

By Laws

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1 COMMITTEES

1.1 The Board may appoint various committees and sub committees from time to time to assist in the operation of the Association with responsibility to the Board in their various fields.

1.1.1 These committees and sub-committees may include;

- Finance & Administration Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Match Committee
- Rules Committee
- Junior Committee
- Coaching & Development Committee
- Female Cricket Committee
- Sponsorship & Marketing
- Or such other Committee or Sub-Committee as shall from time to time be determined necessary by the Board.

1.1.2 The Chairman of the Board shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees with full voting rights.

1.1.3 The General Manager will be given ex-officio membership to Committees and Sub-Committees by the Board and where this status is approved, the General Manager shall have full voting rights.

1.1.4 All such committees must be chaired by a Director of the Board and shall comprise ***at least*** one other Director.

1.1.5 The Chairman of a Committee shall have a casting vote on all matters where a deadlock exists.

1.2 A Member of a committee or sub-committee shall not vote on any matter in which he has any pecuniary interest or in which he is a Member of a Member Club directly concerned in the business at hand.

2 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

2.1 The Board of Management shall appoint and establish a Position Description/List of Duties and Responsibilities or Specific Terms of Reference for:

2.1.1 General Manager (Secretary)

2.1.2 Treasurer

2.1.3 Association Representative Teams Coach

2.1.4 Association Selection Committee

2.1.5 Independent Investigations Officer

2.1.6 Independent Tribunal

2.1.7 Director of Umpiring

2.1.8 Director of Womens/Girls Cricket

2.1.9 Any other Position deemed necessary for the efficient management of the Association.

3 AFFILIATION OF CLUBS

3.1 The General Manager will be instructed by the Board to issue invitations for the Renewal of Affiliation to Member Clubs no later than May 15 in each year.

3.1.1 Such Invitations shall not be construed as an offer to affiliate and any subsequent reply by the Club or Clubs so invited shall be considered as provided for by these By-laws;

3.1.2 Any Club wishing to seek affiliation with the Association for each season shall make application, in writing, using the prescribed "Renewal of Affiliation Form"- Appendix 3 of the Association Constitution; to the General Manager a week prior to the holding of the WMDCA Annual General Meeting of each year;

3.1.3 Clubs applying for affiliation must meet the minimum requirements;

3.1.3.1 Minimum of two (2) Senior Teams.

3.1.3.2 Minimum of two (2) Junior Teams (male or female); plus

3.1.3.3 Woolworths T Blast, or equivalent under age child cricket program.

3.1.3.4 Member Club Delegates (Senior and Junior) to participate in meetings in accordance with attendance standards set by the Board.

3.1.3.5 Minimum 1 Senior and 1 Junior duly Accredited Coach or undertake the process to become one.

3.1.3.6 Venues for Turf and Hard wicket Home-games are to be named at the time of Renewal.
In Premier Division there is a requirement to have access to a turf wicket for home matches.

3.1.3.7 All Member Clubs with Turf and/or Hard wicket facilities to provide grounds for use by the Association for Country Week and any other Association commitments.

3.1.3.8 All Financial obligations to the Association are paid on time and in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws of the Association.

3.1.3.9 Compliance in accordance with the Act and Regulations, Administration and Reporting requirements in the Constitution, By-Laws and as directed by the Board of Management of the Association.

3.1.3.10 All Home clubs must maintain a Fully Equipped First Aid Kit.

3.1.3.11 Turf Wicket Area Covers (Minimum size: 8 Metres X 25 metres) to be provided by all Member Clubs for their Turf Wickets. Failure to provide suitable covers may result in a maximum penalty of $500.00.

3.2 The Board shall consider these applications for affiliation and not later than the scheduled July Board Meeting in each year determine;

3.2.1 The suitable Member Clubs, and the Division/s in which these Clubs shall compete for the following season.

3.2.1.1 No Member Club shall have two (2) teams participating in Premier or Championship Divisions;

3.2.2 Clubs shall be notified in writing of the decision of the Board no later than seven (7) days after this date.

3.2.3 The Board shall be the sole determining body regarding the acceptance of affiliations.

3.3 When considering applications for affiliation from clubs the Board shall have regard to the following;

3.3.1 Performance of First XI.

3.3.2 Performance of Second XI and the Club's highest level Under Age team.

3.3.3 Commitment to both Senior and Junior Cricket

3.3.4 Performance of Club Administrators;

3.3.4.1 On Association Committees and Sub-committees

3.3.4.2 Attendance at Association Meetings

3.3.4.3 Financial Standing with the Association

3.3.5 Grounds and Club Facilities

3.3.6 Member Club and Player Conduct/behaviour. Compliance with Child Safety policies and standards.

3.4 In assessing applications the Board shall reject such applications if it is of the opinion that the club so applying cannot or will not meet the minimum requirements as detailed in sub-clause 3.1.3.

3.5 Any club seeking affiliation may be required to provide a copy of its Constitution, By-Laws, Club Child Safety Code of Conduct and Child Safe Policy to the Association upon request from the General Manager.

3.6 Each Club seeking affiliation may be required to provide the latest Club Annual Report when submitting affiliation applications.

3.7 The Board may refuse to admit any club applying for affiliation and if requested will advise the club of the reasons for its decision.

3.8 Each Club accepted for affiliation shall be deemed to be affiliated from the date of July 1st in the year that the affiliation was accepted and such affiliation shall continue until June 30th in the subsequent year unless otherwise terminated or suspended under the provisions of Clause 7 of the Constitution.

3.9 The Board may terminate or suspend the affiliation of a club in accordance with Clause 7 of the Constitution.

3.10 The Board shall have the power to create divisions into which the teams of affiliated Clubs are allocated. The Board shall arrange or cause to be arranged a series of fixtures in which the teams of the affiliated clubs shall compete.

4 REGISTRATION

4.1 It is the responsibility of all member clubs to establish the eligibility or otherwise of a player before they are registered and participate in their first match.

4.2 In the registration process Clubs are to take reasonable steps to check on a player/s playing history before any registration occurs. In the case of any new players seeking to register with a new Club this season a verification of the players eligibility is required to ensure there is no conflict with the Reason for refusal policy-Sub Rule 5.7.3 of the By Laws. If any doubt exists the WMDCA Match Committee is to be contacted.

4.3 To be eligible to participate in matches organised by the Association a player must be first registered on the Competition Management Platform. On match day this must be in place at least 10 minutes prior to commencement of play as per Nomination of teams-Rule 8.1.2 of the Senior Playing Conditions.

4.4 Where a player registers with a Club (Primary Club) that registration will remain current and binding until the player transfers to play for another Club. The registration of all players expires at the end of each playing season. Registration of players therefore will be required to occur annually.

4.5 The registration of players process opens on 1st August of each calendar year.

4.6 The registration of a player will not be approved by the Association if the following instances apply;

- A player is banned through suspension or any other reason from playing in this or any another Cricket League or Association; or
- The player does not meet the WMDCA Transfer and Permit conditions under Sub Rule 5.7.3

4.7 **Law 1.0 Fill-In Players**

A fill-in is a non-registered player within the current season being played who is being used to fill-in for 1 match only. They are entered via the admin or e-scoring portal.

PLEASE NOTE: The fill-in players record **does not** link or connect game stats to any existing PlayHQ profile. You will need to replace a fill-in record with a player's actual record after they have registered through PlayHQ. This can be completed in GameDay section of the Admin Portal.

4.7.1 A fill-in player may be used where a shortage of players exists in a team in a match.

4.7.2 The player being used as a fill-in player **must not be** registered with or have played with any other club in the WMDCA or any other association as a fill-in player in the current season.

