



**WAGGA WAGGA SOFTBALL
ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

INCOPORATION NO: Y087616

COMPETITION RULES

AS AT 2 AUGUST 2017

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DEFINITIONS & INTERPRETATIONS

1. Unless specifically stated elsewhere in this document, all definitions and interpretations are as specified in Wagga Wagga Softball Association Incorporated's most recent Charter. These competition rules are to be read in conjunction with the Charter. In the event of an inconsistency and/or conflict between the Charter and the Competition Rules, the Charter shall prevail over the Competition Rules.
2. Unless the context states otherwise, these Competition Rules shall apply to the Senior, Junior and Male Leagues and to all members of the Association.
3. Unless instructed otherwise, all correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Wagga Wagga Softball Association Incorporated, PO Box 387 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 or by email at WWSA15@hotmail.com.

REFERENCES

4. WWSA Charter (latest version). This includes all separate documents referred to by the Charter (for example, the various Codes of Conduct documents).
5. WWSA Disciplinary Policy (latest version).

REGISTRATION FEES

6. Players and Team Officials: Registration fees are payable by each Club or competing team, for each of its members registered with the Association as a player, coach, assistant coach, manager or statistician. Such fees shall include any fees or levies payable to NSWSA and/or SAL and must be paid:
 - (a) All fees for all players and officials must be paid prior to the first match. Specifically, they must be paid before taking the diamond.
 - (b) After the Christmas break, any new registrations submitted for the series will incur a late registration fee, as prescribed by the Association.
7. Non-Players: Registration fees are payable by each Club and Associate for any of their members (other than players and team officials) that wish to be registered as a member of the Association. Registration fees must be paid with the respective registration.
8. Executive Committee Members: Registration fees are not required and the provisions of Competition Rules 6 and 7 are waived.
9. Subscribing Members: Subscriptions must be paid with the registration and where applicable, shall include any fees or levies payable to NSWSA and/or SAL.
10. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Registration Fees section is the loss/forfeiture of two premiership points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.

UNPAID FEES

11. Unpaid fees refers to competition fees as well as any representative fees.
12. Any player or team official, or any team, Club or Associate and members thereof that are unfinancial after the respective due date shall not be eligible to take part in any match of any competition, to represent the Association nor to attend or be represented at meetings of the Association until all outstanding fees have been paid.
13. The above will not apply when payment plan arrangements have been made with the Treasurer of their Club provided that the Club has still paid the full amount to the Association by the due date.
14. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Unpaid Fees section is the loss/forfeiture of two premiership points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.

INSURANCE

15. Members are insured under the same scheme as NSWSA.

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

16. All Senior, Junior and Male Leagues' playing season shall extend from approximately October to April inclusive and be known as the Premiership Series.
17. The Senior and Male Leagues shall be structured to provide a graded competition in softball for teams from Clubs as follows:
 - (a) All participating players must be in Year 7 or above at school, except for the provision of Competition Rule 29.
 - (b) The Association has adopted the Pregnancy Guidelines as specified by SAL and will enforce them appropriately.
18. The Junior League shall provide an underage competition in:
 - (a) A Grade: Aged under 15 as at 31 December of the year that the season commences.
 - (b) Mod-Ball: Aged under 12 as at 31 December of the year that the season commences.
 - (c) Competitive T-Ball: Aged under 10 as at 31 December of the year that the season commences.
 - (d) Non-Competitive T-Ball: Kinder or Year One at school in the year that the season commences.
 - (e) Players with special needs may be permitted to play in teams "out of age" at the discretion of the Executive.
 - (f) The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of the League Structure is the loss/forfeiture of two premiership points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.
19. Suitable awards for all Leagues shall be determined each year by the Executive.

COLOURS AND TEAM NAMES

20. Each Club or team shall submit particulars of its uniform design and colours (for both players and team officials) and the names of its teams for approval and registration by the Executive. Any proposed changes must be approved by the Executive.
21. No Club or team shall use the Association colours of black and white as a combination for its uniform.

REGISTRATION FOR COMPETITION

22. Subject to any other provisions of the Competition Rules, a nominee registered as a:
 - (a) Player, may also participate as a team official with any other team at any time.
 - (b) Team official, may coach, manage or score with any other team at any time.In accordance with Competition Rules 42 to 50.

