive Board pursuant to By-Law 7. Duties of the Honorary Auditor Shall Be:-

- (a) Audit the accounts of the League
- (b) Submit a written account of this audit, together with a copy of the relevant Financial Statement and Balance Sheet, to the League on or before the last day of February each year or as required by the Executive Board.

10. Duties of Umpires Advisor.

The Umpire's advisor shall be appointed by the Executive Board pursuant to By-Law 7.

Duties of the Umpire's Advisor shall include but not limited to:

- (a) The training of all registered umpires,
- (b) Maintaining the standard of competence in both theory and practice of Baseball Umpiring.
- (c) Advising the Executive Board and/or its sub-committee on all aspects of umpiring as Requested,
- (d) Other duties involved with this position as directed by the Executive Board.

11. Committees

The Executive Board may form committees for any designated purpose and appoint members, whether they be members of the Executive Board or not, to such committees.

(a) Junior League Committee

- (i) The Junior League Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, who shall be a Director appointed pursuant to By-law 7 and shall consist of nominated participating club(s) delegates. A nominated club delegate may be represented by a person from the same club in their absence, with notification to the Junior League Chairperson. Clubs may be represented by more than one person at any Junior Committee meeting, but will only be allowed one vote on any motion submitted.

Four (4) club members shall form a quorum. Executive Board members shall be exofficio members of this committee. In absence of the Chairperson, the remaining members of the Junior League Committee shall elect one of their number as Acting Chairperson.

- (ii) The Junior League Committee shall, subject to the Statement of Purposes, Rules and By-Laws of the Association, be empowered to administer and promote the sport of Baseball within the MWBL for all Junior Teams and players up to the age of eighteen (18) years.

- (iii) Particular responsibilities of the Junior League Committee shall be to:-

- (a) Manage all junior competition matches and final rounds, grounds, adverse weather conditions, control and appoint umpires and generally be responsible for all matters affecting the competitive side of Junior Baseball within their nominated junior league.

- (b) Clearance appeals involving junior players and disciplinary matters not reported by an umpire involving a Club or Club official, infringements of the By-Laws, during or in relation to any junior game shall be referred to the Pennant Committee for resolution.

Junior League Chairperson(s) may consult or pass decision, when requested, on junior league rulings within their position of responsibility for their own league or for decision pertaining to other Sub-Committee's.

- (c) Liaise with the Junior Representative Committees to select all representative junior teams, Managers, Coaches and Executive Officers, such selections to be subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

- (d) Meet at least once each month, unless considered unnecessary by the Committee, meeting dates to be determined by the Committee. The Chairperson may summon such other meetings as may be necessary, subject to three (3) clear days notice to all members.

- (e) Any clubs or delegate member who absents him/herself from two (2) consecutive meetings without apology acceptable to the Committee, shall be called on to show cause why the club and/or delegate should not be discharged from the Committee.

Any such apology shall be in the hands of the Chairperson prior to the commencement of the meeting. Should a Junior Chairperson vacancy occur during the year, the position may be filled by any suitable person by approval of the Executive Board of the MWBL.

- (f) The Junior Chairperson shall submit a report to each Executive Board or Senior Delegates Meeting and such report shall advise of decisions made concerning finals, representative and promotional matches, fines, suspensions, and all other routine matters relevant to the Junior League.
 - (g) The Junior Chairperson shall make recommendations to the Executive Board for consideration in relation to By-law amendments or any aspect of the game and its control, where such may affect the junior section.
 - (h) The Junior Chairperson shall refer all policy matters to the Executive Board for decision. Policy matters are those which would alter what has been normal procedure relative to junior matters in the past.
- (iv) A club delegate shall absent them self from the meeting if a matter under discussion is directly concerned with a Club with which the member is associated or is an official of.

(b) Pennant Committee

- (i) The Pennant Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, who shall be a Director appointed pursuant to By-law 7, the Executive Director (president), who shall act as Committee Secretary and will vote only when a tied vote has occurred on an matter, and four (4) members appointed by the Executive Board.
Executive Board Members shall be ex-officio members of this Committee. In the absence of the Chairperson, the remaining members of the Pennant Committee shall elect one of their number as Acting Chairperson.
- (ii) The functions of the Pennant Committee, subject to the Statement of Purposes, Rules and By-laws of the Association shall include:-
Control and Management of Competition Matches and the Final Round, permits, Clearances, clearance appeals, registrations, grounds, adverse weather, behaviour of players, officials and spectators and generally all matters affecting the competitive side of Baseball, including the power to conduct investigations and hearings and impose suspensions as deemed appropriate.
- (iii) The Pennant Committee shall meet as often as is required for the proper discharge of its duties. The Chairperson and the Executive Director may act in concert to deal with urgent Pennant matters and shall be responsible for scheduling meetings. Members shall be given at least three (3) days notice of meetings.
- (iv) The Pennant Committee may divide into sub-committees for the purpose of hearing clearances appeals. The Committee shall appoint an Acting Chairperson on these occasions. Three (3) shall form a quorum for this purpose and, on reconvening as a full Committee, the decision reached will be announced, entered into the minutes and be as binding as if reached by the full Committee.
- (v) The Pennant Committee may appoint a sub-committee for the appointment of umpires to Competition Matches. Three (3) shall form a quorum.
- (vi) The minutes of the Pennant Committee shall be presented to the Executive Board for ratification at the first available Executive Board Meeting following each Pennant Committee Meeting.
- (vii) A club delegate shall absent them self from the meeting if a matter under discussion is directly concerned with a Club with which the member is associated or is an official of.
Past association with, or Life Membership of, a Club shall not affect a Committee member provided that at least five (5) years has elapsed since association with that Club.
- (viii) When investigating behaviour of players and spectators pursuant to By-law 11(b)(ii), the Pennant Committee shall, after full and complete investigation, be empowered to suspend a player, official or a spectator (who is a registered member of a Club)

should such a person be found guilty of an offence. Where the offence is deemed by the Pennant Committee to be of an administrative nature, any suspension shall be subject to the provisions of *Resignation or Expulsion of Member* in the Statement of Purposes of the MWBL. Where the offence is not deemed by the Pennant Committee to be an administrative nature, any suspension shall have the same effect as that of the Tribunal under By-law (29).

(c) **Other Committees**

The Executive Board may form committees for any designated purpose and appoint members, whether they be members of the Executive Board or not, to such committees.

An Executive Board member shall be appointed Chairperson of any such committee.

12. Voting Rights of Chairperson

The Chairperson of each committee shall only be entitled to a enter a final vote on all matters in the event of a tied vote on the matter before the committee.

13. Power of Executive Board to Hear an Appeal

The Board shall have the power to hear an appeal from any Member, Club Member or Affiliated Body on any matter, except those relating to **Clearance Appeals, Protested Games and Tribunal Decisions**, and to render a decision which shall be binding on all parties.

Such appeals shall be in writing, shall set out all circumstances in the matter and shall be heard by the Board in the manner of its own choosing and at a time and place directed by the Board.

Minutes from any previous meetings or hearings shall be submitted and used as formal evidence. The Chairperson from any initial hearing will be required to present evidence.

