



# Waverley Softball Association

## Competition Rules Manual 2020 - 2021 Season

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We are a Good Sports club

WAVERLEY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



## **Season 2020 - 2021 Rules Manual**

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***This document should be read in conjunction with the WSA Operations Manual 2020 - 2021.***

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### 1 Game Times & Structure – Subject to change, in accordance with SV Return to Play Guidelines.

Time	Grade
11.00am – 12pm	T-ball
11.30am – 12.45pm	U12 SEMR
9:00am – 10:15am	U15 SEMR
11.30am – 12.45pm	U18 SEMR
2:00pm – 3:25pm	Open 4
2:00pm – 3:35pm	Open 2
4:00pm – 5:25pm	Open 3
4:00pm – 6:00pm	Open 1
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Open 1

**NOTE:**      *\* There is to be a minimum of 20 minutes interval between 4pm and 6pm games.  
The finish time for the second game will be as per the Fully Loaded Softball Rules for Open 1.*

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### 2 Competition Rules

The following Competition rules are to be read **in conjunction** with the Official Softball Australia Rulebook (2018-2020). These can be found at <http://www.softball.org.au/the-rules-of-softball/> **All Official rules will be followed** with the exception of those listed below.

#### 2.1. Abandoned Games

Individual games (e.g. Night Games) that have been washed out, heat out or abandoned **will not** be replayed.

When a washed out or abandoned game is not to be replayed, 2 points will be awarded to each team. In all games, if the losing team has completed 5 innings then the game is regulation. In all timed games, if 3/5ths of the allocated time (*2 hours for Open 1; 1 hr 25 mins for Open 2; 1 hr 25 mins for all other grades*) has been completed when the game is called, then the game is also regulation. 3/5ths for Open 1 is 72mins; Open 2 is 51mins; Open 3 and 4 is 51mins.

Time is taken from the **advertised** grade start time **if** the umpires are at the diamond ready to begin the game; **else** time is taken from when the umpires arrive.

A minimum interval of 20 minutes shall be allowed between the 4pm and 6pm games and, as such, the advertised start time shall be 20 minutes after the completion of the latest 4pm game that involves players and/or officials for the scheduled 6pm game (for games finishing later than 5:40pm).

Full Rounds (i.e. Saturday rounds) that have been washed out, heat out or abandoned – **all games** in that round will be abandoned. This includes any games from that round that had been rescheduled to another date in the season.

Abandoned or Washout/Heat out rounds overrule a forfeit – A forfeit will not stand if the full round is abandoned or washed out prior to the advertised start time of the round. All teams are allocated 2 points for the abandonment.

E.g. If an Open 3 team forfeits and then the 4:00pm time slot is abandoned or washed out prior to the advertised start time then the game will be classified as abandoned or washed out, not forfeited.

**Exception:** Forfeited night games will stand.

#### 2.2. Available Games

Available games are the number of fixtured games less any abandoned or washed out/heat out games.

#### 2.3. Balls

Open 1 and 2: Balls (.47 core, YELLOW) will be supplied by Waverley Softball Association (WSA). These will be the only balls used for Open 1 and 2 games.

Open 3 and 4: Official leather softballs (.47 core YELLOW). Each club is required to supply 2 balls each.

#### 2.4. Bench Allocation

For all Open grades the team listed as **Home** will occupy 3<sup>rd</sup> Base bench and field first; the team listed as **Away** will occupy 1<sup>st</sup> base bench and bat first.

#### 2.5. Bench Lists

Bench lists **must be** supplied to the umpire prior to the start of the game in all Open grades.

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### **2.6. Blocked Balls**

Where there is no home run fence or cones, the following shall apply:

- When a fair batted ball is blocked beyond 220 feet (or out of plate umpire's sight on D3), and the batter-runner has not yet touched home plate, the batter-runner and all other runners shall be awarded three (3) bases from the time of the pitch. If the batter-runner has touched home plate before the ball becomes blocked, then such a "4 base award" shall stand.

