



BALLARAT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

SENIOR WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATION

SEASON 2026/27



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RULES FOR BALLARAT CRICKET COMPETITIONS

The following abbreviations will be found throughout these rules:

BCA – The Ballarat Cricket Association.

ADMINISTRATION

RULE 1 ASSOCIATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 All BCA accounts, including Affiliation Fees, Turf Wicket Levies and BCA Award Dinner admission costs, issued by the BCA Board, SHALL be paid within thirty (30) days (date as specified on the tax invoice).

PENALTY: Failure to pay their account by the specified date on the tax invoice shall result in a late payment fee of \$200.00 unless a Club seeks Board approval for an extension of time of the payment, due to exceptional circumstances.

- 1.2 All fines issued by the Association Board or Committee(s) SHALL be paid or an appeal lodged within fourteen (14) days (date as specified on the tax invoice).

PENALTY: Failure to pay their fine or lodge an appeal by the specified date on the tax invoice shall result in an additional late payment fine of \$200.00.

- 1.3 All Association documents requested including affiliation forms (Teams Nomination forms, Club Executive form, Defaulting Players form), BCA information forms (Senior Club Captains, Wicket Maintenance Officers, and Junior Club Coaches) are to be lodged by the specified date as requested on these forms.

PENALTY: Failure to lodge by the specified date shall result in a late lodgement fee of \$200.

RULE 2 RULES AND BY-LAWS

The Secretaries of all Clubs shall forward to the Operations Officer of the Association on or before 1st May of each year, any suggested amendments or alterations to the Ballarat Cricket Association Rules or By Laws for the forthcoming year.

RULE 3 GENERAL, SPECIAL & JUNIOR COORDINATOR MEETINGS

Should a Club not be represented by a Club Executive Member or prior nominated person, then the Club will be requested to submit in writing, on Club letterhead, the reason for non-attendance to the BCA Board, who will decide, based on this document, if a penalty is warranted.

RULE 4 CLUBS DISBANDING

In the event of a Club disbanding, all players in the Club shall be in the hands of the Association for allocation to other Clubs in the Association.

RULE 5 PENNANT COMMITTEE POWERS AND EMERGENCY RULINGS

Any BCA Club playing a player not possessing the requisite qualifications which shall be defined as a non-registered member of the Club or not named on the competition management platform (PlayHQ) team list for that game shall, subject to the sole discretion of the Pennant Committee, be declared to have lost the match or matches in which such player(s) took part and may be liable to a fine. For each match in which the Club did not gain points a fine as determined by the Pennant Committee may be imposed.

The BCA Pennant Committee shall take action against any member, official, employee, coach or player of a Club or Club's for breaking any Law of Cricket, any BCA Rule, any BCA Policy, any BCA Board direction or for bringing the game into disrepute.

The powers of the BCA Pennant Committee shall include but not be limited to:

- The levying of a Fine against a Club or Club's, any Captain, or any player.
- In its absolute discretion be empowered to increase fines for repeat offences.
- Have the absolute discretion either to wave a fine or fines as is deemed appropriate or to refer the request for waiver to the BCA Board for determination.
- In its absolute discretion, suspend a Captain or player from playing in any match or matches.
- In its absolute discretion, disallow any points earned by a Club in respect of the match.
- In its absolute discretion, amend any points earned by a Club in any match.
- In its absolute discretion, take such action with regard to the proper conduct of cricket as is deemed appropriate by *the Pennant Committee*.
- Refer any matter whatsoever at the Pennant Committee's absolute discretion to the BCA Board for its consideration and determination, which the BCA Board after such referral shall be empowered to take any action that it deems appropriate in the circumstances and such power having regard to Rule 5 but not limited in its discretion to Rule 5 and the Members Protection Policy.

RULE 6 DETERMINATION OF AND PROGRAMMES OF MATCHES

- 6.1 The season will commence not before 1st October and shall end in the next succeeding calendar year pending available weeks and consideration for the Easter holiday as the BCA Board requires.
- 6.2 The affiliated Clubs of the Association shall compete in a Premiership series of matches. Programmes shall be arranged by the Pennant Committee who shall place the number of Club nominated teams into grades that the Pennant Committee decide upon from Club histories and current Junior player lists and have them approved by the BCA Board prior to the commencement of the season. (BCA By-Law 1 applies – *"The Association shall consist of such Clubs, sections, divisions and competitions as the BCA Board in its absolute discretion deems to be appropriate from time to time"*).
- Any BCA Club who disputes the Pennant Committee grading of their teams (Senior or Junior) shall lodge on Club letterhead or official email from the current and relative Club Executive, a written response detailing their reasons of dispute within ten (10) days of the receipt of the Pennant Committee notice (i.e., the date on the team's placement notice). If no disputes are lodged those team placements will be deemed final for the current season.
- 6.3 Two days not necessarily consecutive or any period of time during a day shall be allocated for each match excepting finals, providing always that upon the joint applications, in writing, of the competing Clubs, a majority of the Pennant Committee may fix other days and times for commencing or continuing any match.
- 6.4 The grounds on which the matches shall be played shall be arranged by the Pennant Committee and they may, if necessary, alter the programme in respect of dates or grounds on which any of the matches shall be played. The playing of matches due to wet weather will be decided upon by the Pennant Committee in conjunction with the Chairman of the Grounds Committee, based upon a common-sense approach as to play as much cricket as is possible under the prevailing conditions. Player safety is always the BCA priority in consideration of play on days of wet weather. If a split round is scheduled across a weekend in the same grade and a washout occurs, all completed game points stand.
- 6.5 Competition Turf matches only: Clubs seeking to change the match venues between the two competing teams shall jointly lodge a written request to the Operations Officer for the Pennant Committee by 6.00 pm on the Wednesday preceding the match.
- 6.6 The Pennant Committee shall determine the suitability of the grounds and playing conditions. The decision of the Pennant Committee shall be communicated via email to all clubs and through the BCA website and social media platforms as well.

RULE 7

BCA DEFAULTING PLAYERS

No defaulting player of any Club of the Ballarat Cricket Association since the inauguration of the premierships matches shall be allowed to take part in the premierships matches.

- 7.1 The Secretary of each Club must furnish to the Operations Officer of the Association on or before the Annual General Meeting of the Association, on the [Add/Remove Defaulting Player Form](#), a list of all current defaulting players at their Club with outstanding defaults.

Once received these defaulting players shall remain on the [Defaulting Players List](#) until removed by the Clubs using the [Add/Remove Defaulting Player Form](#).

- 7.2 Clubs may only add to their defaulting players list throughout the season by completing the details contained in the [Add/Remove Defaulting Player Form](#), for defaults in the current season.
- 7.3 Any player listed on a club's defaulting player list shall be ineligible to play with any other BCA Club, until the Operations Officer of the Association/Chairman of the Pennant Committee is notified prior to 5.30pm on the Friday preceding the next scheduled match, by using the [Add/Remove Defaulting Player Form](#) to remove their default.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5.

RULE 8

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

All players either male or female that have never registered with any Australian Cricket Club shall be required to register online via competition management platform (PlayHQ) prior to the start of the next scheduled match.

All participants in all BCA organised competitions, including Under 11 matches, must be registered via the competition management platform (PlayHQ).

If a player not registered and who has not already played as a fill-in with any other club in Australia is selected, they can be entered as a fill-in player so that are covered by insurance.

This option can be used once and then the player must be registered before they can play again, otherwise the player is treated as an ineligible player.

- 8.1 Club Registered Junior Players are to be considered the same as Senior registered players irrespective of having played Senior cricket or not.
- 8.2 Players requesting registration to a Club from outside the BCA, shall not be endorsed until a Transfer is received from their previous Club in regard to financial consideration/suspension. Once endorsed, the player/s are tied to their nominated Clubs unless transferred to another BCA Club under Rule 9. Any Club playing a player/s in its Senior or Junior grades that has not been correctly registered or cleared shall be dealt with under Rule 5.
- 8.3 No BCA Registered player shall play in two Senior BCA matches (either open or female competitions) concurrently in the same weekend of the BCA fixture with the exception of junior players playing in the junior competition and then the open competition in the afternoon or Female Players playing in the Female Competition and then the Open Competition.

For 1st XI Women's One Day games fixtured on a Sunday, 1st XI Women's clubs can use a maximum of 2 players from their 2nd XI side who played in the game on a preceding Friday, with permission from the Pennant Committee.

- 8.4 Minimum age of a player to participate in senior cricket is 12 years of age at the time of playing. Clubs are required to obtain parental consent. Participation of a younger player requires written documentation of exceptional circumstances, prior to approval from the chair of the BCA Junior sub-committee or the Chair of the BCA plus parental consent.