Appeals may be granted by the Executive Board if deemed to be relevant and not frivolous in it's matter.

14. Schedule of Fines

REFER TO FINES ADDENDUM AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE BY-LAWS DOCUMENT

15. Registration of Players.

New Registrations:

After a new player (senior and junior) has participated in his/her second game – players need to complete the approved Registration Form and send to the MWBL Administrator within 72 hours. Clubs are responsible for adding details of all new players (senior and junior) on the approved ABF data base. Note: Players must be ticked as active.

NOTE:

For all players (senior and junior) after a player plays their first game for the season whether an existing player, new player or as a 'fill in' for the day, clubs are required to enter the players details on the ABF Data base within 72 hours after playing.

As per ABF Requirements:

For members to be under the ABF insurance they must be entered on the ABF Database.

(a) **Senior**

Every new player shall register in the approved format and a copy must be lodged with the Administrator no later than seventy two (72) hours after the players first Competition Match.

Junior

Every player who will not have attained the age of eighteen (18) years on the 30th day of September in the year of initial registration shall register on the Registration Form provided for that purpose.

The completed Form, with proof of age certified or evidenced to that effect attached, shall be lodged with the Executive Director, or nominee, prior to the player participating in a Competition Match.

Such Junior Registration shall be effective for Senior Competition provided that the Junior has attained the age of fourteen (14) years.

(b) Free Agent (Four Year Rule)

Any player who is not under suspension or disqualification by the League and is financial and who has not participated in a Competition Match or been a Registered Manager of a Club for four (4) years shall be deemed to be a free Agent and may register with any Club,

(c) Compulsory Return (Two Year Rule)

Should any player receive a clearance to an Interstate Club or a Club of an Affiliated body within Victoria, and should that player wish to return to the League within two (2) years from the date of the original clearance the player must return to the parent club.

(d) Re-Registration

Each Club shall in the approved format are to provide a list of names and addresses of previously registered players who will be playing for the Club in the forthcoming season,

(e) Un-Registered Players

The penalty for playing an un-registered player or players shall be a fine in accordance with By-law 14

(e) Incorrect Information

Any player or Club furnishing incorrect or misleading information or particulars on a Registration Clearance Form or Permit Form shall be liable to a suspension or such other penalty as the Pennant Committee or Junior League shall determine.

16. Transfer of Players

(a) Any player registered with the League shall have the right to transfer from one Club to another within the League, to an Interstate Club or a Club of an Affiliated body provided that the appropriate Registration Clearance Form is completed and endorsed by the player's parent Club,

(b) Between 30th June and the completion of the Final Round in any season there shall be no transfer of players, except if the clearance procedure required by these By-Laws has commenced, but not completed by June 30th.

Clearance application after the 30th June shall be dealt with by the Pennant Committee.

The completed Registration - Clearance Form for all such transfers must be endorsed by the Administrator before the transfer can be considered finalised.

An appeal may be granted by the MWBL Pennant Committee should a finalised clearance not be received by the MWBL League Administrator prior to June 30th.

(c) The transfer of players from or to an interstate club from or to a club of the MWBL may be carried out at any time provided that -

(i) A clearance in writing is obtained by the player from the parent Interstate Club and it is endorsed by the Secretary (or equivalent) of that State.

(ii) The Clearance is further endorsed by the MWBL Administrator.

17. Clearance Procedure

Clearance applications shall be made in the approved form and shall be subject to the following procedures :-

(a) Letter of Intent to Approach.

- (i) Any Club desiring to approach a player of another Club with the view of seeking a transfer of the player shall write to the players parent Club stating their intention to interview that player.
- (ii) A copy of such letter of intent shall be lodged with the League Administrator.
- (iii) Players shall not be approached between 30th June and the completion of the Final Series in any season and letters of intent shall not be sent.
- (iv) The provisions of By-law 16 (a) (i),(ii) or (iii) shall be adhered to if a player approaches another Club with the view of obtaining a clearance to that club.
- (v) There is to be a minimum of **(2) two days** between receiving the letter of intent and the clearance form.

(b) Formal Interview

The formal interview with the player shall not take place until after the Letter of intent has been received by the parent Club.

(c) Clearance Processing by Parent Club

Upon receipt of a properly completed Registration/Clearance Form the Club shall, if there is any possibility that the clearance may be refused, arrange to meet the player at a formal meeting of the appointed representatives of the club. The timing of this meeting shall be as follows :-

- (i) Within fourteen (14) days of date of receipt for a clearance, received between 1st March and 30th June in any one year,
- (ii) The next scheduled Committee Meeting for a clearance received between the completion of the final Round and 1st March in any one year.

After due consideration of the reasons put forward by the player, the Club shall make a decision at that meeting to grant or refuse the clearance, The Clearance Form shall be endorsed accordingly and handed to the player immediately. If after proper notification of the meeting and acknowledgment by the player, the player fails to attend the meeting, the Club may decide the matter in the player's absence.

(d) Grounds for Automatic Refusal of Clearance

A clearance may be refused by a Club without the player being invited to a meeting if:-

- (i) The player is unfinancial.
- (ii) A letter of intent in accordance with By-law 16 (a) has not been received by the Club or Association.
- (iii) The player refuses to meet with the parent club or provides the parent club with knowingly false information

Details of a player's unfinancial status shall be furnished with the refused Clearance Form and shall be made available to the League on Request.

(e) Failure by Club to Hear Clearance application

Should a Club fail to comply with By-law 17 (c), the player may appeal to the League to hear the original clearance application, A decision made by the appropriate Committee on a matter brought before it under this sub-section shall be binding on both parties but, if the clearance is refused by the Committee, the player's rights under By-law 13 shall not be effected except that no further appeal on this clearance is possible.

18. Registration Procedures for Cleared Players

A cleared player does not become a registered player with the new Club, and cannot participate in a Competition Match for that new Club until the properly endorsed Registration-Clearance Form has been received by the Administrator – refer By-Law 15 and 16(b).

A player participating in a Competition Match in contravention of this By-law shall be an Illegal Player and the Club shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in By-law 14.

When a clearance is granted during the currency of a season and at such a time as not to allow receipt by the appropriate Registration Secretary prior to the player participating in a Competition Match, the following procedure may be followed:-

- (i) The properly completed Registration/Clearance Form may be signed by a member of the Executive Board, Pennant Committee or officiating umpire including club umpires and noted with the exact time and date of signing.
- (ii) If the person so signing the form is a member or official of either club concerned with the clearance, the umpire of the game in which the player wishes to participate shall make similar endorsements on the form prior to the game commencing and forward the form to the Administrator with the Match Report Sheet.

19. Clearances - Right of Appeal by Player

Provided By-Law 17 was adhered to a player whose clearance application has been refused by the parent Club, may appeal to the League against such refusal, The appeal shall be made in writing and shall be accompanied by the refused Clearance Form.

Reasons for making the appeal shall be stated and shall be relevant to matters discussed at the meeting with the Club as required in By-law 17 (c)

The Secretary/Administrator shall direct all such appeals to the Pennant Committee or Junior League Committee, as the case may be.

