

# **LATROBE VALLEY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION Inc**

ABN No 42 965 499 721

INCORPORATION Registered No A 15635 D

## **BY-LAWS**

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## BANK DETAILS

ABN 42 965 499 721

Name: LV Baseball Association Inc.

Bank: MECU

Branch: Morwell

B.S.B. : 803140

Acc No 14015757

Member No: 755254

## UPDATE HISTORY

UPDATE DATE	DETAILS	UPDATE APPROVAL DATE
23/10/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. A14 Name change - Brendan Date Trust Fund changed to "Championships Trust Fund"</li> <li>25. B10. Insert the Inclement, Heat &amp; Lightning Policy</li> </ul>	21/10/07
23/10/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A1.3 Changed to include junior in not providing a scorer.</li> <li>B10. Changed from 9 batter rule to 7 run rule for C grade.</li> <li>C.4.3 Changed to read a maximum of 4 years younger than age.</li> <li>C.11. Changed from 9 batter rule to 7 run rule for junior.</li> <li>C.18. Re word rule on footwear.</li> <li>B.2.13. New rule regarding base coaches wearing helmet.</li> </ul>	23/10/08
25/3/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.2.11. New rule. Compulsory for A grade to use wood bats.</li> <li>C.4.12. New grade "Colts".</li> </ul>	25/3/09
28/10/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B1.3. Add into heading; home &amp; away games.</li> <li>B1.3.3. Add words Home &amp; away, change word match to games.</li> <li>B1.5 Change heading to Eligibility for finals.</li> <li>C5.7. Add, Exception: players from another club that does not have a team entered in a particular age, and that player has regularly played with the team shall be deemed eligible to play finals with that team.</li> <li>D.5.14. Remove the rule</li> <li>D.5.19 Change wording to or seven runs across the plate.</li> <li>D.5.2.0 Change rule to seven run rule.</li> <li>B.7. include the examples of reverting back scores in time games.</li> <li>68 E15. Change metal bats to wood bats to be used. (Gippy Champs)</li> </ul>	28/10/09
23/3/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.1.6 No Result in a Final new rule</li> </ul>	23/3/11
23/3/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.1.5.1 Change of wording from Matches to Rounds</li> </ul>	23/3/11
31/7/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.6.4 5 Minute Rule for B Grade of 20 minutes beyond scheduled finish</li> </ul>	31/7/13
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A8.1 Non-attendance at Association Meeting</li> </ul>	13/2/13
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A8.3.1 Forfeit of Senior Game</li> </ul>	13/2/13
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A12.3 Match Cards</li> </ul>	13/2/13
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A15.2 All Star Team</li> </ul>	13/2/13
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F2 Fine Table Update</li> </ul>	13/2/13
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F1 Umpire Fees</li> </ul>	13/2/13
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.1.7 Seven Run Rule replaced by 5 Run Rule</li> </ul>	21/7/15
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C.11 Seven Run Rule replaced by 5 Run Rule</li> </ul>	21/7/15
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C.16.2 Max Innings pitched per Junior game</li> </ul>	21/7/15
21/7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C18.1 Junior Foot Wear</li> </ul>	21/7/15
15/1/16	Major Review of full document, Deletion to VPBL reference's upgrade of fines F2 table	

05/04/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C.16.2 Junior Maximum Inning Pitched per Game &amp; Pitch Count</li> <li>• C.17 Junior Pitchers / Catchers</li> <li>• C18.1 Juniors Playing Seniors Cleat change</li> </ul>	05/04/16
05/07/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B1.5.3 A&amp;B grade Finals selection</li> </ul>	27/03/14
07/08/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.5.2 Championship Trust Fund account merged</li> </ul>	05/02/18
18/11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.15 Match Report Card</li> <li>• B.1.1 Eligibility of Players</li> <li>• B.1.1.3 Movement of players between grades</li> <li>• B.1.5.4 A-grade playing C-grade increased</li> <li>• B.1.5.6 Definition of regular player</li> <li>• B.1.5.7 Ineligible player finals qualification</li> <li>• B.8.3.3 C-grade 5-min rule</li> <li>• B.9 Catcher Speed up rule</li> <li>• C.23 Junior Baseball Winter Carnivals</li> <li>• General Formatting</li> </ul>	05/02/18
02/04/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification of Junior Pitch Counts</li> </ul>	12/03/18

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## **A. BY-LAWS**

### **A.1 INTERPRETATION**

Association shall mean the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association (LVBA).

These by-laws shall be read in conjunction with, the Rules of Baseball Victoria (BV) and Baseball Australia, and shall be binding on its members, teams, players, officials thereof, and any person who is a properly registered member or official of any Baseball Club affiliated with the Association.

### **A.2 BY-LAWS**

The LVBA shall have the power to make by-laws (not inconsistent with any provisions of the laws so made. By-laws may be made, rescinded or varied by resolution properly made at any Annual Meeting or Council of Management Meeting provided that seven (7) days notice has been given to Clubs and that the resolution is approved by a majority of those present and entitled to vote. Unless the resolution otherwise states, it shall become operative immediately upon the approval.

### **A.3 COMMITTEES**

#### **A.3.1 Council of Management**

As per the Constitution, the Council of Management shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and a nominated member from each affiliated club to be nominated at the Annual General Meeting. The Council of Management shall meet as determined by the President and/or Secretary of the Association.

#### **A.3.2 Delegates**

As per the Constitution the delegates shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and two (2) Delegates per affiliated club or body. One of the club delegates shall be the nominated Council member for that club. The ordinary meetings shall be held once in every month as determined by the Association.

#### **A.3.3 Junior Committee**

A junior committee may be formed on a year-to-year basis as required to administer the junior competition. The Committee shall consist of Chairperson, Secretary, and two Delegates per affiliated Club. Junior meetings shall be held once in every month as determined by the Association. If there is no junior committee the LVBA vice president shall act as coordinator.

### **A.4 ACCOUNTS, SUBSCRIPTIONS & FEES**

The Association shall be paid and entitled to collect and receive from members, clubs, and affiliated bodies such fees, levies and subscriptions as shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting. All fees due are to be paid in full by the dates set down at the Annual Meeting or by the Council of Management. Such fees, levies or subscription may include, but are not limited to:

Affiliation fee per club

Club entry fee

Team entry fee per senior team

Team entry fee per junior team

Special levies - The Council of Management may from time to time make or change a special levy for any specific purpose, chargeable in any manner as may be determined.

Gippsland Championship entry fee

Umpiring fees

A.5 JUNIOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT FUND

A fund to be used solely for the development of registered promising junior baseball players within the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association will be known as the "Championship Trust Fund". Funding from this fund will be decided by the Council of Management, and will be subject to the following criteria:

A.5.1 Applicants

Applicants must be under eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application.

Applicants must be registered with the LVBA for the last two complete years.

Applications will only be considered from players selected to compete in state or national representative sides.

A.5.2 Fund administration

The amount awarded to successful applicants shall be at the discretion of the Council.

Income in the fund will be derived from fund-raising and from a special levy on all teams as set down at the Annual General Meeting.

The fund will be maintained within the LVBA under the control of the association Treasurer.

If for any reason the fund shall become defunct; all monies remaining in the account at that time will revert to the LVBA - to be directed towards junior baseball within the association.

A.6 Championship Trust Fund

Every LVBA team is to pay a fee to the Championship Trust fund. This fee is to be set annually.

A.7 REGISTRATION, INSURANCE, & TRANSFER /CLEARANCE OF PLAYERS

A.7.1 Registration

All players, players, managers, coaches and officials must be:

1. Registered and Insured on the national register. Returning players (any player previously registered with Baseball Victoria) must be registered prior to playing in any LVBA game. New players (any player not previously registered with Baseball Victoria) are granted a 1-game grace, following which, must be registered.
2. It is the clubs responsibility to ensure all players are registered prior playing any LVBA sanctioned games.
3. All clearances and dual registration close on the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.
4. Only clearances and registrations within the LVBA will be accepted after the closing date as set by BV

A.7.2 Dual Registration

By requests to the Association a player may obtain a Dual Registration between the LVBA club and a neighbouring association's club to play 1 full season. For a senior player they will be cleared to play under this rule when the official dual registration form has been filled out correctly and signed by both clubs, both associations and BV. For a junior player, the BV regional board must approve the dual registration. This will only be approved under special circumstances. Dual registered players who elect to Dual register with another LVBA club in any following seasons shall have to first obtain a clearance from the previous LVBA club they were dual registered with. Such clearance does not have to go to BV; it is for LVBA use only to protect LVBA clubs.

No player shall be directly approached by another club/official about transferring without informing that club's executive of their intentions.

A.7.3 Transfer / Clearances of Players

Players shall have the right to transfer from one club to another on obtaining a clearance from the club last played with. No clearance shall be deemed valid until the endorsement of the Association Secretary in the case of Latrobe Valley affiliated clubs. The Secretary of BV and the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association Secretary must endorse a player transferring from another Association.

A registered player of this association who has their application for a clearance refused, has the right of appeal to the Council of Management. If such appeal is dismissed, they may after standing down for twelve (12) months and then reapply to the Council of Management to transfer to the club of their choice (*provided at all times that such player is financial with their old club to the date of standing down*).

A.7.4 Defunct Club

A player, who has played previously with a club which has since been declared defunct, and who now wishes to play with another club, shall make application to the council of Management for such permission which must be granted before they play with such other club.

A.7.5 Penalties

Any club playing players without a clearance or permit, or who is suspended shall lose any match points gained while such player played and be fined at the discretion of the Council. The player shall be suspended at the discretion of the Council of Management.

A.8 DISPUTES & PROTESTS

The Council of Management shall hear all disputes & protests other than disciplinary procedures or reports arising from the report of conduct during games. All protests must be heard within five days from the receipt of the protest in writing, and all disputes must be dealt with at the next delegates meeting of the Association. All disputes and protests shall be in writing and must be accompanied by a fee, to be lodged with Secretary of the Association no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the match in which the incident occurred. Should the case be deemed frivolous, the fee shall be forfeited.

A.9 UNIFORMS

A.9.1 All clubs shall register their official uniform showing the colours, (a coloured photo). All "A" grade players and coaches must be in full club uniform to play in any "A" grade game.

A.9.2 In "B" and "C" grade games, three (3) players only shall be permitted to play out of correct uniform. Any junior players shall be permitted to play "B" and "C" grade in their junior club uniform.

A.9.3 In all other grades of baseball, players should be encouraged to wear club uniforms. A uniform shall consist of, a cap or helmet in club colours, top, pants, under shirt, socks / stirrups, and jacket.