RULE 9

TRANSFERS

9.1 The Association Board shall determine the opening and closing dates for Player Transfers each year in accordance with By-Law 1 (f)

9.1.1 All Transfers lodged for players seeking to move between BCA Clubs must do so prior to February 1 of each season. Players currently not associated with a BCA club can lodge a Transfer at any time.

9.1.2 All players wishing to transfer from one Club to another Club within the Ballarat Cricket Association shall require a Transfer if they have been registered with a Club in the Ballarat Cricket Association within the last three (3) seasons. This applies to all male and female junior and senior players.

9.1.3 **PLAYER PERMITS within BCA**

Player Permits Allows a player to play for a different club and/or competition for a specified period of time while retaining their club of affiliation.

Player Permits can only be granted for players affiliated with a BCA club for competitions within the BCA competition where their affiliated club does not have a team.

E.g.: - A player's affiliated club does not have an U17 team so a player can apply for a permit to play with another BCA affiliated U17 team

All Player Permits involving different clubs within the BCA will be manually approved by the Operations Officer.

For 1st XI Women's One Day games fixtured on a Sunday, 1st XI Women's clubs without a 2nd XI team can use a maximum of 2 Players from another club's stand-alone 2nd XI Team on Permit, with permission from the Pennant Committee.

9.1.4 **Fill-in Players within BCA**

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

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

The player can fill-in only once in a season for one competition anywhere in Australia, then the player must be registered with the club if required to play in any other match that season under this rule a second time.

A player playing a second fill-in is deemed to be an ineligible / unregistered player if they haven't registered.

When adding a player in as a fill-in player the following must be completed fully whether completing this in the admin portal or the e-scoring portal on match day. Failure to do this may result in the BCA Pennant Committee removing match points, and or a fine under Rule 2

Requirements for adding in a fill in player

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

Any player who is on suspension in any competition within Australia or is subject to a transfer or permit that has not been completed and/or approved, cannot be added to a team as a fill-in in lieu of them being legally available to play.

A player who is already registered on another competition within the season cannot be used as a fill in player, they can only be used with a Player permit.

Fill-In Players cannot be used in grades that use Player Points (Premier 1st XI and Championship Division 1 and Division 2), as Player Points cannot be allocated to a Fill-In Player

Penalty – Use of the same Fill-In Player two or more times in any grade - \$50 Fine per occasion and the player is treated as an ineligible player.

Penalty – Use of any Fill-In Player in a competition covered by Governing Procedure 2 Player Points System – Loss of Match Points and up to \$500 Fine

9.2 PROCESSING TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

A Transfer application for a transfer between BCA Club's, shall be processed through the competition management platform (PlayHQ) by the player on initial registration or the player's new Club if a player has already registered. When lodged, the player's current Club Administrator, shall action in the competition management platform (PlayHQ) within Five (5) days or 120 hours from the lodgement of the transfer request of their decision to grant or refuse the Transfer application as per Rule 9.3.1 only.

- 9.2.1 If the Transfer application has not been actioned by the Player's current BCA Club in competition management platform (PlayHQ) within the required time, the Transfer will be granted by the BCA unless that player is on the Defaulting Player list (only applies to players wishing to transfer between BCA Clubs).

9.3 GRANTING OF TRANSFER

- 9.3.1 When receiving a Transfer application that has been officially processed through the competition management platform (PlayHQ) system, any Club receiving such Transfer application **SHALL** grant the Transfer requested **EXCEPT** when:

- (a) The player is unfinancial to the Club or possesses Club property and has been placed on the [Defaulting Player List](#).
- (b) The player is under suspension for good reason prior to receipt of the Transfer.
- (c) The player has a written and signed contract for the period of time in which the Transfer is lodged.
- (d) Any junior player who has played with a Club in either of the previous two seasons must meet with the Club with a support person prior to the Transfer being processed

9.4 REFUSAL OF TRANSFER

- 9.4.1 Should a Transfer from his/her Club be refused; a player may lodge only one (1) appeal in any season to the Pennant Committee for a decision on a Transfer application within 7 days if he/she believes there are exceptional circumstances surrounding this Transfer refusal.

The player shall provide written notification of the exceptional circumstances in their appeal notice at the time of lodging their appeal with the Association.

An Executive Member of the Club with which he/she has played shall have the right to be heard by the Pennant Committee at this meeting.

- 9.4.2 An appeal may be made to the BCA Appeals Committee within 48 hours after receipt of the decision of the Pennant Committee.

A player may lodge only one (1) appeal in any season to the Appeals Committee. Such an appeal must be lodged in writing (stating the reasons for the appeal) with the Operations Officer of the Association.

A non-refundable Appeal Fee of \$500.00 shall be lodged with the appeal application.

- 9.4.3 The appeal must be dealt with within 7 days of the date the appeal is lodged with the Operations Officer of the Association. (All parties to the dispute must receive a copy of such appeal by 48 hours prior to the Appeals Committee hearing).

- 9.4.4 Non-attendance at a Pennant/Appeals Committee hearing, or any preliminary enquiry, by the participating parties as requested and specified by the Operations Officer of the Association, shall result in a penalty upon the party in question under Rule 5.
- 9.4.5 An appeal may be made to the Victorian Country Cricket League after receipt of the decision of the Appeals Committee within a time frame as specified by the VCCL.

RULE 10 **TRANSFER TO LOWER GRADES**

- 10.1 After the completion of Round one (1) no player in home and away matches shall be demoted or relegated by any more than one grade/level from that played in the preceding round without the approval of the Pennant Committee. Registered Junior players are exempt from these restrictions. Levels are as below:
- Level 1 - 1st XI Level 2 - 2nd XI
- 10.2 Clubs seeking to play a player in a grade/level lower than permitted shall [apply online](#) via the BCA website to the Pennant Committee by 1.00pm on the Friday preceding the next scheduled match.
- 10.3 Clubs with more than 1 team in a particular grade must adhere to the following Pennant Committee Rules:
- (a) To qualify for finals a player must play a minimum of four (4) days in that particular grade with a particular team in the current home and away season.
 - (b) On resumption of matches after the Christmas break, players must only play for one team in that grade for the remainder of the season. (This restriction does not apply to registered Junior players).

Clubs seeking to play a player in their alternative team for one match after the Christmas break shall [apply online](#) via the BCA website to the Pennant Committee by 1.00pm on the Friday preceding the next scheduled match.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

10.4 **PLAYING CONDITIONS DURING BYES, FORFEITS AND ABANDONED MATCHES**

10.4.1 1st XI Women Playing conditions during byes, forfeits and Abandoned Matches.

If a Club has a lower grade fixture on a date that a higher grade in that Club does not have a game fixtured (i.e., a bye, forfeit or abandoned game) then only a maximum of three (3) players can drop from the higher grade observing the bye, forfeit or abandoned game to the lower grade for that fixture. Applicable only to players that have played in the preceding match including the season prior Pennant Committee approval must be requested to have any further players drop to the lower level as per Rule 10.2.

Where a club has two teams in the most immediate lower level, only a maximum of 3 players can drop to the lower level across the two teams.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

RULE 11 **FIXTURES AND TEAM LISTINGS**

11.1 **TEAM LISTINGS ON BCA COMPETITION MANAGEMENT PLATFORM (PLAY HQ)**

All Clubs shall place their Senior and Junior teams, on the BCA competition management platform by 10.00pm on the Thursday prior to the next scheduled match.

For Senior Teams a Captain must be selected and for Juniors a Coach must be selected.

Once the teams are entered, they can be adjusted prior to the start of the match.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5 if teams are not lodged on time.

RULE 12

FORFEITS

- 12.1 Notice of intention to forfeit by any Club can be given by phone or email at least 24 hours before the commencement of the match to the Operations Officer of the Association. Confirmation is required in writing by 6pm on the Wednesday preceding the next scheduled match detailing the reasons for the forfeit.
- 12.2 Failure to comply with this rule will render the defaulting Club responsible to pay the full amount of the Umpires' fees for the day in question.
- 12.3 Forfeits shall be considered as a match played for both premiership points and player finals qualifications. Clubs receiving a forfeit, shall lodge **their selected side on competition management platform (PlayHQ)** listing the players from their Club that would have taken part in the match to obtain finals qualifications. The listed players may not take part in another match in the same round and are limited to player grade movements like any other round.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

- 12.4 The team receiving a forfeit, shall receive 6 match points only in the round in which the forfeit has occurred. In Semi-Finals and Grand-Finals they will be awarded the match.
- 12.5 Any Club with more than one affiliated Senior team that is giving a forfeit, must forfeit their lowest grade team/s and play their higher-grade team/s.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

- 12.6 Where a forfeit has been given, the forfeit only applies for the duration of the round that the team has forfeited.

