



**MELBOURNE WINTER BASEBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED**

By-Laws and Rules

As approved by the MWBL Member Clubs

November 2012

## **BY-LAW No. BY-LAW**

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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 Executive 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 and Rules, there must be a Notice of Motion from the MWBL Executive Board. This notice of motion must give seven (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 simply 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 change 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 Director shall be appointed by the Executive Board to the position of Chairperson of the Junior League(s) Sub-Committee – RDJBA & DVJBL.

**5. Duty 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 will be responsible for coordinating and communication for any required tribunal hearings or subsequent appeal hearings in line with By-Laws section (28) Tribunals and Appeal Hearings.

**5A. Duty 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, corporations. The Treasurer will be required to submit (in conjunction with the MWBL Administrator) a detailed report of the current financial position at every convened Senior delegates meeting or any specially convened MWBL meeting where a financial statement is required.

**6. 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 Executive Board Member,

(c) Members of Pennant, Selection and other sub-committees deemed necessary by the Executive 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.

**7. Duties of Administrator.**

An Administrator shall be appointed by the Executive Board pursuant to By-law 6  
As per 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 Cards 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 Card.
- (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 Cards within the stipulated time or fails to complete such Card in the prescribed manner.
- (j) Carry out any and all instructions given by the Executive Board.
- (k) Attend all Senior & Junior delegates meetings

**8. Duties of Honorary Auditor.**

An Honorary Auditor, who shall not be a member of the Executive Board, shall be appointed by the Executive Board pursuant to By-Law 6.

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 for inclusion in Financial Year Annual Report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting each year or as required by the Executive Board.

**9. Duties of Umpires Advisor.**

The Umpire's advisor shall be appointed by the MWBL Umpires panel at the convened first meeting for the upcoming or current season, and presented to the Executive Board for approval. Duties of the MWBL Umpires Advisor include are 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.

**10. 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 4 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, this 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 him/herself 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 6, the Executive Director (president), who shall act as Committee Secretary and will vote only when a tied vote has occurred on any 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.

(iv) The Pennant Committee Chairperson will have the authority to communicate via electronic devices (phone/email) where deemed appropriate in lieu of convening a pennant committee meeting.

Members shall be given at least three (3) days notice of meetings.

(v) 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.

(vi) The Pennant Committee may appoint a sub-committee for the appointment of umpires to Competition Matches. Three (3) shall form a quorum.

(vii) 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.

(viii) A member of the Committee shall absent him/herself from the meeting if a matter under discussion is directly concerned with the 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.

(ix) When investigating behaviour of players and spectators pursuant to By-law 10(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 (28).

**(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.

**11. 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.

**12. 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.

**13. Schedule of Fines**

*REFER TO FINES ADDENDUM AT CONCLUSION OF BY-LAWS & RULES DOCUMENT*



14. **Registration of Players.**

**New Registrations:**

For all players (senior and junior) after a player plays his/her **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 'My Club' Data base within 72 hours after playing.

As per ABF Requirements: For members to be covered under the ABF insurance they must be entered on the MyClub Database.

**NOTE:**

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 ABF 'MyClub' data base.

Note: Players must be ticked as active.

(a) **Senior**

Every new player shall register on the approved ABF database in the approved format within 72 hours of the players first competition match. A copy of the players required details on the current approved MWBL registration form must be lodged with the Administrator no later than seventy two (72) hours after the players second 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-Clearance 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. Please refer

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 activate on the current approved ABF database a list of names and addresses of previously registered players who will be playing for the Club in the forthcoming season. This activation is required to be completed by Round 4 of the current MWBL season.

(e) **Un-Registered Players**

The penalty for playing an un-registered player or players shall be a fine in accordance with By-law 13

(f) Incorrect Information

A 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.

**15. 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 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (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.

**16. 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 Registration - 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 Registration - 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 16 (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 15 shall not be effected except that no further appeal on this clearance is possible.

**17. 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 14 and 15(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 13. 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 Card.

**18. Clearances - Right of Appeal by Player**

Provided By-Law 16 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 Registration/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 16 (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.

**19. 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 18 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.

#### **20. 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.

#### **21. 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,

#### **22. 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.

#### **23. 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.

24. **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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** is eligible to play A Grade and A Reserve Finals. If Player A plays 1<sup>st</sup> week final in A Grade he is deemed to have played 9 Games in A Grade and 9 Games in A Reserve. If the A Grade team is eliminated, he cannot return to A Reserve as he 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** 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, he is still eligible to play C Reserve Finals and can return at any point as he 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.