### **2.7. Cones**

To be used in Open 1 and 2 on diamond 3, 4 & 9. Cones will be placed at 220 feet. The following rules will apply:

- Ball going over cones on full – Ground rule home run
- Ball going past cones at 220ft – Ground rule 3 base hit
- Ball hitting cones – Ground rule 3 base hit

### **2.8. Designated Player (DP and Flex)**

Can be used in all Open grades as per Softball Australia Rule book 2018-2021.

### **2.9. Designated Runner (DR)**

Can be used in all Open grades. Designated Runner:

- "DESIGNATED RUNNER", referred to as a "DR", may be used for any base runner, once only in any offensive innings. Provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and the player's name is clearly indicated on the line-up card.
- The "DR" may be substituted for at any time by a player who then becomes the "DR". The substitute must be a player who has not been in the game.
- The normal substitute and re-entry rules and penalties apply.
- The Current "DR" may be used as a substitute on offence or defence, at which time the position of "DR" shall lapse and may not be reinstated.
- When the "DR" is used as a temporary runner (TR) with 2 out and a catcher is on base, then the DR is considered as being used.

#### **Notes:**

- A re-entry for the original DR is to be in the DR position only.
- If the original DR re-enters the DR position, the substitute DR (having been now replaced) is ineligible to re-enter the game.
- If the starting DR is not re-entered, they would not be eligible as a substitute.
- The current DR can be substituted into the line-up at any time.

### **2.10. Declaration Rule (Open 3 & 4 ONLY)**

In Open 3 or Open 4, the coach may declare only **ONCE** in a game by advising the umpire.

### **2.11. Double-Up Games**

Players may play in higher ranked grades on any number of occasions during the season (refer Rankings List). Refer also to finals eligibility.

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### **2.12. Ejections**

WSA will follow the SV Zero Tolerance Policy:

<http://assets.softball.org.au/dl/vic/Policy/Zero%20Tolerance.pdf>

In the event of a player, official or spectator being ejected from a game. The umpire who enforced the ejection shall also prepare a written report for **all ejections** and must be submitted to the Control Room for WSA Match Committee action.

### **2.13. Finals**

#### **2.13.1. Game Times**

Open 1 and 2: Game time for finals is to be seven (7) innings or to a result (tiebreak from 8th).

All other grades: Rules for finals are to be the same as played throughout the season but must be played to a result. In a timed game, if the score is tied at time, the innings should be completed. If still tied, a tiebreaker will be played at commencement of the next inning.

#### **2.13.2. Clarification of toss for finals (all grades)**

There is to be **no toss** in finals. The highest placed team has the choice of batting or fielding and must occupy the appropriate bench. In preliminary finals, the loser of Qualifying Final 1 has the choice of batting or fielding and must occupy the appropriate bench. In the Grand Final the team first into the grand final has the choice to bat or field and must occupy the appropriate bench. The higher ranked teams will be required to notify WSA Match Committee no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of their preference.

#### **2.13.3. Finals – Clarification of tiebreak rule**

If after the regular innings/time there is a tie, the team batting first begins the innings with a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The runner that goes onto 2<sup>nd</sup> is the player who will bat ninth in the tiebreak innings. The team batting second also receives a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the game is played like this until there is a result in equal innings. This is in accordance with Softball Australia Rules 2018-2021.

#### **2.13.4. Finals – Weather and Pandemic affected**

Only Grand Final games can be rescheduled due to a wash out. If a replay is not possible, the winner of the 1st Semi-Final will be declared the Premier. All other finals, if washed out, are to be determined by the ladder position at the end of the season.

Should no finals games be able to be played, due to weather or under the direction of the State Government and the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines, the team who finished on top of the ladder after home and away season will be declared the winner.

The team winning the Premiership in each grade shall be awarded a trophy, the nature of which shall be decided by the Association.

#### **2.13.5. Finals – 3 or 4 Team Competition**

In a 4-team competition, the team finishing 4th is automatically eliminated from Finals competition. The Finals format for a 3 or 4 team competition will then be as follows:

- **Game 1: Qualifying Final – Team 1 (on the ladder) v Team 2 (Saturday game)**
- **Game 2: Preliminary Final – Team 3 v Loser of Game 1 (Sunday game)**
- **Grand Final: Winner of Game 1 v Winner of Game 2.**

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**Note:** Should the Grand Final be washed out and not replayed, the winner of Game 1 shall be declared Premiers.