A.9.4 Umpires will record and notify the association of any uniform infringements. The clubs at fault will incur a fine as set by Council (section F2)

A.9.5 In all senior finals it is compulsory that all players shall be in club uniform. In all other grades it is expected of them. All uniforms must be kept neat and tidy at all times.

A.9.6 A pitcher may bat wearing a jacket in club colours. A batting pitcher, who reaches base, may put on or take off their jacket, provided it is readily available with the base coach. No other player may wear a jacket while at bat.

A.10 PENALTIES

A.10.1 Non-attendance at Association meetings

A loss of match point from the clubs highest ranked team (*i.e. team highest on the ladder, whether it be A, B, or C grade, regardless of points*) and a fine as set by the Council of Management in accordance with Schedule F2.

A.10.2 Umpires

The home team is to organise the umpires for A, B, & C grade games as requested by the Director of Umpiring. Any club failing to supply umpires when requested to do so by the Director of Umpiring, will incur a fine and the loss of match points in accordance with Schedule F2, from each of their senior teams they have failed to supply umpires for. The Director of Umpiring must notify clubs by the Wednesday night prior to the home & away game of their requirements.

A.10.3 Forfeit

- A.10.3.1 Any senior grade team forfeiting its match shall be fined in accordance with Schedule F2, plus the full amount of umpire's fees that are charged for a senior game. (*Exception as per A.10.3.2*)
- A.10.3.2 If the team forfeits 48 hours or more before the scheduled start time and notifies the Director of Umpiring and the opposition club, the umpire assigned to officiate shall not be paid.
- A.10.3.3 If the team forfeits with less than 48 hours before the scheduled start time, the umpires shall be paid in full. The forfeiting team shall pay such fees, in accordance with Schedule F2.
- A.10.3.4 Any team continually forfeiting games, their club will be called to appear before the Council of Management to explain why, and will incur any such penalty the Council may decide.

A.11 REPORTED PERSON'S & TRIBUNAL

There shall be a Tribunal for the determination of disciplinary matters and matters arising from the report of players and other entities associated with the LVBA.

A.11.1 General

Any umpire in control of any game played under the auspices of the Association is empowered to report any person whom, in the umpire's opinion, engages in any conduct detrimental to the best interests of the game of baseball. This includes any practice game.

Immediately following any report (*the provisions of Rule 4.07 ejected person Australian 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 or chewing a tobacco substance, and/or consuming an alcoholic beverage shall comply with this rule apart from the mandatory fine (set from time to time by the Council of Management ref: Schedule F2) no further action will be taken. In all other cases the reported person will appear before the Tribunal. The reported person may participate in any game to be played before the Tribunal hearing, unless the Association President states otherwise.

The Tribunal shall convene prior to the next round unless special circumstances prevent this.

A.11.2 Report Notice

The report, identifying the offences must be in writing in duplicate, one copy going to the reported person's club on the day, the second being retained by the umpire and presented to the Tribunal at the hearing. (*The use of the reported person notice is advisable but not compulsory*).

The reported person must be given the opportunity to show that they may be disadvantaged by the alteration.

A.11.3 The Tribunal

The Council of Management will from time to time appoint a panel of persons who shall be collectively known as the Tribunal. When convened the one tribunal member shall appoint a chairperson

A.11.3.1 A Tribunal hearing may not proceed if there are less than three tribunal members present. In such a case the hearing shall be adjourned to a later date.

A.11.3.2 Should there be insufficient Tribunal members available for any hearing the Tribunal shall have the power to co-opt any suitable person or persons.

A.11.3.3 The Council of Management shall appoint a member of the Association to act as minute secretary to the Tribunal.

A.11.4 The Hearing

A.11.4.1 The Tribunal shall, in its sole discretion, determine the procedure that it will follow in hearing and determining the report.

A.11.4.2 An adult must accompany all juniors under the age of eighteen years.

A.11.5 Final and Binding

The decision of the Tribunal shall be final and binding. There is no right to appeal a decision of the Tribunal.

A.12 SUSPENSION, DISQUALIFICATION, PENALTIES

A.12.1 Failure to Carry Out a Direction of the Association

Any club or member affiliated with the Association, failing to carry out any direction of the Council or Tribunal, which is within the ambit of its power, shall be liable to suspension or disqualification or to such other penalty as the Council may determine.

A.12.2 Forfeiting of Rights and Privileges

Any club or affiliated body under suspension shall forfeit all rights and privileges held under or in the Association or its property. Its delegates shall cease to act and shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings of the Association, and its members shall be debarred from taking part in any match played under the auspices of the Association.

A.12.3 Endorsement of Suspension

The Association shall have the power to, and endorse any suspension or disqualification imposed by any controlling body of baseball, provided that notification of such suspension or disqualification is received in writing.

A.12.4 Players and Officials Reported

In the event of a player or official conducting them selves in such a manner as to cause the umpire to eject them out of, or from the game, they shall automatically be reported. The player or official on report shall be expected to be present at the tribunal if requested to be in attendance. Failure to do so may lead to further disciplinary action as decided by the Association.

A.12.5 Invasion of the playing area by Players / Spectators

If any Players or spectators from a club or clubs invade the playing area, the association, through the Council of Management, shall have the right to fine one or both clubs in accordance with schedule of fines set out in clause F2. It will be the decision of the Council of Management as to the severity of the offence.

All clubs must take responsibility and for their own players and keep them under control, whether they are at another ground or their own.

All Umpires are instructed to report any incidents as well as individual players for such unsporting behaviour.

Any person who brings the game into disrepute will be dealt with by the Council of Management.

A.13 YELLOW CARD RULE

- A.13.1 The yellow card is to be only used as a type of formal warning for very minor offences. The principle of this rule is to allow an umpire to issue a formal warning to players committing minor offences without the necessity of ejection from the game and subsequent Tribunal appearance.
- A.13.2 Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include, but not be limited to: - dangerous play, dissent, equipment abuse, minor obscenities and minor incidents of player misconduct.
- A.13.3 If, in the opinion of the umpire, an offence has occurred which is covered by this rule, a Yellow Card must be shown to the offending person and both that person and the team manager informed of the nature of the offence. No further discussion on the matter shall take place once the card has been issued.
- A.13.4 The Umpire shall complete the details required on the Yellow Card and return it to the association secretary.
- A.13.5 The Association Secretary shall maintain a register of Yellow Card offences. The Tribunal may refer to this register at any time when making a decision.
- A.13.6 The first and second Yellow Cards that are issued to a player in the same year will incur no penalty. The third, and any subsequent, Yellow Card issued to that player during the current season shall result in an automatic suspension of that player from all competition matches held on the following scheduled round. A bye for the particular grade the player was Yellow Carded in following the offence does not count. *E.g. B grade player this week receives their third Yellow Card, B grade draws a bye for their next game, the player shall not be eligible to play in any matches until the next schedule game after the B grade team has played one game.*
- A.13.7 No player shall receive two Yellow Cards for the same offence in the same game. The second offence must result in ejection.
- A.13.8 The Association Secretary will notify clubs when a player has been suspended under clause A.11.6 All Clubs should keep their own records of Yellow Card offences.
- A.13.9 All Yellow Card offences will be expunged at the end of each season.

A.14 UMPIRES

The Director of Umpires shall appoint all umpires for senior matches played under the management of the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association. The umpires shall be members of the Latrobe Valley Umpires Association, and/or other accredited umpires.

A.14.1 Failing to Attend

In the event of any umpire failing to attend a match to whom they have been appointed, the managers shall have the power to appoint a substitute. If the managers should fail to agree, the home team shall appoint a substitute and the Secretary of the home club shall notify the Association Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of the match.

- 14.1.1 the name of the substitute umpire.
- 14.1.2 the full details of the match results.
- 14.1.3 the best and fairest votes for the game

A.14.2 Late Arrival of the Umpire without Notification

Should any umpire:

- 14.2.1 Not be in attendance at the scheduled starting time to which game they have been appointed, they shall not be entitled to receive any fee.
- 14.2.2 Should any team not be ready to start at the scheduled start time as per the rules of baseball, they will automatically forfeit the match points, and be fined the maximum total sum of the umpiring fees due for that match, whether or not an umpire is in attendance. If an umpire attends a match that becomes a forfeit they shall be paid as normal.

## A.15 MATCH REPORT CARD

At the conclusion of each match including forfeits and wash outs, the umpire and both coaches, shall see that the match card is filled out correctly, complete with the names of all players taking part in such match, together with details of the scores, votes and reports. Electronic copies of all match cards must be submitted to the Association Statistician by 8:00pm on the next Monday following a game. Match cards are to be submitted by the home team (seniors) or the hosting club (juniors). Hard copies must be passed to the Association Statistician at the earliest convenience. Penalty of 1 match point for each missing senior match card off the respective grade. Penalty of 1 match point off the highest ranked senior team (*i.e. team highest on the ladder, whether it be A, B, or C grade, regardless of points*) for the non-submission of all junior match cards.

All details of rule breaches are to be written on the match card.

In the event of any reports or protests such reports must be phoned in to the Association Secretary on the evening of the game. All match cards must be passed to the Association Secretary as soon as possible, before any hearings that are scheduled.

## A.16 SCORERS

- A.16.1 In all grades of baseball and tee ball/coach pitch each team must provide a scorer who shall be responsible to score the game in accordance with the rules of baseball.
- A.16.2 All clubs must provide a sheltered area for the scorers.
- A.16.3 If any Baseball or Tee Ball team Senior or Junior do not supply a scorer for a game, the team shall be penalised match points whether they win or lose as per schedule F2. All infringements must be noted on the match card.
- A.16.4 As part of the development of scorers the association may appoint a third scorer, known as the recorder scorer, to score "A" grade games. If this is the case all statistics shall be recorded from this official scorebook. The recorder scorer shall be paid an expense allowance per game the same as the umpire. If no third scorer is in attendance the clubs' "A" grade scorer must fill out a statistic sheet following each "A" grade game, which must be forwarded to the Association Statistician within 7 days of that game. Failure to do so, the team shall be penalised at the discretion of the Council. The statistics that are compiled for each individual club shall be forwarded to them on a regular basis throughout the season so they can keep a track of them.

## A.17 ALL STAR SELECTION CRITERIA

## A.17.1 All Star Coach

The A grade coach whose team that finishes on top of the home and away ladder at the completion of the season shall be awarded the "All Star Coach" award.