## **25. 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/illegal player and shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in By-Law 13 – schedule of fines for any and/or all games played as an ineligible / illegal player.

## **26. 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.

27. **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) **Illegal / Ineligible Players**  
The penalty against a club for violation of the clearance and or match permit by-law or for playing an illegal/ineligible player in an MWBL competition match or Final Series shall be default of the game and a fine in accordance with By-law 13.
- (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 13. 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 13 applying, and if deemed necessary by the MWBL Pennant Committee, the club facing 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 MWBL or any Affiliated Association shall have "the right of appeal" to the MWBL Executive Board.

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

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

***(iii) That the MWBL Sub-Committee or Tribunal failed to follow procedures or requirements of the By-laws to the significant detriment of the club or 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.

## 28. REPORTED PERSONS & TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

### (a) **GENERAL**

- (i) Any umpire in control of any game played under the auspices of the MWBL is empowered to report any person who, in the umpire's opinion, engages in conduct detrimental to the best interests of the game of baseball. This includes any practice game to which a BUAV official has been appointed.
- (ii) Immediately following any Report the provisions of Rule 4.07 of the "Rules of Baseball" shall be enforced in so far as they are practicable in the circumstances of that particular game. A person ejected from a game for smoking, consuming an alcoholic beverage or chewing or dipping of tobacco shall comply with this rule but apart from mandatory fine no further action will be taken. In all other cases the reported person may be required to appear before the MWBL Tribunal. The reported person may participate in any game to be played before the next scheduled Tribunal hearing with the permission of the MWBL Pennant Committee.

All reported players, club secretaries and umpires will be notified by the MWBL Secretary of the date and time that the Tribunal hearing will take place. It is the onus of the parent club and player to ensure all contact details are correct. If no communication has been received by the reported player and/or parent club, the onus is on the player and/or parent club to contact the MWBL Secretary for confirmation. No appeal will be heard based on no notification of suspension or tribunal hearing date and time.

**CLUB SECRETARY'S NOTE:-**

It is the responsibility of the club, to bring this procedure to the notice of any player or players and/or any person or persons who are called to appear before the Tribunal,

**Persons Reported By Umpire**

In the event of a Player, Manager, Coach, Club Official or Club Member exhibiting conduct such as to cause an umpire to eject the offender from the game, the umpire shall report the incident, to the Administrator within 24 hours Except for a smoking or alcoholic beverage offence, or yellow or blue card offences the offender will either receive an offer of suspension' as deemed appropriate by the Tribunal Chairperson, or appear before, and the matter be dealt with by the tribunal, before a further Competition Match or Final Series Match can be participated in where possible. The Tribunal, after enquiry, shall have the power to deal with this report and impose any suspension or penalty it may deem fit.

**(b) THE REPORT**

- (i) The report must be in writing preferably on the "Reported Person Notice" or the game day matchcard. The report must name the reported player, manager or spectator and give sufficient details of the alleged offence(s) as will enable the reported player to contemplate a defence. More detailed information via the MWBL Online Report Card must be submitted to the MWBL Secretary as soon as reasonable to allow for a reported person defence.
- (ii) The following list is not exhaustive but some of the offences which may give rise to a report are:-
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct
  - Kicking/attempting to kick\*
  - Striking/attempting to strike \*
  - Unduly rough play\*
  - Obscene/indecent/abusive/insulting/threatening conduct
  - Misconduct

*\* The report must name the alleged victim and that person will be required to appear at the Tribunal hearing.*
- (iii) After the reporting umpire has completed the report it is to be signed by the Manager of each team and the umpire after which no further wording is to be added.
- (iv) The 'Reported Person Notice" or game day match card report is viewed as sufficient notification that a report has been lodged, and once presented and signed by both competing club managers will include:-
  - (a) the reported person
  - (b) the reported person's Club