CLEARANCES AND PERMITS

23. Players shall be bound to the Club first registered with for a period of eighteen months from the last competition in which they participated or until released in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (a) Transfer of players between Clubs requires a clearance (permanent transfer) or a permit (temporary transfer) signed by an official of the losing Club and endorsed by the Executive.
 - (b) Transfers can only be made during the period between the end of the previous season's competition and the first "half" of the next season (ie up to the Christmas break).
 - (c) Players of a Club in recess may obtain a permit to play with another Club until such time as the Club re-enters the competition.
 - (d) Players of a Club declared defunct do not require a clearance or permit unless they still owe money to or have property belonging to that Club.
 - (e) No player or official owing money to a Club can be released until the debt is cleared or suitable arrangements are made so as the Club can formally release that player or official.
24. Any player refused a clearance or permit by their Club or the Executive has the right of appeal to the Executive. This must be made in writing and lodged with the Association Secretary within seven days of being advised of the refusal.
25. Team officials are subject to clearance and permit action in accordance with the above provisions.
26. Members from another association affiliated with a state body require a clearance from their former association in order to participate in the WWSA competition.
27. Any player actively involved in a recognised competition (from another association affiliated with a state body) that is being conducted in the same season as the WWSA competition may also play in the WWSA competition after complying with the following:

- (a) The WWSA Executive has the right to accept or not accept any registration.
 - (b) Each registration must be accompanied with the relevant documentation including a permit player form.
 - (c) The permit player form can be obtained from SAL for interstate players, which must be signed by the state the player is registered with and then forwarded to SAL for approval, or from SNSW for intrastate players which must be completed by the affiliate/club where the player is registered and then forwarded to SNSW for approval.
 - (d) The form must be completed before the player is eligible to play in any match being played under the control of and administration of WWSA and a copy of the completed and signed form must be provided to WWSA.
 - (e) This permit player form must be completed for each year the player wishes to play in any match being played under the control of and administration of WWSA.
 - (f) Each player must adhere to all WWSA rules and regulations.
 - (g) Each player must have all WWSA registration fees paid in full before that player is eligible to participate in any match being played under the control of and administration of WWSA.
 - (h) All players must qualify for finals in accordance with Competition Rules 32 to 33.
28. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Clearances and Permits section is the loss/forfeiture of two premierships points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.

SPECIAL PERMITS

29. Provided that it is done so in accordance with this competition rule, Junior League players may also play in their Club's lowest grade Senior League team but only with a Special Permit endorsed by three Club Selectors that are independent of the player's Club. Such players:
- (a) Must be considered by three independent Club Selectors as having the necessary ability.
 - (b) Must have the written permission of a parent or guardian submitted to the Executive prior to playing in their first Senior match. Special Permits must be submitted to the Executive seven days prior to taking the field, with the exception of the opening round and the round immediately after the Christmas break. On those occasions the Special Permit must be submitted to the Executive by 12:00pm on or before the day of play.
 - (c) Must wear the uniform of the Senior League team.
 - (d) Shall be subject to all rules pertaining to the Senior League.
 - (e) A maximum of five Junior League players on permit may be registered with a Senior Club.
30. Once a player is in Year Seven or above at school (even if still playing in the Junior League), they can be selected in any Senior League grade that their club wishes to use them.
31. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Special Permits section is the loss/forfeiture of two premierships points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION OF PLAYERS

32. Senior League:
- (a) To be eligible for a final in any grade, a player must play in three matches for their Club. These matches must be played in three different weeks.
 - (b) Any player who plays a total of less than five matches in a higher grade (or higher grades) must play at least three matches with the lower grade team for which they wish to be eligible.
 - (c) Any player who plays a total of more than four but less than seven matches in a higher grade (or higher grades) must have played at least five matches with the lower grade team for which they wish to be eligible.
 - (d) Any player who plays a total of seven matches or more in a higher grade (or higher grades) is ineligible for lower grade finals.
 - (e) Where special circumstances exist, a player not otherwise eligible for finals may be granted permission to play on a written application to the Match Committee. All of the above criteria pertain to pre-final matches.
 - (f) Should a player have played as a legitimate member (ie not as a Relief Player nor a Fill-In Player) in a higher grade, in the two immediate matches that their team was involved in prior to that higher grade team having a bye, they are ineligible to play in a lower grade team on the day that the higher grade team has the bye.
 - (g) When a Club has two (or more) teams in the same grade, movement of a player between teams of the same Club and grade is not permitted.
 - (h) Players can play a maximum of two matches in any one round of any one League.
 - (i) All players and officials must be entered onto the card prior to the match commencing. A player is classified as playing in that match only if they take the field, regardless of the length of time that they participated.
33. Junior League:

- (a) To be eligible for a final in any grade, a player must play in three matches for their Club. These matches must be played in three different weeks.
- (b) Any player who plays a total of seven matches or more in a higher grade (or higher grades) is ineligible for lower grade finals.
- (c) Players may play up an age group (or groups) but are never allowed to play down an age group.
- (d) Players can play a maximum of two matches in any one round of any one League.
- (e) Players are not able to play in more than one final in any one league on any one day.
- (f) When a Club has two (or more) teams in the same grade, movement of a player between teams of the same Club and grade is not permitted.
- (g) Any deviation from the above conditions will require the prior approval of the Executive.
- (h) All players and officials must be entered onto the card prior to the match commencing. A player is classified as playing in that match only if they take the field, regardless of the length of time that they participated.

34. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Promotion and Relegation of Players section is the loss/forfeiture of two premierships points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.

RELIEF PLAYERS

35. Applies to Senior, Junior and Male Leagues.
36. In grades other than a Club's highest Senior League grade, players drawn from one of that Club's lower grade teams may be used as Relief Players when a team is short of players. A team is deemed "short" if it does not have a full complement of nine players.
37. The following restrictions apply in the use of Relief Players:
- (a) Any one player cannot be used as a Relief Player on more than four occasions during the Premiership Series.
 - (b) A Relief Player cannot be used to replace any player refused permission to play or removed from the match by the umpire.
 - (c) Relief Players may not be used in finals.
 - (d) Relief Players must be so indicated against their name on the match card for that match (excepting Fill-In Players into a Club's highest graded team per Competition Rules 39 to 41).
 - (e) A match played as a Relief Player shall count as a match played in a higher grade regardless of the time on the diamond.
38. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Relief Player section is the loss/forfeiture of two premierships points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.

FILL-IN PLAYERS

39. Applies to Senior League only.
40. The highest graded team in a Club can use any number of "fill-in" players from its lower grades in order to field a team. These players do not count as Relief Players for that Club (refer to Competition Rules 35 to 38).
41. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Fill-In Players section is the loss/forfeiture of two premierships points from the team the offending player took the diamond for.

COACHES

42. Coaches, including assistant coaches, must be registered in accordance with Competition Rules 6 and 22 and have their names entered onto the match card prior to officiating in any match. Coaches and assistant coaches may be added to the card during the course of the match provided that the umpires and scorers are notified and provided that it is done prior to them participating in the match and/or taking the playing field.
43. Coaches shall be dressed in accordance with Competition Rules 49 and 50.
44. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Coaches section is the loss/forfeiture of two premierships points from the team the offending coach entered the match for.

TEAM MANAGERS

45. Each team should endeavour to have a registered manager and their name entered onto the match card prior to each match. The team manager shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the general management, supervision and welfare of the team and its members whilst on the playing field.
- (b) Ensure that any directions from the Executive or League Manager to the team or any team member are carried out.

46. When a Senior League or Male League A Grade team is without a non-playing team manager or coach, the responsibilities of team manager shall rest with the team captain. Any team which contains junior players (ie under the age of 16) must have a non-playing team manager or coach at all times.

STATISTICIANS

47. Each team should endeavour to have a competent statistician (also known as a scorer) registered in accordance with Competition Rules 6 and 22 and their name must be entered onto the match card prior to each match.
48. Statisticians are required to sit at the home plate end of their team's bench if possible.