## A.17.2 All Star Team

At the completion of the home & away season, the statistician places all eligible A grade players into positions that they qualify in. A list of all eligible players is sent to each club, to select opposition players that they have played against during the period of that season. Clubs can only select players, which they have played against & have qualified in the relevant positions. Clubs must have their selections returned to the Council of Management no later than Preliminary Final day. Votes are counted and an All Star team selected based on the highest number of votes per position. In the event of a drawn position, Council of Management will review the statistics & select the appropriate player for the position.

The All Star formula being:

Fielder: 1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, Shortstop, Left field, Centre field, Right field.  
Compute Fielding average plus Batting average and divided by 2.

Catcher: Compute Fielding average plus Batting average plus Caught Stealing average divided by 3

Pitcher: Compute Earned run average (ERA). If 2 or more players are equal, take into account the fielding average at that position.

Designated Hitter: Batting average.

A.17.2.1 Eligibility

To be eligible all players must play in no less than half of the allocated "A" grade games set down in the season. Players can only be awarded one position with the exception of the coach; they may be a playing coach if their statistics show pitcher, catcher, first base, second base, third base, short stop, left fielder, centre fielder, right fielder, designated hitter. No player who has been suspended during the season shall be eligible, even if the suspension is carried over from the previous season. Qualifying games shall be reduced if less than 3 players qualify in that position.

A17.2.2 Fielders

A Fielder must have fielded in the nominated position for no less than 40 innings. Averages of fielding and batting will be combined and divided by two to determine the total points. Ties in fielding shall be determined by the number of errors and the most put outs.

A17.2.3 Batters

Must have no less than 30 plate appearances and shall be determined by the batting average.

A.17.2.4 Pitchers

Must pitch a minimum of 30 innings and shall be determined by the best ERA.

A.18 FIRST AID

A18.1 Club Games

At all LVBA club games the home or host club is responsible to have in attendance at all times while a game is in progress, a qualified first aid person and a suitable first aid kit fully equipped.

A18.2 Championships

At all Championship games the host club is responsible to have in attendance at all times while a game is in progress, a qualified Level 2 first aid person and a suitable first aid kit fully equipped.

A.19 THE FIXTURE

A.19.1 Home & Away Season Dates

At the Annual General Meeting the committee shall set the season's dates. The junior start date shall not be set to commence in the school holidays.

A.19.2 Finals

The committee shall set the date for the Grand Finals for all grades.

A19.2.1 Juniors

The committee shall set the date for the junior finals for all grades a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the September school holidays and junior state try outs.

One week each is to be allowed for a wash out of the preliminary final & grand finals

Where wet or inclement weather or ground conditions prevent a game not achieving the full game requirement for a final minimum game time is – 45 minutes or 3 innings for all finals



A19.2.2 Seniors

The senior grand final date shall be set a minimum of two weeks prior to the end of September to allow for a wash out

Seniors - 65 minutes or 5 innings for all preliminary finals, and 9 innings complete for the A grade grand final. A.22 shall apply.

A.19.3 Byes

If a bye occurs this will be rotated between clubs for the first game of the season and any Saturday games.

A.19.4 Special Date Requests

Clubs have the right to request special days for a home or away game. The committee shall rule on this.

A.20 POINTS SYSTEM

A.20.1 Allocation of points

1.	Win	2 points
2.	Loss	No points
3.	Draw	1 point
4.	Disbanded	1 point
5.	Uneven Bye in competition	1 point to each team drawn to play bye round
6.	Forfeit	9 - nil against
7.	Bye	No points
8.	If two or more teams finish on equal points.	Head to Head, then by runs for and against the appropriate team and then hits for and against the appropriate team

A.20.2 Junior Games Clashing with Championships

For any junior age group that is away competing at a Regional championship that clashes with home and away games, no points or votes will be allocated to these games. The LVBA Council of Management shall rule on which age groups are affected for those that do not align themselves with the championship age groups.

A.20.3 Junior Baseball Victoria Winter Carnivals

The nominated head coach of each Junior Winter Carnival team shall receive 1 match point to be awarded to a junior age group or senior grade of their choice. The decision must be passed to the Association Statistician within one week following their respective carnival.

A.21 NO RESULT IN A FINAL

A21.1 Preliminary Final

Team that finishes higher will be declared the winner

*(e.g. 4<sup>th</sup> place eliminated, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> play, 1<sup>st</sup> into Grand Final).*

In the case where some games are completed, those results will remain and count. Any Preliminary Final that is unable to be completed to the minimum requirement will be replayed the following SUNDAY. For games that are unable to be completed on the second attempt to play them on the following Sunday the team that finished higher at the end of Home & Away series will be declared the winner and proceed to the Grand Final.

Seniors - 65 minutes or 5 innings for all preliminary finals

Junior's minimum game time is – 45 minutes or 3 innings for all finals

A21.2 Grand Final

Senior Grand Finals that are unable to be completed will be replayed the following SUNDAY.

Junior Grand Finals that are unable to be completed by the last SUNDAY available before the school holidays, then the team that finished higher at the end of Home and Away series will be declared the premiers.

Exception: In a result on the last available Sunday in a rain interrupted grand final game and the game can not continue due to inclement weather the result will revert back to the last complete innings after 45 minutes or 3 innings for all Junior finals

Senior 9 innings complete for the A grade Grand Final.

A.22 RULES FOR HEAT/ LIGHTNING & INCLEMENT WEATHER

A.22.1 Inclement Weather

The day before a schedule game – IF the ground is unplayable the home club can

- Try and relocate to another ground.
- Call the game off.
- Liaise with the opposition and agree upon another date.

The umpire coordinator or the appointed umpire, must be notified of the decision. If this is done on the day before the schedule game no umpire fees will be charged. If the umpire is not notified, normal fees will apply.

A.22.2 Game Day

The morning before a scheduled game - the ground is unplayable the home club can try and relocate to another ground or call the game off.

The umpire coordinator or the appointed umpire must be notified of the decision. If the game is called off on the day, and the appointed umpire given sufficient notice, i.e. 4 hours' notice. No umpire fees will be charged. If not, normal fees will apply.

If the ground is playable but the weather is not going to let up and the home club feels that the ground will not hold up to all of the games.

They can call off the juniors, and try for the seniors in the afternoon. The opposition must be given plenty of notice taking into account that some clubs have to travel and players will have to be notified.

If the junior's have played but the ground does not look like it will hold up for the seniors, the home club has the right to abandon the game. If the appointed accredited umpire is in attendance they must be consulted. When there is only 30 minutes before the schedule start time it will be the sole judgment of the umpire.

A.23 HEAT POLICY

The Heat Policy is to protect players and umpires. No other motivation should prevail above the need to protect the players and umpires. All clubs must have on hand at all times a thermometer Clubs should note that any misapplication or non-application of the Heat Policy will lead to penalties for the club.

A.23.1 Senior Games

Senior games cease at 38 Degree Celsius as measured on the playing field. Under 18 players while playing in senior games play under the senior rule, all other juniors playing in seniors if the temperature reaches 34 Degrees Celsius must leave the field. If insufficient players are left on the field, the game must cease. No team is to be disadvantaged because they have junior players playing

A.23.2 Junior Games

Junior games cease at 34 Degrees Celsius temperature, as measured on the playing field, and only resume when the temperature falls below 34 degrees Celsius

A.23.3 Temperature Measurement

The temperature shall be measured by the umpire by suspending the thermometer 1 metre above the ground, and not in direct sunlight. Umpires must check the temperature at the start, as well as each thirty (30) minutes of the game, upon equal innings for each team, or at any time the temperature feels as if it has risen sharply.

A.23.4. Anticipated Extreme Heat

In the instance of anticipated extreme heat, clubs are invited to consider collaborating prior to the weekend to arrange a mutually agreeable earlier start time.

A.23.5 Game Cancelled or Delayed

In the instance of a game cancelled or delayed due to extreme heat, teams must not go onto the ground for any training or other activities.

A.23.6 Clubs Responsibility

Clubs are responsible for their own player's health and well being. Players must rest and rotate, and drink plenty of fluid. Not alcohol.

A.23.7 Delays to Play

Delays to play caused by extreme heat risk will be considered to be a weather delay in deciding the outcome of a game.

A.24 LIGHTNING POLICY

Those associated with Baseball and its activities should note that the risk of injury from lightning is real, especially for people playing outdoor sports such as baseball.

A.24.1. Game Day

On game day, the umpire has the responsibility to decide when it is safe to play baseball. Play or practice will be suspended when any visible lightning is observed irrespective of the location of the storm or the direction in which it is moving. Players, officials and guests will take shelter in the club rooms or their cars while play is suspended. The dugouts **do not** provide appropriate protection. Play will not be resumed until thirty minutes after the last observed lightning strike.

A.24.2. During Practice

The Club Coach is responsible for deciding when it is safe to be practicing. In the absence of the Club Coach, the highest ranking present member of the Club Committee is responsible.

A.24.3 Delays to Play

Delays to play caused by lightning risk will be considered to be a weather delay in deciding the outcome of a game.

## B. SENIOR PLAYING CONDITIONS

### B.1 ELIGIBILITY

#### B.1.1 Eligibility of Players

No player shall be eligible to take part in any match or series of matches arranged or controlled by the Association, if they are not legally registered, pursuant to A.7.1. Penalty 2 match points (as per Schedule F2) off the highest ranked senior team (*i.e. team highest on the ladder, whether it be A, B, or C grade, regardless of points*).

#### B.1.2 Age Qualifications

No players are permitted to play in any senior Latrobe Valley games unless they have first attained the age of fifteen (15) years before the day of play. Clubs have the right to appeal this by-law with the signed consent of the player's parent or guardian for players 14 & over and must be provided to the Association Secretary prior playing their first game. *Penalty shall be 2 match points for all games in which the offending player played, a fine per match in accordance with Schedule F2*

#### B.1.3 A & B Grade Eligibility for Home & Away Games

- B.1.3.1 When a higher grade team draws a bye, none of the regular players of that grade shall be allowed to play in a lower grade in that round. Unless they have played equal to or a greater amount of games in lower grade at that stage of the season. This rule also applies to any other consecutive grade games where a bye exists in the higher grade games.

Penalty 2 match points (as per schedule F2).

Note: The opposing team shall not receive the points

- B.1.3.2 A maximum of 3 players from the B grade team shall be allowed to start and play in the A grade game for the first hour if both teams play on the same day. After the first hour of play in the A grade game other B grade players may play.

Penalty 2 match points (as per schedule F2).