- (c) the umpire
- (d) any other person named on the report and that person's Club.
- (v) The report will be retained by the reporting umpire and given to the Tribunal Chairperson.
- (vi) The reporting umpire must contact the MWBL Secretary as soon as reasonable to do so and advise of the existence of the report. The MWBL Secretary must then contact the Tribunal Chairperson.
- (vii) The wording of the report may be altered at the discretion of the Tribunal when:-
  - (a) the umpire with the reported person present is able to show that the desired alteration is fair and reasonable and;
  - (b) the reported person has been given the opportunity to show that he may be disadvantaged by the proposed alteration.
  - (c) The Executive Board may, from time to time, declare a Table of Tribunal offences and Penalties ("Table") for reporting of common offences and the penalties for these offences. This Table and the Tribunal procedures to be used in its administration are contained in By-Law 37 – Table of Tribunal Offences and Penalties.
  - (d) A flow chart for the reporting process may be obtained by the Tribunal Secretary upon written request and approval.
  - (e) Offer of Suspension. The Tribunal Chairperson may, after considering the umpire's report, make an 'Offer of Suspension' to the reported person. Once notified, the reported person has 24 hours to accept or reject this offer. If accepted, no tribunal appearance will be necessary and the suspension will start from the next participated round that the team participates in. *NOTE: In the case of a mid-week game, scheduled prior to the first available round in which the team where the report and suspension occurred, the player suspended will not be eligible to complete in this mid-week match, and the suspension will commence from the playing of the first available round in which the team the player was reported and suspended plays.*
- (viii) Rule 4.07:

"When a manager, coach, player or trainer is ejected from the game he shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game, He shall remain in the Club house or change to street clothes and either leave the park or take a seat in the grandstand well removed from the vicinity of his team's bench or bullpen"

If the baseball ground is located in an open park, the ejected person shall not linger near the home plate area and shall either stand, or sit in a car, well away from the playing area, Should the ejected player not have clothes other than a uniform, the uniform shall be covered by use of a coat or other suitable attire.

**(c) THE TRIBUNAL**

- (i) The Board shall, from time to time, appoint a panel of persons who shall be collectively known as the Tribunal. Of the appointed persons the Board shall appoint a Chairperson, the MWBL Secretary shall act as Tribunal Secretary.
- (ii) Unless agreed to by all parties on the report card, a Tribunal hearing may not proceed if there be less than three Tribunal members present. In such a case the hearing will be adjourned to a later date.

- (iii) Should there be insufficient Tribunal members available for any hearing the Tribunal shall have the power to co-opt any member(s) of the Board or Committee of the Association.
- (iv) The Tribunal Chairperson or members may at their discretion call independent witnesses or may call, in the case of a severe report, any persons from the parent club or opposition club they deem necessary to attend the hearing.

**(d) THE HEARING**

- (i) **Any person reported may have to appear before the Tribunal following the match in which he/she was reported at a place and time as advised by the Tribunal Secretary. Such advice may be given by telephone or email. Notice of 'Offer of Suspension' may also be made by telephone or email contact.**
- (ii) A reported person who, at the date of the hearing, is under eighteen (18) years of age will be permitted to appoint an adult person as his advocate and any person so appointed may remain whilst all evidence is being given. An advocate will not be permitted to give evidence. An advocate, if appointed, will assume control of the reported person's defence and the latter will not be permitted to speak unless it be to give evidence on his/her own behalf.
- (iii) The parties to the report, that is to say the reporting umpire and/or the reported person, may call any witnesses they desire. It is not the responsibility of the Tribunal, or the Tribunal Secretary, to arrange for the presence of any such witnesses.
- (iv) As a general rule, the hearing will proceed as follows:-
  - (a) the reporting umpire and the reporting person will be called
  - (b) the report will be read
  - (c) the reported person will be asked to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.

**Should the reported person be undecided the Tribunal will enter a plea of not guilty.**

- (a) If the reported person pleads guilty, the reporting umpire will be directed to outline the circumstances of the report. The reported person may question the umpire provided any such questions seek only to elaborate and/or clarify the umpire's evidence or provide the Tribunal with some evidence of mitigation.
- (b) If the reported person pleads not guilty then:-
  - (i) the umpire will be directed to give his/her evidence.
  - (ii) the reported person may question the umpire
  - (iii) the umpire may call his/her witnesses.
  - (iv) the reported person may question the witnesses
  - (v) the reported person will be asked to present his/her defence
  - (vi) the umpire may question the reported person
  - (vii) the report person may call his/her witnesses
  - (viii) the umpire may question the witnesses
  - (ix) the parties to the report and any visitors will then retire whilst the Tribunal considers the evidence placed before it. In the event of the Tribunal returning a finding of guilty it shall have regard to the register of reported persons before deciding upon the nature and extent of any penalty to be imposed. Any such penalty will be recorded in the register.

All parties will then be re-admitted and advised of the Tribunal's decision. Any penalty involving a suspension shall be given to the reported person in writing and a copy is to be sent to the reported person's Club and the MWBL Administrator.