RULE 13

PLAYER SUBSTITUTES

- 13.1 A substitute may be allowed for any player/team Coach/manager taking part in any International, Interstate, Inter Zone or similar match (competition matches only, not practice/trial games) approved by the Pennant Committee.

Any such substitute provided that they are not engaged in another match at the same time shall be permitted to bat and/or bowl and/or act as wicket keeper and further provided that such player has been named in the team and the opposing Captain notified. Any player substituted can only play in First XI and Second XI and cannot force changes in any other grade.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

- 13.2 A substitute may be allowed for any player who is a member of Emergency Services.

Any such substitute provided that they are not engaged in another match at the same time shall be permitted to bat and/or bowl and/or act as wicket keeper and further provided that such player has been named or amended on the Team Sheet at the start of each days play, and the Umpire/opposition Captain notified. Substitution under this rule applies to all Senior grades but cannot force changes in any other grade.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

- 13.3 Any player selected to play in International or Interstate matches shall not be allowed to take part in any round of matches being played at the same time, without the permission of the Pennant Committee. Clubs seeking permission shall lodge a written request with the Operations Officer of the Pennant Committee by 1.00pm on the Friday preceding the next scheduled match.

RULE 14

DISPUTES AND CONTRIVED RESULT DISPUTES

14.1 DISPUTES/PROTESTS

The Pennant Committee shall have the power to inquire into and adjudicate upon all disputes/protests arising out of or in connection with all matches.

LODGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Any Club referring a dispute/protest to the Pennant Committee shall, within 48 hours of completion of the match in which the cause of disagreement has occurred, lodge a statement in writing on Club letterhead or Clubs executive email, of the matter in dispute/protest and shall also within the same time lodge a copy of such statement with the Secretary of the other Club involved.

An appeal may be made to the BCA Tribunal (Appeals Committee with a non-refundable appeal fee of \$500). Clubs or players involved in the hearing will be given one opportunity to reject the BCA appointed date and time of the hearing and should the reason for rejection be accepted by the BCA appeals committee then the hearing may be rescheduled up to a maximum of 7 days from the original hearing date. There will be no further additional opportunity to reschedule that hearing, and the hearing may proceed without a Club/person/Umpire attending. Club/person/Umpire may appoint a proxy.

14.2 CONTRIVED RESULTS

The Pennant Committee shall have power to investigate a game or the actions of the Captains of the Clubs or any players involved in a match if it suspects reasonable that the competing Clubs with or without the assistance or collusion of any person or Club have colluded to contrive the result of a match. If the Pennant Committee decides to carry out an investigation it will conduct such inquiries as it sees fit and invite submissions about the match or the conduct of either Captain or any player and will give any person, the opportunity to be heard.

- 14.2.1 The Operations Officer of the Association shall call on the Clubs to appear before the said Committee, which, after hearing evidence, shall decide thereon as per Rule 5. An appeal may be made to the BCA Appeals Committee within 48 hours after receipt of the decision of the Pennant Committee.

RULE 15

FINALS QUALIFICATIONS

- 15.1 A player of a Club shall not be eligible to play in any Finals matches unless that player **has been named to play a** minimum of 4 days in that particular grade with a Club in the current season.

The player must have participated in the game where they are named to be eligible for a qualification day or days. Participation is classified as having batted, bowled or fielded in a game or been present at the game if a team has not been dismissed or taken the field.

Eligible Junior players are exempt from this rule unless they have qualified (4 days) in a Senior grade, in which case they are to be treated as a Senior player for qualification purposes.

‘Days’ shall only be considered for home and away matches. Any finals ‘days’ shall not be counted towards qualification for further finals matches. Refer to table below for further clarification.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

- 15.2 A player who is fully qualified (four (4) days in a particular grade) may play in any higher grade or grade immediately below that grade Finals match provided the higher-grade team of which they are fully qualified is also engaged.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

- 15.3 Clubs seeking to play a player in a grade lower than permitted shall [apply online](#) via the BCA website outlining the exceptional circumstances for seeking approval to the Pennant Committee by 1.00pm on the day preceding the match.

15.4 PLAYERS RETURNING AFTER A GAME OUTSIDE THE ASSOCIATION

Any player (whether BCA Registered or a player with a season permit) who plays in another Association (with the same designated playing day for their Competition – Saturday for Senior Men and Friday for Senior Women) in his/her last match and desires to return to the Ballarat Cricket Association, shall **not** have their qualification status reset.

Dedicated Sunday (e.g. Victorian Sunday Cricket Association or mid-week competitions do not impact on qualification status.

15.5 CLUBS WITH TEAMS IN 2 OR MORE ASSOCIATIONS

Any Club that has teams playing in both the BCA and another association/s in the 1 season must:

- (a) Nominate 8 players **per** team from your Club to solely play in the other association/s, making them ineligible to play in the BCA.
- (b) All other players are free to move between the associations. **If a club has 2 or more teams in another association Rule 10 is applicable and no player in home and away matches shall be demoted or relegated by any more than one grade/level**
- (c) This rule does not apply to BCA Affiliated Male teams wishing to affiliate a Senior Female side, who may currently play in another association on another playing day and wishes to play a team in the Senior BCA Female Competition as well

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

RULE 16 MATCH REPORTS

Both competing teams in each match shall be responsible for entering their own match data into competition management platform (PlayHQ) ensuring it is correct for statistical and reporting purposes.

Where possible it is recommended that games recorded live via competition management platform (PlayHQ) Scorer App

Games not recorded live via competition management platform (PlayHQ) Scorer App shall be entered by 6.00pm on the day after the match concludes or for a Sunday match by 7.30pm Sunday

Where a team is live scoring via the competition management platform (PlayHQ) Scorer App, a minimum of 1 scorebook needs to be used when scoring a game.

Clubs can use two scorebooks and live score as well, but available volunteers to do this needs to be accounted for, and Captain's need to agree on this prior to the start of the game.

If a game is not being live scored, both teams are to provide a scorebook.

In matches where a dedicated scorer is not provided, the team batting second is expected to use the same scoring items as was used by the team batting first. If a game is being live scoring via the competition management platform (PlayHQ) Scorer App teams can swap devices in the innings break.

For games that have been live scored via the competition management platform (PlayHQ) Scorer App, the game result needs to be submitted as soon as possible after the games end. (Games cannot be edited if there are any mistakes until the result has been submitted.)

- 16.1 Where there are no officially appointed Umpires at a match, at the conclusion of the game, Captain's shall endorse and counter sign each scorebook, in so doing, agree to the official scores and the match result. Once signed, no dispute from this match re scores/result would be heard by the Pennant/Appeals Committee's.

If a game has been live scored, both Captains are to sign the designated scorebook if only 1 has been used.

If scores/match result cannot be agreed upon, the scorebooks will be exchanged and both teams Captains will be responsible to contact the Chairman of the Pennant Committee to arrange to lodge the opposition scorebook without amendments.

If a disputed game has been live scored and only one scorebook has been used, the captain of the team that provided the live score will take a photo of the disputed scorebook. The result on the competition management platform (PlayHQ) Scorer App shall be submitted and both teams Captains will be responsible to contact the Chairman of the Pennant Committee to arrange to lodge the scorebook and photo of disputed scorebook without amendments. The result will be determined by the Pennant Committee.

- 16.2 Where a team has its innings declared or the match is abandoned on the second day through weather conditions, the score book shall be endorsed, and counter signed by the opposing **Captains** that the following players took part in the match.

16.3 **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

UMPIRE'S PERFORMANCE, APPRAISAL OF CONDITIONS & REPORTING PLAYERS & BEHAVIOUR

Captain's Reports on competition management platform (PlayHQ) cover appraisal of Umpire performance, ground conditions and includes an option to report a player/s whether the game has a BCUA Umpire or no appointed umpire.

There will be two separate reports sent to Captains via Play HQ on submission of the match result. They are

- An Umpire assessment (only needs to be completed if an official umpire was in attendance)
- A game assessment including comments re opposition behaviour, ground and pitch assessments, spirit of cricket voting and the ability to make a player report for poor behaviour. For Division 1 and 1st XI Women without Umpires there is also the requirements to enter Match Votes by the Home Team, after consultation with the opposition.
- If you do not receive a form once the game result is submitted a report can be completed via a web-form on the BCA website
 - [Umpire Assessment](#)
 - [Game Assessment](#)

The captain's report is automatically emailed to the nominated Captain with a link for the report, when the game status is marked complete after entering scores in the competition management platform (PlayHQ).