There shall be a maximum of fourteen (14) days between lodgement of the "Right of Appeal" documentation with league Administration and the appeal hearing unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

The Club refusing the Clearance shall, on receipt of notice from the Secretary/Administrator or Junior League Chairperson/Administrator, appear before the Committee to show cause why the clearance was refused. Should a representative of the Club not attend, the Committee shall have the right to decide the appeal.

A player shall only be allowed two (2) appeals against refusal of a clearance in any one (1) season providing that, in the judgement of the Secretary/Administrator and the appropriate Committee Chairman the reasons for requesting the second appeal are significantly different from the reasons on which the first appeal was based.

20. Appeal Hearing Procedure

The procedures for hearing any appeal shall be that decided on by the appropriate Committee Chairman except that only the player making the appeal and a representative of the parent Club shall appear before the Committee.

If the player making the appeal has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years a parent or adult may accompany the player but shall not participate unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

If the Chairperson hearing the appeal deems that false or misleading evidence or representation has been given, persons giving what is found to be false or misleading evidence can be directed to a hearing of the MWBL Tribunal or Pennant Committee. In this case, any decision made by the appeal hearing may be set aside or overturned.

APPEAL MORATORIUM FOR DEMOTED CLUBS

The provisions of By-law 19 shall not be available for senior players of Clubs demoted from A Grade to B Grade for the season of demotion only. A player may transfer if the parent club agrees to the transfer. The MWBL will hear only on appeal 'exceptional circumstances' for transfer (i.e. relocation). A club requesting to be demoted will not have this moratorium available to them.

21. Permits

- (a) Any player registered with a Club which does not have a team entered in the Junior League Competition may apply for a Permit to play with a Junior League Team of another Club, Any such Permit shall operate for the season for which it is granted. Should the player wish to transfer to another Club's Junior League Team during that season, a clearance shall be obtained for the remainder of the season from the Club to which the Permit was granted and a new Permit shall be obtained from the Parent Club.
- (b) Any player registered with a Club which does not have a team entered in any competition other than the Junior League Competition may apply for a Permit to play with a Senior Team of another Club, Any such Permit shall apply only for the season for which it is granted, Should the player wish to transfer to another Club during that season, A Clearance shall be obtained for the remainder of the season from the Club with which the player is currently registered under Permit a new Permit shall be obtained from the Parent Club.

22. Recessed Clubs

A recessed Club is one which does not enter a team in Competition Matches organised by the League for a period of two (2) consecutive seasons after last entry of a team by that Club.

During this period, players are free to Play with another Club provided that a Clearance is obtained from the last President or Secretary of the recessed Club, Such clearance shall not be refused except for financial reasons.

23. Defunct Clubs

A Club shall not be defunct until declared so by the Executive Board and such declaration by the Executive Board shall render any registered player of that Club eligible to register with another Club as a new player. A recessed Club, pursuant to By-law 21 shall be declared defunct by the Executive Board if no team Entry is received for the third consecutive season.

24. Transfer of Players within a Club

Any player may transfer from one grade to another within a Club at any time during a season without obtaining a permit to do so.

25. Eligibility of Players for Final Series

- (a) No player shall be eligible to participate in the Senior Final Series for a Club unless the player has played at least eight (8) rounds of Competition Matches in the MWBL during the season of finals eligibility.
Junior rounds completed will count towards total rounds for senior finals eligibility.
Only 1 senior or junior round on the same weekend will be counted.
Only senior rounds competed in will count for grades allowed for participation in finals.
For junior grade finals, the DVJBA and RDJBL will decide on minimum games required to compete in junior finals,

Note: No appeal except in exceptional circumstances. Circumstances Must Relate to Absence Due to Baseball Related Activity or Injury. ALL appeals will be referred to the MWBL Pennant Committee and additional information may be required upon request.

There are no requirements for New Registered or Cleared Players to play three (3) games before June 30th as previous, but ALL players must compete in eight (8) round of Competition Matches for the unless the Pennant Committee approves otherwise.

A player, coach or manager representing the MWBL senior or junior representative teams will have that representation counted for one (1) round only. Players will be credited with only one (1) representative team selection. Players must be present at all representative matches for his selected team for this round to be counted towards finals eligibility.

- (b) A player shall **not** be eligible to play in the Final Series with a lower graded team unless more than half the number of Competition Matches played in by that player during the season have been in the lower graded teams. Finals games will be counted. For re-entry games, only the first game participated in on the day (lower grade) will counted towards finals eligibility.

Example 1 –

*Player A plays **8 games in A Grade and 9 Games in A Reserve** – player is eligible to play in A Grade and A Reserve Finals.*

If Player A plays 1st week final in A Grade then player is deemed to have played 9 Games in A Grade and 9 Games in A Reserve.

If the A Grade team is eliminated, then player cannot return to A Reserve as player has played an even amount of games and the higher graded team has been eliminated.

Example 2 –

*Player A plays **7 Games in C Grade and 9 Games in C Reserve & 1 game in D Grade** then player is eligible to play C Grade and C Reserve finals and above.*

If Player A plays in C Grade finals and this team is eliminated, player is still eligible to play in C Reserve Finals and can return at any point as player will have played more total games in lower grades than C Grade

*After Week 1 – **8 Games in C Grade, 9 Games in C Reserve & 1 game in D grade***

*After Week 2 – **9 Games in C Grade, 9 Games in C Reserve & 1 game in D grade***

- (c) In the event of a Club having two (2) teams in the one grade, the team that finishes highest on the ladder will be deemed the 'higher graded team'. The Club will be given the option to notify the Pennant Committee Chairperson or Administrator in writing at the time of entry, which is the 'higher' graded team, In the absence of this notification, the Pennant Committee or Junior League, as the case may be, shall determine seniority. Finals eligibility 24(a) and 24(b) will be applicable in this situation. - The order of seniority of grades shall be as decided by the Pennant Committee.
- (d) Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-laws, the Pennant Committee or Junior League may, in exceptional circumstances, grant permission for a player to participate in the Final Series.
- (e) Junior Matches (rounds) completed will count towards total games played for eligibility in senior finals, but will **NOT** count for grades for eligibility. Only senior rounds competed in will count for grade allowed to participate in finals

Application for such permission shall be in writing, setting out all relevant details, and shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than noon on the Tuesday immediately prior the Final Series for which such permission is sought.

26. PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN TWO GAMES

A player shall not be entitled to participate in two (2) Competition Matches in the same round of games. **Exceptions:**

1. As approved under the Re-entry rule as defined in match conditions.
Note - A player who pitches or catches in a Reserves game cannot then pitch or catch in the higher grade game on the same day.
2. A Player who participates in any Competition Match under the control of the Junior League and then participates in a Senior Competition Match on the same day shall not be in contravention of this By-law.
3. A player who has been approved as a Designated Pitcher by the MWBL Pennant Committee for the current season.

Penalty :Any Club contravening this By-law shall be deemed to have played an Ineligible Player in the second game and shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in By-law 28(e).