DRESS FOR TEAM OFFICIALS

49. When a Club has a registered uniform, only that uniform shall be worn by all players and its appointed officials.
50. Team officials whose Club does not have a registered uniform should be neatly attired at all times and any team official whose dress does not conform to acceptable standards may not be permitted to participate. Acceptable dress for non-playing officials is:
- (a) For women: shirt with skirt, shorts, slacks or tracksuit.
 - (b) For men: shirt with slacks, shorts or tracksuit.
 - (c) Footwear shall be appropriate to the dress and must be fully enclosed.
 - (d) Appropriate protective clothing may be worn during inclement weather.
 - (e) Dress should be of similar colours to the players' uniform.

UNIFORMS

51. All players on a team must be dressed in the regulation uniform of their club or team as registered with the Executive. A regulation uniform shall meet the following minimum requirements:
- (a) Shirts must cover the shoulders and have sleeves which extend approximately half-way to the elbow. They must be the same for each team member. They must have a collar. WWSA endorses the Sun Safe Policy.
 - (b) Shorts may be worn in lieu of knickers provided every team member is dressed in shorts.
 - (c) Socks must be either ankle length or full length (simulated gaiters) which extend into the leg of the knickers. They must be the same for each team member.
 - (d) Footwear shall be either sandshoes or softball shoes with moulded studs. Screw-in studs and metal cleats are illegal.
 - (e) Caps, hats or visors are compulsory for all players excepting pitchers and catchers. Players of the same team must all wear the same cap, hat or visor when taking the diamond.
52. Gaiters and warm-up jackets (or similar garment) are optional but when worn they shall conform to the Club or team uniform as registered with the Executive.
53. Caps or garments which display motifs, slogans or advertising are permitted only with prior Executive approval (noting Competition Rule 51(e)).
54. Exposed jewellery of any type (other than a wedding ring which should be taped) must not be worn during any match. Fingernails must be cut to a reasonable length. Under extenuating circumstances, taping of rings, ear-studs and fingernails may be granted by the umpire. Hair must be tied back from the face.
55. Club Badges: Registered Club badges are to be worn on the front of the shirt and/or cap. Other types of badges may only be worn on warm-up jackets.
56. Players must be attired in the registered uniform of their Club or team for the opening round of the Premiership Series. Any new players shall wear a regulation uniform for their first match but must be in the Club or team's registered uniform by the third week. If extenuating circumstances exist which may prevent players being in the registered uniform, prior permission must be sought from the Executive for those players to play.

MATCH CARD

57. The match cards are to officially advise the respective League Manager of the result and score of the match and the name of the players, team officials and umpires that participated.
58. It is each competing team's responsibility to:
 - (a) Enter all of the required details of its players and team officials on the card prior to the match. Players and officials may be added to the card during the course of the match provided that the umpires and scorers are notified and provided that it is done prior to them participating in the match and/or taking the playing field.
 - (b) Verify that the final score and all player and officials movements are correct.
59. It is the Plate Umpire's responsibility to:
 - (a) Collect and present the match card to each scorer for entry of their respective team's details.
 - (b) Enter the score after each innings and any changes to a team's line-up made during the match.
 - (c) Verify that the appointed umpires officiated and/or note any replacements.
 - (d) Note any players not correctly uniformed and any other matters or incidents considered reportable.
 - (e) Ensure that the card is signed as required and the completed card is returned as instructed to the respective League Manager.

EQUIPMENT AND BENCHES

60. Protective Equipment: Helmets, face masks, chest protectors and protective leg-ins must be worn by all catchers in all grades. All batters and baserunners must wear helmets.
61. Team Equipment: The provision of team equipment is the responsibility of the competing teams. All equipment should be clearly marked. Lost items may be claimed from the Canteen. Unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of each season.
62. The team at bat is responsible, within reason, for retrieving foul and passed balls.
63. Benches: On diamonds other than Diamonds 1, 2 and 3 (where fixed benches and batting cages exist), portable benches must be placed approximately one metre behind the dead-ball line. Bats should be kept neatly arranged at the home plate end of the bench and gloves and other equipment must be kept under or behind the bench. The teams using the portable benches for the last round of the day are responsible for their return to the store room.