If a player, coach or club official demonstrates behaviour that is worthy of a report, the name of the player and a detailed explanation of the incident must be recorded in the Captain's Report.

After all games with an allocated Umpire there will be a mandatory 5-minute meeting with the Umpires and Captains to discuss the game, how it was played, if there were any concerns and if a Captain is considering lodging a Player Report that the Umpire and other Captain need to be aware of.

In Games without an Umpire, if a Captain is considering reporting a Player from the opposing club, they must discuss the incident and inform the Opposition Captain if they intend to report the player before leaving the game.

This report will be forwarded to the BCA Investigations Officer in accordance with the provisions of [BCA Policy 1 – Code of Behaviour](#)

A submitted Player Report from a Captain will not be referred to the BCA MIO, if the opposition Captain had not been informed at the game of the possibility of this being done.

This does not stop

- the captain from making comments in the Spirit of the Game section about how the game was played, or a Club submitting a formal complaint on official club letter head signed by a member of the club executive for investigation if they believe an incident happened that requires an investigation

Captain's Reports on competition management platform (PlayHQ) also cover the rating of own team's behaviour and opposition behaviour. This is rated -1 (Player Report submitted) to 10 (Excellent). If behaviour of either team is rated at 2 or less, further details must be provided in the Captain's Report.

All Clubs are to ensure that Captain's in all grades complete and lodge the Captain's Reports on competition management platform (PlayHQ) by 11.59 pm on the Monday following the completion of each match.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

RULE 17 SENIOR WOMEN MATCH POINTS ALLOCATIONS

17.1 All matches shall be decided on the result on the first innings. The team scoring the greater number of runs shall be the winner. No further points for outright results will be awarded

12.1.1 The result of the match shall be recorded on a points system: via:

6 pts	First Innings Win (1- & 2-day matches)
6 pts	Bye in any grade where there is an uneven number of byes
3 pts	Tie on First Innings
3 pts	Drawn or Abandoned match (1- and 2-day matches)
0 pts	Bye in any grade where all teams have the same number of byes

17.1.2 Any action regarding inequitable byes in a grade shall be the responsibility of the Pennant Committee.

17.1.3 If two or more teams are equal in points, their relative positions shall be determined by averages. For the purpose of ascertaining averages, the quotient ratio as calculated in play HQ will be used to ascertain ladder position.

The batting average of a team shall be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored by the total number of wickets lost. The bowling average of a team shall be obtained by dividing the total number of runs scored against it by the total number of wickets taken.

The former shall be divided by the latter. The team having the highest quotient shall be considered to have the better performance.

RULE 18 UMPIRES

Refer [BCA Policy 16 - Umpires](#)

18.1 All Umpire match appointments shall be made by the Selection Panel of the Ballarat Cricket Umpires Association from their Association members.

18.2 If only one BCUA Umpire is provided, the square leg Umpire shall be provided by the batting team.

18.3 Where there are officially appointed Umpires, at the conclusion of the match, the Umpire(s) shall endorse the scorebook/s, and in so doing, agree to the official scores and match result. Once signed, no dispute from the match re scores/result would be heard by the Pennant/Appeals Committee's.

If scores/match result cannot be agreed upon, the scorebook/s will be impounded by the Umpire(s) and they will be responsible to contact the Chairman of the Pennant Committee to arrange to lodge the scorebooks without amendments.

18.4 UMPIRE FEES

Senior Women \$75 per Umpire per days play (40 overs)
 \$140 per umpire for a 1 Day Game (80 overs scheduled)

18.5 UMPIRE PAYMENTS

The appointed BCUA umpire(s) shall be paid the fee applicable to their appointment in accordance with the schedule of fees outlined in this document, save for the following exceptions:

- (a) Should play be cancelled for any reason prior to the scheduled starting time of play on any day, then no fee is payable to the appointed Umpire(s).
- (b) In the event where play has not been cancelled prior to the scheduled starting time, the appointed Umpire(s) shall be entitled to.
 - \$10.00 per hour, per Umpire, for each hour or part thereof up until the conclusion of scheduled time for the innings break or halfway point in a day's play
 - Should play be cancelled after the conclusion of the scheduled time for the innings break or halfway point in a day's play, then the appointed Umpire(s) shall be entitled to the full match fee.

13.5 The appointed Umpire(s) shall be paid the appropriate fee via online transfer by the BCA. Clubs will be invoiced periodically throughout the season for umpire payments

RULE 19 CONDUCT

CLUB PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES

[BCA Policy 1 – Code of Behaviour](#) applies to all Senior Women's matches.

Club Volunteers while acting as Umpires have the same authority as BCUA appointed Umpires.

RULE 20 PROPER CRICKET ATTIRE – PLAYER SAFETY

20.1 All players under the age of 18 participating in BCA competitions shall wear an approved BS7928:2013 compliant helmet when batting and wicket keeping at all times (Playing and Training).

In line with Cricket Australia policy players aged 18 and above are strongly recommended to wear an approved BS7928:2013 compliant helmet while batting or keeping up to the stumps in all BCA competitions and at training, to maximise personal safety and minimise the potential for head injury.

<https://play.cricket.com.au/community/clubs/managing-your-club/helmet-recommendations>

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5

20.2 All players participating in BCA competitions shall wear an approved BS7928:2013 compliant helmet at all times when fielding in close. Fielding in close description as per CA - "(or in a zero-reaction time position) In elite cricket, a zero-reaction time position is considered any position within 7 metres of the batter except any position behind square on the off side - therefore, if fielding at silly mid-off or short-leg you would need to wear a helmet, whereas you would not if fielding at gully or (regulation) slip.

20.3 All players shall wear Batting Gloves and Batting Pads.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under Rule 5



BALLARAT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

SENIOR WOMEN'S PLAYING CONDITIONS

1st XI

SEASON 2026/27



Version - Updated August 14, 2026

RULES FOR BALLARAT 1st XI Women CRICKET COMPETITIONS

LAWS OF CRICKET

The MCC Laws of Cricket (2017 Code, updated 3rd edition October 2022) shall apply to all BCA matches, except as hereinafter modified. The following Laws of Cricket will not be adopted by the Ballarat Cricket Association:

Laws: 2.6, 18.6, 42 in respect only to clauses relevant to 5 penalty runs when no official BCUA Umpire is standing and, in all matches, for the mandatory reporting of Captains (Seniors) and Coaches (Juniors).

RULE 21 CRICKET ATTIRE

- 21.1 All players are to wear the same and/or similar playing shirt. It is not limited to Club playing shirts however it is encouraged that players do wear a Club shirt.
- 21.2 Players are to wear long pants such as whites, ¾ leggings, track pants. Players do not need to wear matching pants.

RULE 22 TIMES OF PLAY, INTERVALS AND OVERS TO BE BOWLED

Matches will be scheduled on Friday nights from 6:15pm and possibly alternative timing as advised by the Pennant Committee.

Clubs wanting to make changes are to seek permission from the Pennant Committee at least 7 days prior to the scheduled round of matches.

Both clubs are to agree with the change of time, date and venue. If the scheduled game is affected by adverse weather conditions to the point of no result, the match will be deemed a draw. Once a match has been scheduled/rescheduled it cannot be rescheduled again. The venue may be changed prior to the start of play if conditions are not suitable or the venue becomes unavailable, in consultation with the umpire(s).

- 22.1 Scheduled times of play, intervals and overs to be bowled are as follows:

T15, T20 and Two-Day Matches (Including Finals)			
Scheduled Overs	80 (Two-Day matches)	40 (T20s)	80 (One-Day Match)
Innings Overs	40	20	40
Start times	6:15PM	6:15PM	12:00PM
Finish times	8:45PM	8:45PM	4:50PM
Drinks/innings break	20 overs or 7:25PM	7:25-7:35PM	2:15PM – 2:35PM

- 22.2 Stumps must be in place and the toss effected at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game. If either side fails to attend the toss, they will forfeit the right to the toss.

RULE 23 PLAYING CONDITIONS

- Matches can take place on hard wicket or turf wicket grounds with a boundary length of no more than 50m from the centre of the pitch.
- Game is to be played on full pitch length
- Each team is to be made up of a maximum of 12 players.
- Up to eleven (11) players may bat and bowl in one innings. The innings will be ended at the fall of the tenth wicket.
- All cricket balls used in any match shall be 2-piece 142g White Kookaburra Colt.