27. Permission to Play in Matches Outside Leagues Control

No League or Club affiliated with the League nor any team or player, shall arrange or take part in any match with any team within the State of Victoria or outside the State of Victoria without first obtaining the consent of the Executive Board.

Where any match is proposed or intended to be played outside the State of Victoria consent shall not be granted by the Executive Board unless the controlling body of Baseball in the State in which the match is intended to be played has given its sanction to same. The permission of the Australian Baseball Federation is required for matches intended to be played interstate or internationally.

28. Suspensions and Penalties

- (a) Any player under suspension or disqualification by the League or whose suspension or disqualification has been endorsed by it shall be debarred from taking part in any match played under the control of the League, and any member of any Association, League or Club affiliated therewith playing or taking part in any match (including representative team games) in which such suspended or disqualified person plays or takes part shall be liable to suspension or disqualification or to such other penalty as the Executive Board may determine. A player who appeals a suspension or disqualification, whose appeal has been granted by the Executive Board of the MWBL, will be eligible to compete in matches until the appeal is heard. Players appealing to an outside governing body other than the MWBL will **NOT** be eligible to compete in the MWBL or be transferred or register with another club or league associated with the ABF.
- (b) Any Association, League, Club or Affiliated body under suspension shall forfeit all rights and privileges held under or in the League or its property, Its representatives shall cease to act and shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the League, and its members shall be debarred from taking part in any match played under the auspices of the League.
- (c) The Executive Board shall have the power to and may endorse any suspension or disqualification imposed by any controlling body of baseball, either in or outside Victoria, provided that notification of such suspension or disqualification is received in writing.
- (d) Any Association, League or Club, Player or Member thereof, affiliated with the League failing to carry out any direction of the Executive Board and or Committees of the League which is within the ambit of their powers shall be liable to suspension or disqualification during the pleasure of the Executive Board , or to such other penalty as the Executive Board may determine.
- (e) Ineligible Players
The penalty against a Club for violation of the clearance and or match permit By-law or for playing an ineligible player in a Final Series shall be default of the game and a fine in accordance with By-law 14.
 - (i) The team not in default shall gain maximum points.
 - (ii) The score in the game shall be 9-0 to the team not in default or left at the actual score; whichever is the greatest advantage to the opposing team.
- (f) Misconduct
Should any registered Player, Club Member or Official behave in a disorderly manner, either on or off the playing field, the Tribunal or a Committee of the League may suspend or otherwise deal with the offender in such a manner as it may deem fit.
- (g) Failure to Field a Team (Walkover)
A team conceding a walkover in either Competition match or Final Series shall be deemed to have lost the game and liable to a fine in accordance with By-law 14. The opposing team shall be awarded maximum points.
The scores in a defaulted game shall be 9-0 to the team not in default.
A walkover by a Senior or Junior teams in any three (3) successive rounds, shall result in that team forfeiting all remaining games for the MWBL season, with fines as per By-Law 14 applying, and if deemed necessary by the MWBL Pennant Committee, the club may face a disciplinary hearing.

(h) Reporting Match Results

The home team's Club is responsible for the telephoning of the results of matches played each round to such person, place and time as shall be determined by the Executive Board, Failure to comply with this By-law will render the Club liable to a fine as prescribed in By-law 13. Both teams are liable for match card fines if match card is incorrectly filled in or returned, as deemed by both home and away team manager signing the match card as true and correct. Fines will be determined by the MWBL Pennant Committee / Administrator. In the result of any forfeit or dispute arising from any match resulting in an appeal, the names listed and signatures provided on the match card will be deemed to have performed those roles on the day of the match (i.e. Umpire / Manager / Scorer).

(i) General Powers

The Executive Board shall have the power to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with a player, member of a Club or a Club for any act or misdemeanour associated with baseball

(j) Right of Appeal of Suspensions and Penalties

Any player suspended or disqualified by any Committee of the League or by a Club, or any Affiliated Association shall have "the right of appeal" to the Executive Board.

(i) That significant new or additional evidence has become available;

(ii) That the penalty imposed by the Tribunal is manifestly excessive; or

(iii) That the Tribunal failed to follow procedures or requirements of the By-laws to the significant detriment of the person seeking the appeal.

The decision of the Executive Board shall be final.

NOTE: The Executive Board reserves the right to increase or reduce the penalty imposed on players or Clubs.

The appeal, in writing, must be lodged with the Secretary/Administrator within **Seventy-Two (72)** of suspension or disqualification by any Committee of the League or the Tribunal.

29. Reported Persons and Tribunal Procedure

(a) Overview of Reported Persons Process

(i) The Executive Board will appoint the members of, the Report Review, the Tribunal, the Appeal Officer and the Appeal Panel. Each of these bodies will comply with the procedures in these By-Laws.

(ii) Any umpire in control of any MWBL game may report any person who engages in conduct detrimental to the best interests of the game of baseball. Umpires may eject a player or use yellow and blue cards to eject a player. An ejected person is to immediately leave the baseball field and take no further part in the game.

(iii) The Executive Board will declare common offences and the recommended penalties for these offences. These offences and penalties and their governing provisions are in 'Table of Tribunal Offences and Penalties' in Rule 28 (g). The penalties are recommendations only and the Match Review, Tribunal and Appeals panel have discretion to issue an appropriate penalty.

(iv) The Reporting Umpire must record the ejection and/or report of a person on the 'Match Report Sheet' or 'Reported Person Notice'. This record constitutes notice of the ejection and report to both clubs participating in the game. At the conclusion of the game, the Reporting Umpire must record the report on the 'Umpire's Ejection Report' and submit this document as soon as possible to the MWBL Secretary.

- (v) All clubs are responsible for ensuring club contact details are correct. If the Reported Person's club receives no communication regarding the Report, the Reported Person's Club must contact the MWBL Secretary to confirm the progress of the Report. Failure by the Reported Person's club to receive notification of penalty offers or tribunal hearing details is not grounds for an appeal.

(b) The Report

- (i) The Reporting Umpire must record the report of a Reported Person on the 'Match Report Sheet' or 'Reported Person Notice'. All charges must be recorded on the 'Match Report Sheet' or 'Reported Person Notice' and include the name of the reporting umpire, the name of the Reported Person, the club of the Reported Person and the time and innings of the game the report occurred.

The action or words of the umpire ejecting the player or manager is the required notice to the club of the ejection.

The Reporting Umpire and the manager of each team must sign the record of the report on the 'Match Report Sheet' or 'Reported Person Notice'.

It is the responsibility of the club to seek out and sign the 'Match Report Sheet' or 'Reported Persons Notice'.

If a club has not signed for any reason or refuses to sign the 'Match Report Sheet' or 'Reported Persons Notice' it will not be grounds for appeal that the process has not been followed.

- (ii) As soon as practical the Reporting Umpire will forward to the MWBL Secretary a copy of the 'Match Report Sheet' or 'Reported Person Notice' and the Reporting Umpire's 'Umpires Ejection Report'.