4.7.3 The player can fill-in only **once** in a season for **one competition** anywhere in Australia, then the player must be registered with the club if required to play in any other match that season under this rule a second time.
(i.e. as an example, but not limited to: if they are a fill-in for a junior competition either in the WMDCA association or another association within the same season, they cannot be a fill-in player for a senior competition or any other competition, they must register to play)

4.7.4 A player playing a second fill-in is deemed to be an ineligible / unregistered player if they haven't registered. By Law 4.8 will then be enforced

4.7.5 When adding a player in as a fill-in player the following must be completed fully whether completing this in the **admin portal** or the **e-scoring portal** on match day.
Failure to do this may result in the WMDCA association removing match points, and or a fine or other action at the discretion of the WMDCA match committee

Requirements for adding in a fill in player
a. Full legal name
b. Player's email (do not put in a club email, or the person entering the information email or a false email.)
c. Player's full and correct date of birth

4.7.6 A fill-in must not be used for any player who is on suspension in any competition within Australia, or due to a transfer or permit not been completed and/or approved.

4.7.7 A player who is already registered on another competition within the season can not be used as a fill in player, they can only be used with a Game permit if the association has this toggled on in the back end.

4.7.8 Before a player can be used as a fill in for any team that requires player points the club must submit a dispensation form to the match committee to approve the players point value to ensure this does not put their team over the limit. *(Please note fill in's do not have their point value recorded on PlayHQ so this must be considered when selecting your team that you need to account for their point value)*

4.8 Any failure to comply with this rule, the Association can impose a monetary penalty up to $200.00 and/or remove the loss of any points gained by the offending team.

4.9 Senior player points policy for Premier and Championship cricket apply to senior men's matches, including the Sungold T20 competition. Failure to comply will incur penalties as determined in the policy.
See Appendix A – Senior player points policy

5 TRANSFERS

5.1 Transfer- Applies when a player permanently moves from their home Club (Primary affiliated Club) to another within a season.

5.2 Players who have not previously played cricket within the WMDCA must register and then apply for a transfer. Players who have not played cricket within the WMDCA for twelve months will be considered free agents and may register with any club of their choice. However, if a player has transferred clubs within the last twelve months without playing, they will remain bound to their previously affiliated club.

5.3 A player who has played in any other Victorian, Interstate or overseas competition during the season or within one year prior to the current season has played in the WMDCA must then apply for a transfer to play at any other WMDCA Club.

5.4 Should a transfer be refused a player/club may apply to the WMDCA Match Committee for a review of the decision. If aggrieved 7 days notice in writing is required. The Club where the player has submitted this transfer request has the right to be heard by an independent tribunal.

5.5 All transfers are to be submitted by no later than the 31st December of each season.

5.6 Players who have not previously played cricket within the WMDCA must register and then apply for a transfer. Where a player already has transferred to a club and the player has not played cricket for twelve months the player is still bound to the primary club. After the expiration of that period the player may transfer to any other Club of choice as a free agent and register.

5.7 Processing Transfer Applications

5.7.1. An application for a transfer between clubs can be instigated by a player or a club admin person and applied for on line in the approved Competition Management Platform .

5.7.2 A Club or Association on receiving advice of a transfer must consider the request and action within a five day timeframe. If this timeframe is not met the transfer will automatically be approved.

5.7.3 Reasons for a Transfer refusal;

- Fees outstanding or other indebtedness.
- Club equipment not returned.
- A signed contract is in existence.
- The transfer is revoked by the player.
- Club or association imposed suspension.

6 PERMITS

6.1 Players shall not play with more than one club in the WMDCA unless the player is authorised by way of dispensation of a permit and the provisions as detailed in Sub Rule 5.7.3 are met and approval by the WMDCA Match Committee is obtained prior to a permit being submitted.
The permits to senior competitions in the WMDCA are restricted to only one club per season for any player

6.2 Permits allow players not registered to a Club to play single or multiple games with another nominated Club/s or team. Also allows players within a Club to play in multiple competitions (eg Juniors and Seniors).

6.3 Internal Permit- Seeking to play with own Club. eg. Player registered as a Junior also requesting to play Senior Cricket at the primary Club.

6.4 External Permit- A player is seeking to play with an opposing Club or in any club elsewhere.
A player can then register via online registration process and initiate the permit sought or a Club Admin person can initiate the permit through the Competition Management Platform.

6.5 This approval is required from both Clubs and the receiving Association. The length of the time of the Permit is determined in the request e.g. 3 day or restricted permit or full season permit.

6.6 Players from other Associations may receive up to three (3) match permits to play in Premier, Championship or Division 2 only in the WMDCA. Those permits are allowed up to January 31st of each season.

6.7 For Representative Cricket Matches a permit is required to be actioned and players transferred to play Representative Cricket in the respective Representative Cricket Competition.

6.8 Once a player has been registered for the season they can be added to multiple teams or Clubs through the permit process.

6.9 Where a permit is approved, player details remain with their primary affiliated club and as well will follow to the Club to whom the permit applies and for the period the permit exists.

6.10 Game Day Permit.

This permit can be approved where a team lacks the required number to field a full team. A game permit allows for a player that has not registered to any club in any competition this season to play a single game for that club in this competition.

Registration criteria:

- Player wants to participate in a club team (not an association team).
- Player does not have a life ban or suspension.
- Player has not already received a game day permit for this season in any competition.
- Finals eligibility, player points and team player limit rules are not breached.

Game permits are initiated by the destination club. The destination club is the club that the player has not registered to but wishes to play for. When the game permit request is submitted the competition management platform will automatically check the eligibility criteria. If all criteria are met a game day permit will be automatically created and approved.

Game day permit applications should be submitted to the match committee chairperson prior to game day wherever possible. In extenuating circumstances applications may be approved on game day at the discretion of the match committee.

6.11 For a player to gain a game permit the Club must first submit to the Match Committee Chairperson before game day, the names of the player/s seeking a Game Permit. The Match Committee will satisfy as to the suitability of the players nominated and that the Club/player are fully conversant with the conditions referred to in Senior Playing Conditions 8.1.3(General Provisions). Written or verbal approval of the Game Permit application will then ensue.

6.12 Any failure to comply with this Senior Playing Condition Sub- rule 8.1.3 will invoke penalties for non- compliance, a $500.00 monetary penalty, a loss of any points gained or both.

6.13 Penalties for Playing ineligible players.

6.13.1 Penalties- Any club playing a person who is under suspension, or not one of the following:
- a registered player
- a primary club transferred player
- a player who is subject to a conditional playing permit

shall, subject to the discretion of the WMDCA Match Committee be declared to have lost any match or matches in which such player has participated in and the Club shall be fined up to $500.00.

6.13.2 Awarding of Points - The awarding of points to the opposing club or clubs under Rule 6.13.1 shall be at the discretion of the WMDCA Match Committee.

6.13.3 Player incorrectly identified as ineligible- Where a club is notified under Rule 6.13.1 that a player deemed registered by the Club is subsequently found to not be registered, the club except in the circumstances provided for in Rule 6.13.1 shall not be penalised for any match in which the player participated in prior to that players ineligibility being brought to the Associations notice.

6.14 Premier Cricket Players.

6.14.1 Any male player who is not currently a registered WMDCA club player and who has played a minimum of three (3) first or second XI matches in any Cricket Victoria Premier Cricket competition, or equivalent Interstate Premier leagues during that season, is not eligible for any permit.

6.14.2 This rule does not affect women who play in the Women's Premier Cricket or other listed competitions playing in the WMDCA.

6.15 Club Administrators must be conversant with these By Laws and every effort be made to comply before actioning player transfers and permits. If anomalies or issues arise contact with the WMDCA is requested.

7 UMPIRES

7.1 Umpires are required to uphold the Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Playing Rules of the Association and failure to do so will see the Umpire/s dealt with in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Umpires Association and the Board of the Warrnambool Moyne and District Cricket Association.