23.1 CONFIRMATION OF TEAM SELECTION

Prior to the scheduled start of play the captains of each team must notify the opposing captain in the presence of the umpire(s) (if one is appointed) of the submission on PlayHQ of the selected team chosen to play in the match.

23.1.1

Alterations shall only be made with the consent of the opposing Coach and notification to the appointed Umpire(s) up to one (1) hour from the scheduled start of play on the first day of the match.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under [Rule 5](#)

RULE 24 TWO-DAY MATCHES (40 overs per side)

24.1 BATTING RESTRICTIONS

No compulsory retirements for batters. Batters are able to retire (record as RTNO) however they cannot return to the crease until nine (9) batters have been dismissed. If there is more than one (1) player who was retired, they must return in the order they retired. Captains are encouraged to voluntarily retire batters.

24.2 All modes of dismissal count in this competition.

24.3 BOWLING RESTRICTIONS

Eight (8) overs per bowler maximum per innings in a two-day game.

6 balls per over (maximum of 8 balls per over except the last over where 6 legal deliveries must be bowled).

24.3.1 Players can bowl during any stage of an innings regardless of whether or not they have been off the field.

24.3.2 BOWLING OF DANGEROUS AND UNFAIR NON-PITCHING DELIVERIES

- (a) Any delivery, which passes or would have passed, without pitching, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, is unfair. Whenever such a delivery is bowled, the umpire shall call and signal No ball.
- (b) The bowling of a delivery as defined in 24.3.2 (a) is also dangerous if the bowler's end umpire considers that there is a risk of injury to the striker. In making that judgement the umpire shall: - disregard any protective equipment worn by the striker be mindful of: - the speed, height and direction of the delivery the skill of the striker - the repeated nature of such deliveries.
- (c) If the umpire considers a non-pitching delivery, or a series of non-pitching deliveries, to be dangerous under 24.3.2 (b), when the ball is dead, the umpire shall repeat the No ball signal to the scorers and then caution the bowler, indicating that this is a first and final warning. The umpire shall also inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and the batters of what has occurred. This caution shall apply to that bowler throughout the innings.
- (d) Should there be any further dangerous such delivery by the same bowler in that innings, the umpire shall call and signal No ball when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling inform the other umpire for the reason for this action. The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings. If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. Additionally, the umpire shall inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side. The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.
- (e) The warning and action sequences in 24.3.2(c) and 24.3.2 (d) are independent of those in 24.3.2 (f).

- (f) If the umpire considers that a bowler deliberately bowled a non-pitching delivery, deemed to be unfair as defined in 24.3.2 (a), then the caution and warning in 24.3.2 (c) shall be dispensed with. The umpire shall immediately call and signal No ball. When the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling and inform the other umpire for the reason for this action. The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings. If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. Inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side. The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

24.4 FIELDING INFORMATION

- (a) Only 5 fielders are allowed on the boundary, which will be classified as being within 10 metres of the boundary markers.
- i. Penalty – No Ball will be called

24.5 INNINGS CLOSURES

An innings may be closed before the official Finish Time due to **poor light**. Danger to players is the primary consideration and ability to sight the ball effectively is a key factor in the decision. If the innings of the side batting first has not been previously completed by the official finish time, the innings shall be compulsorily closed at the completion of the allowed innings time regardless of overs bowled.

Clubs are encouraged to use lights at grounds with such capacity to maximise as much playing time as possible. Lights should be turned on at the innings or drinks break.

- 24.5.1 If the innings of the side batting first is compulsorily closed, then the side batting second, if not previously dismissed, shall be entitled to bat only for the bowling of the same number of overs as has been bowled to the side batting first.

If 40 overs are not completed for the team batting first by the scheduled cessation time, **and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault** the team batting second will only receive the number of overs equal to what they bowled at the scheduled cessation time **on day 1** (e.g., If 37 overs bowled at 8:45pm, **play will continue until 40 overs are complete and only 37 overs will be available on Day 2 for the team batting second**). When interpreting this rule, umpires must take into consideration time lost, when tea was taken and the amended overs table in 24.6. If Ground, Weather & Light conditions at the scheduled end of play do not allow the batting innings of the team batting first to be completed, the team bowling first will be penalised 5 runs per over they that have failed to bowl.

- 24.5.2 Team batting second - If the scheduled overs are not completed by the scheduled cessation time e.g., If 37 overs bowled at 8:45pm, and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault, the team bowling second will be penalised 5 runs per over they that have failed to bowl. Play will continue until 40 overs are complete if Ground, Weather & Light conditions are good.

- 24.5.3 If the innings of the side batting first has been completed other than by compulsory closure, then the side batting second shall be entitled to receive

- (a) If dismissal or declaration occurs prior to the side batting first completing its allocated overs, then the side batting second (if not previously dismissed) is entitled to its allocated overs plus the number of whole overs not faced by the side batting first. Minus three (3) overs for the changeover of innings
- (b) If the side batting second commences its innings on the first day, the last over of that day shall be completed regardless of any wickets or retirements that might occur in that over.
- (c) An over started is to be counted as a completed over when calculating remaining overs to be bowled. (E.g. Team dismissed in 33.4 overs, counted as 34 overs).

24.6 INTERRUPTIONS TO PLAY

Where interruptions to play during the innings of the side batting first occur, the number of overs to be bowled shall be adjusted and compulsory closure shall occur at the completion of those overs or at the scheduled finishing time. The adjusted overs shall be calculated using the following table.

Up to 60 minutes lost.

Minutes lost	Rescheduled Overs
1 - 6	39
7 - 12	38
13 - 18	37
19 - 24	36
25 - 30	35
31 - 36	34
37 - 42	33
43 - 48	32
49 - 54	31
55 - 60	30

Scheduled finish times relevant to the scheduled day and times for each match.

- 24.6.1 Where the total amount of time lost for the side batting first exceeds sixty (60) minutes or less than 20 overs can be completed, the match shall revert to a T20 the following week.

NOTE: That in such circumstance the innings of the side batting first will conclude on the second day of the match. Umpires shall be responsible for ensuring that the adjusted number of overs are completed before the rescheduled finishing time.

- 24.6.2 For other situations involving weather interruptions, refer to [Rule 5](#)

- 24.6.3 The Pennant Committee reserves the right to call matches off on any day preceding the game, in line with rules regarding extreme heat conditions. Clubs must also release the ground as being fit for play. It is the responsibility of the club administering a ground to advise teams when the ground is not fit for play.

- 24.7 Should play on the first day of any match be entirely prevented by bad weather conditions, the game shall resolve into a T20.

- 24.8 Where both sides have commenced their first innings, the match shall continue until the scheduled finishing time or until the scheduled overs per day have been bowled

- 24.9 For 40 an over one day games all conditions for two matches will prevail with the following guidelines

a) Where both sides have commenced their innings, the match shall immediately end once a result has been obtained.

b) If Side A has not previously completed its innings, the innings shall be compulsorily closed on completion of the bowling of the allocated overs for that grade.

c) If Side A is dismissed in less than its full quota of overs, Side B shall be entitled to bat for its full quota of allocated overs for that grade unless a result has been obtained.

- 24.10 IN MATCHES WHERE PLAY IS DELAYED OR INTERRUPTED

(All interruptions to play including wet weather, unsafe ground conditions **bad light**, and extreme heat conditions)

- 24.10.1 **Weather Conditions including EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS (Heat, Light, Lightning, Thunderstorms and Air Quality)** - Refer BCA Policy 5 - Weather **including Bad Light**

24.10.2 SIDE A –FIRST INNINGS

The object shall always be to rearrange the number of overs so that both teams have the opportunity of batting for the same number of overs.

24.10.3 The scheduled required number of overs are outlined in the table below. Tea break will be at the completion of the 1st innings.

Mins Lost	All other grades
0	40
1-6	39
7-12	38
13-18	37
19-24	36
25-30	35
31-36	34
37-42	33
43-48	32
49-54	31
55-60	30
61-66	29
67-72	28
73-78	27
79-84	26
85-90	25
91-96	24
97-102	23
103-108	22
109-114	21
115-120	20
121-126	Match abandoned

24.10.4 If Side A is dismissed in less than its full quota of overs, Side B shall be entitled to bat for its full quota of allocated overs for that grade unless a result has been obtained.

24.11 SIDE B –FIRST INNINGS

24.11.1 INTERRUPTIONS TO PLAY NOT EXCEEDING 30 MINUTES

If the innings of Side B is delayed or interrupted for a total of playing time not exceeding 30 minutes, play shall continue until the full entitlement of overs of the batting Side B has been bowled.