(c) The Report Review

- (i) The Executive Board will appoint a person known as the Report Review Person to fulfill the duties of the Report Review in accordance with these By-Laws. In the event that the Report Review Person is unavailable to perform the duties required under these By-Laws, the Executive Board may co-opt a qualified person to perform these duties.
- (ii) Upon receiving notice of the Report the MWBL Secretary will forward the 'Umpire's Ejection Report' to the Report Review Person.
- (iii) The Report Review Person has the power to:
 - (a) request that the Reporting Umpire amend the 'Umpire's Ejection Report';
 - (b) request the Reporting Umpire to include additional information in the 'Umpires Ejection Report';
 - (c) dismiss a charge(s) when there is insufficient evidence in the 'Umpires Ejection Report' to sustain a charge;
 - (d) impose a penalty on the Reported Person based on the Table in Rule 28(H)(vi);
 - (e) directly refer the report to the Tribunal.
- (iv) The Report Review Person will communicate its decision to the MWBL Secretary as soon as practical. The MWBL Secretary will communicate the Report Review Person's decision to the Reported Person's club.
- (v) The Reported Person's club must notify the MWBL Secretary within 24 hours of receiving the Report Review Person's decision if the Reported Person will accept or challenge the Report Review Person's decision. If the Reported Person's club fails to

comply within this time period, the Report Review's decision will take immediate effect. A Reported Person is only required to attend the Tribunal if they decide to challenge the Report Review Person's decision, or the serious nature of the offence mandates a Tribunal hearing.

- (vi) A penalty issued by the Report Review Person that is accepted by the Reported Person will take immediate effect.

(d) The Tribunal

- (i) The Executive Board will appoint a panel of persons who will be collectively known as the Tribunal. The Board will appoint a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Tribunal. The MWBL Secretary will act as the Tribunal Secretary.

If there are insufficient Tribunal members available for a Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal will have the power to co-opt any member of the Executive Board to act as a Tribunal member. If the Tribunal Chairperson is unable to attend a Tribunal hearing, one of the attending Tribunal members will perform the role of Chairperson in accordance with these By-Laws.

- (ii) Prior to the commencement of each season, the Tribunal Chairperson will advise the MWBL Secretary of the location, day of the week and time for all Tribunal hearings during the season. Prior to the first game of the season, the MWBL Secretary will communicate this information to all clubs and the MWBL Umpires.

The meeting of the Tribunal is fixed and cannot be changed, except at the discretion of the Tribunal Chairperson.

- (iii) Upon receiving confirmation that the Report will proceed to the Tribunal, the MWBL Secretary will communicate the details of the Tribunal hearing to the Reported Person's club and the Reporting Umpire.

(e) The Tribunal Hearing

- (i) Within 24 hours of confirming a Tribunal hearing, the MWBL Secretary will provide to the Reported Person's Club copies of the Reporting Umpire's 'Umpires Ejection Report' and the 'Tribunal Agenda'.

- (ii) If the Reported Person is unable to attend the scheduled Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal chairperson shall offer the Reported Person a telephone or other electronic conference link to have the tribunal held.

If the Tribunal Chairperson permits the Tribunal hearing to be rescheduled the reported person may request permission to participate in games before the rescheduled tribunal hearing.

The Tribunal chairperson may permit or deny the request. If the request is denied then the player is not eligible to play in games until the Tribunal is held.

- (iii) A Reported person who is under eighteen years of age at the date of the Tribunal hearing will be permitted to appoint an adult person as his or her Advocate. An Advocate is permitted to be in attendance for the duration of the hearing but is not entitled to give evidence. The Advocate will provide the Reported Person's defence and the Reported Person is only permitted to speak to give evidence on their own behalf.

- (iv) In the event that the Reporting Umpire is not in attendance at the appointed time of the Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal Chairperson will allow a reasonable period of 'grace'. If the Reporting Umpire does not appear during the period of grace, the report will not lapse but will be rescheduled and all parties advised of the new hearing date and time.

The Reported Person may participate in any games to be played prior to the rescheduled Tribunal hearing.

The Reporting Umpire must advise the Tribunal Secretary of his or her failure to attend the Tribunal hearing and the Reporting Umpire must submit a written explanation for not appearing at the tribunal hearing to the Tribunal Secretary. The matter will be referred to the Pennant Committee to determine if disciplinary action against the Reporting Umpire is required.

- (v) In the event that the Reported Person is not in attendance at the appointed time of the Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal Chairperson will allow a reasonable period of 'grace'. If the Reported Person does not appear during the period of grace, the Tribunal will reconvene, and in the absence of the Reported Person, the Tribunal will hear evidence from the Reporting Umpire and any witnesses.

When all evidence is presented, the Tribunal will retire and if they determine that an offence has been proved, a penalty will be issued against the Reported Person. The Tribunal Secretary will advise the Reported Person's club of the outcome of the Tribunal hearing and that the decision of the Tribunal cannot be appealed.

- (vi) Tribunal Hearings will Conducted by the Tribunal Chairperson as such:

- (a) calling into the tribunal - the Reporting Umpire(s), the Reported Person(s), witnesses any and other interested parties;
- (b) request observers to identify who they are and request permission from the Tribunal Chairperson to sit at the hearing. If granted permission, such persons are not permitted to speak during the hearing unless granted permission from the Tribunal Chairperson. The Tribunal Chairperson can require observers to leave the hearing at any time;
- (c) advise the Reported Person of their right of appeal under rule 28(f) of the By-Laws;
- (d) confirm that the spirit and intent of rule 28 of the By-Laws is that all Tribunal hearings be conducted in a fair and unbiased matter. It is the Tribunal Chairperson's duty to ensure that all persons observe the procedures and policies set out in the By-Laws. If the conduct of any person at the Tribunal hearing conflicts with standard of behaviour required by the By-Laws, the Tribunal Chairperson is empowered to deal with such persons in a manner appropriate in the circumstances;
- (e) The chairman shall impress on all present the necessity of observing the following conditions:

"Any person giving evidence of an untruthful or unsatisfactory nature to the Tribunal, in the case of any player, can be disqualified from taking part in any matches for such time as the Tribunal shall decide, and in the case of any other person, shall on report to the controlling executive by the Tribunal, will be dealt with as that body may deem fit"

- (f) All witnesses and non approved observers shall leave the room

- (g) Read the 'Umpire's Ejection Report'

- (h) Ask the Reported Person to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.
(Should the reported person be undecided then the Tribunal will enter a plea of not guilty.)

- (vii) If the Reported Person pleads guilty then:
 - (a) the Reporting Umpire will be asked to give their evidence.
 - (b) the Reported Person may question the Reporting Umpire, provided such questions aim to elaborate and/or clarify the umpire's evidence.
 - (c) the Reported Person will be asked to present their defence.
 - (d) The reporting umpire may question the reported person provided such questions aim to elaborate and/or clarify the reported players evidence.
 - (e) when all evidence is presented the Tribunal will retire to consider the evidence and determine the Reported Person's guilt or innocence in relation to all offences in the report;
 - (f) the Tribunal will reconvene and deliver their decision to the Reported Person and the Reporting Umpire or alternatively the decision will be communicated by text message, email or other appropriate technology.