MATCH BALLS

64. Two match balls shall be used in each match. Match balls must be optical yellow and in good condition. Sizes are as follows:
 - (a) Senior League: 12 inch "hard" ball.
 - (b) Junior League:
 - (i) A Grade: 11 inch "hard" ball.
 - (ii) Mod-Ball: 10.5 inch "soft" ball.
 - (iii) Competitive T-Ball: 10.5 inch "soft" ball.
 - (iv) Non-Competitive T-Ball: 10.5 inch "soft" ball.
65. The Association will only provide match balls for Senior, Junior and Male League finals. For all other matches, each team is required to supply one ball.
66. The Umpire shall inspect the match balls for condition and uniformity and may reject a ball not up to standard. A team not able to provide a suitable match ball may be fined by the Executive.

STARTING TIMES

67. All competition round matches, with the exception of Senior League A Grade matches shall commence and finish at the times scheduled. A late starting match must still finish at the scheduled time unless the respective League Manager determines otherwise. The Umpire shall declare a forfeit against a team not ready to play after ten minutes grace.

LENGTH OF MATCHES

68. All competition round matches will be of the following lengths:
 - (a) Senior League A Grade: Seven innings with no time limit, unless being played at the 2.30pm time slot in which case the length of the match shall be seven innings or seventy five minutes, whichever occurs first.

- (b) All other Senior League grades: Seven innings or seventy five minutes, whichever occurs first.
 - (c) Male League: Seven innings or seventy five minutes, whichever occurs first.
 - (d) Junior League: Seven innings or sixty minutes, whichever occurs first.
69. Run Ahead Rule (Mercy Rule): If one team is losing by fifteen runs after three innings, ten runs after four innings or seven runs after five innings the match is ended at that point. The Run Ahead Rule (Mercy Rule) will be applied to the seven innings Senior League A Grade matches only.
70. The result of a match which is incomplete at the end of the allotted time shall be decided in accordance with the official rules, except that, a result will be determined regardless of the number of innings completed and a tied match will not be replayed.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

71. Wet Weather: A meeting will be held at French Fields at 8:00am on match day should inclement weather be of concern. A decision will be made in consultation with both Senior and Junior League Managers and the Association President (or in their absence the Association Vice President). This meeting can be convened at any time of the day to decide if weather conditions or the state of the fields will permit play. They shall also decide if any round of matches in progress shall continue, be briefly adjourned or abandoned.
72. Extreme Hot Weather: The Association has adopted the Hot Weather Guidelines as specified by SAL. In heatwave conditions the respective League Manager, the Umpire In Charge and the Association President (or their delegate) shall decide if hot weather conditions will permit play. The Hot Weather Guidelines will be assessed at French Fields at the following times:
- (a) 8:00am: Junior League decision.
 - (b) 10:00am: Senior League B, C and D Grade decision.
 - (c) 3:00pm: Senior League A Grade decision.
 - (d) Any decision will be forwarded by text or email to all Club Presidents and if possible the Association's social media will be updated within 15 minutes of the decision being made.
73. Lightning Strikes: The Association has adopted the Lightning Strikes Guidelines as specified by SAL and will enforce them appropriately in the event of lightning strikes.

ABANDONED MATCHES

74. When a match is abandoned or is terminated for any reason (other than a forfeit) before the scheduled finishing time, a result will be reached as follows:
- (a) Senior League: If four innings have been completed or forty five minutes of play has elapsed (whichever occurs first) the score stands at that point.
 - (b) Junior League: If three innings have been completed or thirty five minutes of play has elapsed (whichever occurs first) the score stands at that point.
 - (c) If the above requirements have not been met, any score will be cancelled and the result declared a tie.
75. Whenever matches of one grade are scheduled for play at different times, and any such match is abandoned because of inclement weather or poor conditions, before the above requirements have been met, all matches in that grade will be declared a tie, noting the following:
- (a) In some circumstances, abandoned matches can be rescheduled at the discretion of the Executive.
 - (b) Should a finals match be cancelled, every effort will be made to reschedule the match. If this cannot be done, the team finishing higher on the ladder will be awarded the match.
 - (c) Should a grand final match be cancelled, every effort will be made to reschedule the match. If this cannot be done, the team first into the grand final will be awarded the match.
 - (d) In a grand final, the team first into the grand final will be awarded the match.