### 2.14. Forfeit

Forfeits count as available games for both teams. The team forfeited against may submit a player Bench List with the scorecard for the game. Player Bench List must be submitted on the day of the fixtured game that was forfeited or prior to the next fixtured game.

The team that forfeits records a **7-0 loss & \$100 fine**.

If the match committee receives notice of the forfeit by 5pm, 2 days before the game, no monetary fine will be incurred (e.g. Notification must be received by 5pm on a Thursday prior to a Saturday game that is to be forfeited).

Abandoned or Washout or Heat-out Rounds overrule forfeit – A forfeit will not stand if the full round is abandoned, washed or heat out, prior to the advertised start time of the round, e.g. if an Open 1 team forfeits and then the 4pm time slot is abandoned, washed or heat out prior to the advertised start time then the game will be classed as abandoned, washed or heat out not forfeited – **exception** forfeited night games will stand.

### 2.15. Fully Loaded Softball Rules

In 2019-2020 all Open 1-night games will be played under the Fully Loaded Softball format; that is all Saturday 6pm double headers and any weeknight games.

Rules can be found following this link: [Fully Loaded Softball Senior Rules](#)

### 2.16. Game Duration

Open 1 – (7) innings or **2 hours** (tiebreak if required). No 5-minute rule. Innings started prior to 2 hours must be completed for a further 15 minutes. No game is to exceed 2 hours 15 minutes. Tie break in 8<sup>th</sup> innings if time permits.

Open 2 – no new inning is to commence after **1 hour and 25 minutes**. No 5-minute rule. Ann innings started prior to 1 hour 25 minutes must be completed to a further 10 minutes. No game to exceed 1 hour 35 minutes. Tie break in 8<sup>th</sup> innings if time permits.

Open 3 and 4 – Play a maximum game time of **1 hour and 25 minutes**. No new innings to be started within 5 minutes of the scheduled completion of the game. This will allow additional time for COVID cleaning requirements in the 2020-2021 Season.

Juniors - as per SEMR Rules & Regulations:

- U12 mixed: 1 hour 10 minutes or seven (7) innings, whichever is completed first.
- Under 15 Girls and Boys: 1 Hour 15 minutes or seven (7) innings, whichever is completed first.
- Under 18 Girls and Boys: 1 Hour 20 minutes or seven (7) innings, whichever is completed first.

T-Ball – 1 hour only.

Time is taken from the **advertised** grade start time.

**Exception 1)** if a previous game overruns (as permitted for Open 1 and Open 2 above). If this happens a minimum of 20 minutes between games will be allowed and the advertised start time will be adjusted accordingly.





**Exception 2)** if the umpires are not present at the diamond at the game's scheduled start time, the start time will be established at the time that the umpires are present and ready to start the game.

**Exception 3)** if the game is stopped for sun a maximum of 10 minutes will be added to the game time.

**2.17. Harassment or Abuse of Junior and Green Shirt Umpires**

Where The Umpire in Chief, the Duty Umpire or their delegate, or a WSA Match Committee Official (in the absence if those previously mentioned) observes harassment or abuse of a junior or green shirt umpire, they may intervene to either issue a warning to, or eject the offender from the game, on behalf of the junior/green shirt umpire and in line with SV's Zero Tolerance Policy <http://assets.softball.org.au/dl/vic/Policy/Zero%20Tolerance.pdf>.

**2.18. Hats**

All junior players **under 18 years of age** are to wear a peaked cap while playing (in junior and/or senior grades). A visor is not considered to be a hat. Players will not be allowed to take the diamond without a hat. This rule also applies to any coaches and umpires who are Under 18 years old.

The only exception to this rule is where the junior player chooses to wear a protective face mask.

If a junior player is seen on the diamond without a hat, it is up to the opposing coach or WSA representative to speak with the coach of the offending player. If the player continues to disobey this rule, they will be deemed ineligible and will be required to be replaced by a substitute. Please also see the '**Penalties**' section for playing an ineligible player, if action is not taken by the coach.