- (viii) If the Reported Person pleads not guilty then:
 - (a) the Reporting Umpire will be asked to give their evidence.
 - (b) the Reported Person may question the Reporting Umpire, provided such questions aim to elaborate and/or clarify the umpire's evidence or provide the Tribunal with mitigating evidence;
 - (c) the Reporting Umpire may call their witnesses to give evidence and the Reported Person may question the witnesses;
 - (d) the Tribunal members or the Chairperson may call independent witnesses to attend the hearing and provide oral testimony;
 - (e) the Reported Person will be asked to present their defence.
 - (f) the reporting umpire may question the reported person provided such questions aim to elaborate and/or clarify the reported players evidence.
 - (g) the reported person may call their witnesses and the reporting umpire may question the witnesses;
 - (h) when all evidence is presented the Tribunal will retire to consider the evidence and determine the Reported Person's guilt or innocence in relation to all offences in the report;
 - (i) the Tribunal will reconvene and deliver their decision to the Reported Person and the Reporting Umpire or alternatively the decision will be communicated by text message, email or other appropriate technology.

- (ix) In the Minutes of the Tribunal Hearing, the Tribunal Secretary will record the Tribunal's proceedings and its decision.

The Tribunal will maintain a Register of Reported Persons and record the details of all proven offences and penalties.

- (x) After the Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal Secretary will as soon as practical communicate the Tribunal's decision to the Reported Person's club, the MWBL Administrator and the MWBL Umpires' Administrator.

(f) The Right of Appeal

- (i) The Executive Board will appoint a person to the position of Appeal Officer. The Appeal Officer has the exclusive authority to approve or reject an application to appeal a Tribunal decision. The decision of the Appeal Officer is final.
- (ii) The right of appeal is restricted to Reported Persons who attended their Tribunal hearing.

To appeal a Tribunal decision, a Reported Person must submit a Notice of Appeal to the Appeal Officer within 72 hours of receiving notification of the Tribunal's decision.

A Reported Person who submits a Notice of Appeal and the \$50 fee will be known as the Appellant.

The Appellant's Notice of Appeal must set out all charges in the Reporting Umpire's Report, the decision of the Tribunal and the grounds of the appeal. The Notice of Appeal must include a \$50 fee and will be returned to the Appellant if the Appeals Officer determines that the application has merit.

- (iii) The Appeal Officer will review the Notice of Appeal and grant an appeal if:
 - (a) new evidence is available that would have significantly influenced the Tribunal's decision; or
 - (b) the Tribunal failed to follow the procedures contained in the By-Laws and as a result the Reported Person suffered significant detriment; or
 - (c) the penalty imposed by the Tribunal was manifestly excessive.
- (iv) An Appellant must be notified within 72 hours of receipt of the Notice of the Appellant of the outcome of the application.

If the Appeal Officer determines that the Appellant has established grounds for an appeal, the Appeal Officer will refer the Appeal to the Appeal Panel and the Appellant will be advised of the details of the Appeal hearing.

- (v) An Appellant granted an Appeal Panel hearing will have any Tribunal penalty stayed until the hearing by the Appeal Panel.

(g) The Appeal Hearing

- (i) The Executive Board will appoint an Appeal Panel that consists of three suitably qualified people. The Appeal Panel has the exclusive power to hear an Appeal and is bound by the same procedures in these By-Laws that govern a Tribunal hearing.

The decision of the Appeal Panel is final.

- (ii) If the Appeal Officer grants an Appellant a hearing, the Appeal Officer will convene an

Appeal Panel to hear and determine the Appeal in accordance with the By-Laws.

Where possible the Appeal Officer will act as the Chairperson of the Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel and persons appearing before it are bound by the same procedures under these By-Laws as if the Appeal Panel was a Tribunal hearing the matter at first instance.

- (iii) The Appeal Panel has the power to:
 - (a) dismiss the appeal;
 - (b) uphold the appeal;
 - (c) reduce, increase or otherwise vary any penalty imposed by the Tribunal in a manner it thinks is appropriate.
- (iv) At the conclusion of the Appeal, the Appeal Officer will communicate the decision of the Appeal Panel to the Appellant and the Reporting Umpire.

The Appeal Panel is not obligated to provide oral or written reasons for a decision under these By-Laws.

As soon as practical after the Appeal hearing, the Appeal Officer will communicate the Appeal Panel's decision to the MWBL Administrator and the MWBL Secretary.

(h) Offences and Penalties

- (i) The Table of Offences and Penalties ('the Table') in Rule 29(h)(vi) lists common offences in a game of baseball. Umpires are not restricted to reporting a person for an offence from the Table and have the right to report a person for an appropriate offence not listed in the Table.

In accordance with these By-Laws, the MWBL Executive Board can change the offences, penalties and suspensions contained in Rule 29(h)(vi).

In the event that the Report Review classes an offence in the Table as 'Tribunal', the Report Review will not issue a penalty and must refer such offences to the Tribunal for a hearing.

- (ii) Reportable offences are graded as low, medium or high and are separated into three categories: Class A, Class B and Class C.

Class A offences relate to conduct that involve inappropriate or poor behaviour. Class A offences are:

Audible Offensive Language (AOL)

Includes but is not limited to audible language that another person may find offensive.

Equipment abuse

Includes but is not limited to throwing, kicking or damaging one's personal equipment, team equipment, the equipment of another person or a club's equipment.

Arguing balls and strikes

Is any conduct that disputes an umpire's call of a ball or strike, including calls on checked swings.

Unsportsmanlike conduct

Includes but is not limited to oral or physical conduct that is not in the spirit of the game of baseball and/or in violation of the codes of conduct in the MWBL Playing and match Conditions.

Disobeying an umpire's direction

Includes but is not limited to any action or conduct by a player, coach, manager or official that does not comply with an umpire's direction.

Dissent

Includes but is not limited to any conduct that undermines the umpire's ability to officiate and control a game.

Abusive or offensive language

Includes but is not limited to any abusive or offensive language directed at a player, team official, umpire or spectator.

Failing to leave the field

Occurs if after being directed to by an umpire to leave the field or after being ejected, a player, coach, manager or official does not immediately leave the field or returns to the field.

Class B offences relate to conduct that involve the threat of physical contact or physical contact.

Class B offences are:

Participating in a melee or wrestling

Includes but is not limited any participation or involvement in a melee or wrestling with another person or persons.

Intentionally throwing at a batter

Includes but is not limited to the pitcher intentionally throwing at the body of the batter or behind the batter, regardless of whether the batter is struck by the pitched baseball.

Charging the mound

Includes but is not limited to conduct that involves a batter leaving the batter's box and moving towards the pitcher's mound or confronting the pitcher on or around the pitcher's mounds.

Rough and/or dangerous play

Includes but is not limited to any conduct by a player during the course of the game that could intentionally or recklessly cause injury to an opposing player.

Attempting to strike

Is an intentional but unsuccessful attempt to strike a player, coach, manager, official, umpire or spectator.

Striking

Is intentionally striking a player, coach, manager, official, umpire or spectator.

Class C offences relate to substance use and other as specified.

Class C offences are:

Tobacco and Alcohol use

Includes but is not limited to the use of tobacco related products and alcohol abuse

Other

As may be specified by the reporting umpire or person.