DEFERRED MATCHES

76. There will be no deferred or re-scheduled matches (particularly in Senior League A Grade where rules allow any registered member of the club to play in the A Grade team) unless the whole round of matches is deferred by the Match Committee. There is no need to have deferred matches in the Senior League A Grade competition. Consideration will be given to lower grade matches being played on an alternative day, provided a written request for such is received by the Executive at least two weeks prior to the proposed change. Unless there are extenuating circumstances for such a request, primarily the only other acceptable reason would be the absence of a sufficient

number of the team's players due to them being involved in representative softball on the day of the scheduled match.

AWARDING OF POINTS

77. For all competition matches, points shall be awarded as follows:
- (a) For a win: 2 points.
 - (b) For a draw: 1 point.
 - (c) For a loss: 0 points.
 - (d) Forfeited matches will be dealt with in accordance with the official rules.
78. When any teams are equal on points, their positions on the ladder will be determined on percentages using the following formula: total runs for divided by total runs against multiplied by 100.

FIRST NAMED TEAMS

79. The teams first named in the draw shall:
- (a) Occupy the first base bench.
 - (b) Call the toss to decide the first fielding team.

LEGAL TEAM

80. A team shall be legal provided it can field a minimum of seven players from the club. Rules 32 and 33 regarding the Promotion and Relegation of Players must also be considered in determining the legal team composition.
81. Any vacancy in the batting order shall be recorded as an "out" each time the vacancy is reached.

RELIEF RUNNERS

82. Should a player be injured while at bat running the bases, to avoid timewasting a relief runner may be requested when the injured player is on base and all play has ceased. The following conditions apply:
- (a) Permission must be granted from the opposing team, which shall also have the right to select the relief runner.
 - (b) If, by the time the injured player's next turn at bat is due, the injured player cannot continue in the match unaided, they must be taken out of the match.
 - (c) The injured player cannot be relieved in the field while they recover. If this occurs, they will be considered as taken out of the match.
83. Speed Up Rule: For Senior League B, C and D grades and Junior League A Grade, if the team catcher is on a base, the option exists (at the option of the batting team) for them to be interchanged with another player but only if there are two outs. This is done to help speed up the match.

PITCHING DISTANCE AND DIAMOND SIZE

84. The Association complies with current NSWSA and SAL regulations regarding pitching distance and diamond size:
- (a) Senior League: 43 feet pitching distance for females and 46 feet for males pitching distance with 60 feet baseline diamond size.
 - (b) Junior League:
 - (i) A Grade: 40 feet pitching distance with 60 feet baseline diamond size.
 - (ii) Mod-Ball: 30 feet pitching distance with 60 feet baseline diamond size.
 - (iii) Competitive T-Ball: 30 feet pitching distance with 60 feet baseline diamond size.
 - (iv) Non-Competitive T-Ball: 30 feet pitching distance with 50 feet baseline diamond size.

DEAD BALL LINE & HOME RUNS

85. A dead ball line shall be suitably marked to identify the extremities of the playing area in foul territory. It should preferably not be less than 25 feet from the foul lines. No play can be legally made from outside this dead ball line.
86. Any batted ball hit "over the hill" from the upper field (usually Diamonds 4 or 5) will be deemed a home run.
87. Any batted ball on the "Galloway Diamond" which goes into the garden area of right field will be deemed a home run.

BASES

88. Bases on diamonds will not be pegged.

BACKNETS

89. Except in Junior League Mod-Ball and Competitive T-Ball matches, whenever a backnet is used on any diamond, any ball which hits the net and remains in the playing area will be "alive". In Junior League Mod-Ball and Competitive T-Ball matches, however, the ball will be "dead".

90. In Junior League matches that are played on Diamonds 1, 2 and 3, the "live" part of the fence is the area between the "painted poles". All other back and side fences on Diamonds 1 and 3 are considered dead ball lines for the Junior League.

RESTRICTED BATTING INNINGS

91. For all Junior League A Grade, Mod-Ball and Competitive T-Ball matches, the following restriction applies for each batting innings:

- (a) Each innings shall conclude when either three outs or seven runs have been scored.
- (b) Coaches need to manage their own team's batting to ensure farcical situations do not arise in respect of managing dismissals.