Note: The opposing team shall not receive the points

- B.1.3.3 In any one home and away season, no senior player can play lower than one grade below the grade in which they played in their previous game, unless permission from the Association is granted. I.e. Any "A" grade player could not play "C" grade. Exception Rule B.1.3.1.

Penalty 2 match points (as per schedule F2).

Note: The opposing team shall not receive the points

#### B.1.4 B Grade Pitchers & Catchers

Any player who pitches or catches in a B grade game will not be eligible to pitch or catch in a C grade game on the same day.

Penalty 2 match points (as per schedule F2).

Note: The opposing team shall not receive the points

#### B.1.5 Eligibility for Finals

- B.1.5.1 A senior player must have participated in five (5) Latrobe Valley home and away rounds with that club to be eligible for the finals of that season. In the event of a club wishing to play semi-finals any bona fide member not eligible under this rule has the right to appeal, provided that the club can prove insufficient players.

- B.1.5.2 A player must not play more games in a higher grade to be eligible to play in the lower grade. Exception Rule B.1.5.3 & Rule, B.1.5.5.

- B.1.5.3 A club which has both (A&B Grade) teams in finals matches, in semi-finals or both in Grand Finals matches, shall not be restricted in selection, apart from by-laws as written. Players selected in lower grades in semi-finals may also play in the lower grade Grand Final, even if the clubs higher team has been eliminated.

- B.1.5.4 Any player, senior or junior who plays five (5) or more games in A grade during the season will not be eligible to play in any C grade game.
- B.1.5.5 Any regular B grade player must have played in more than half of the number of games set down in the C grade home and away season to qualify to play in a C grade final.
- B.1.5.6 A regular player is defined as one that has played half of the scheduled games in that grade at the point of the season in question.
- B.1.5.7 Any player will not be credited with a game for finals qualification for games played during the home and away season when ineligible

B.1.6 Seven Run Rule

The seven run rule shall apply to all "C" Grade games. A maximum of 7 runs can be scored in any one inning.

e.g. Should a team have already scored 6 runs in an inning, and a batter hits safely which scores 2 or more runs, only the first run shall count toward the score, but all runs will count toward the statistical records.

B.2 EQUIPMENT (as shown in rule book)

B.2.1 Diamond

All diamond markings must be clearly marked before the scheduled start time. Failure to do so will result in the club responsible to forfeit the game and pay the umpires fees due, whether or not an Umpire is in attendance. If the umpire adjudges it to be of a minor offence the game shall still be played but the umpire must report the infringement to the association.

B.2.2 Sixty-Foot Lines

These should be marked clearly for at least twenty feet (6 metres) past first and third bases.

B.2.3 Back Nets

The ball shall be played live in all baseball grades.

B.2.4 Home Run Lines

All home run lines are to be clearly defined by a fence, witches hats or similar. Minimum suggested distance, left/right field 90 metres and centre field 100 metres from pitching plate. When using cones or similar, there must be a sufficient number placed around the home run line so as it is easy to make a clear judgment as to where the home run line is.

B.2.5 Pitching Rubbers

If they are supplied and used they must be of a safe and good condition (3 feet by 6 feet minimum, securely pegged).

B.2.6 Bases

All bases are to be of an approved type by BV & ABL and must be pegged and whitened at the commencement of the game.

B.2.7 Home Plate

Must be of an approved type and in good condition, they must be pegged flat with the ground and whitened on all permanent diamonds. On grass diamonds they must be white and flat, a type that will cause no trouble during a game.

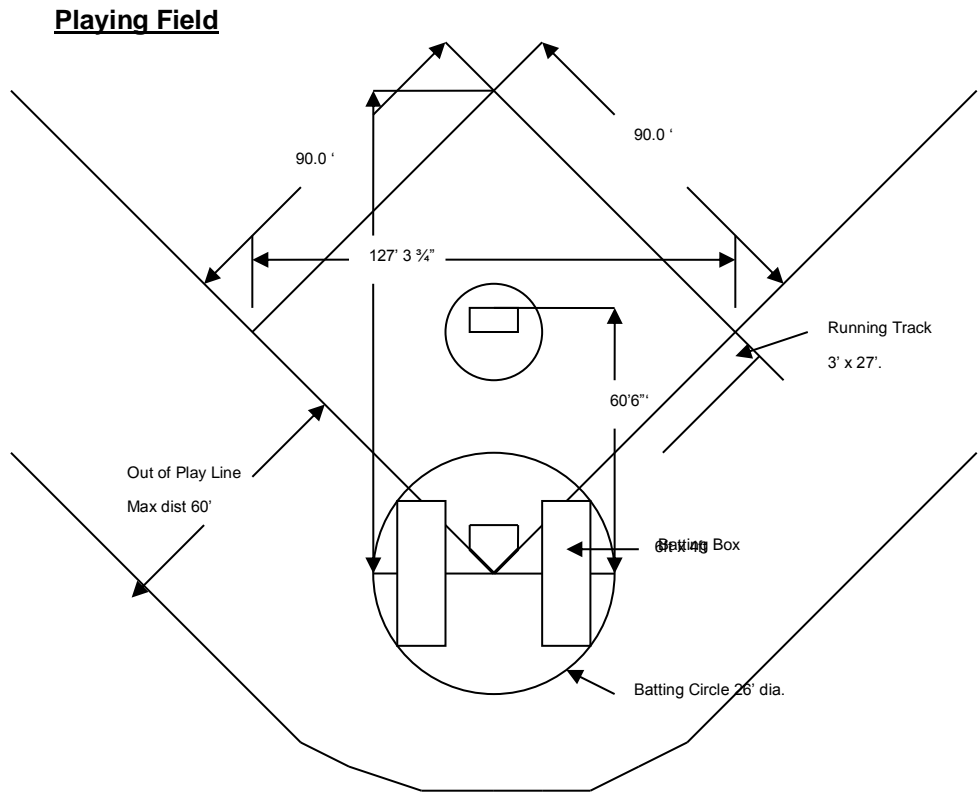
B.2.8 Foul Flags

Flags must be placed on the corner of the 1st and 3rd base foul line and home run line. The minimum height of the flag is not to be less than four feet.

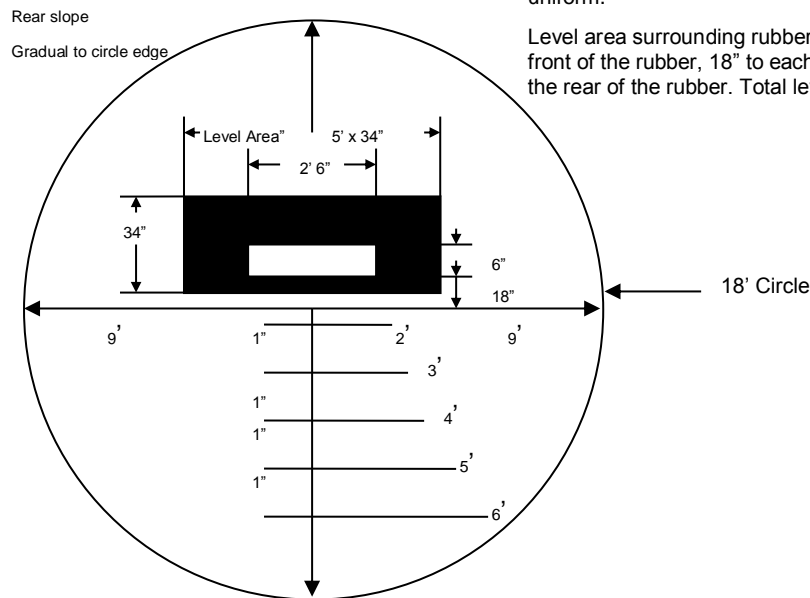
B.2.9 Pitching Mounds

Pitching mounds where possible must be used for all "A" grades, "B" grade, and under 18 games. Dimensions are as suggested in the rules of baseball

B.2.9.1 Playing Field Suggested Dimensions



**Pitching Mound**



The degree of slope from a point 6" in front of the plate to a point 6' toward home plate shall be 1" to 1', and such degree of slope shall be uniform.

Level area surrounding rubber should be 6" in front of the rubber, 18" to each side and 22" to the rear of the rubber. Total level area 5' x 34"

B.2.10 Balls

In all home and away games the home team will be responsible to supply two new game balls for each game of the same type & brand as approved for use by the LVBA. The Association shall supply all balls for finals. Council to determine and approved the brand & type of ball.

B.2.11 Bats

A Grade - It is compulsory that all players while playing in an A grade game use a wood or composite bat. No metal bats are to be used in A grade.

Colts – It is compulsory that all senior players playing in a Colts game use a wood or composite bat. No metal bats are to be used.

B.2.12 Home Team

Shall be the first named team on the fixture and shall occupy the base of their choosing and field first. The home team shall be responsible for arranging the playing field clearly marked as per B.2.1.

B.2.13 Helmets

All players must wear an approved helmet with two-ear protection at all times while at bat and on base. All base coaches must wear a helmet or skull cap while coaching a base. The use of damaged helmets is not permitted. All juniors must wear a 2 eared helmet when coaching a base.

B.2.14 Warm-up Catcher

Any person warming up a pitcher must wear an approved type mask.

B.3 TROPHIES & VOTES

B.3.1 Trophy

B.3.1.1 Best and Fairest Trophy

The Association shall provide a best and fairest trophy in each grade of competition. Any player having been suspended or disqualified for any number of playing matches in a season is not eligible for such a trophy in the season of the suspension or disqualification.

B.3.1.2 A Grade

The "A" grade trophy will be the "James McDonald Perpetual Shield" and "Tony Heppleston Perpetual Shield".

B.3.1.3 B Grade

The "B" grade trophy will be the "Bowman Perpetual Shield".

B.3.1.4 C Grade

The "C" grade trophy will be the "Clyde Cumming Perpetual Shield"

B.3.1.5 Grand Final MVP Award

The Association shall provide each grade a grand final MVP award, to be voted by the umpires on the day & presented at the grand final presentation

B.3.2 Votes A & B Grade

Shall be awarded by the umpire on a 3, 2, 1 basis. Votes are to be placed on the official match card or cards attached to the match card (*Votes are to be awarded to the best players on the day across both clubs*).

B.3.3 Votes C Grade

Shall be awarded by the umpire on a 3, 2, 1 basis. If there is not an umpire, the two coaches shall select the votes on the day.

B.4 PROTECTIVE INJURY COVERING

No player wearing a plaster cast (full or partial) shall be allowed to take the field in any Latrobe Valley game at all whilst the cast is being worn. The protective covering of any injury shall be deemed satisfactory by the sole judgement of the umpire in charge of the match.