**2.19. Helmets**

All members of the batting team must wear approved helmets when at bat and on base. All junior coaches (under 18 years of age) **must** wear helmets while on the diamond, bat boys/girls **must** wear helmets at all times, including while in the dugout. This applies to all diamonds.

**2.20. Ineligible Player Penalties**

Playing an ineligible player will automatically mean a loss of four (4) points if the team wins and these points will be allocated to the opposing team.

If the team loses, a fine of \$50 will apply for the first offence and \$100 for each subsequent offence.

**2.21. Intentional Walk**

Will ONLY apply in Open 1 as per Softball Australia Official Playing Rules 2018-2021.

**2.22. Interchange**

Where a club has more than one team entered in a grade, players cannot be interchanged between teams after they have played 2 games with any one team in the home and away games. Players playing up – after 5 games with any one team, they cannot interchange with the other team in that grade.

**2.23. Jewellery**

Refer to the Official Softball Australia Rulebook – Rule 3 Section 8g, and Effect Sec 8a-g.

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**Note:** *Players may be liable for any injury caused to themselves or another player by the wearing of jewellery.*

### **2.24. Lights**

May be used for any game/grade scheduled on Diamond 1 or Diamond 2 when requested by umpire.

### **2.25. Match Points**

4 points shall be awarded for each win, 2 points for a tied or abandoned match. In the event of a forfeit, 4 points will be awarded to the team NOT forfeiting and having an eligible team. For competitions with an uneven number of teams, the team with a bye in that round is awarded 4 points.

### **2.26. Metal Cleats**

Metal cleats may only be worn in Open 1 and Open 2.

### **2.27. New players during the season**

A registration must be lodged on the current national database, prior to the first game played by the new player. The player is then a member of the team with which she first played, unless the Waverley Registrar is informed otherwise before the player first takes the diamond.

### **2.28. Night Games**

The first named team of the first scheduled game is responsible for setting up the diamond. The second named team is to pack up the diamond. The first named team of the second game is responsible for locking up. **The team allocated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base bench is responsible for turning on the lights.**

### **2.29. Permits and Clearances**

- Internal WSA – player/coach/umpire/official must have permits approved on the National Database prior to their 1st game or they will be deemed ineligible.
- External Permits - The electronic permit process must be started (and approved by the home club as a minimum) on the National Database prior to their first game or they are deemed ineligible.
- Once a permit has been approved all WSA rules apply to that player/coach/umpire/official.
- All players/coaches/umpires/officials can only be registered with one club during a season.

#### **2.29.1 Inter Club Permit (ICP)**

- Temporary permit which a team can use to commence a game. This rule cannot be applied once a game has already started. This rule cannot be applied if a team has 9 or more of their own players in attendance.
- Open 2, Open 3 and Open 4 Grades ONLY
- MAXIMUM of 2 players per round per team. This can only be used during the Home & Away rounds (NO FINALS).
- Players MUST be registered to play within that grade. EG. a Open 1/2 registered player cannot fulfil an InterClub permit for Open 3.
- Eligibility and Award rules all apply to the individual player not the club as per standard permit rules. If the players using the ICP have grade stipulations they must adhere to within a grade these stipulations apply to any team they play for. Ineligibility rules apply here.
- Teams MUST mark on the Scorecard in 'registered grade' if a player has an InterClub Permit (ICP) and the club they come from.
- Coaches MUST advise the umpires at the start of the game of any ICP Players or the DUIC-Ops prior if possible.
- For example -

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- Team A v Team B - Team A have 15 players and Team B have 7 players -
- Team B can use an Intra Club permit to have 2 players from Team A play for them for that round.
- The Match Committee holds the right to withdraw the use of the ICP for any team who they feel are using it to disadvantage the competition or are consistently providing clubs with the same player on a weekly basis.

### **2.30. Pick Up Players for State Championships**

WSA registered players may play for other associations at State Championships but must meet the following requirements:

- All players must attend trials to be available for pick up. If a player has not trialed and wishes to play for another association they must submit an application in writing to the Rep Committee (E: [waverleyrepteams@gmail.com](mailto:waverleyrepteams@gmail.com)) with a reason for not trialling for WSA. The Rep Committee along with the WSA Executive will decide if the player is eligible to play as a pickup.
- The player's club must complete the 'Pick up Player Form' before WSA will approve the electronic request to allow them to compete. **Two weeks' notice must be given.**
- When State Championships are held at Waverley, the parents of any player being picked up by another Association will be required to assist with rostered duties as a condition of approval for pick-up.
- A maximum of only two WSA players will be released to each association for each State Championship.
- Permission to play with another association may be withdrawn if the player becomes required for WSA.
- There will be no restriction with regards to which grade WSA players may play at State Championships.