24.11.2 INTERRUPTIONS TO PLAY EXCEEDING 30 MINUTES

If the innings of Side B is delayed or interrupted for a total of playing time exceeding 30 minutes and play can resume the following shall apply:

- (a) The number of overs to be bowled shall be calculated by deducting from the scheduled overs, one over for every full three minutes or part thereof lost.
- (b) Where a result is not obtained the match shall be considered drawn.
- (c) Side B shall not bat for a greater number of overs than Side A unless Side A has been dismissed in less than the required number of overs.

24.12 DETERMINATION OF RESULT - DETERMINATION OF WINNER

In matches which both teams have had the opportunity of batting for the agreed number of overs each in an uninterrupted match, or a lesser number of overs in an interrupted match, the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner. Points will be allocated to the winner only in accordance with the points rating system.

RULE 25 T15 and T20 MATCHES (15 or 20 overs per side)

T15 games are scheduled for the early part of the season when light conditions are not suitable for safe play. It is important to start games on time so that the team batting second has a fair go. Umpires will insist on keeping the games flowing and captains are responsible for players being ready to play without delay.

25.1 BATTING RESTRICTIONS

No compulsory retirements for batters. Batters are able to retire (record as RTNO) however they cannot return to the crease until nine (9) batters have been dismissed. If there are more than one (1) player who was retired, they must return in the order they retired. Captains are encouraged to voluntarily retire batters.

25.2 All modes of dismissal count in this competition.

25.3 BOWLING RESTRICTIONS

Four (4) overs per bowler maximum per innings in a T20 game. A maximum of three (3) overs applies for T15.

6 balls per over (maximum of 8 balls per over except the last over where 6 legal deliveries must be bowled).

25.3.1 Players can bowl during any stage of an innings regardless of whether or not they have been off the field.

25.3.2 BOWLING OF DANGEROUS AND UNFAIR NON-PITCHING DELIVERIES

- (a) Any delivery, which passes or would have passed, without pitching, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, is unfair. Whenever such a delivery is bowled, the umpire shall call and signal No ball.
- (b) The bowling of a delivery as defined in 25.3.2 (a) is also dangerous if the bowler's end umpire considers that there is a risk of injury to the striker. In making that judgement the umpire shall: - disregard any protective equipment worn by the striker be mindful of: - the speed, height and direction of the delivery the skill of the striker - the repeated nature of such deliveries.
- (c) If the umpire considers a non-pitching delivery, or a series of non-pitching deliveries, to be dangerous under 25.3.2 (b), when the ball is dead, the umpire shall repeat the No ball signal to the scorers and then caution the bowler, indicating that this is a first and final warning. The umpire shall also inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and the batters of what has occurred. This caution shall apply to that bowler throughout the innings.
- (d) Should there be any further dangerous such delivery by the same bowler in that innings, the umpire shall call and signal No ball when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling inform the other umpire for the reason for this action. The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings. If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. Additionally, the umpire shall inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side. The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.
- (e) The warning and action sequences in 25.3.2(c) and 24.3.2 (d) are independent of those in 25.3.2 (f).
- (f) If the umpire considers that a bowler deliberately bowled a non-pitching delivery, deemed to be unfair as defined in 25.3.2 (a), then the caution and warning in 25.3.2 (c) shall be dispensed with. The umpire shall immediately call and signal No ball. when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling and inform the other umpire for the reason for this action. The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings. If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side. The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive

of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

25.4 FIELDING INFORMATION

(a) Only 5 fielders are allowed on the boundary, which will be classified as being within 10 metres of the boundary markers.

i. Penalty – No Ball will be called

25.5 INNINGS CLOSURES and DELAYS

An innings may be closed before the official Finish Time due to **poor light**. Danger to players is the primary consideration and ability to sight the ball effectively is a key factor in the decision.

Clubs are encouraged to use lights at grounds with such capacity to maximise as much playing time as possible. Lights should be turned on at the innings or drinks break.

25.5.1 In T20 matches the time shall be divided equally and if the side batting first has not previously completed its innings, the innings shall be compulsorily closed on the completion of the bowling of 20 overs.

A similar adjustment is to be made for T15 games after 50 minutes are lost.

25.5.1.1 Team batting first - If 20 overs are not completed by the scheduled cessation time **and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault**, the team batting second will only receive the number of overs equal to what they bowled at the scheduled cessation time (e.g., If 17 overs bowled at 7:25pm, play **will continue until 20 overs are complete and only 17 overs will be available for the team batting second**). **When interpreting this rule, umpires must take into consideration time lost and the amended overs table in 24.6**

25.5.1.2 Team batting second - If 20 overs are not completed by the scheduled cessation time e.g., If 17 overs bowled at 8:45pm, and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault, the team bowling second will be penalised 5 runs per over they that have failed to bowl. Play will continue until 20 overs are complete if Ground, Weather & Light conditions are good.

25.5.2 A game can only have a result if at least eight (8) overs per side can be played safely. Adjusted times due to delays will use 3 minutes per over, where necessary, to decide whether enough overs can reasonably be bowled. If reduced overs are required due to an interruption, both sides must have the same number of overs for a result other than a draw to be recorded.

25.4.3 The second innings in an interrupted match may be commenced in an attempt to achieve a result even if there would not normally be sufficient time to complete an equal number of overs. If no other result is achieved before an equal number of overs is faced, a draw is the result. Completion of this second innings is at the discretion of the umpires only.

25.5.4 If the innings of the side batting first has been completed other than by compulsory closure, then the side batting second has only its allotted overs to decide the game (20 for T20 and 15 for T15). If both teams and umpires agree, the game can continue informally once a result is achieved.

RULE 26 FINALS MATCHES

26.1 At the completion of the minor round of matches a final four shall be formed and these teams shall take part in a final series of matches.

26.2 SEMI-FINALS

The 4 competing teams that have obtained the highest number of points at the completion of the programme series of matches shall compete in a Semi Final round of matches. These matches are to be played on a Thursday and Friday afternoon with no spare days allowed.

Semi Final 1 – 1st vs 4th as placed on the ladder at completion of the programme series of matches.

Semi Final 2 – 2nd vs 3rd as placed on the ladder at completion of the programme series of matches.

All Semi Final matches shall be played under the same conditions as apply to minor round 2 Day games with the exception of Rules 24.6.1 and 24.7 which shall not apply.

Should no decision be reached or a tie result, the winner shall be deemed to be the team higher on the ladder at the completion of the programme series of matches. If a decision is reached on the final day of the match, play may cease if the captain of the side trailing on the first innings concedes defeat.

The winning teams shall then play off in a 2-day Grand Final conducted over the following Thursday and Friday Afternoons

26.3 GRAND FINALS

Grand Finals are to be played on a Thursday and Friday afternoon. The following Thursday and Friday afternoon will be held as a reserve day.

Matches shall be played under the same conditions as apply to minor round Two-Day Matches.

26.4 PRESENTATION TO PREMIERSHIP WINNERS

A perpetual shield shall be presented to each winning team at the final's venue by a BCA Official. Each winning team shall receive 15 medals for distribution to players and such others as deemed appropriate. 1st XI winners will also be presented with a pennant flag.

RULE 27 CRICKET BALLS/STUMPS/BOUNDARY MARKERS

All cricket balls used in any match shall be a make, character and size approved by the BCA Board. Approved Balls listed below. Stumps without metal must be used.

CRICKET BALLS

Approved Cricket Balls for the current season are as follows:
Exclusively Kookaburra Balls, stamped with the BCA Logo

- Two (2) piece 142gm Pink balls – Kookaburra Colt – (For Twilight Matches)
- Two (2) piece 142gm White balls – Kookaburra Colt – (For Day Matches)

Balls may be replaced if they deteriorate during an innings due to the effects of wet weather or other ground conditions upon the approval of the appointed Umpire or where no umpire allocated, with the consent of the opposition Captain.

27.1 Each team shall be in the possession of 40 boundary markers, and where a boundary is not defined by a fence, such markers must be placed in the position prior to the commencement of the match. The first named team in the draw shall place the markers in position on each day of play. The markers must be placed in position in a circle of no more than 50 metres radius from the centre of the pitch, not more than 10 metres apart and 2 metres in front of any football goal/behind posts that are inside the boundary fence. Markers must be placed at least 3 metres inside any boundary fence or nets adjacent to the field



BALLARAT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

SENIOR WOMEN'S PLAYING CONDITIONS

2nd XI

SEASON 2026/27



Version - Updated August 14, 2026

RULES FOR BALLARAT 2nd XI Women CRICKET COMPETITIONS

LAWS OF CRICKET

The MCC Laws of Cricket (2017 Code, updated 3rd edition October 2022) shall apply to all BCA matches, except as hereinafter modified. The following Laws of Cricket will not be adopted by the Ballarat Cricket Association:

Laws: 2.6, 18.6, 42 in respect only to clauses relevant to 5 penalty runs when no official BCUA Umpire is standing and, in all matches, for the mandatory reporting of Captains (Seniors) and Coaches (Juniors).