92. The declaration rule can be used any number of times in a match by each of the opposing coaches (or their representatives) in all Junior League matches and Senior League matches.

FINALS

93. Unless otherwise agreed by the Executive, the four leading teams in each grade (assuming that there are at least four teams in a particular grade) shall contest the finals of the Premiership Series as per the Page System. According to final positions on the points ladder, finals are played as follows:

- (a) First semi final: Third versus Fourth (Match A).
- (b) Second semi final: First versus Second (Match B).
- (c) Preliminary final: Loser Match B versus Winner Match A (Match C).
- (d) Grand final: Winner Match B versus Winner Match C.

94. If a player or coach involved in a finals match is unavoidably detained in a finals match being played in the timeslot immediately before, the starting time of the match to be played will be delayed at the discretion of the respective League Manager.

95. The length of finals matches shall be limited matches, except that extra time will be added as required in order to obtain a result without reverting the score to equal innings. This will take effect as follows:

- (a) Senior League:
 - (i) A Grade: A regulation match of seven innings.
 - (ii) All other grades: A regulation match of seven innings or seventy five minutes, whichever occurs first.
- (b) Male League: A regulation match of seven innings or seventy five minutes, whichever occurs first.
- (c) Junior League: A regulation match of seven innings or sixty minutes, whichever occurs first.
- (d) If a regulation match has not been completed when the time limit is reached the following conditions shall apply:
 - (i) Any innings in progress shall continue until the team second at bat takes the lead or is dismissed.
 - (ii) Extra innings shall be played to break a tied score.
 - (iii) A minimum number of completed innings is not required.
 - (iv) Tie breaker rules shall apply for all grades in the Senior, Junior and Male Leagues. The tie breaker will commence immediately after the score is tied at the end of seven innings or the time has elapsed, whichever occurs first.

96. The time limit will not be reduced because of a late start when the competing teams are not at fault.

97. The first named team in the semi finals and the preliminary finals shall be the team finishing highest on the ladder. In the grand final, the first named team shall be the winner of the second semi final.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF COMPETITION RULES

98. Any violation involving an ineligible player or a breach of any Association rule shall be penalised as follows. When the violation is committed by:

- (a) The winning team (or a player therefrom): Forfeiture of the match with the score set at 0-7.

- (b) The losing team (or a player therefrom): Loss of two premiership points with the score set at 0-7, unless the actual winning score gave the non-offending team a better percentage.
- (c) Both teams: Loss of two premiership points from each team with the score set at 0-0.
- (d) If any Club consistently disobeys Association rules, the respective Club President will be called to a convened Executive meeting to determine a fine, penalty and/or further loss of premiership points.

PROTESTS

99. Notification in writing of intent to protest must be made in accordance with the official rules:
- (a) The formal protest must be lodged with the appropriate League Manager within twenty four hours of the completion of the match involving the protest.
 - (b) The League Manager will then provide the Executive with a written a report outlining the issue and recommended action with forty eight hours of receipt of the written protest.
 - (c) The Executive will issue a final determination prior to the commencement of the next round of matches.

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

100. It is the responsibility of all Clubs and teams, through their appointed officials, to ensure that:
- (a) Adequate Club personnel are in attendance for canteen and grounds duties as and when rostered by the Executive.
 - (b) Club members named to umpire are aware of their appointments and, when necessary, arrange suitable replacements.
 - (c) Directives and notices are acted upon and/or passed on to their Club members as required, including instructions advised through the local media.
 - (d) Their team bench areas are cleaned up before leaving the diamond after each match, including the return of benches and bases to the store room when play is finished for the day on that diamond.
 - (e) The general conduct of their Club members, whilst at the playing fields, meets the standards expected of them by the Association.
 - (f) The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of this Club Responsibilities section is the loss/forfeiture of two Club Championship points from the offending Club.