7.1.1 Member Clubs, Directors of the Board, Members of the Match Committee of Management, Independent Investigations Officer, Association Head Coach, Executive Members of the Warrnambool Cricket Umpires Association Inc. or the General Manager may report Grievances with/against Umpires.

7.2 Grievances with/against both appointed or Club Umpires may be reported to the General Manager within 48 hours of the completion of the Match or Incident.

7.3 The General Manager shall refer the report to the Match Committee and advise the Secretary of the Umpires Association of the Report;

7.3.1 The Match Committee shall liaise with the Umpires Association to ensure that the Report is enquired into, investigated and dealt with in accordance with the Umpires Association Constitution, By-laws, Policies and Rules.

7.4 Umpires fees and expenses must be approved by the Board.

8 REPORTING PLAYERS, TEAMS, OFFICIALS AND CLUBS

8.1 The WMDCA will continue to closely monitor behaviour in the Warrnambool Moyne & District Cricket Association. Traditionally, cricket has been one sport to maintain and exhibit the highest levels of conduct and sportsmanship. While always a most competitive game, the continued strength of the sport has relied upon the acceptance of the umpire's decision and the preparedness to play within the "spirit of the game".

8.2 Reports can be made by:

8.2.1 Official Umpire/s

8.2.1(a) Team Umpire/s where there are no Official Umpires.

8.2.2 Either Captain where no Official Umpires are officiating.

8.2.3 Junior Manager and/or Coaches in junior matches where no Official Umpire is appointed.

8.2.4 Independent Investigations Officer appointed by the Board.

8.2.5 Any member of the Board of Management of the Association.

8.2.6 The General Manager of the Association.

8.2.7 Video evidence in relation to any alleged offence may be considered by the Match Committee. Such evidence may also be produced should the case proceed to a hearing by the independent Tribunal. Any such evidence should be supported by a declaration to the effect that the footage is unaltered.

8.3 The Match Committee is responsible for all reports against players, teams, officials and clubs. Upon receiving notification of a report, the Match Committee will be considered to have formally laid a charge against the party in question, at which time the reporting entity will be relieved of this responsibility. The reporting entity may be called as a witness by the Match Committee should the report proceed to a tribunal hearing. In the event of the matter proceeding to a tribunal hearing it shall be the responsibility of the Match Committee to prosecute the case.

8.4 Notification of reporting process

8.4.1

(a) Where a person specified under 8.2.1, 8.2.1(a), 8.2.2, or 8.2.3 has cause to lodge a report, that person shall, preferably, notify the party(ies) reported or the Captain of the reported party's team upon conclusion of the match in which the alleged offence occurs.

(b) In the event that this does not occur, the person shall notify the General Manager of the report no later than 6pm on the day following the alleged offence.

8.4.2 Such notification shall be a report on the appropriate form showing the reported party(ies) name and club and detailing the nature of the offence.

8.4.3 Upon receipt of such a report, the General Manager shall, by no later than 48 hours after the scheduled end of the match in which the alleged offence occurred.:

(a) Notify the reported player, team, official or club that a charge has been laid against them. Notification will be considered to have been given from the time a club is sent electronic correspondence, or otherwise contacted in relation to their reported player, team, official or club.

(b) Notify the Match Committee of the report.

8.4.4 Within 72 hours of receiving notification of a report, the General Manager will liaise with the match committee to determine whether the reported player, team, official or club is eligible to be offered the applicable minimum mandatory penalty in accordance with By Law 8.7

In making its determination the match committee may consider the charged parties previous record and the seriousness of the alleged offence.

(a) The match committee may determine the grade, division, or specific matches in which a suspension or penalty is to be served. This includes specifying a fixed end date for a penalty where appropriate.

8.4.5 Should the reported player, team, official or club not be deemed eligible to be offered the minimum mandatory penalty the matter is to be heard by an Independent Tribunal.

8.5 A player, team, official or club charged with an offence under these By Laws may accept the applicable minimum mandatory penalty imposed or offered by the match committee, or elect to have the matter referred to the WMDCA independent tribunal for determination.

8.6 Where a reported player, team, official or club elects to decline the minimum mandatory penalty, the intention to do so shall be lodged in writing with the General Manager no later than 6.00pm on the day after such offer has been made.
Where a minimum mandatory penalty is declined, the report shall proceed to the Independent Tribunal.
If an intention to decline the minimum mandatory penalty is not received in the above time frame, an acceptance of the minimum mandatory suspension will be deemed to have occurred

8.7 **Reports**
Any player, team, official or club that the match committee determines has committed an offence will receive the applicable minimum mandatory penalty for the relevant level of offence. The penalty will be imposed by the match committee and will take effect immediately, subject to any right of challenge provided under these By Laws.

There are two processes for dealing with unsatisfactory behaviour

- Level 1 offences will be dealt with in accordance with the warning provisions outlined in By Law 8.8.
- Level 2, 3 and 4 offences will result in the player, team, official or club being reported by the umpires and referred to the match committee for determination.

The match committee will consider the report and determine whether the charged party has committed the alleged offence and, where applicable, impose the prescribed penalty.
Where the charged party challenges the decision or penalty imposed by the match committee, the matter will be referred to the WMDCA independent tribunal for determination. The tribunal may uphold, vary or dismiss the match committees decision, and may impose such penalty as it considers appropriate in accordance with these By Laws.

8.8 **Warnings**
For less serious breaches where an umpire has occasion to speak to a player, team, official or club regarding their behaviour, but does not believe a report is necessary, the incident shall be recorded on a player behaviour form and noted on the Umpires' Match Report. The party or parties in question may receive an official warning after it is reviewed by the WMDCA Match

Committee. If a player receives two such warnings or a warning and a report (within any 24 month period) it will be a mandatory one week suspension plus any additional penalty for the pending report

In addition, any player or team penalised under the following Laws shall be noted on the Umpires' Match Report and the player or team will receive an official warning after referral from the match committee as per procedures in By Laws 8.4.3.

Where the party refers the warning to the Independent Tribunal, if found guilty by the Independent Tribunal, the reported party will receive the minimum mandatory penalty to be served immediately in addition to any other penalty that the Tribunal may wish to apply.

Captains are ineligible to receive a warning from the umpire, if they commit any alleged breach. The matter will be dealt with by the match committee to determine what appropriate penalty applies, which may include a warning.

Initial Action by Umpires

The umpires shall take action with respect to any unacceptable conduct. There are six levels of offences. If either umpire considers that the conduct of a player at any time during the match is unacceptable, the umpire concerned shall call and signal ' dead ball' . This call should delayed until the umpire is satisfied that it will not disadvantage the non-offending team. The umpire concerned shall report the matter to the other umpire and together they shall decide whether misconduct has occurred. If so, they shall determine into which of the levels the conduct falls, as set out below, and apply the appropriate reporting procedures.

Level One Offences

Any of the following actions by a player is a Level 1 offence:

1.1 Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match. This includes any action outside the course of normal cricket actions, such as hitting or kicking the wickets, and any action that intentionally or negligently results in damage to boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.

1.2 Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action. This includes:

- excessive, obvious or inappropriate disappointment with an umpire's decision
- an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket
- shaking the head
- pointing or looking at the bat or body when given out
- snatching cap from the umpire
- indicating a referral to a 'TV umpire' by word or gesture
- arguing or entering into a discussion with the umpire about the decision.

It is not a defence to show that the umpire made an incorrect decision.

1.3 Using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting, making an obscene gesture (includes audible or repetitious swearing, and obscene gestures which are not directed at another person, such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune. This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the umpire shall take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to be regarded as obscene, give offence, or insult another person)

1.4 Appealing excessively: advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing (including repeated appealing or celebrating or assuming a dismissal before the decision has been given. It is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing).