WSA will not be responsible for determining which players shall be released to play State Championships for other associations. This will be a matter for the player and the association to determine. Players will be released in order of application.

It would be appreciated however, if the associations notify WSA of their intention to speak with the players they have identified.

### **2.31. Players – Team Player Numbers**

Open 1 and 2: Full starting nine (9) players (10 with a DP) are necessary for a game to commence. (Can finish with 9 players if using a DP).

T-Ball: Play may start and finish with six (6) players. Eligible players becoming available during the game can be added and play the remainder of the game.

All other grades: Games may start and finish with no less than seven (7) players. If eligible players become available, they can be added to the team and play the remainder of the game.

If the game commences with fewer than 9 players (minimum 7 players):

- There is an automatic out for any blank in the line-up
- The blank may be listed anywhere in the line-up
- The blank must be listed as BLANK, not as a player name

### **2.32. Protests**

In the event of a protest occurring, it is preferable that:

- 1 senior umpire of SAL Accreditation level 3 or above or
- at least two umpires of SAL Accreditation Level 2 are responsible for hearing the protest at the time it is lodged.

If the protest cannot be heard immediately, a written protest must then be lodged. The game is to be played out to regulation. For the full procedure please refer to the Waverley Operating Manual.

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Protest forms can be obtained from the Control Room.

### **2.33. Protective Equipment**

Catchers must wear full regulation equipment both in the game and during warm up. A catcher taking warm-up pitches between innings must wear a face mask. This includes coaches.

### **2.34. Ranking List**

(1) Open 1	(2) Open 2	(3) Open 3	(4) U18
(5) Open 4	(6) U15	(7) U12	(8) T-Ball

### **2.35. Run Ahead Rule**

This rule will apply as per Softball Australia Official Playing Rules for Open 1 and Open 2.

#### **Ten (10) after 5 Run Rule:**

WSA Run Ahead Ground Rule of 10 runs after 5 innings will apply for Open 3 and Open 4.

### **2.36. Score Cards**

These must be completed in **alphabetical order**.

If a player is playing in a higher grade, their usual grade **must** be shown on the card. The umpire is to take the scorecard to the game. The Umpire is to organise the return of the scorecard to the Pavilion at the completion of the game.

### **2.37. Temporary Runner Rule**

If the next inning catcher is on base with two out, any runner (except any of the next 4 batters) may replace her as a base runner to enable the catcher to get ready for the fielding inning. The DR can be used for the Speed-up Rule (Temporary Runner) as long as they have not been used for another runner in the same innings. The DR **MUST** only run once per innings and can be for any runner. As per Softball Australia Official Playing Rules 2018-2021.

### **2.38. Uniforms**

All clubs are reminded of the WSA uniform policy. Please ensure that your teams are dressed appropriately. Umpires and match committee will report players or coaches who do not comply. **Umpires should note players/coaches not in uniform, on the scorecard.**

Breach of this rule by a player: - it is up to the opposing coach or WSA representative to speak with the coach of the offending player. If the player repeatedly disobeys this rule, they will be deemed ineligible and will be required to be replaced by a substitute. Please also see Section 2.20 for playing an ineligible player, if action is not taken.

### **2.39. Voting**

MVP voting for **Open 1 and Open 2** shall be awarded by Umpires. They shall complete the slip attached to the scorecard with the top three players in the game, ensuring that the **full names** and **teams** are clearly written.

MVP voting **Open 3 and Open 4** shall be awarded by the coaches. **They shall agree on the best three players on the diamond** and complete the voting slip, ensuring that players' and coaches' names and teams are clearly written. The **winning team** must return the voting slip to the control room.