PREMIERSHIP SERIES AWARDS AND TROPHIES

101. Premiership Series Awards: Players and officials of the premier teams and runner up teams of each grade shall be awarded a medallion. Not more than sixteen medallions will be awarded to any one team.
102. Association All Stars Team:
- (a) The Association's All Stars Team awards should be a combination of match statistics and skill and should be an all-round "players' player" who plays week in, week out for the benefit of softball.
 - (b) The nominated players must strictly meet the criteria for selection. The All Stars Team should be accepted by other Association players as being strong ambassadors of softball.
 - (c) Players need to have played a minimum of six matches to be eligible for selection.
 - (d) The All Stars Team shall consist of nine players and is to be named after strongly considering attitude, sportsmanship, skill levels and performances of candidates during the competition matches and finals matches.
 - (e) At the conclusion of the competition rounds, all selectors (and Club coaches if they so desire) are to put forward player nominations from all grades of the competition that they feel meet the criteria. These nominations are to be handed to the Association's Head Selector for them to forward to the Executive.
 - (f) These nominations will be reviewed by the Executive. Part of this review will be to ensure that all criteria of this Competition Rule have been met before any final decision is made. The Executive will liaise where necessary with all selectors during this process.
 - (g) Each player shall be awarded an All Stars Player medallion.
 - (h) Players suspended at any time during the season are not eligible for selection.
 - (i) Players found to be in breach of the Disciplinary Policy are not eligible for selection.
103. Perpetual Trophies: Perpetual trophies will be presented in each grade of the Senior, Junior and Male Leagues. The main trophy shall be held at all times by the Association. A smaller version of the trophy will be presented and this can be kept by the respective Club.

END OF SEASON AWARDS AND TROPHIES

104. Unless otherwise agreed by the Executive, the following end of season awards and trophies shall be presented.

105. Champion Club Award: A trophy for the Champion Club of the Senior, Junior and Male Leagues shall be presented to the Club which accumulates the most points for team performances as follows:
- (a) Each match won in the competition rounds by an A Grade team: 8 points.
 - (b) Each match won in the competition rounds by a B grade team: 6 points.
 - (c) Each match won in the competition rounds by a C grade team: 4 points.
 - (d) When a match is tied the points shall be halved.
 - (e) When a Club has two teams in the same grade, the team that finishes higher on the ladder will be used for points calculation.
 - (f) The Club with the highest accumulation of points shall receive the trophy. In the event of a tied score, the system will be applied into the finals series for the involved Clubs. If the score is still tied, the Clubs will be declared joint winners.
106. The Club High Achievement Award: The recipient shall be decided on a total points score established during the season for member achievement. For this award, Clubs will receive points as follows:
- (a) For each Australian player selected: 25 points.
 - (b) For each State player selected: 15 points.
 - (c) For each State Championship representative: 5 points per player per event.
 - (d) For each accredited coach (current): 10 points.
 - (e) For each accredited scorer (current): 5 points.
 - (f) For attendance at coaching, scoring and/or umpiring clinics: 1 point per member per clinic.
 - (g) For passing an umpires' theory exam: 2 points per member.
 - (h) For each Junior All Stars or Senior All Stars player selected: 2 points per member.
 - (i) Should the tallies of Clubs be equal, the Clubs will be declared joint winners.
107. Outstanding Player Award: The recipients of the following awards shall be chosen by the Selection Committee after considering attitude, sportsmanship, skill levels and performances of candidates throughout the season. The Executive will review all nominations to ensure all the criteria of Competition Rule 102 have been met before any final decision is made. The Executive will liaise where necessary with all selectors during this process:
- (a) Outstanding Senior Open Player (Male and Female): Any player in the current A Grade competition.
 - (b) Outstanding Youth Player (Male and Female): Any player that is between the age of 16 and 19 years (inclusive) as at 31 December of the year that the season commences.
 - (c) Outstanding Junior Player (Male and Female): Any player that is between the age of 12 and 15 years (inclusive) as at 31 December of the year that the season commences.
 - (d) Outstanding Mod-Ball Player (Male and Female): Any player that is under the age of 12 years at 31 December of the year that the season commences.
 - (e) MVP for A Grade (Male and Female): As determined by the completion of a set of voting cards completed each match by the umpire and both team coaches.
 - (f) MVP for B Grade (Male and Female): As determined by the completion of a set of voting cards completed each match by the umpire and both team coaches.
 - (g) MVP for C Grade (Male and Female): As determined by the completion of a set of voting cards completed each match by the umpire and both team coaches.