## B.5 THE 5 MINUTE RULE

- B.5.1 If at the completion of even innings there is five minutes or more than five minutes of game time left a further complete innings subject to clause B.5.4 shall be played, except where the home team needs none of its half inning or only a fraction of it (*home team bats second, game ceases when the winning run is scored*).
- B.5.2 If at five (5) minutes or less before the scheduled time of completion the home team is:-
- AHEAD - The game ceases immediately.
  - TIED OR BEHIND - The game continues subject to clause B.5.4 until the winning run is scored or the side is retired.
- B.5.3 In any game, if five minutes or less remains at the completion of an even innings, the game shall end immediately.
- B.5.4 During the home and away season, a maximum of 20 minutes will be played past the scheduled finishing time if another game is scheduled to begin within 60 minutes of the scheduled finishing time, e.g. B grade scheduled to finish at 1:15 pm, A grade scheduled to start at 2:00 pm, B grade must cease at 1:35 pm. (*If at the completion of the extra 20 minutes an even inning has not been achieved, the score shall revert back to the last even inning*).

## B.6 RUNS SCORED FOR AND AGAINST

In regard to final scores in TIME MATCHES, various examples are given below. The basic principle to keep in mind is, "Where an incomplete inning has been played, the score reverts to the last complete inning" except where:

1. The team last at bat (*home team*) is ahead (*winning run has been scored*).
2. The team last at bat (*home team*) having scored an equal number to or less runs than the team first at bat (*away team*) by the end of the last complete inning, has scored in the incomplete inning sufficient runs to make the score a TIE.
3. All runs are included in box score on match card

In each of the following examples, "A" is the first team at bat and "B" is the team to bat last.

1.	A	6	1	(incomplete)	7	Reverts back to 6 <sup>th</sup>
	B	4	2		6	A 6. d B 4
2.	A	6	0	(incomplete)	6	Game is a Tie
	B	4	2		6	A 6. drew B 6
3.	A	5	0	(incomplete)	5	Win for B
	B	4	3		7	B 7 d A 5
4.	A	5	1	(incomplete)	6	Reverts back to 6 <sup>th</sup>
	B	5	0		5	A 5 drew B 5
5.	A	4	2		6	Win for B
	B	7	-	(Did not bat)	7	B 7 d A 6

## B.7 THE 10 RUN RULE AND 15 RUN RULE

## B.7.1 The 10 Run Rule

If after seven (7) or more complete innings in a scheduled 9 inning game, one team leads by ten (10) or more runs, the umpire shall call time and game. In a scheduled 7 innings game this rule will be enforced after 5 complete innings.



B.7.2 The 15 Run Rule

If after five (5) or more complete innings in a scheduled 9 inning game, one teams leads by fifteen (15) or more runs, the umpire shall call time and game.

B.8 THE GAME

B.8.1 Minimum Players

Any team is permitted to take the field with seven (7) players to commence any Association match. The highest grade played must have all positions filled with all available players. *(ie: C Grade players would fill all 9 A grade positions before blanks are rostered in the A Grade field).*

At any time there are less than seven (7) players for any reason at all on the field during the scheduled game time, the game shall cease immediately and be declared a forfeit if there remains playing time.

B.8.2 Game Duration

B.8.2.1 "A" grade

The duration of the home and away games shall be of nine (9) innings with a 2½ hours' time allocation, with the 5-minute rule. Ref Clause B5

B.8.2.2 "B" grade

The duration of the home and away games shall be of nine (9) innings with a 2 hour time allocation, with the 5-minute rule. Ref Clauses B.5 & B.5.4

B.8.2.3 "C" grade

The duration of the home and away games shall be of nine (9) innings with a 2-hour time allocation, with the 5-minute rule and 7-run rule. Ref Clauses B.1.6, B.5 & B.5.4

B.8.3 Regulation game

A game shall become a regulation game after sixty-five (65) minutes of play or five equal innings in the event of inclement weather or light.

B.8.4 "A" Grade Grand Final Duration

The duration of the "A" grade grand finals shall be nine (9) innings completed, unless the Council of Management rules otherwise.

B.8.5 Starting Times

The Council of Management shall decide starting times. The five-minute rule will apply to all final games, & played to a result.

B.8.6 Finals Home Team

The home team in all finals shall be the team that finishes higher on the ladder. The home team shall occupy 3rd base unless a prior agreement has been made.

B.9 CATCHER SPEED UP RULE

Where there is two out, it is mandatory that a pinch runner replaces the catcher if they are on base. The pinch runner must be prepared when the catcher comes to bat. This rule applies to all senior grades.

## C. JUNIOR PLAYING CONDITIONS

### C.1 PLAYING RULES

All competitions shall be played under the playing rules of baseball approved by the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association, BASEBALL AUSTRALIA & BV, and the, subject to any amendments or alterations that this Association may approve.

### C.2 GRADING

The Council of Management shall divide all teams in the Association competition, into grades at the beginning of each season.

### C.3 ALCOHOL

No alcohol is to be consumed at any junior Association function by anyone without prior consent of the LVBA.

### C.4 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS - AGE QUALIFICATION

C.4.1 A player is eligible to take part in any match in the respective age groupings provided he / she is no more than a maximum of 4 years younger than the group set down at the annual general meeting in each year. The eligibility date shall be 31<sup>st</sup> September in the year of competition.

C.4.2 No player may participate in seniors until they attain the age of fifteen (15) years. Ref Clause B.1.2

C.4.3 If a club has special circumstances where permission is sought for players to play out of their age groups, *e.g.: a lower age group, special permits may be granted.* In this case, a club must make written application to the Committee of Management stating cause, names and ages of the players for whom special permission is sought.

All players playing out of their age group are to be noted on the match card.

C.4.4 Failure by a club to comply with the eligibility rules will result in the offending club forfeiting any match points gained whilst playing such players, and in the event of losing such a game a fine shall apply.

#### C.4.5 Colts

Colts is a junior competition, which includes up to 3 senior players that have been nominated and approved by LVBA committee. Senior player nominations to change the original nominations close 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. No senior player may play in the Colts if they have played more than 3 games in A grade. Non-playing seniors are encouraged to play *e.g.: Non-playing Parent*. Junior players are not to be left on the bench in lieu of senior players taking part. All players must play a minimum of 3 games played in the Colts to be eligible for finals. Junior players from lower age groups will be eligible if they play in 3 games with the club. Minimum 7 players to take the field. This will constitute a game. If all junior players are on the field and there is a blank, this blank can be filled with a senior player.

Rules governing the senior players are to be adhered to:

- Senior must play outfield.
- Senior must use a wood bat.
- Senior is restricted to a maximum of a 2 base hit (i.e. cannot hit a home run)
- Senior may only advance two bases in any one play; exception when a junior batter forces them to advance because of a hit, e.g. home run
- Senior is not allowed to steal bases. They can advance on a "Passed ball" or "Wild pitch".

- The collision rule is compulsory for all senior players at all times. No major deliberate contact is to be made on a junior player.
- Footwear – NO player is to wear metal cleats in Colts.

#### C.5 ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

- C.5.1 For junior players to be eligible to compete in finals they shall have played in at least three (3) matches with their club in the home and away season.
- C.5.2 Clubs with two or more teams in any one age group are advised that a player is only eligible to play with the team in which they played the most number of games during the season. Any player may be promoted to a team higher on the ladder, but not demoted. This means that if two teams make the final and one is knocked out, all players become eligible to be promoted to the team left playing in the finals.
- C.5.3 If a player has played an equal amount of games with two or more teams during the season, they must play with the higher team, unless permission from the Council has been granted.
- C.5.4 Baseball and tee ball / modified rules shall be for the purpose of these rules, classified as two (2) individual sports. Players must qualify in each sport to be eligible to play in the finals of that sport. If two sports are played at the same time, players are not permitted to play in both.
- C.5.5 If the two sports are played at different playing times (i.e. one after the other) any players who have qualified as per rule C.4 can play.
- C.5.6 Borrowing of junior players for grand finals shall not be permitted. All teams must have the required number of players to play. Exception: players from another club that does not have a team entered in a particular age, and that player has regularly played with the team shall be deemed eligible to play finals with that team.

#### C.6 UNIFORMS

It is desirable that all clubs see that their players appear in similar attire. Advertising is permissible on the back of uniforms, or emblems on the arm, as per the rules of baseball.

#### C.7 EQUIPMENT

- C.7.1 Balls  
In all home and away games the home team will be responsible to supply two new game balls for each game of the same type & brand as approved for use by the LVBA. The association shall supply the all balls for finals. Council to determine and approved the brand & type of ball.
- C.7.2 Helmets  
All players must wear two-eared batting helmets during their time at bat and for the entire duration of time on base in all grades of baseball and Tee ball. Bat boys/girls must wear helmets at all times. All base coaches must wear a helmet or skullcap while coach a base. All juniors must wear a 2-eared helmet when coaching a base.
- C.7.3 Catchers  
All catchers in all grades must wear a mask and helmet. This includes any person warming up a pitcher.

#### C.8 UMPIRE

Each club shall appoint umpires for all home games. The plate umpire should officiate from behind the catcher in all games.

- C.8.1 The council and umpire coordinator reserve the rights to investigate reports on umpiring, and take such action, as deemed necessary.

- C.8.2 Failures to comply with any conditions concerning umpires will result in the offending club being fined.

C.9 PRE-MATCH DIAMOND WARM-UP

- C.9.1 It is the coaches and managers responsibility to see that this rule is adhered to.
- C.9.2 Fifteen minutes before the scheduled starting time of a game the visiting team shall be entitled to a diamond run, not to exceed five (5) minutes. Ten (10) minutes before the scheduled starting time, the home team shall be entitled to a diamond run. Five (5) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game, the diamond must be vacated. Both managers/coaches must meet with the umpire to determine ground rules.
- C.9.3 If the ground markings are not in order, no team shall use the diamond to warm-up, unless there is ten (10) minutes left before the scheduled start time, where the visiting team only shall be entitled to warm-up on the diamond not exceeding five (5) minutes.

C.10 DURATION OF PLAY

- C.10.1 The Council of Management will set down playing times for all junior games,
- C.10.2 The second game in any double headers is to start thirty (30) minutes after the completion of the previous game.
- C.10.3 Ten (10) minutes grace may apply at the umpire's discretion, before the start of a game, if the club requests it for travel, or to correct any diamond markings. If this time is requested it must not be added on to playing time.