1.5 Pointing or gesturing by a bowler or fielder to the batter upon dismissal.

1.6 Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

PLAYERS	
MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSION	1 match

TEAMS, OFFICIALS & CLUBS	
MINIMUM MONETARY PENALTY	$250.00

Level Two Offences

Any of the following actions by a player is a Level 2 offence:

2.1 Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action. Dissent, including those listed as a level 1 offence, are classified as serious when the conduct contains an element of anger or abuse that is directed at the umpire or umpire's decision, or where there is excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket or where there is persistent reference to the incident over time. It is not a defence to show that the umpire made an incorrect decision.

2.2 Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player. Cricket is a non-contact sport, and inappropriate physical contact of a serious nature will not be tolerated. Without limitation, players will breach this regulation if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another player. Accidental or genuinely unavoidable physical contact that occurs during the course of play shall not be considered an offence under this level.

2.3 Throwing the ball or any other item of cricket equipment at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner. This offence does not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.

2.4 Using language or gesturing to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a serious insulting nature. It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, umpires will report conduct that falls below an acceptable standard. This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the umpire shall take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to be regarded as obscene, give offence, or insult another person.

2.5 Or any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence

PLAYERS	
MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSION	2 matches

TEAMS, OFFICIALS & CLUBS	
MINIMUM MONETARY PENALTY	$500.00

Level Three Offences

3.1 Intimidate an umpire or referee whether by language or conduct

PLAYERS	
MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSION	3 matches

TEAMS, OFFICIALS & CLUBS	
MINIMUM MONETARY PENALTY	$750.00

Level Four Offences

4.1 Consumption of alcohol by players during a game
4.2 Obstructing an umpire in the performance of his duty
4.3 Threaten to assault another player, team official or spectator
4.4 Use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, threaten, disparage, discriminate or vilify another person the basis of that person's race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, descent or national or ethnic origin

PLAYERS	
MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSION	4 matches

TEAMS, OFFICIALS & CLUBS	
MINIMUM MONETARY PENALTY	$1,000.00

Level Five Offences

5.1 Intentional contact or striking another player
5.2 Threatening to strike an umpire
5.3 Breach of WMDCA social media policy

PLAYERS	
MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSION	6 matches

TEAMS, OFFICIALS & CLUBS	
MINIMUM MONETARY PENALTY	$1,500.00

Level Six Offences

6.1 Intentional contact or striking an umpire
6.2 Breach of the Cricket Australia "Looking after our Children" policy

PLAYERS	
MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSION	1 season

TEAMS, OFFICIALS & CLUBS	
MINIMUM MONETARY PENALTY	$2,500.00

9 GROUNDS

9.1 All Clubs must ensure that their home grounds are booked for the whole season, including semi-finals and grand-finals.

9.1.1 Where a ground is unavailable at any time during the season the General Manager must be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.

9.1.2 All matches are to be played on the type of pitch approved by the Board and clubs shall improve their standard of ground and/or pitch when directed to do so.

9.1.3 Hard wicket Pitches on all grounds are to be uncovered not later than two (2) weeks prior to the season's first scheduled day of play.

9.2 The grounds nominated pursuant to 3.1.3 and approved shall not be changed without approval of the Match Committee.

9.2.1 Any application to change the nominated venue for any scheduled match shall be lodged in writing with the Match Committee (having already received agreement from the opposition club) not less than 36 hours prior to the first date for which approval is sought.

9.2.2 Any such application must nominate an alternative venue for the dates the ground will be unavailable and the reason for the ground being unavailable on those dates.

9.2.3 In extenuating circumstances the match committee has the authority to change a scheduled venue at short notice.

9.3 Approval to Change Venues

9.3.1 The Match Committee shall have an absolute discretion as to whether or not to approve an application brought under Rule 9.2.

9.3.2 In exercising its discretion the Match Committee shall be entitled to take into account the suitability of the proposed alternative venue and the policy of the WMDCA regarding the use of nominated grounds during the cricket season for purposes other than the playing of cricket.

9.3.3 Notwithstanding the approval of any application made under Rule 9.2 the Club may be fined a maximum of $500.00 for a non approved venue change.

9.4 A club shall not be in breach of the rules by reason of its nominated and approved ground not being available if, :

9.4.1 The weather is such that even with the use of covers the ground has been rendered unfit for play; or

9.4.2 The Match Committee has pursuant to By-law 9.3 given approval for the ground not to be available.

9.4.3 Or any other legitimate reason approved by the match committee.

9.5 Any club failing to meet its engagement or with due regard to the weather, to have its ground, or a ground to be approved by the Match Committee (regardless of whether any team from that club is participating in the scheduled match), in a proper condition for play, shall be fined up to $500 as determined by the WMDCA. The Match Committee shall have the power to award points to the opposing club unless the Committee accepts the reasons given.

9.6 Should a team not fulfil its engagement on more than one occasion in any given season, such team may be subject to a loss of premiership points across all divisions of a value to be determined by the Match Committee. Should such an occasion occur during the finals series, any such deduction of premiership points shall be carried forward to the following season.

9.7 If a Club wishes to make its ground or grounds available for a use other than the playing of scheduled cricket matches on a day or days during which a match or matches are scheduled for its grounds, the Club must make a written application to the Match Committee not less than four weeks prior to the relevant date to obtain approval for such use.

9.7.1 If the application is made less than four weeks prior to the relevant date the Match Committee shall be under no obligation to consider the application later.

9.7.2 The Match Committee shall have an absolute discretion as to whether or not to approve the proposed use of the ground.

9.8 During the month of September each club must report to the WMDCA on a weekly basis, on the condition of the ground and pitch (if applicable) on its oval(s) and on the progress being made to have them ready for play on the first Saturday in October.

9.9 The Match Committee shall decide on grounds, days and hours of play for all finals; and

9.9.1 Shall have the power to vary the venue prior to commencement of the match;

9.9.2 Clubs participating in semi finals shall pay umpires' fees for these matches.

9.9.3 The Association shall pay umpires' fees for all grand final matches.

10 ELIGIBILITY - General

10.1 Eligibility for players to be registered to compete in the WMDCA;

10.1.1 Any member of the Umpires Association wishing to play cricket in the Association must apply to the General Manager for written approval and they will be notified of the decision within seven (7) days.

10.1.2 An Overseas player is a player who is not ordinarily resident in Australia and who has spent 4 or more weeks outside Australia between 1st April and the 30th September immediately prior to the commencement of the season.
A member club may register a maximum of 1 male Overseas player and 1 female Overseas player at any one time.
An Overseas player may participate in any division of the competition.
Definition of ordinarily resident.
An individual who is not an Australian citizen is ordinarily resident in Australia at a particular time if and only if:
(a) the individual has actually been in Australia during 200 or more days in the period of 12 months immediately preceding that time; and
(b) at that time:
(i) the individual is in Australia and the individual's continued presence in Australia is not subject to any limitation as to time imposed by law; or
(ii) the individual is not in Australia but, immediately before the individual's most recent departure from Australia, the individual's continued presence in Australia was not subject to any limitation as to time imposed by law.

10.1.3 Any person disqualified by Cricket Victoria from any League, Association and/or a Club affiliated with Victorian Country Cricket League shall be deemed disqualified from this Association.

10.1.3.1 Member Clubs must notify the General Manager of any such player suspension and must not allow the player to commence playing again until notified in writing by the Association.