- (c) In the event of the reporting umpire not being in attendance at the appointed time the Chairperson shall allow a reasonable period of grace. The report shall not lapse but will be re-scheduled for hearing at a date and time to be advised to all parties. The Tribunal Secretary must be advised of the umpire's failure to attend the hearing and the umpire will be required to furnish an explanation of his absence. The matter will then be referred to the Pennant Committee whose task it will be to decide if any disciplinary action is warranted.
- (d) The reported person may participate in any games to be played prior to the re-scheduled hearing.
- (e) **Absence of Reported Person**  
Should the reported person not be in attendance at the appointed time the Chairperson shall allow what is considered to be sufficient period of grace and should the reported person not appear within that period the Tribunal, in the absence of the reported person, shall hear the evidence submitted by the umpire(s) and any witnesses. The Tribunal shall consider the information submitted and, should there be a prima facie case against the reported person, that person shall be suspended during the pleasure of the Tribunal.  
The Secretary of the reported person's Club will be advised by the Tribunal Secretary and the person will remain under suspension until an appearance before the Tribunal to give explanation for the action which led to absence from the original Hearing. The Tribunal shall openly decide what penalty, if any, shall be imposed. Arrangements for appearances before the Tribunal shall be made through the Tribunal Secretary.
- (f) **Records and Decisions**  
Minutes of Hearing shall be compiled by the Tribunal Secretary.  
Decisions of the Tribunal shall be advised to the following officials as soon as practicable:
  - (i) Tribunal Members
  - (iii) The Suspended Player
  - (iv) The Suspended Player's Club Secretary
  - (v) The MWBL AdministratorThe Tribunal shall maintain a register in which all proven offences and penalties shall be recorded.
- (g) Should a reported person be unable to attend the next scheduled hearing of the Tribunal that person shall immediately advise the Tribunal Secretary and state the reason for his enforced absence. The Tribunal Secretary in consultation with the Pennant Chairperson shall consider all aspects of the matter and decide if the reported person should be given permission to participate in any games set down to be played prior to the re-scheduled hearing.

**(e) Effect of Suspension**

- (i) A suspended person shall not play, manage, coach, nor assist in the conduct upon the field of any Senior or Junior Baseball game.
- (ii) Any person may report any breach of suspension to the MWBL Administrator, or any official of the MWBL who will arrange via the Tribunal Secretary for the suspended person to make a further appearance before the Tribunal. The Tribunal is

empowered to hear the matter, with or without the suspended person present, and to impose any further penalty as it deems appropriate.

- (iii) For the purposes of this Clause, a game is deemed to commence when the umpire enters the playing field in compliance with Baseball Rule 4.01.  
Any suspended person who, at or from that time, indulges in any of the activities mentioned in By-Law 28(e)(i) may be reported for breach of suspension.
- (iv) All findings of the Tribunal are final except where an Appeal is provided for in By-Law 28(g)
- (v) It is the spirit and intent of this By-law that Tribunal hearings be conducted in a completely unbiased manner with due deference to all present. It is the Chairperson's duty to ensure that all persons observe these formalities and should any person engage in conduct which, in the Tribunal's opinion, is at variance with the expected standards of behaviour the Tribunal is empowered to deal with that person in the manner which it thinks appropriate in the circumstances.

**(f) Appeal of Tribunal Decision  
Right of Appeal**

- (i) The Board shall appoint a person to the position of Appeals Officer
- (ii) There shall be no appeal from a decision of the Tribunal unless the person seeking to appeal ("Appellant") satisfies the Appeals Officer, or their nominee, in that person's sole discretion, that one or more of the following grounds of appeal are satisfied.
  - (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 club or person seeking the appeal.***
- (iii) Only a charged person who attends a Tribunal hearing shall have the right of appeal from a decision of the Tribunal under this By-law. A person who pleads guilty and accepts a Tribunal determination as to penalty without appearing before the Tribunal **cannot appeal under any circumstances.**
- (iv) The Appeals Officer, or nominee, may determine one of the following:
  - (i) That the person appealing has not established any of the grounds for the appeal;***
  - (ii) That the person appealing has established one or more of the grounds for the appeal;***If the Appeals Officer, or nominee, decides that the person appealing has established one or more of the grounds for the appeal they shall direct the appeal to the Appeals Panel.
- (v) Any penalty imposed by the Tribunal shall be **STAYED** pending the Appeal hearing.

**(g) There shall be no appeal from a decision of the Appeals Panel.**

- (i) Notice of Appeal
- (a) A person seeking to appeal a decision of the Tribunal must lodge with the Appeals Officer a Notice of Appeal, setting out full details of the charges and results and grounds of appeal, within Seventy-Two (72) hours of the notification of a determination of a Tribunal hearing. This shall be accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50) fee which will be returned if the Appeals Officer does not determine that the appeal is frivolous.