C.11 FIVE RUN RULE

The five run rule shall apply to all junior grade games. A maximum of 5 runs can be scored in any one inning.

*e.g. Should a team have already scored 4 runs in an innings, and a batter hits safely which scores 2 or more runs, only the first run shall count toward the score, but all runs will count toward the statistical records.*

C.12 RE-ENTRY RULE

- C.12.1 In all junior games a starting line-up player having been substituted, may re-enter the game provided that:
1. The player substituted has participated in a defensive role for three (3) outs, and has had at least one turn at bat.
  2. The umpire, opposing coach and scorers are notified at the time of re-entry.
  3. The re-entered player occupies their original position in the batting order.
- Note:** For the purpose of this rule when the nine (9) batter rule applies, any player in the field at that time will be regarded as having participated in the "number of outs", which otherwise still would be required to retire the side.
- C.12.2 The re-entry rule substitution cannot apply to a pitching mound change.

C.13 ADVERSE WEATHER

- C.13.1 The rules of baseball are to apply; the home side is the sole judge as if the ground is fit to play on until the umpire is in attendance. It is then the umpire's judgement decision. If in the opinion of the umpire, the ground conditions are unfit to play on, and either team does not have the required number of players in attendance at the scheduled starting time, the umpire shall delay making their decision for ten minutes to allow teams that period of time to obtain the required number of players. Regardless of the condition of play after ten (10) minutes, if either team has not the required number of players, one team may then

declare a walk over, provided they have the required number of players. The rules of baseball, no team shall be allowed to take the field unless they have seven (7) or more players. Should both teams be at fault, the umpires shall declare a "no game" and each team will have a score of nine nil debited against them, plus any other penalty the committee may decide. Ref Clause A.22

#### C.14 REGULATION 7 INNINGS, 90 MINUTE GAME

Shall be when the umpire terminates play due to adverse weather or ground conditions after three (3) complete innings or a total of forty-five (45) minutes playing time.

#### C.15 RE-SCHEDULING GAMES

Clubs, if both are agreeable and can agree on a date and time they must notify the association Secretary of their intention to re-schedule their game. Any game re-scheduled must not affect the fixture in any way. Clubs have forty eight (48) hours after the scheduled time of completion of such games to notify the Association Secretary of their intent.

#### C.16 PITCHERS

##### C.16.1 Maximum Innings per Day/Weekend

In any Junior age groups, pitchers can pitch a maximum of ten (10) innings over the whole weekend or seven (7) innings in one day (*part innings count as a whole innings*). Rule applies to juniors playing seniors also.

##### C.16.2 Maximum Innings per Game

Pitchers in all junior grades may pitch a maximum of two (2) innings per game with a maximum pitch count as per C.16.3.

For junior finals pitch count only is used.

##### C.16.3 Pitch Count Limits

Pitch count is based on age group, not age of individual player while playing in junior games according to the table below. Juniors playing in seniors will abide by the pitch count for their age and the count will apply across the weekend.

Players Age Group	U13	U16 & U17	U18
	55 pitches to complete the batter & not to exceed 70	65 pitches to complete the batter & not to exceed 80	80 pitches to complete the batter & not to exceed 100

##### C.16.4 Rest Period

If the pitcher has pitched the last two innings of a game he/she must rest from pitching and catching for the first two innings of the next game unless the next game is on the following day. If a pitcher pitches in more than one game in a day, rules C16.1, C.16.2 and C.16.3 will also apply.

##### C.16.5 Penalty

The offending team will forfeit all match points gained in such a game. (*note the opposing team do not receive the points*)

##### C.16.6 Curve Balls

Pitchers in any younger and including U/14 age groups are not permitted to throw curve balls (Baseball Australia regulations).

C.16.7 Balks

Balks will be called on pitchers in all grades and if delivered to the plate will constitute a pitch and be counted in any pitch count. Umpires are to show leniency towards bad pitching mechanics and have the coach correct it. Only those balks that deliberately deceive a base runner who is trying to steal will be called.

C.17 PITCHERS / CATCHERS

A catcher cannot change from catching to pitching, or a pitcher cannot change from pitching to catching without a break for the rest of that game, or if the pitcher has pitched the last two innings of a game he / she must rest from pitching & catching for the first two innings of the next game unless the next game is on the following day. *This applies to players playing up an age group also.* The offending team will forfeit all match points gained in such a game. *(note the opposing team do not receive the points)*

C.18 FOOT WEAR

Moulded cleats, moulded plastic stops (no metal protruding) and sandshoes are permitted in all grades of baseball. No metal cleats may be worn by any junior players, except when playing in a senior grade.

C.19 FINALS

C.19.1 Council shall set playing time for all grades.

C.19.2 The five-minute rule, and ten-run rule, will apply in all finals. Ref Clause C.5.4

Playing times for all final series matches will be set by the Council of Management, except when a game is tied at the conclusion of play, the umpire shall direct the teams to continue in order to obtain a result. Such extended play shall not continue beyond thirty (30) minutes.

C.19.3 All finals shall be played to a result.

C.19.4 No Result in Finals

Ref Clauses A.19 & A.21.2

C.19.5 Pitchers shall be permitted to pitch for the entire game, even if the game goes over seven (7) innings to reach a result. If the pitcher plays in more than one game of baseball on that weekend, the normal rules are to apply, seven (7) innings in a day and ten (10) for a weekend. Rule C.16.1 & C.16.3 shall apply to players playing in more than one game on the same day.

C.20 PLAYERS - SUBSTITUTE

In all junior grades for home and away games and lead up finals it will be permitted to borrow players from the opposing team without penalty. In all finals it will not be permitted to borrow players. Ref Clause C.5.7

C.21 COLLISION RULE - FOR JUNIOR TEAMS

Base runners must slide if there is a play or a possible play (i.e. close play) about to be made on the base runner at second base, third base, and home plate. If this rule is not adhered to then the runner is to be called out for interference by the umpire and all other runners return. A batter shall be awarded with a one base hit on any safe hit that might have occurred during such play. Normal interference rules shall apply and will be enforced by the umpire.

C.21.1 In all Colts games the rules of baseball are to apply to all junior players. But for any senior player playing in the colts under Rule C.4.5, the collision rule shall apply and must be enforced by the umpire.

C.22 TROPHIES & VOTES

C.22.1 Most Valuable Player (MVP) Trophy

The Association shall provide a MVP in each age group of competition. Any player having been suspended or disqualified for any number of playing matches in a season is not eligible for such a trophy in the season of the suspension or disqualification.

C.22.2 Grand Final MVP Award

The Association shall provide each grade a grand finial MPV award, to be voted by the umpires on the day & presented at the grand finial presentation

C.22.3 Votes

Shall be awarded by the umpire or any official delegated before the start of play, on a 3, 2, 1 basis. If there is not an umpire, the two coaches shall select the votes on the day.

## **D. TEE BALL PLAYING & MODIFIED RULES**

### **D.1 INTRODUCTION**

Tee ball is specially designed with one goal in mind.

The enjoyment and participation for all children.

Enjoyment of the game is what is important to the children. When the game ceases to be fun, it ceases to be a game. Undue stress must not be placed on winning, but on participation.

We urge parents, and insist that managers and coaches do not put pressure on players, but attempt to teach them to play the game to the best of their ability and enjoy it.

We ask adults to make every effort to set a proper example by their own actions. To applaud all players and teams, never yelling against any player on any team, to show sportsmanship by enjoying victory without "rubbing it in" to the loser and accepting defeat without making excuses; and most of all remember that this is nothing more than a game of children's baseball.

### **D.2 ELIGIBILITY**

D.2.1 To play Tee ball a player must be under the age of ten as per the date set down by the LVBA. If no minimum age is set down it is up to the clubs discretion as to whether or not the player is capable.

### **D.3 THE PLAYING FIELD.**

D.3.1 The baselines shall be sixty feet (60').

D.3.2 The pitcher's mound shall be a pitching plate that is positioned forty feet (40') from home plate. The pitcher is to remain in position until the ball is hit.

D.3.3 The outfield fence shall be one hundred and fifty feet (150') (suggested).

D.3.4 The batter's box shall be six by three feet (6' x 3') as per LVBA junior rules.

D.3.5 Home plate shall be a portable plate with an adjustable height tee

D.3.6 Bases to be as per regulation size with 1st base being also fitted with a safety base.

D.3.7 The catcher's box shall be the distance between the outside edge of the batter's box extended six feet (6') back of the batting tee.

### **D.4. THE EQUIPMENT.**

D.4.1 The ball shall be approved by the LVBA.

D.4.2 The bat shall not be more than thirty inches (30") in length.

D.4.3 Catcher must wear a catcher's mask and catcher's helmet.

D.4.4 Players may wear any type of clothing approved by the Association. This clothing shall include shoes, but not shoes with metal cleats

### **D.5. TEE BALL.**

D.5.1 On Offence, one coach may assist the batter at the tee; one may coach at 1st and one at 3rd. Others must stay on the bench with the players. Coaches may not physically assist a base runner. Penalty: Runner is out.

D.5.2 On Defence, one coach may stay in the coach's lane in front of the dugout and one may assist players from behind 2nd base. The remainder of coaches must remain on the bench.

D.5.3 Starting line ups shall consist of twelve (12) players. A team must have a minimum of seven (7) players before taking the field. Loaning of players to ensure a team can take



the field or to even up the numbers is allowed in home and away games only. In all grand finals each team must have the required number of players.