MVP voting for **U15, U18 (SEMR)** all Waverley Softball Association registered players who play in the Junior SEMR competition will be eligible for the WSA Junior MVP awards. Voting will be based on the results from the SEMR voting system for each grade.

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The Awards shall be named as follows:

***Open 1 – Peta Edebone Medallion***

***Open 2 – Des Smith Medal***

***Open 3 – Peter Phillips Award***

***Open 4 – Leanne Thomas Award***

***U18 – Chas Holland-King Award***

***U15 – Arthur Allsopp Award***

### ***2.40. Warm Up Batting Practice***

All teams pre-game batting warm up **MUST** be undertaken using whiffle balls and/or foam balls.

### ***2.41. Winner of Game***

Rule 5 Sec. 5 (a): The score of a called regulation game shall be the score at the end of the last complete innings, unless the team second at bat **has scored more runs than the first team at bat in the incomplete inning**. In this case, the score shall be that of the incomplete inning. There is a flow chart in the control room that can be used to help determine the winner.

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### 3 Match Committee

In 2020–2021 the Match Committee will take carriage of all aspects of running the Waverley Softball Association competition.

All requests regarding player eligibility, permission to play or similar requests **MUST** be submitted in writing a minimum of 48 hours **PRIOR** to fixture game start time. Issues such as these will only be addressed by the Match Committee and approval will not be given 'on the spot'.

Any player/coach or umpire reports will be dealt with through the Match Committee at a tribunal with Umpire and WSA Executive representatives as required.

#### Match Committee Members

Name	Position
Donna Scammell**	WSA Rep Coordinator
Carolyn Di Paola**	WSA Registrar
Mili Cohen**	WSA COVID Officer
Sue Mercuri**	Independent
<b>If Required:</b>	
Greg Brown	Independent
Heather Webb	WSA President

All correspondence to the Match Committee should be directed via email to:  
[wsamatchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:wsamatchcommittee@gmail.com)

### 4 Umpire Feedback Form

This form is available for use by teams who wish to provide feedback about umpiring during their game, but who are unable to provide their feedback directly to the UIC.

Feedback needs to be **specific** and **supportive**. Any submissions that do not meet these criteria will be rejected. The following information needs to be on the Form: - Umpire name, the Date/Time/Diamond/Grade for the game and their Plate or Line umpiring position.

Forms should be handed in to the Control Room – they will then be provided to the UIC. The UIC is not obliged to follow up or respond to the Club providing the feedback.

### 5 Heat Policy & Procedures

Waverley Softball Association Heat Policy will be applied to all games managed under the Waverley Softball Association. For SEMR (junior) games please see below.

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**Note:** If one game in a round is called off due to excessive temperatures, all games being played at that time will also be abandoned. Once a game commences it shall conclude according to the rules of the competition.

### 6 Version Control

Version	Section(s) affected	Changes	Date
V1	All	Updated all sections to reflect current ground rules.	24/09/2019
V1.1		Updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 5 - 2.1 Abandoned Game - the 3/5th of games times are Open 1 (72 mins), Open 2 (51 mins), Open 3 and 4 (45 mins).</li> <li>• Page 7 - 2.14 Forfeit Fines - increased to \$100</li> <li>• Page 7 - 2.17 Changed Umpire Coordinator to Duty Umpire</li> <li>• Page 7 - 2.13.5 Removed "1st" from 1st Qualifying Final</li> <li>• Page 9 - 2.32 Protests - changed ASL to SAL</li> <li>• Added Version Control as new heading</li> </ul>	25/09/2019
V2	All	Creation of the 2020-2021 Season Rules Manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P14 - Update Match Committee</li> <li>• P8 - 2.16 - change of game duration for O3 &amp; O4</li> <li>• P5 - 2.3 - Change of number of balls supplied for O3 &amp; O4</li> </ul>	18/11/2020
V2.1	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change 17U to U18 as per SEMR</li> <li>- Change U14 to U15 as per SEMR</li> </ul>	25/11/2020
V2.1	Finals & Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P7 - 2.13.4 - Inclusion of Pandemic information for finals</li> <li>• P10 - 2.29.1 - Inclusion of a new Inter Club Permit Rule</li> <li>• P14 - Update Match Committee</li> </ul>	26/11/2020