10.1.4 Any club that has 2 teams in the one division cannot play players in their second team once they have played 5 matches in one of the teams.
No more than 2 eligible players may move teams from week to week between the two division teams without the consent of the match committee

10.2 Deleted

10.3 Finals eligibility;

10.3.1 Days of play that are cancelled by the Association do not count towards eligibility for finals. Junior cricket matches played for the same club may count towards senior finals eligibility at the discretion of the match committee. Forfeited matches count towards eligibility for the winning team provided the team is entered on the Competition Management Platform, as per the prescribed time of 10 minutes prior to scheduled commencement time of match. Association cancelled games do not count towards eligibility

10.3.2 To be eligible to play in any end of season finals match, a player must have played a minimum of five games of cricket with that Club in the Association in that season.

10.3.2.1 A player shall not be eligible to participate in an end of season finals match in a lower division unless the majority of matches played by that player during the current season have been in that division, or a lower division.
This shall not apply if all of the club's higher Division teams are also playing on that day.

In exceptional circumstances, the match committee may approve a player to participate, notwithstanding the requirements of this By Law, where it is satisfied that the circumstances justify the exemption and that doing so would not provide the club with an unfair competition advantage

10.3.3 To be eligible to play in any mid season one-day finals match, a player must have played at least three games of senior cricket with that Club in the Association in that season. This rule only applies where there is a mid season one-day final.

10.3.3.1 A player shall not be eligible to play in a one-day finals match in a lower grade team unless he has played the majority of his one-day matches in that, or any other lower grade during that season. This shall not apply if the club's higher grade is also playing in a one-day final on that day

10.3.4 To be eligible to play in any T20 finals match, a player must have played a minimum of four games of cricket with that Club in the Association in that season.

10.3.4.1 A player shall not be eligible to play in a T20 finals match in a lower grade team unless he has played the majority of his T20 matches in that, or any other lower grade during that season. This shall not apply if the club's higher grade is also playing in a T20 final on that day.

10.3.5 Any player who has played in the Association and played in another Association during the same season must be transferred to play again with his Member Club to be eligible for finals.

10.3.6 Deleted

10.3.7 Where a club has 2 teams in the one division a player must have played the majority of matches with the team he will represent in the finals.

10.3.8 A junior player currently eligible to play in the under 13 boys competition, or the under 14 girls competition, or having received an overage permit to play in either of these competitions, are not permitted to play in any senior men's cricket competition.

10.3.9 Junior players who are eligible for under 13 mixed cricket will not be eligible to play in the under 17 mixed competition. Those players will be able to play under 13 mixed cricket and under 15 mixed cricket only.
Girls who are eligible to play under 13 mixed cricket will also be able to play in the under 17 girls competition. However they will not be eligible to play in the under 17 mixed competition.
The same principle will apply to players eligible for under 11 cricket. Those players will be able to play up to under 13 mixed cricket as their highest mixed grade.
Female players eligible for under 11 cricket will be permitted to play in the girls under 14 competition.
Junior girls are not permitted to play in the women's competition, until they reach the age of 15 years.
The match committee will consider and assess any application where exceptional circumstances exist outside this policy.

11 PERPETUAL TROPHIES

11.1 Member Clubs holding Association Perpetual Trophies;

11.1.1 Shall be responsible for damage to Trophies in their custody or any registered player of the Club during the period of possession; and

11.1.2 The Trophies are to be returned to the General Manager of the Association by 31 January of the year following presentation;

11.1.3 Any cost for repair and/or replacement of such trophies will be billed to the member Club.

11.2 A player before being eligible for the Divisional Association Bowling Average/s must have taken twenty (20) wickets or more in; Premier, Championship and Division 2 AND fifteen (15) wickets or more in any lower Division/s during the home and away matches.

11.3 A player before being eligible for the Divisional Batting Average/s must have made three hundred and fifty (350) runs or more in; Premier, Championship and Division 2 AND two hundred and fifty (250) runs or more in any lower Division/s during the home and away matches.

11.4 The leading batting, bowling and wicket keeping aggregates will be awarded in all grades.

11.5 Cricketer of the Year winner to be decided by Umpires Votes (3-2-1) each match (excluding finals).

11.5.1 Where no official Umpire appointed BOTH Captains will agree on votes.

11.5.2 Players suspended during the season cannot win the award.

11.6 A pennant and/or shield shall be presented to each winning club. Each winning club shall receive a maximum thirteen medals or badges for distribution to players and such others as deemed appropriate.

11.7 The community sponsored Spirit of Cricket Award provides an incentive for Clubs to strive to uphold the traditions of the game and to display the principles of fair play espoused in the Laws of Cricket.
This award relates to the performances of the 1st eleven team of each Club in each round of cricket over the entire home and away season. Each first eleven team receives an assessment by the officiating umpire and the two captains with a rating out of 10 for each of the categories-
-The captains acceptance of responsibility for players actions.
-The team adherence to the principles of "The Spirit of Cricket" including respect for teammates, opponents and the umpires role.
-Co-operation of captains and players with and towards umpires and their role.
The two captains and the umpires rating will be collated and an overall rating will be attained based on the average of the three sets of figures.
Where there is no umpire, The Spirit of Cricket ratings by both captains will be paired and an average of the two scores will be the rating.
However, if a lower level club division team or member/s commit a BREACH of any Code of conduct rule and a penalty is imposed (warning or suspension), points will be deducted from that particular Clubs overall points standing.
There is a mandatory reduction of three points for any contravention of the code of conduct policy under this award.

Clubs will be duly advised by the WMDCA Match Committee where loss of points has occurred.
The WMDCA expects that clubs will use the ratings to promptly address any issues that may impact on achieving compliance and adherence in the spirit of fair play.

11.8 The Board shall determine any other Awards or recognition/s they deem appropriate in any season, including the qualification/s.

12 FAILURE TO OBEY DIRECTIVES FROM BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

12.1 Any club that fails to obey a Written Directive from the Board and/or the General Manager within 7 days may incur a penalty not exceeding $200.00.

13 TRIBUNAL

13.1 Independent Tribunals may deal with the following matters;

13.1.1 Appeals by players against refused clearances.

13.1.2 Appeals by players against refusal of all permit applications.

13.1.3 Reports against players, officials, supporters, teams or clubs for misdemeanour.

13.1.4 Any matter referred to it by the Board.

13.1.5 Any matter referred to it by an Independent Investigation Officer appointed by the Board.

13.1.6 Any Match Committee decision.

13.1.7 Any appeal of the match committee decision must be made in writing to the General Manager of the WMDCA together with a bond of $500. In the event of the appeal being upheld the bond shall be returned to the appellant. Upon the loss of an appeal the bond shall be forfeited. No appeal can proceed until the monetary bond has been received by the association General Manager.
Any forfeited monies to be paid into the Junior Development Fund.

13.2 Report of Players, Clubs, Officials

13.2.1 These reports must be heard before the commencement of the next match or within fourteen (14) days after the completion of the match in which the report arose, which ever is the sooner.

13.2.2 Players, Clubs, Officials found guilty of any charge may be reprimanded, suspended, fined or disqualified as the Independent Tribunal sees fit.

13.3 The Association shall allow for an appeal against the decisions of the Tribunal. An appeal against a decision of the Independent Tribunal shall;

13.3.1 Be in writing to the Secretary, Western Waves.

13.3.2 Be lodged within 48 hours of the time of the hearing from which the appeal arose.

13.3.3 Be lodged with a statutory declaration that the appealing party shall accept the decision of the appeal hearing and shall take no further action.

13.3.4 Be accompanied by a bond of $500 as either a bank cheque payable to the WMDCA Incorporated, cash in Australian dollars, or by electronic transfer. In the event of the appeal being upheld the bond shall be returned to the appellant. Upon loss of the appeal the bond shall be forfeited.

13.3.5 The appeal shall be held at a time and place as advised by the Secretary, Western Waves, before the next playing day if possible.

13.3.6 On lodgement of an appeal any player(s) who made such appropriate appeal shall not be allowed to participate in matches that commence after such lodgement but prior to the hearing.