(iii) **BLUE CARD RULE**

- (a) The principle of the rule is to allow an umpire to issue a blue card to a player for offences committed with immediate ejection from the game without facing the Tribunal.
- (b) Players ejected under the blue card rule will serve a further one game suspension without a Tribunal appearance..
- (c) Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include, but not be limited to: Audible Obscenities, Misconduct.
- (d) If, in the opinion of the umpire, an offence has occurred as provided for by this rule, the player shall be informed of a Blue Card offence and where possible a blue card shown to the offender and the team manager be informed of the nature of the offence.
- (e) The umpire shall complete the details required on the Blue Card and return it to the MWBL Administrator with Match Report Sheet.
- (f) A register of Blue Card offences shall be maintained by the MWBL Administrator.
- (g) A second Blue Card issued to a person will incur an automatic two game suspension.
- (h) A third Blue Card offence by a player during the currency of a season will mean an automatic appearance before the Tribunal.
- (i) A person suspended under clause (e) and (f) will be notified by the MWBL Administrator via the Club.
- (j) When a person incurs a Blue Card suspension in the last round of the season or a finals game, the suspension will be served at the start of the next season and/or matter can be referred to the Tribunal to determine the timing of the suspension.
- (k) A person may appeal to the Tribunal Chairman against the issue of a Blue Card, such appeal to be made to the MWBL Administrator within 48 hours of the game in which the card is issued.
- (l) Upon receiving an appeal in accordance with clause (i), the matter shall be referred to the Tribunal Chairperson who shall decide if the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for resolution. Such decision will be final.
- (m) The Tribunal will hear an appeal referred to it under clause (k) by convening a hearing with the offender. The Tribunal may determine to:
 - (a) Uphold the appeal, cancel the Blue Card and advise the umpire or
 - (b) Dismiss the appeal and confirm the Blue Card, or
 - (c) Consider the offence warranted and increase the penalty

Such decisions of the Tribunal are final and not subject to further appeal.

(iv) **ZERO TOLERANCE**

The MWBL practices the concept of ZERO TOLERANCE in order to ensure that coaches / managers take a proactive role in eliminating umpire abuse.

Zero Tolerance will relate to all ejectable offences that include
Abuse of umpire
Dissent
Arguing decisions (balls/strikes, safe/outs, etc.)

- (v) If a Reported Person is found guilty of an offence, penalties are based on the penalty guide in the Table of Penalties
There is no set maximum penalty for any offence that is graded as high. The Match Review, Tribunal and Appeal Panel all retain the discretion to issue a penalty for offences graded as high that is appropriate in the circumstances.

- (vi) All penalties issued under these By-Laws take immediate effect from the next scheduled round of the grade that the offense occurred.

A suspended person is prohibited from playing, managing, coaching or assisting on the field of any junior or senior MWBL baseball game.

Any person may report to the MWBL Administrator or any MWBL official a suspended person who breaches their suspension. Such suspended persons will be required to appear before the Tribunal. The Tribunal is empowered to hear the matter in accordance with the procedures in these By-Laws and to impose any appropriate penalty.

- (vii) The Table of Penalties

OFFENCE	LEVEL		
	Low	Medium	High
Class A			
Audible Offensive Language (AOL)	1	2	3
Equipment abuse	1	2	2/3
Arguing balls and strikes	1	2	2/3
Unsportsmanlike conduct	1	3	3/4
Disobeying an umpire's direction	2/1	3/2	4/3
Dissent	2/1	3/2	4/3
Abusive or offensive language	2/2	3/2	4/4
Failing to leave the field	3/3	4/3	6/5
Class B			
Participating in a melee or wrestling	2/1	3/2	4/3
Intentionally throwing at a batter	Not applicable	Not applicable	4/4
Charging the mound	Not applicable	Not applicable	4/4
Rough and/or dangerous play	3/3	4/4	5/5
Attempting to strike	Not applicable	Not applicable	8/4
Striking	Not applicable	Not applicable	Minimum 18

Note: To be also read in conjunction with MWBL By-Laws in particular By-Law 29

30. Premiership Points

- (a) Two (2) points shall be allocated for each Competition Match.
A tied game shall result in one (1) point to each team.
In the event of a game being declared "No Game" due to state of ground by the Umpire or the League. One (1) point shall be awarded to each team.
- (b) Should more than one (1) team be equal on match points at the conclusion of the Competition Matches then percentage shall determine the position of teams on the premiership table, To determine the percentage the following procedure shall apply:-
Runs for divided by total runs multiplied by 1,000.
The team having the higher quotient shall be considered to have the better performance,
- (c) Byes
 - (i) Where the fixture provides an equal number of byes to each team,
Two (2) points shall be allocated for such byes.
 - (iii) When the fixture is such that teams have an unequal number of byes,
Two (2) points shall be allocated for a bye and final standings will be determined by percentage as stated in By-Law 30 (b).

NOTE: The MWBL Pennant Committee may, in special circumstance, decide that a grade ladder positions are decided by games winning percentage. In cases such as re-draws, uneven fixtures or new grades. Teams entered after the start of the MWBL first round will have their available points decided by the Pennant Committee.

- (iii) If a bye is created during the season by the withdrawal of a team, two (2) points will be awarded to the team receiving the bye.
- (iv) No runs for or against shall be awarded whenever a bye occurs.

31. Premiership Trophies

The premier team in each grade shall hold a perpetual trophy from the League.

32. Team Entries

- (a) Clubs wishing to enter Senior and Junior Teams in the MWBL will be required to complete a Club Information document prior to the commencement of the MWBL or by a date nominated by the MWBL Executive Board
- (b) All clubs nominated will be subject to fees and charges applicable at the time of entry.
- (c) Clubs will be permitted to enter „new“ teams in available grades up to Round 4.
- (d) Team entry after Round Four (4) will only be accepted if there is an uneven number of teams in a grade.
- (e) The MWBL will determine all grading of teams prior to and if necessary during the season proper. The MWBL Pennant Committee decision is final.

33. Appointment of Managers

No person shall be appointed Manager or Coach of any team or Club in the MWBL without first having been registered as a player OR member of that Club. Managers must be activated on My Club if previously registered or subsequently cleared by another club

34. Disputes and Protests

In the event of any dispute or protest (other than a judgement decision, which may not be disputed) the Club or Clubs concerned may appeal to the Pennant Committee or Junior League as may the case be, and all protests shall be heard as soon as practicable from the receipt of the protest in writing provided that the conditions set out in this By-law are adhered to as follows:

- (a) A protest must be lodged at the time of the objection with the umpire.
The umpire shall be given the opportunity to consider the point raised by the Manager.
- (b) Should the Manager decide to continue the protest, the umpire should be advised and before play continues scorers must endorse both score books ensuring the following details are marked:
 - (i) Position of runners on base
 - (ii) Time of day
 - (iii) Ball and strike count on batter,
 - (iv) Score at time of protest
 - (v) Number of outs
- (c) The Manager of the protesting team shall, at the conclusion of the match, advise the umpire whether the protest is to be proceeded with.
It is the responsibility of the protesting Manager to request the umpires to endorse upon the Match Report Card that a protest has been lodged.
- (d) Notice of the protest must be lodged in writing, be in the hands of the Administrator within forty eight (48) hours of completion of the game and be accompanied by a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) fee, which shall be returned if the Pennant Committee does not consider the protest frivolous.
The notice of protest shall include reference to the baseball Rule being protested and full reasons why the protest is being entered.