- D.5.4 Substitutions must be made at the beginning of each half inning. Each player must play at least one full innings on offence and defence, and bat at least one time. The manager can remove no player, or substitute, from the game until they have batted at least once.
- D.5.5 Starting players may re-enter the game one time in the same batting order position he originally occupied.
- D.5.6 All batters must remain on the bench while waiting to bat except the on-deck batter who may wait in the on-deck circle. Penalty: Batter may be called out after team has been warned one (1) time.
- D.5.7 The infield fly rule is not in effect. Bunting is not permitted.
- D.5.8 Base stealing is not permitted. A base runner must be in contact with the base at the time the ball is hit by the batter. Penalty: The defensive team shall have the option of either accepting the play as executed or ruling it as a no swing by the batter.
- D.5.9 Once a batted ball is in a defensive infielder's secure possession base runners shall not pass another base. Penalty: Return to last legally occupied base. Secure possession means that the ball is seen by the umpire to be in the player's glove or bare hand and off the ground. A trapped ball does not constitute secure possession; the ball must be off the ground.
- D.5.10 A foul strike line shall be made from baseline to baseline in front of home plate on a ten-foot (10') radius from the tee.
- D.5.11 If a ball is struck hard enough to roll past and settle past the foul circle it is fair whether or not the bat has struck the tee. On the foul strike line it is a fair ball.
- D.5.12 The batter shall be allowed to level the bat with the ball (half swing) only one time per strike. An additional levelling or half swing shall be called a strike.
- D.5.13 The umpire shall place the ball on the tee when the batter and fielders are ready.
- D.5.14 The batter must have their both feet planted firmly in the batter's box for a full one (1) second before they swing at the ball. No run-ups.
- D.5.15 The batter shall be called out for deliberately slinging the bat and all runners are to return to their bases.
- D.5.16 The team on offence shall have 3 outs or 5 runs across the plate, whichever is first.
- D.5.17 The five run rule shall apply to all junior grade games. A maximum of 5 runs can be scored in any one innings.
- D.5.18 Players, managers or coaches may be removed from the game for unsporting conduct.
- D.5.19 A regulation game shall be four (4) innings, or if forty-five minutes of playing time.
- D.5.20 No fielder (except the catcher) shall field closer to the batter than the pitchers rubber until the ball is hit.
- D.5.21 Teams shall not have more than six (6) infielders.

#### D.6. MODIFIED RULES

Age Groups will be set by the council of management at the start of each season

D.6.1 Normal junior rules apply with the following modifications.

- Diamond size and bases to be the same as used for Under 12's.

D.6.2 Safety equipment

- Helmets to be worn by all batters and base runners
- Catchers to wear normal catcher gear.
- Bases to be of a fixed approved type.

D.6.3 Baseball

- Shall use a normal leather baseball.

D.6.4 Runners

- Runners are not allowed to leave the base until the pitched ball has passed the batter, i.e. caught by the catcher.
- When the Tee is being used a base a runner must be in contact with the base until the ball is hit safely. This is the same as for Tee Ball
- Runner may advance on a wild throw by a fielder. Normal baseball rules.
- Runner cannot score on a wild pitch or catchers past ball i.e. all runs must score on a batted ball.

D.6.5 Fielding

- The pitcher cannot field any closer than the normal pitcher rubber.
- Teams may field up to 10 players. The extra players to be in the outfield.

D.6.6 Batting

- 3 out, side away.
- 5 Run rule for all Junior Game
- Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike normal rules of baseball.
- Maximum of 12 batters per side

D.6.7 Umpire

The umpire shall call balls and strikes from behind the catcher.

D.6.8 Scores and results

- All scores must be recorded in the normal manner as is done for baseball.
- Match cards must be filled out for all games and forfeits.
- Match cards to be legible showing the full name of all players who play.

**E. GIPPSLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**E.1 INTRODUCTION**

This is an "A" grade competition and shall be played in accordance with the rules of baseball, and rules set out by the Council of Management.

**E.2 GIPPSLAND CHAMPIONSHIP ROTATION**

The host for all final series and the Gippsland Championships shall be held on a rotation between all Latrobe Valley clubs as sanctioned by the Council of Management. The Council of Management shall approve the venue.

**E.3 DATE**

The date being the first weekend in April, not being Easter, or a date as set by the LVBA.

**E.4 ENTRY**

It is compulsory for all LVBA clubs to enter a team. Nominations from the invited teams that are approved by the LVBA are to be in the hands of the Secretary on or before the last Thursday in February.

**E.6 ENTRY FEE**

To be set by the LVBA Council of Management. To cover first-aid, match balls and umpire costs.

**E.7 ELIGIBILITY**

E.7.1 All players have to be registered with an LVBA club and have attained the age of fifteen (15) years before the day of play. In special circumstances the committee may accept a part junior team as an entry. All LVBA players must play with the club they are registered with. Exception, any teams from outside the LVBA that are invited must submit a team list before the weekend. All players must be registered with that particular club.

E.7.2 Players who are currently registered with 2 clubs (1 for summer and 1 for winter) shall be allowed to play with whichever club they choose, but can only play with one team on the day.

E.7.3 Players must have competed in one (1) game to be eligible to play in the final.

**E.8 UNIFORM**

No player shall be permitted to participate in any way unless they are in full club uniform.

**E.9 COMMITTEE**

Shall be one (1) member from each LVBA club. Duties are to include:

E.9.1 Handle all reports and protests.

E.9.2 Adjudicate on ground and weather conditions.

E.9.3 Make or rescind any special rules at the championships.

**E.10 UMPIRE**

Shall be appointed by the umpire's co-ordinator, the bye team shall supply umpires if required. The LVBA will pay all umpires a fee as negotiated prior to the Championships.

E.11 STATISTICIAN

To be appointed by the LVBA to work with the Umpire's Co-ordinator to handle all match cards and votes for awards.

E.12 POINTS

The two teams to play off in the final shall be worked out on a match ratio.

E.13 PUBLICITY

The host club is to work with the Association Publicity Officer and advertise / publicise the Championships.

E.14 GAMES

All games shall be of 90 minutes duration, time game. The final shall be 2 hours if time permits with a 5-minute rule and ten run rules to apply.

E.15 BALLS

The LVBA shall supply all match balls using the entry fee money.

E.16 BATS

All Games - all players while playing it is compulsory to use a wood or composite bat. No metal bats are to be used in the Gippsland Championships.

E.17 PLAYING FIELD

Full sized diamond with short home run line marked with witches' hats or similar at a distance of not less than 250 feet from the mound.

E.18 TROPHIES

The LVBA will supply trophies.

E.18.1 The winners will receive "The Lloyd Lewis Perpetual shield", to be held for twelve months when it will be contested again, and a pennant.

E.18.2 Most Valuable Player (MVP) will receive "The Michael Fahy Memorial MVP". To be awarded from umpires votes.

E.18.3 Batting Award: To be awarded from the batting statistics.

E.18.4 Golden Glove: To be awarded to the best fielding average without errors.

E.18.5 Host club can, at their own discretion and cost, award other trophies.

**F. FEES & FINES****F.1 FEES**

Club affiliation		\$20.00
Club annual competing fee		\$650.00
Team entry	All senior grades of baseball per team.	\$140.00
	All junior grades of baseball per team	\$120.00
	U/10 tee ball, Modified rules and Coach Pitch per team	\$80.00
	Gippsland Championship entry fee (invited clubs)	\$250.00
	Gippsland Championship entry fee (LVBA clubs)	\$200.00
	Championship Trust Fund per team	\$30.00
Umpire Fee	Registered Member Home & Away: Plate \$80.00 Base \$80.00	\$80.00
	Registered Member Finals: Plate \$80.00 Base \$80.00	\$80.00
	Finals Club umpire senior Plate \$20.00 Base \$20.00	\$20.00
	Gippsland Championships all umpires	\$30.00
	Junior Finals all umpires	\$20.00
Protest	To accompany any protest in writing	\$20.00
National Rego / Ins.	Set by the state body & passed on in full	

**F.2 FINES TO BE ENFORCED BY COUNCIL.**

<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Match Points</b>	<b>Fine</b>
<i>Note: the opposing team shall not receive forfeited points</i>		
Non-attendance at an LVBA meeting, loss match point from highest entered team & maximum fine <i>Ref Clauses A3.2 &amp; A 10.1</i>	1	\$50
Ineligible or over age players playing fine per game played, plus match points	2	\$20
Forfeiting a game without 48 hours notification, maximum full umpire fee <i>Ref Clause A11.3</i>		\$50
A10 .5 Brawling/bench clearing fine per team,	1 <sup>st</sup> offence	\$250
	2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	\$500
Chewing tobacco or other illegal substance, automatic ejection & fine per person		\$200
Consuming an alcoholic beverage while taking part in a game, ejection & fine		\$100
Smoking while taking part in a game, ejection & fine		\$20
A.7.4 Uniform infringement per player		\$10
A.8.2 Failing to supply an umpire for senior games as directed	2	\$42
A.8.3.3 If a team forfeits with less than 48 hours before the scheduled start time, the umpires shall be paid in full. (The forfeiting team shall pay such fees)		Fee
Failing to comply with the junior umpire conditions fine per club		\$25
A12.3 Failing to send in match cards on time fine per card.		\$10
Failing to send game results and publicity fine per club		\$50

A13.3 Failing to supply scorer for a senior or junior game, loss of match points from that team	2	\$20
<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Match Points</b>	<b>Fine</b>
B1.2 Juniors Playing Seniors. <i>Penalty shall be loss of match points for all games in which the offending player played, a fine per match</i>	All	\$100
B1.3.1 When a higher-grade team draws a bye ineligible players playing down	2	
B1.3.2 Greater than 3 B Grade players playing A Grade within the first hour	2	
Senior player can play no lower than one grade below the grade in which they played in their previous game	2	
B.1.4 B Grade Pitchers & Catchers Playing C Grade	2	

**G. ANTI-HARASSMENT AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES POLICY****G.1. POLICY STATEMENT**

Baseball Australia, is the recognised controlling body for the sport of baseball within Australia and for its representative's participants when overseas. This status is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic committee, and other National Sporting Organisations and Government Agencies throughout Australia. This status is also recognised by the International Olympic Committee, the International Baseball Association, other International Sporting Organisations and various Professional Baseball Leagues and Associations throughout the world including United States Major League Baseball.

- G.1.1 Baseball Australia is committed to fostering a harassment-free environment for all its participants in the sport of baseball in Australia. Baseball Australia does not condone or otherwise tolerate any general or specific types of harassment against any of its participants as defined within the Anti-Harassment and Complaints procedures Policy.
- G.1.2 Baseball Australia participants include individuals who participate as athletes, coaches, instructors, teachers, administrators, officials, parents or volunteers. Every Baseball Australia participant in the sport of baseball, in whatever role has the right to participate in an environment that is fun, safe, healthy and to be treated with respect, dignity and fairness.
- G.1.3 Harassment in the sport of baseball has the effect of limiting or denying participants these rights. Baseball Australia Anti-Harassment and Complaints Procedure Policy provides Baseball Australia participants with both general and specific definitions of harassment. This policy also clearly defines both a formal and informal complaints procedure that all Baseball Australia participants have easy access to.