RULE 28 CRICKET ATTIRE

- 28.1 All players are to wear the same and/or similar playing shirt. It is not limited to Club playing shirts however it is encouraged that players do wear a Club shirt. The aim is to have players participate and feel good about playing rather than to apply any penalty for attire.
- 28.2 Players are to wear long pants such as whites, ¾ leggings, track pants. Players do not need to wear matching pants.

RULE 29 TIMES OF PLAY, INTERVALS AND OVERS TO BE BOWLED

Matches will be scheduled on Friday nights from 6:15pm and possibly alternative timing as advised by the Pennant Committee.

Clubs wanting to make changes are to seek permission from the Pennant Committee at least 7 days prior to the scheduled round of matches.

Both clubs are to agree with the change of time, date and venue. If the scheduled game is affected by adverse weather conditions to the point of no result, the match will be deemed a draw. Once a match has been scheduled/rescheduled it cannot be rescheduled again. The venue may be changed prior to the start of play if conditions are not suitable or the venue becomes unavailable, in consultation with the umpire(s).

- 29.1 Scheduled times of play, intervals and overs to be bowled are as follows:

T15, T20 (Including Finals)			
Scheduled Overs	40 (T20s)	30 (T15)	60 (Two-Day Matches)
Innings Overs	20	15	30
Start times	6:15PM	6:15PM	6:15PM
Finish times	8:45PM	8:05PM	8:05PM
Drinks/innings break	7:25-7:35PM	7:05PM-7:15PM	15 overs or 7:15PM

- 29.2 Stumps must be in place and the toss effected at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game. If either side fails to attend the toss, they will forfeit the right to the toss.

* Note that early season matches can be shortened to T15 instead of T20 to allow completion prior to darkness falling.

RULE 30 PLAYING CONDITIONS T15 and T20 MATCHES (15 or 20 overs per side)

The format that this competition follows looks to further develop the cricket skills & provide a fun environment for women who are new to cricket or returning after time away from the sport. The emphasis here is on continuous and active participation, where all players get to bat, bowl and field in a 2-hour window.

- Matches can take place on hard wickets with a boundary length of no more than 45m – 40m preferred and measured from centre of the pitch
- Game is to be played on full pitch length
- Each team is to be made up of 9 players who bat or bowl. More players are allowed in a team but only 9 can field. Additional players can rotate in the field.
- Up to eleven (11) players may bat and bowl in one innings. The innings will be ended at the fall of the tenth wicket.
- All cricket balls used in any match shall be 2-piece 142g White Kookaburra Colt.

30.1 CONFIRMATION OF TEAM SELECTION

Prior to the scheduled start of play the captains of each team must notify the opposing captain in the presence of the umpire(s) (if one is appointed) of the submission on PlayHQ of the selected team chosen to play in the match.

30.1.1 Alterations shall only be made with the consent of the opposing Coach and notification to the appointed Umpire(s) up to one (1) hour from the scheduled start of play on the first day of the match.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under [Rule 5](#)

RULE 32 PLAYING CONDITIONS - BATTING

31.1 BATTING INFORMATION

- All batters retire at 50 runs.
- Any retired batters can return once all other batters have been either dismissed or retired after scoring their 50 runs, in the order they retired if overs permit.
- Maximum 11 players are permitted to bat per innings.
- If the team has more than 9 players, those players who did not bowl must bat and visa versa.
- The innings is deemed as closed after 10 wickets have fallen or the batting team has completed their allotted overs.
- If a team has less than 11 players after the final batter wicket has fallen, (with retired batters having already returned to the crease), the dismissed batters who made the least number of runs can progressively return to the crease until 10 wickets are lost

31.2 BATTING DISMISSALS

All modes of dismissal count in this competition.

RULE 32 PLAYING CONDITIONS - BOWLING

Four (4) overs per bowler maximum per innings in a T20 game. A maximum of three (3) overs applies for T15.

6 balls per over (maximum of 6 balls per over except the last over where 6 legal deliveries must be bowled).

All players can bowl. There is no requirement for wicket keepers to bowl. However, each team can only have up to 11 players bowling in total.

32.1 Players can bowl during any stage of an innings regardless of whether or not they have been off the field.

32.2 Bowlers change ends at 5 overs. At 5 overs for T15

32.3 Any ball bowled that pitches off the side of the wicket (on a hard wicket, the wicket is referring to the carpet), shall be called a "No Ball".

32.4 A ball is able to bounce twice before it reaches the batter. If the ball is **deemed unplayable by the umpire**, it shall be called a "No Ball". Players cannot be bowled or LBW when a ball bounces twice however all other modes of dismissal count if the umpire deems it playable.

32.5 BOWLING OF DANGEROUS AND UNFAIR NON-PITCHING DELIVERIES

- (a) Any delivery, which passes or would have passed, without pitching, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, is unfair. Whenever such a delivery is bowled, the umpire shall call and signal No ball.
- (b) The bowling of a delivery as defined in 32.5 (a) is also dangerous if the bowler's end umpire considers that there is a risk of injury to the striker. In making that judgement the umpire shall: - disregard any protective equipment worn by the striker be mindful of: - the speed, height and direction of the delivery the skill of the striker - the repeated nature of such deliveries.
- (c) If the umpire considers a non-pitching delivery, or a series of non-pitching deliveries, to be dangerous under 32.5 (b), when the ball is dead, the umpire shall repeat the No ball signal to the scorers and then caution the bowler, indicating that this is a first and final warning. The umpire shall also inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and the batters of what has occurred. This caution shall apply to that bowler throughout the innings.
- (d) Should there be any further dangerous such delivery by the same bowler in that innings, the umpire shall call and signal No ball when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling inform the other umpire for the reason for this action. The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings. If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. Additionally, the umpire shall inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side. The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.
- (e) The warning and action sequences in 32.5 (c) and 32.5 (d) are independent of those in 32.5 (f).
- (f) If the umpire considers that a bowler deliberately bowled a non-pitching delivery, deemed to be unfair as defined in 32.5 (a), then the caution and warning in 32.5 (c) shall be dispensed with. The umpire shall immediately call and signal No ball. when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling and inform the other umpire for the reason for this action. The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings. If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side. The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive

of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

RULE 33 PLAYING CONDITIONS - FIELDING

33.1 FIELDING INFORMATION

- Maximum of 9 players on the field at one time.
- To ensure players experience all fielding positions, fielding rotations can be implemented at the discretion of the captain.
- No fielders are allowed within 10 metres of the bat (except regulation offside slips, gully and wicket keeper).
- If more than 9 players are present at a match, they should rotate onto the field each over.
- Teams have the option, and are encouraged, to change wicketkeepers after mid innings.
- Only 4 fielders are allowed on the boundary, which will be classified as being within 10 metres of the boundary markers.
 - Penalty – No Ball will be called

RULE 34 PLAYING CONDITIONS – INTERRUPTIONS TO PLAY

An innings may be closed before the official Finish Time due to **poor light**. Danger to players is the primary consideration and ability to sight the ball effectively is a key factor in the decision.

Clubs are encouraged to use lights at grounds with such capacity to maximise as much playing time as possible. Lights should be turned on at the innings or drinks break.

- 34.1. In T20 matches the time shall be divided equally and if the side batting first has not previously completed its innings, the innings shall be compulsorily closed on the completion of the bowling of 20 overs. A similar adjustment is to be made for T15 games after 50 minutes are lost.
- 34.1.1 Team batting first - If 20 overs are not completed by the scheduled cessation time, **and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault** the team batting second will only receive the number of overs equal to what they bowled at the scheduled cessation time (e.g., If 17 overs bowled at 7:05pm, play **will continue until 20 overs are complete and only 17 overs will be available for the team batting second**). **When interpreting this rule, umpires must take into consideration time lost and the amended overs table in 24.5.**
- 34.1.2 Team batting second - If 20 overs are not completed by the scheduled cessation time e.g., If 17 overs bowled at 8:45pm, and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault, the team bowling second will be penalised 5 runs per over they that have failed to bowl. Play will continue until 20 overs are complete if Ground, Weather & Light conditions are good.
- 34.2 If time is lost due to rain yet there is some play, there will be 1 over for every 3 minutes lost deducted from the match's scheduled 40 (30 for T15) overs. Hence for every 6 minutes lost the number of overs permitted for each team will be reduced by 1 over.
- 34.3 Should time be lost towards the end of the first innings, the side batting second can only receive the same number of overs faced by the team batting first.
- 34.4 In the event of time being lost and the recalculation of the number of overs to be bowled, each side must still receive the same number of overs in its innings as the other side. Otherwise, the match will be deemed drawn.
- 34.5 A game can only have a result if at least eight (8) overs per side can be played safely. Adjusted times due to delays will use 3 minutes per over, where necessary, to decide whether enough overs can reasonably be bowled. If reduced overs are required due to an interruption, both sides must have the same number of overs for a result other than a draw to be recorded.
- 34.6 The second innings in an interrupted match may be commenced in an attempt to achieve a result even if there would not normally be sufficient time to complete an equal number of overs. If no other result is achieved before an equal number of overs is faced, a draw is the result. Completion of this second innings is at the discretion of the umpires only.