(b) An Appellant shall be notified within Seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the Notice of Appeal as to whether an appeal hearing is to be granted and the time, date and place of the appeal hearing, in the event that it is granted.

(ii) Appeals Panel

(a) The Appeals Panel shall be appointed by the Board and shall consist of three (3) suitably qualified people.

(b) If an appeal hearing is granted, the Appeals Officer shall convene an Appeal Panel to hear and determine the appeal in accordance with the By-laws. Where possible, the Appeals Officer will act as Chairperson of the Appeal Panel.

(iii) Proceedings of Appeals Panel

(a) The Appeals 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 a matter at first instance.

(b) The Appeal Panel shall have the power to:

(i) Dismiss the appeal;

(ii) Uphold the appeal;

(iii) Reduce, increase or otherwise vary any penalty imposed by the Tribunal in such a manner as it thinks fit.

(c) The Appeal Panel is not obliged to give oral or written reasons for a decision under this By-law.

(d) At the conclusion of the appeal, the Appeals Officer, or nominee, shall ensure that the appellant and the reporting person are informed of the determinations of the Appeal Panel.

**(h) Single Right of Appeal**

There is only one right of appeal following the decision of the initial Tribunal. Any appeal must be solely and exclusively resolved by the Appeal Tribunal and the decision of the Appeal Panel is final and binding on the parties.

**(i) PERSONS REPORTED AT JUNIOR LEAGUE MATCHES**

All persons reported at matches under control of the Junior League Committee shall appear before a Tribunal convened by that Committee and in all other respects the reported person shall be dealt with in accordance with these By-laws.

**29. 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.

(ii) 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 29 (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.

**30. Premiership Trophies**

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

**31. 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.

**32. 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

**33. 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.

- (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.

### **34. 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.

### **35. 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 Cards

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 Cards 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 13, 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 Card , correctly completed.

Failure to comply with this By-law renders the Club concerned liable to a fine as specified in By-law 13, 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.

(iii) 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.

**36. 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 Cards

Scorers

Tribunal

Promotion and Relegation

Conduct of Finals

Junior Rules and Requirements

Special Application of Official Baseball Rules

**REFER RULE 37.****TABLE OF TRIBUNAL OFFENCES AND PENALTIES (“TABLE”) 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.*

**Table**

1 = 1 week suspension for next available round

1 / 1 = 1 week suspension for next available round & 1 week suspended for 1 season

Tribunal means an automatic tribunal appearance

Tribunal Discretion means the penalty is at the discretion of the tribunal. This can include an

Offence	Low	Medium	High	Severe
Audible Obscene Language (AOL)	1	N/A	N/A	Tribunal
Abusive Language	1	2	3	Tribunal
Abusive language directed at an umpire	2	3	4	Tribunal
Dissent	Yellow Card	1 / 1	2 / 2	Tribunal
Arguing balls and strikes	1	1 / 1	2 / 2	Tribunal
Unsportsmanlike conduct	1	2	3 / 3	Tribunal
Equipment abuse	Yellow Card	1 / 1	2 / 2	Tribunal
Attempting to strike	2 / 2	4 / 4	Tribunal	Tribunal
Striking	3 / 3	4 / 4	Tribunal	Tribunal
Intentionally throwing at a batter	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal
Charging the mound	2 / 2	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal
Fighting/Melee/Wrestling	1 / 1	2 / 2	4 / 4	Tribunal
Disobeying umpires direction	Yellow Card	1 / 1	3 / 3	Tribunal
Failing to leave the field	2 / 2	4 / 4	Tribunal	Tribunal
Rough Play	2 / 2	4 / 4	Tribunal	Tribunal
Other	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal	Tribunal

Player can be offered automatic suspension or appearance at Tribunal

The offences listed above are some of the more common offences however umpires are not restricted to the listed offences. The penalty for any other reported offences that are not listed will be at the tribunal’s discretion.

The table is a guide to suspension offered and at the Tribunal’s discretion, can change to reflect the report as offered by the Umpire.

## **REFER RULE 13.**

### **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 \$10.00 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 Card 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 Card \$10.00  
Failure to provide scorer - \$50.00

##### *UMPIRES*

No attendance at Game \$50.00 Plus PC Appearance  
Late Arrival to game \$10.00 Plus PC Appearance  
Non-return of Match Report Card and votes within 72 hours \$10.00 (\$10.00 per week thereafter)  
Non appearance at Tribunal without prior notification \$50.00 Plus PC 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 basecoaching - \$50.00  
Failure to provide scorer - \$20.00