**G.2 HARASSMENT**

- G.2.1 Harassment consists of offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening behaviour directed at a person or persons because of that person or person's particular characteristics (including the person or persons 'level of empowerment relative to the harasser). This behaviour will be unwelcome and the sorts of behaviour that a reasonable person would recognise as unwelcome.
- G.2.2 This definition refers not only to harassment based on particular characteristics, such as gender, disability or race but also to harassment sustained by a disparity in the relative power of the harasser and the person harassed. This might simply be regarded as abusive behaviour.
- G.2.3 Harassment and abuse can have the following effects as they can:
  - Interfere with an individual's health, both physical and emotional;
  - Reduce productivity and effectiveness;
  - Reduce job and sporting opportunities;
  - Undermine self-esteem;
  - Diminish work, academic and athletic performance;
  - Create a hostile or unpleasant environment;
  - Create significant family and personal problems;
  - Result in complete withdrawal from sport and social activities;
  - Lower morale in Baseball Australia;
  - Increase turnover of staff and volunteers;
  - Increase Baseball Australia's liability, insurance and legal costs; and
  - Diminish the reputation and image of Baseball Australia in the community

G.2.4 Various examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Bullying and humiliation of athletes by coaches;
- Verbal or physical abuse and insults directed by players, parents, coaches or officials at opposing teams;
- Verbal or physical abuse of umpires by players, parents or officials;
- On-field intimidation of players, coaches or umpires; and
- Practical jokes, or the spreading of false and malicious rumours which cause embarrassment, shame or endangerment to others.

### G.3 UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT

Harassment is illegal behaviour, and is legislated against at state / territory and federal levels throughout Australia. People endangering in harassment can have legal action taken against them under these laws. Baseball Australia acknowledges with this policy that it has a legal and moral responsibility to ensure harassment does not occur in the course of any of its activities, and will take punitive or disciplinary action against a person found in breach of this policy.

### G.4 UNWELCOME, COMMON FORMS of HARASSMENT

#### G.4.1 Harassment on the grounds of sexuality

Harassment on the grounds of sexuality includes that based on actual or assumed homosexuality, heterosexuality or Tran sexuality. Examples include;

- Jokes in which sexuality is a significant characteristic or the "butt" of the joke;
- Hostile comments about assumed sexual or social activities; and
- Hostility based on an assumed AIDS or HIV infection;
- Harassment of a sexual nature may also amount to unlawful sexual assault. This type of sexual harassment should be reported to the police.

#### G.4.2 Harassment on the grounds of Race or Cultural Diversity

Harassment on grounds of racial or cultural differences includes that based on colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, cultural activity, and sometimes-religious diversity. Examples include;

- Jokes in which race is the significant characteristic or the "but" of the joke;
- Hostile comments about food eaten, dress or religious or cultural practices;
- Inferences that all members of a racial or cultural group have particular negative characteristics such as laziness, drunkenness, greed or sexual promiscuity; and
- Parodying accents.

#### G.4.3 Harassment on Grounds of Disability

Harassment on grounds of disability includes that based on physical, mental, or psychological disability. Examples include:

- Obstructing a person in a manner that compounds their disability;
- Mocking a person's disability;
- Creating a hostile environment for a disabled person; and
- Jokes where a particular disability is a significant characteristic or the "butt" of a joke.

### G.5 ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR GENERALLY

Harassment is not always based on race, gender, disability or sexuality. Harassment commonly consists of an abuse of power, which the harasser holds over those harassed. Examples of



relationships that involve a power disparity are coach-athlete, manager-athlete, superordinate-subordinate or doctor-patient. People in a position of power in these relationships need to be particularly wary of not exploiting power. Harassment also, unfortunately can occur on grounds of age, religion and other unique individual characteristics.

Other forms of abusive behaviour can include a person or persons knowingly spreading false and / or malicious rumours with the intent to damage or vilify others.

#### G.6 APPLICATION of this ANTI-HARASSMENT and COMPLAINT POLICY

This policy applies to behaviour occurring both within and outside the course of Baseball Australia business, activities and events, when the behaviour involves individuals associated with Baseball Australia and negatively affects relationships within the sport of baseball and / or the work environment.

This policy applies to all Baseball Australia athletes, coaches, employees, administrators, officials, volunteers and members of the Organisation. Disciplinary action can and will be taken against a person found in breach of this policy.

#### G.7 RESPONSIBILITIES

Baseball Australia is responsible for taking all reasonable steps to prevent harassment in the Organisation and for ensuring this policy is well known throughout the Organisation. This means Baseball Australia will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that everyone in the Organisation knows:

- What harassment means;
- That it is against the law; and
- That it will not be tolerated.

G.7.1 The Executive Director of Baseball Australia, has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the Organisation is harassment-free and will accept the day-to-day responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

G.7.2 Baseball Australia administrators, officials, managers, supervisors and coaches have a direct responsibility to make sure that members, employees, volunteers and athletes know about this policy and adhere to it.

G.7.3 Baseball Australia is responsible for ensuring this policy and procedures are monitored and reviewed regularly.

G.7.4 It is the responsibility of all employees, officials, coaches, volunteers, athletes and members to:

- Comply with this policy;
- Offer support to anyone who is being harassed and let them know where they can get help and advice;
- Maintain complete confidentiality if they provide information during the investigation of a complaint; and Avoid gossiping or spreading rumours about harassment such behaviour can result in legal action for defamation.

#### G.8 INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

Baseball Australia takes the view that intimate relationships between coaches and adult athletes, while not necessarily constituting unlawful behaviour, can have harmful effects on the individuals involved and on other athletes and coaches, and on the baseball's public image. Such relationships can tend to be exploitive because of the disparity between athletes and coaches in terms of authority, status and dependence. Baseball Australia takes the position that intimate relationships between athletes and coaches should be avoided by coaches working at all levels.

Should a sexual relationship develop between a coach and an athlete, Baseball Australia will investigate whether any action against the coach is necessary. If it is determined that the sexual relationship is inappropriate, action may be taken to terminate the services of the coaching

relationship with the athlete. Action may include transfer, or a request for the resignation of the coach from coaching duties/employment.

In the event that an athlete attempts to initiate a sexual relationship with a coach, the coach must take personal responsibility for discouraging such approaches. The coach should approach Baseball Australia Harassment Contact Officer (HCO) if he/she feels harassed.

The law is always the minimum standard for behaviour within Baseball Australia and therefore sex with a minor of either the same or opposite sex, is a criminal offence.

#### G.9 HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS

Baseball Australia will deal promptly, seriously and confidentially with any complaints about breaches of this policy.

Baseball Australia will ensure that the appropriate complaints procedures are developed to handle harassment complaints. These will be both formal and informal mechanisms for dealing with complaints.

In the first instance, advice and assistance can be provided by the HCO. The HCO is an appointment made by the Executive Directors of Baseball Australia, who are the President, Vice President and the Executive Director of the Board of Baseball Australia. For the name of this contact please contact the Baseball Australia office. Details can be sought through any baseball league/association.

#### G.10 INFORMAL COMPLAINTS / RESOLUTION

Informal resolution of complaints is the most common avenue for finding a resolution. Informal solutions may occur to the complainant while he or she is talking to the HCO. Informal resolutions should be documented by the HCO and counter-signed by the complainant.

The second level of informal resolution can involve mediation from a third party, at the suggestion of the HCO and by agreement of the complainant. These resolutions should also be documented by the HCO, or the third party and counter signed by the complainant.

#### G.11 FORMAL RESOLUTION

The complainant may decide in the first instance, or after the failure of informal resolution to go the stage of lodging a formal written complaint to the HCO.

Upon receiving the written complaint, the HCO will attempt to sort the matter out between the complainant and the alleged harasser by mediation, unless this is clearly inappropriate in the circumstances. If mediation fails or is not attempted, the HCO will organise a fair investigation of the complaint. The purpose of this investigation will be to determine whether harassment has occurred, and if so what action should be taken to resolve the matter.

A complainant can withdraw a complaint at any time. This does not however absolve Baseball Australia from its obligation to pursue a complaint of harassment of a serious nature. Baseball Australia has a legal responsibility to maintain a harassment-free environment. With this in mind, Baseball Australia maintains the right to pursue and take necessary disciplinary action against an alleged harasser, even if the complainant withdraws the complaint.

#### G.12 RIGHT TO APPEAL

After an internal investigation of a complaint has occurred a decision has been reached and action recommended, both parties to the complaint have a right to appeal the decision and recommendation if a matter of procedure, bias or fairness is called into question. A panel made up members other than those who originally handled the investigation or any original review panel will handle formal appeals.

Baseball Australia can take disciplinary action against any person in Baseball Australia who is found to have breached this policy and therefore guilty of harassment. Baseball Australia can also take disciplinary action against anyone who victimises a person who has complained of harassment. The discipline will depend on the severity of the case and could involve a reprimand,

warning, counselling, compulsory education, a fine, suspension, dismissal or withdrawal of coaching / officiating accreditation, or exclusion from participation in the sport of baseball entirely.

Baseball Australia will take similar disciplinary action against any person in Baseball Australia who is found to have made false, vexatious or frivolous charges of harassment.

Apart from internal resolution of harassment complaints, a complainant may at any time contact relevant state/territory or federal bodies or agencies to lodge a complaint of harassment.

**G.13 LVBA STANCE ON THIS POLICY**

As members of the Australian Baseball League, and the Latrobe Valley Baseball association fully endorses this policy.

In the zone of the Latrobe Valley all complaints of Harassment must first be first put in writing to the President/Secretary of the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association. If no resolution is reached it may then be brought to the attention of Baseball Victoria.

## **H. BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS – OFFICIALS & SPECTATORS**

- H.1 Each club affiliated with the LVBA is to ensure its officials; members and spectators conduct themselves in an appropriate and sportsman like manner so as not to bring the game into disrepute.
- H.2 Each club is to provide the opposing club's players, officials, members and spectators with appropriate respect and ensure its members or supporters display good sporting conduct at all times.
- H.3 The home clubs President or manager does have the right to ask any offending person to remove him or herself from the ground. If the offending person resists, the police should only be called in extreme cases.
- H.4 Good relationships must be fostered between teams before, during and particularly after games.
- H.5 The authority and decision of the umpire must be respected at all times during and after a game.
- H.6 No person must direct abuse and intimidator language or tactics at any Umpire or official.
- H.7 The Coaches must insist that their players behave in a sportsmanlike manner, especially towards members of the opposing team at all times. The use of intemperate or unseemly language by players, coaches, umpires and officials is absolutely forbidden
- H.8 Representatives of each team, including coaches and managers, are required to draw the attention of their spectators or their own players to the above regarding behaviour, if these conditions are being disregarded
- H.9 No player or coach is to throw any gear (bats, helmets etc) in a show of temper. The umpire will give any offending player a yellow card for the first offence, and ejection for the second or any subsequent offence.