RULE 35 TWO-DAY MATCHES (40 overs per side)

35.1 BATTING RESTRICTIONS

- All batters retire at 50 runs.
- Any retired batters can return once all other batters have been either dismissed or retired after scoring their 50 runs, in the order they retired if overs permit.
- Maximum 11 players are permitted to bat per innings.
- If the team has more than 9 players, those players who did not bowl must bat and visa versa.
- The innings is deemed as closed after 10 wickets have fallen or the batting team has completed their allotted overs.
- If a team has less than 11 players after the final batter wicket has fallen, (with retired batters having already returned to the crease), the dismissed batters who made the least number of runs can progressively return to the crease until 10 wickets are lost

35.2 All modes of dismissal count in this competition.

35.3 BOWLING RESTRICTIONS

Six (6) overs per bowler maximum per innings in a two-day game.

6 balls per over (maximum of 8 balls per over except the last over where 6 legal deliveries must be bowled).

35.3.1 Players can bowl during any stage of an innings regardless of whether or not they have been off the field.

35.4 FIELDING INFORMATION

(b) Only 4 fielders are allowed on the boundary, which will be classified as being within 10 metres of the boundary markers.

- i. Penalty – No Ball will be called

35.5 INNINGS CLOSURES

An innings may be closed before the official Finish Time due to **poor light**. Danger to players is the primary consideration and ability to sight the ball effectively is a key factor in the decision.

If the innings of the side batting first has not been previously completed by the official finish time, the innings shall be compulsorily closed at the completion of the allowed innings time regardless of overs bowled.

Clubs are encouraged to use lights at grounds with such capacity to maximise as much playing time as possible. Lights should be turned on at the innings or drinks break.

35.5.1 If the innings of the side batting first is compulsorily closed, then the side batting second, if not previously dismissed, shall be entitled to bat only for the bowling of the same number of overs as has been bowled to the side batting first.

If 30 overs are not completed for the team batting first by the scheduled cessation time, and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault the team batting second will only receive the number of overs equal to what they bowled at the scheduled cessation time on day 1 (e.g., If 27 overs bowled at 8:05pm, play will continue until 30 overs are complete and only 27 overs will be available on Day 2 for the team batting second). When interpreting this rule, umpires must take into consideration time lost, when tea was taken and the amended overs table in 24.6. If Ground, Weather & Light conditions at the scheduled end of play do not allow the batting innings of the team batting first to be completed, the team bowling first will be penalised 5 runs per over they that have failed to bowl.

35.5.2 Team batting second - If the scheduled overs are not completed by the scheduled cessation time e.g., If 37 overs bowled at 8:05pm, and in the opinion of the Umpires the bowling team is at fault, the team bowling second will be penalised 5 runs per over they that have failed to bowl. Play will continue until 30 overs are complete if Ground, Weather & Light conditions are good.

35.5.3 If the innings of the side batting first has been completed other than by compulsory closure, then the side batting second shall be entitled to receive

- (a) If dismissal or declaration occurs prior to the side batting first completing its allocated overs, then the side batting second (if not previously dismissed) is entitled to its allocated overs plus the number of whole overs not faced by the side batting first. Minus three (3) overs for the changeover of innings
- (b) If the side batting second commences its innings on the first day, the last over of that day shall be completed regardless of any wickets or retirements that might occur in that over.
- (c) An over started is to be counted as a completed over when calculating remaining overs to be bowled. (E.g. Team dismissed in 33.4 overs, counted as 34 overs).

35.6 IN MATCHES WHERE PLAY IS DELAYED OR INTERRUPTED

(All interruptions to play including wet weather, unsafe ground conditions bad light, and extreme heat conditions)

35.6.1 Weather Conditions including EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS (Heat, Light, Lightning, Thunderstorms and Air Quality) - Refer BCA Policy 5 - Weather including Bad Light

35.7 INTERRUPTIONS TO PLAY

Where interruptions to play during the innings of the side batting first occur, the number of overs to be bowled shall be adjusted and compulsory closure shall occur at the completion of those overs or at the scheduled finishing time. The adjusted overs shall be calculated using the following table.

Up to 60 minutes lost.

Minutes lost	Rescheduled Overs
1 - 6	29
7 - 12	28
13 - 18	27
19 - 24	26
25 - 30	25
31 - 36	24
37 - 42	23
43 - 48	22
49 - 54	21
55 - 60	20

Scheduled finish times relevant to the scheduled day and times for each match.

35.7.1 Where the total amount of time lost for the side batting first exceeds sixty (60) minutes or less than 20 overs can be completed, the match shall revert to a T20 the following week.

NOTE: That in such circumstance the innings of the side batting first will conclude on the second day of the match. Umpires shall be responsible for ensuring that the adjusted number of overs are completed before the rescheduled finishing time.

35.7.2 For other situations involving weather interruptions, refer to Rule 5

35.7.3 The Pennant Committee reserves the right to call matches off on any day preceding the game, in line with rules regarding extreme heat conditions. Clubs must also release the ground as being fit for play. It is the responsibility of the club administering a ground to advise teams when the ground is not fit for play.

35.8 Should play on the first day of any match be entirely prevented by bad weather conditions, the game shall resolve into a T20.

35.9 Where both sides have commenced their first innings, the match shall continue until the scheduled finishing time or until the scheduled overs per day have been bowled

35.10 DETERMINATION OF RESULT - DETERMINATION OF WINNER

In matches which both teams have had the opportunity of batting for the agreed number of overs each in an uninterrupted match, or a lesser number of overs in an interrupted match, the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner. Points will be allocated to the winner only in accordance with the points rating system.

RULE 35 FINALS MATCHES

35.1 At the completion of the minor round of matches a final four shall be formed and these teams shall take part in a final series of matches.

35.2 SEMI-FINALS

Semi-Finals are to be played on Friday afternoon with no spare days allowed.

Matches shall be played under the same conditions as apply to minor round T20 games.

35.3 GRAND FINALS

Grand Finals are to be played on Friday afternoon. The following Friday afternoon will be held as a reserve day.

Matches shall be played under the same conditions as apply to minor round T20 games.

PENALTY: Shall be dealt with under [Rule 5](#)

35.4 PRESENTATION TO PREMIERSHIP WINNERS

A perpetual shield shall be presented to each winning team at the final's venue by a BCA Official. Each winning team shall receive 15 medals for distribution to players and such others as deemed appropriate. 1st XI winners will also be presented with a pennant flag.

RULE 36 CRICKET BALLS/STUMPS/BOUNDARY MARKERS

All cricket balls used in any match shall be a make, character and size approved by the BCA Board. Approved Balls listed below. Stumps without metal must be used.

CRICKET BALLS

Approved Cricket Balls for the current season are as follows:

Exclusively Kookaburra Balls, stamped with BCA Logo

- Two (2) piece 142gm **Pink** balls – Kookaburra Colt – (For Twilight Matches)
- Two (2) piece 142gm **white** balls – Kookaburra Colt (For day games)

Balls may be replaced if they deteriorate during an innings due to the effects of wet weather or other ground conditions upon the approval of the appointed Umpire or where no umpire allocated, with the consent of the opposition Captain.

36.1 Each team shall be in the possession of 40 boundary markers, and where a boundary is not defined by a fence, such markers must be placed in the position prior to the commencement of the match. The first named team in the draw shall place the markers in position on each day of play. The markers must be placed in position in a circle of no more than 50 metres radius from the centre of the pitch, not more than 10 metres apart and 2 metres in front of any football goal/behind posts that are inside the boundary fence. Markers must be placed at least 3 metres inside any boundary fence or nets adjacent to the field