13.3.7 The decision of the appeal hearing shall be final.

13.4 *POLICY*

13.4.1 It is the duty of the General Manager of the Association to assist the Independent Tribunal to arrange the place and time of meeting, the appearance of the person(s) or club(s) connected with the report or appeal to be dealt with and to ensure that all the relevant paper work is in the hands of the tribunal prior to the commencement of business.

13.4.2 Clubs and/or players appearing before the Independent Tribunal shall be entitled to an advocate if they so desire. Advocates may be members of the Association clubs but shall **not** be members of the legal profession (past or present).

13.4.3 Witnesses may also be called when necessary. They shall be excluded from the tribunal room while the evidence-in-chief is being given and once called to give evidence may remain in the room until the case is finished.

13.4.4 Persons giving evidence before the tribunal may be questioned by their own and opposing advocates through the chairman of the Independent Tribunal.

13.4.5 Members of the tribunal are empowered to question witnesses at any time.

13.4.6 Media representatives may be allowed to sit in any tribunal at the discretion of the tribunal chairman, provided they agree that their presence will not create any adverse effects on the smooth running of the cases being heard.

PROCEDURES

Upon assembly and after the Tribunal has elected a Chairman, all clubs or persons having business before the tribunal shall be summoned to appear.

1. Opening address by Chairman, including the announcement of the charges and the procedure to be followed.
2. Reading of the charges.
3. Chairman requests a plea from the reported person(s).
4. Evidence/submissions (may be in writing) from:
    (a) the Umpires(s)
    (b) any other person(s) in attendance to give evidence
    (c) the reported person(s)
    (d) his witness, if any

Those giving evidence shall be subject to questioning by any member of the Tribunal. Similarly, the reported person(s) may ask questions of the Umpire(s) and vice-versa.

5. After all evidence, submissions and questioning has concluded, all except the Tribunal members shall leave the room whilst the Tribunal deliberates upon its decision.
6. Announcement of decision - guilty or not guilty. If not guilty, the hearing is concluded If guilty, prior to the announcement of the penalty, the Chairman asks if any person has anything further to add in relation to the penalty. IF NO - Go to 9 IF YES - Go to 7
7. The additional information/please/character evidence is heard.
8. All persons again leave the room whilst the Tribunal deliberates upon a decision regarding the penalty.
9. Sentence/penalty advised, along with the reason(s) given as to how the penalty was reached.

14 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

14.1 All fines imposed on a Member Clubs under the authority of these By Laws must be paid by that club within 28 days of the date of the electronic issue of the invoice.

14.1.1 In the event of a Member Club failing to pay a fine within the designated 28 days, an administration fee of $100 will be added to the outstanding fine.

14.1.2 The General Manager or Treasurer shall table a Statement of outstanding Fines at each meeting of the Board. The Board at its discretion may impose any or all of the following penalties on a Member Club:

a. imposition of an additional financial penalty to a maximum of $1,000.00
b. loss of premiership points,
c. exclusion from participation in scheduled matches,
d. expulsion from the association.

14.2 A Member Club that is not represented at any properly called General Meeting or other Meeting of the Association or its Committees of Management without reasonable excuse may be fined $200.00.

14.3 Member Clubs shall pay Annual Affiliation Fees by 30 September and Annual Team Levies, in full by 30 November, or 50% by 30 November and other 50%, by 31 January in each season. The amounts of such fees will be advised by the Board of management each year. Member Clubs who have failed to pay such Affiliation Fees and Levies will not be permitted to play in Association matches thereafter until such Fees and/or Levies are paid.

14.4 Member Clubs that fail to pay Affiliation Fees and Team Levies detailed in sub-clause 14.3 within twenty eight (28) days of the due date of such payment/s will be expelled from the Association.

14.4.1 Clubs that have been expelled for non payment of Fees or Levies are eligible to re-nominate for Membership in accordance with Clause 4 of the Constitution; subject to all outstanding monies being paid at the time of lodgement of the Membership Nomination.

14.4.2 Clubs may only be reinstated as a Member Club **once** in the current season, in the event that a Member Club is expelled a second (2nd) time in the current season such Club will have to renominate at the commencement of the following season.

14.5 Clubs that have an outstanding debt to the Association at the end of the home and away matches must have this paid by 12 pm two days prior to the commencement of the finals or they shall not be permitted to play finals matches.

14.5.1 The next financial club in order of ladder position will then compete in the finals replacing the team who has defaulted.

14.6 The Association will hold an Annual Presentation Night. The Board will determine the date, venue, format and arrangements of the event and will advise member clubs accordingly. It is compulsory that member clubs attend.

15 WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND CHILD SAFETY

15.1 Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

In line with Cricket Victoria's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, the WMDCA has endorsed and adopted the Protection and Safety of Children policy. The WMDCA is committed to protect the welfare of Children involved in the sport of cricket by creating, implementing and complying with the following measures.

This includes……..

1) **Establish** a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experience of Aboriginal Children and Young People are respected and valued
2) **Embed** Child Safety and Wellbeing in organisational leadership, governance and culture
3) **Empower** Children and Young People so that they know their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
4) **Inform** and engage families in respect to child safety and wellbeing
5) **Ensure** that equity & diversity is upheld through our policies and practices
6) **Engage** volunteers and officials to ensure that they are suitable to work with Children and Young People
7) **Handle** complaints and concerns promptly, thoroughly and with a child focused approach
8) **Educate** volunteers, staff (if applicable) and officials – in consultation with Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia - to provide them with the knowledge and skills to keep Children and Young People safe
9) **Promote** the safety & wellbeing of Children and Young People through physical and online environments
10) **Review and improve** our child safe policies, procedures, and practices regularly
11) **Role model** behaviour and actions documented in policies, procedures and practices guiding how our organisation is safe for Children and Young People

The WMDCA will, in addition to the above, also take reasonable steps to promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal Children and Children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds as well as promoting the safety of Children with a disability.

15.2 Working with Children Check

Under the Working with Children Act (2005) and subsequent Amendments (2017), people engaged in "child related work" must apply for and pass the Working with Children (WWC) check.

Under the Act, a person involved in cricket is considered to be engaging in child related work and must apply for a Check if they:

- Work or volunteer in a role that brings them into contact with children under 18; and
- Volunteer or do this work on a regular basis; and
- Do not qualify for one of the exemptions in the legislation (subject to Cricket Victoria's policies).

Previously, those volunteers whose work was directly supervised were exempt from applying for a Working With Children Check. It is important to

note that amendments to the Working With Children Act 2005 now state that even if a person's contact with children as part of their child-related work is supervised by another person, they will still need to apply for a Working With Children Check.

15.3 In line with the above provisions or exemptions outlined under the WWC Act (2005) and subsequent amendments, the following shall apply to the WMDCA and its affiliated clubs:

15.3.1 All WMDCA Club and Association coaches and other personnel including but not limited to Managers and Junior Co-ordinators who have direct contact with children less than eighteen (18) years of age must obtain a Working with Children check and provide the Association with proof of registration together with the card expiry date unless specifically exempted under the WWC Act (2005). The WMDCA should be listed in addition to a club on a person's application for a WWC check. This will ensure the WMDCA will be notified in addition to the club. (NOTE: Direct Contact includes oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact. Consequently those that communicate via social media to people under 18 years of age are included.)

15.4 Exemptions

Cricket Victoria endorses the following exemptions from the legislation and it will recognise that Clubs and Associations shall not require the following individuals to apply for a Check (subject to appropriate proof being sighted):

- Persons aged under 18;
- Sworn Members of Victoria Police;
- Teachers registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (still required to sight the VIT registration and confirm online at www.vit.vic.edu.au)

15.5 Clubs

Cricket Victoria expects that Clubs with junior teams will, as a minimum requirement, have the following people apply for, and obtain, a Check:

- Junior Coordinator;
- Woolworths T Blast Coordinator;
- Team Coach and/or Manager of a team;
- Other members of the junior club who are involved in regular and direct contact with children. This contact can be oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact.