35. New Clubs

- (a) Particulars of Ground etc.
Any Club applying for admission to the League shall furnish written particulars regarding the location of its ground, dressing accommodation, the nature and tenure of same and conditions of occupancy, before the commencement of each season.
The Pennant Committee may review all such particulars and may when considered necessary, require a Club to give an undertaking confirming its ground arrangements before re-admittance to the League.
- (b) Registration of Uniform
Each Club shall, in writing, and supported by a colour photograph register with the Administrator particulars of the uniform of such team of the Club, and each new Club applying for admission shall state in writing, the particulars of its uniform(s); such to be approved by the Pennant Committee before being adopted.
No Club shall make any change in its uniform without first obtaining the consent of the Pennant Committee.

36. Umpires

- (a) Melbourne Winter Baseball League Umpires Panel
The umpires for all matches played under the auspices of the League shall be appointed from members of the Melbourne Winter Baseball League Umpires Panel whose names appear on the registers of this League provided the membership and number available be sufficient to meet the requirements of the League.
- (b) Fees
The fees payable to umpires shall be decided by the Executive Board.
- (c) Match Report Sheets
At the conclusion of each match, the umpire (including club umpires) shall ensure that the Match Report Card is correctly completed and shows the names of all players taking part in such match together with the details of scores. Such Sheets must be returned to the Administrator within seventy-two (72) hours of the completion of the match.

Failure to comply with this By-law renders the umpire concerned liable to a fine as specified in By-law 14, for each and every offence.

(d) Late Arrival At Match

In the event of an appointed umpire not being in attendance at the time scheduled for the commencement of the match, the Home Club shall appoint a substitute, and the Secretary of the Home Club shall, at the completion of the Match forward to reach the Administrator in seventy two (72) Hours a Match Sheet , correctly completed.

Failure to comply with this By-law renders the Club concerned liable to a fine as specified in By-law 14, for each and every offence.

Should the appointed umpire arrive within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled commencement time the umpire shall assume control of the remainder of the game, The umpire is then responsible for the return of the Match Report Card, and shall record thereon the late arrival.

(e) Non Arrival Of Umpire

Any umpire who fails to attend the match to which an appointment has been made or who arrives late and does not call the games shall send, in writing, an explanation of the reason for the non-attendance or late arrival, to reach the Administrator or such other person as may be appointed by the Executive Board from time to time, within seventy two (72) hours of the completion of the match to which the appointment was made.

(f) Payment Of Umpire

(i) Should any match set down to be played, at which an umpire attends, not take place, the opposing teams shall be responsible for the payment of the umpire fee, provided that where the match does not take place due to the default of either team, the team at fault shall pay the total umpire fee.

(ii) The umpire fee for a match which is commenced and completed in normal manner shall be borne in equal amounts by the opposing teams.

(iv) Umpire fees shall be debited to Clubs by the League and paid by the League to umpires at such times as directed by the Executive Board.

(g) Voting By Umpires

Where directed by the Executive Board, umpires shall record votes for awards specified, and in the manner specified on the Match Report Card and forwarded to the Administrator.

(h) The Umpire shall have sole discretion of fitness of ground.

A MWBL appointed umpire will be the sole judge of the fitness to play of any ground. Where two umpires are appointed at one ground, the senior umpire (late game plate) will decide on the fitness of the ground. Once the umpires have informed both clubs of their decision, this decision will be final. In the absence of a league appointed umpire, a MWBL Official or Club appointed umpire will be the sole judge of the fitness of the ground for play. No matches shall be played on or moved from or to a ground, once the umpire appointed to the matches applicable to this ground has declared the ground unfit for play. Permission must be sought by the MWBL Pennant Chairperson, or in his absence, an MWBL Board member or MWBL Administrator for any relocation of a schedules match.

UMPIRES HELMETS:

All umpires – including appointed and club umpires - when umpiring as a single umpire from behind the pitching mound are required to wear a skull cap type helmet. Normal line umpires are not required to wear skull helmets.

37. Rules for Conduct of Competing Matches

The Pennant Committee and Junior League Committee shall be empowered to make rules for the conduct of Competition Matches and the Final Series.

These rules shall be known as Competition Rules and shall be printed in the form deemed appropriate.

All Competition Rules shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Board, shall have the same effect as By-laws of the Association, and may be used to elaborate on the By-laws.

Competition Rules shall include, but not be limited to, references to:-

Starting Times and Duration of Play

Ground and Match Equipment

Uniforms

Umpires

Match Report Sheets

Scorers

Tribunal

Promotion and Relegation

Conduct of Finals

Junior Rules and Requirements

Special Application of Official Baseball Rules

38. Refer Rule 14.

Schedule of Fines Addendum

The information contained in this addendum can be changed in accordance with By-Laws and Rule 2, without requirement to change the then current By-Laws & Rules document.

Penalties as determined by the Executive Board – but not exclusive to:

GENERAL

Walkover Senior \$50.00 Plus umpires fees
Walkover Junior \$30.00. Plus umpire fees
Non-Phoning of scores \$20.00 per team
Incorrect Phoning of Scores – To be determined
Non-Phoning of Scores for last round and finals \$10.00
Incorrect Phoning of scores for last round and finals – To be determined
Absence from P&S, Senior & JL Delegates Meeting \$10.00
Absence from 2nd consecutive P&S, Senior & JL Delegates Meeting \$20.00
Absence from each subsequent consecutive P&S, Senior & JL Delegates Meeting \$20.00
Late Submission of Registration list \$10.00 per team
Unregistered Player \$10.00
Illegal Player \$50.00 Plus loss of points
Underage Player \$50.00 Plus loss of points
Non-return of Match Report Sheet and votes within 72 hours \$10.00
(\$10.00 per week there after)

GROUND OR PLAYING CONDITIONS

Smoking, Alcoholic Beverage, Chewing or Dipping tobacco \$50.00 Plus ejection
No Base, Home Plate or Pitching Plate provided \$10.00 Each
Base or plate not whitened \$10.00 Each
Baseline unmarked \$50.00
Player out of Uniform \$10.00 per player
Unsigned/Incomplete Match Report Sheet \$10.00
Failure to provide scorer - \$50.00

UMPIRES

No attendance at Game \$50.00 Plus Pennant Committee Appearance
Late Arrival to game \$10.00 Plus Pennant Committee Appearance
Non-return of Match Report Sheet and votes within 72 hours \$10.00
(\$10.00 per week thereafter)
Non appearance at Tribunal without prior notification \$50.00 Plus Pennant Committee Appearance

JUNIOR LEAGUE

Failure to supply an Umpire \$20.00
Non wearing of skull cap or helmet by manager (or player – two eared helmet) whilst base coaching - \$50.00
Failure to provide scorer - \$20.00