In the case where junior players are playing in a senior team, the minimum requirements for Clubs in this instance are as follows:

- Senior Coach;
- Club Secretary;
- Captains of teams;
- Other members of the senior club who are involved in regular direct contact with children. This contact can be oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact.

In all instances above, it is recommended that there is a central point of reference at the Club ("Nominated Person") for recording and sightings of the Check. In majority of instances this will be the Club Secretary. An example record keeping form is available from http://www.sport.vic.gov.au

All Clubs must provide the General Manager of the Association a list of all Coaches and Managers who have direct roles involving children under eighteen (18) years of age on an ongoing basis.

Clubs must register all people who have or should have a WWC check as a "Coach" regardless of any role they may have on the Competition Management Platform at any time and state their WWC Check Number and expiry date.

15.6 Parents

Under the legislation, parents do not have to apply for a Check if their child is involved in the relevant activity. However, Cricket Victoria does not endorse this expression and it expressly requires that all parents that meet the criteria set out above apply for, and obtain, a Check. Cricket Victoria is one of a number of sports that have taken this view in order to maximise the protection of children involved in cricket.

15.7 Association

Cricket Victoria expects that Associations will, as a minimum requirement, have the following people apply for, and obtain, a Check:

- Association representative team Coaches and/or Managers that have players under the age of eighteen participating;
- Other members of the Association who are involved in regular direct contact with children. This contact can be oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact.
- Associations should also maintain a register, provided by each Club affiliated to that Association, of the people within the Association who have been approved under the legislation. It would not be necessary for the Association to sight actual check documents.

No person may coach, manage or have direct involvement with players under 18 unless they have either successfully obtained, or have submitted an application to obtain, a valid working with children check. The match committee will determine an appropriate penalty for any proven breach.

16 DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

16.1 No player of a club, or in the course of no player in their capacity as carrying out their duties, or any official, servant or agent of a club (including without limitation any coach, assistant coach, scorer or medical officer) or umpire or representative of the Association Board or any of its sub-committees, shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies, insults, harasses, or discriminates against, any person ('the vilified person") on the basis of that persons race, religion, colour, descent, ethnicity, sex, sexual preference or disability.

16.2 In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened By-Law 16.1, an Umpire, Club, Player or Director of the Board may by 5.00 p.m. on the first working day following the day on which the contravention allegedly occurred, lodge a written complaint with the General Manager of the Association.

16.3 The General Manager shall inform all Directors of the Board of Management of the Association and;

16.3.1 Inform the person/s alleged to have contravened By-Law 16.1, of the complaint and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the allegations;

16.3.2 Arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.

16.4 Where the Board is of the opinion that the matter has not been resolved by conciliation the Board shall refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal to be dealt with as a reportable offence under the Laws of Cricket.

16.5 Where the person alleged to have contravened By-Law 16.1 has previously taken part in a conciliation (other than as a person vilified) the Board will refer the matter directly to the Independent Tribunal.

16.6 Any conciliation referred to in By-Law 16.3 shall be conducted by a person nominated by the Board, hereinafter called the Association Conciliator, to conciliate the matter. This person will be skilled in this area and can include a Director of the Board.

16.7 In the event the complaint is referred to the Independent Tribunal under By-Law 16.4, no evidence shall be given to or accepted by the Independent Tribunal relating to anything said or done in any conciliation carried out pursuant to.

16.8 The Association Conciliator shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that conciliation is completed by 5.00 p.m. on the third (3rd) working day following the day on which the incident is alleged to have occurred. In any case, where the Association Conciliator determines to refer the complaint to the Independent Tribunal, the Independent Tribunal will deal with the matter within forty eight (48) hours of the cessation of the conciliation process.

Any time limit/s for the taking of action referred to in By-Law 16 may be extended by the Board if in the opinion of the Board it is just and equitable to do so.

17 MEDIA COMMENTS TOWARDS UMPIRES & MATCH REFEREES

17.1 Any player, team, official or club found to have made inappropriate comments in the media in relation to any umpire or match referee, shall have action taken against them. The Match Committee shall decide upon the appropriateness of the alleged comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions. If the comments are found to be inappropriate, the Match Committee shall take action against the player, team, official or club under By Law 8 (REPORTING PLAYERS, TEAMS, OFFICIALS AND CLUBS).

18 INVESTIGATIONS, DISPUTES/PROTESTS, CONTRIVED RESULTS AND APPEALS

18.1 Match Committee Investigations

18.1.1 The Match Committee shall have power to investigate and adjudicate upon all matters arising out of, or in connection with, all WMDCA sanctioned matches.

18.1.2 If a member of the Match Committee is, or has been, affiliated with any club or persons involved in an investigation, he shall cease to act on the Match Committee for the duration of the investigation, dispute or protest.

18.2 Disputes/Protests

18.2.1 Any club referring a dispute arising from a match (other than a decision of an umpire pertaining to the dismissal of a batsman or transgression by a member of the fielding side) to the Match Committee via the General Manager shall, by no later than 6.00pm on the Tuesday following the completion of the match in which the cause of disagreement has occurred, lodge a statement in writing of the matter in dispute with the Match Committee Chairman together with a fee of $250.00; to be returned unless the dispute/process be deemed frivolous.

18.2.2 The Match Committee Chairman shall call on the disputing clubs to appear before the Match Committee, which, after hearing evidence, shall decide thereon.

18.2.3 In the event of a dispute in the scores, all scoring media shall be immediately handed conjointly by a representative of each team concerned to an umpire or to a WMDCA Board Member who shall obtain independent advice as to the correct score and present to the Match Committee. The result of the match will be determined by the Match Committee

18.3 Contrived Results

18.3.1 The Match Committee shall have power to investigate a game or the actions of the captains of the clubs or any players involved in a match if it suspects reasonably that the competing clubs with or without the assistance or collusion of any other person or club have colluded to contrive the result of a match. If the Match Committee decides to carry out an investigation it will conduct such inquiries as it sees fit and invite submissions about the match or the conduct of either captain or any player and will give any person the opportunity to be heard

18.3.2 If the Match Committee finds that the clubs, captains or players have colluded to contrive the outcome of a match the Match Committee may in its absolute discretion do one or more of the following:

(a) fine a club, captain or player;

(b) suspend a captain or player from playing in any match or matches;

(c) disallow any points earned by a club in respect of the match;

(d) amend any points earned by a club in the match; or

(e) take any action it deems appropriate.

18.4 Appeals Against Match Committee Decisions

18.4.1 Clubs may appeal against any Match Committee decision. Such an appeal must be made in writing to the General Manager of the WMDCA together with a fee of $500.00 (all or part to be returned subject to tribunal discretion if the dispute/protest be deemed frivolous) within 48 hours after receipt of the decision.
Any forfeited monies to be paid into the Junior Development fund.

18.4.2 All appeals against Match Committee decisions shall be heard by the Independent Tribunal of the WMDCA.

18.4.3 Appeals against tribunal appeals
In the event of an appeal of the WMDCA tribunal hearing, the matter is then referred to region level for the formation of an independent tribunal to hear the matter.

19 EXTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

19.1 Investigation request

19.1.1 Where the Association, Association Board members, Club, Player, official or a WMDCA appointed official, who alleges that a player or an official of a club, umpire, Club, player advocate, or Association appointed official has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official, or club,
or which has or is likely to bring the game of cricket into disrepute, may lodge with the Association a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation.

Unless the notice is lodged by the Association, Association Board members or a WMDCA appointed official, a deposit of $500 shall accompany the notice which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal considers it frivolous.

A Notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the Association within five days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the Association agrees to extend this period.

An extension agreed to by the Association may be subject to such conditions as the Association thinks fit and such request for an extension is to be provided to the Association in writing outlining the reasons for the extension request.
When a Association grants an extension it shall do so in writing and advise all parties to the matter.

19.1.2 Within two (2) days of the request for an investigation the Association is required to provide all parties notification of the investigation outlining details of the requested incident or matter for investigation.

19.2 Notice of investigation

19.2.1 Notice of any allegation received under paragraph (a) shall be referred to the Investigation Officer for investigation. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as seen fit. Such investigation shall be completed within 10 days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer, unless, at the completion of the 10 days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) days is then granted by the Association at the request of the Investigation Officer. Request for extension of time must be received in writing by the Association.

19.3 Investigation officer report

19.3.1 If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player, an Official or Club or is likely to bring the game of cricket into disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the Association Independent Tribunal, he/she may lodge with the Association a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.

19.4 Set Penalty

19.4.1 If a Notice is lodged with the Association under paragraph (c), the Association administrator who appointed the investigator may provide the alleged offender/s the discretion to plead guilty and take the relevant set penalty for the alleged offence as described in the set penalty schedule as specified in the Association By Laws. If the person in question wishes to accept the minimum set penalty offered by the Association, the players club secretary must contact the Association administrator no later than 12 noon on the second business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings. Such request shall be made in writing and delivered by email to the Association General Manager.

19.4.2 If the alleged offence falls outside of the offences listed within the set penalty schedule or either the investigation officer, player/s being investigated, the player/s allegedly offended against, the Association or the President /Secretary of either club request that the matter proceeds to tribunal, by no later than 12 noon on the second business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings, then no set penalty will be offered and the matter will be dealt with according to the Tribunal procedures set out in the Association By Laws.

19.5 Tribunal hearing

19.5.1 If a Notice is lodged with the Association under paragraph (c), and the Association determines that it should be heard at Tribunal the Association General Manager shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing of the allegation before the Association Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than 9 days after lodgement of the Notice and shall advise the Player, official or club, in question of those particulars and forward to the Player, Official, or club, care of the Club Secretary in question a copy, with a copy also to be forwarded to the Club Secretary of the Notice lodged under paragraph (c). Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player or official or club prior to the hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and club at least 48 hours prior to the Hearing.

Notices should include any other relevant information pertaining to the matter at hand.

19.5.2 In any proceeding brought before a tribunal or Appeals Board under this rule the Investigation Officer may personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the Association.

19.6 Tribunal powers

19.6.1 If the Association Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question has engaged in unbecoming conduct or conduct which has or is likely to bring the game of cricket into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit.

19.6.2 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Association Independent Tribunal:–

(i) may impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player, Official or club in question: or

(ii) must suspend the Player, Official or Club in question for such period as it thinks fit, if the Player, Official or Club is found guilty

(h) In any hearing before a Western Waves Tribunal the Investigations Officer will be the informant and witness for the Association or Association but will usually not be the prosecuting advocate in the hearing.

APPENDIX A: Senior Player Points Policy

Purpose

This amendment to the Player Points System is designed to support competitive balance, club sustainability, and continued growth of the competition.

It responds to feedback gathered throughout the season from WMDCA clubs which indicated that:

- the current system is easy to work within but is not sufficiently tight in moderating internal player movement, and
- would benefit from targeted refinement without blanket cuts to points caps

This amendment aims to:

- promote an even spread of established players across the competition
- protect bottom six clubs from losing multiple established players at once
- maintain strong player mobility and recruitment flexibility
- preserve a simple and transparent points system

Tier Total Points Cap

Tier	Total Points Cap
Premier	23
Championship	24

All other provisions within the Player Points System remain unchanged unless specified below.

Definitions

Top Six Club

A club that finished in the top six of the previous season's Premier home and away ladder.

- Finals results do not impact this classification

Bottom Six Club

- A club that finished 7th–12th on the previous season's Premier home and away ladder

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Eligible Player

A player who:

- played five (5) or more First XI matches in the previous season; and
- is transferring between WMDCA clubs

Non-Top Six Player

A player who:

- played for a Premier club that finished outside the top six, and/or
- played in the Championship Division for a **First XI team**

Championship Division first XI players are deemed to have finished below all Premier clubs for the purpose of this policy.

Internal Recruitment Premium

Core Rule

For clubs that finished in the **top six** of the previous season's Premier home and away ladder:

- Eligible Players recruited from a WMDCA club that finished **below them** will be classified as a **six (6) point player**

- Eligible Players recruited from a WMDCA club that finished **above them** will be classified as a **four (4) point player**

Example: If a team finished in (5) fifth place on the previous seasons' home and away ladder, a first XI recruit (eligible player) from the (8) eighth placed team would carry a six point value.

If they recruited an eligible player from the team which finished second (2) it would carry a four-point value.

Application

- Ladder position is determined by the previous season's home and away ladder only
- Finals results do not impact classification
- Championship Division first XI players are deemed to have finished below all Premier clubs
- This rule applies only to Eligible Players (5+ First XI matches)

All Other Internal Recruits

- Clubs that finished outside the top six will continue to have all internal recruits classified as **four (4) point players**

- All other player categories remain unchanged under the existing Player Points System

Ranking System

Player Points Classification

Player Type	Points	Notes
Same club, five seasons service	1	Rewards long-term loyalty
Returning player (missed last season)	2	Encourages past players to return
Other league (community comp, regional Victoria and suburban Melbourne)	2	Encourages quality new recruits from outside WMDCA
Other WMDCA Club – Lower XI	3	Encourages fringe/second XI players to pursue higher grade
International player	3	Encouraged
Other WMDCA Club – 1st XI (recruited by Bottom Six club)	4	Maintains flexibility for clubs finishing 7th–12th to build and improve lists
Other WMDCA Club – 1st XI (recruited by Top Six club from a higher-ranked club)	4	Allows competitive movement between leading clubs
Other WMDCA Club – 1st XI (recruited by Top Six club from a lower-ranked club)	6	Internal recruitment premium applied to protect developing clubs
Victorian Premier Cricket 1st XI / 2nd XI or Equivalent interstate level	6	Recognises high-level external talent and aligns with premium recruitment value

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Policy Intent

This amendment is designed to influence recruitment behaviour, not restrict it.

Clubs retain full ability to:

- recruit players within the WMDCA
- improve and strengthen their lists

However, this model ensures:

- stronger clubs face greater points pressure when recruiting from lower-ranked clubs
- developing clubs retain the flexibility to rebuild
- player movement remains active across the competition

Modelling and Evidence

This amendment has been extensively modelled using current Premier playing lists and player points positions from the 2025–26 season across the competition.

The modelling demonstrates that:

- all Premier clubs remain well and truly capable of operating within the 23-point cap
- top six clubs retain the ability to recruit and improve their lists
- the adjustment introduces measured equalisation, rather than restriction
- bottom six clubs retain flexibility to rebuild and remain competitive

The WMDCA is confident this amendment strikes the right balance between:

- maintaining recruitment flexibility, and
- providing protection for developing clubs

Summary

In simple terms:

- Bottom six clubs recruiting internal First XI players = **4 points**
- Top six clubs recruiting from lower-ranked clubs = **6 points**
- Top six clubs recruiting from higher-ranked clubs = **4 points**
- Championship First XI players are treated as below all Premier clubs
- Victorian Premier Cricket players = **6 points**

- Premier cap = 23 points
- Championship cap = 24 points
- Based on home and away ladder only

Review

The WMDCA will monitor the impact of this amendment across:

- player movement trends
- club list composition
- competition balance

A formal review will be undertaken after one (1) season.