



GEELONG SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

BYLAWS

Adopted at the
23 September 2012 GSA Board meeting

Geelong Softball Association Inc - By-Laws

Revised September 2012

Contents

1.	DEFINITIONS	3
2.	MEMBERSHIP	3
3.	ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATIONS	3
4.	GOVERNMENT	4
5.	DUTIES OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY	5
6.	DUTIES OF THE HONORARY TREASURER	5
7.	PORTFOLIOS	6
8.	SELECTION COMMITTEE	8
9.	DISPUTES AND PROTEST COMMITTEE	9
10.	SPECIAL COMMITTEES	9
11.	DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR	10
12.	ADVERSE WEATHER COMMITTEE	10
13.	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	11
14.	RECOGNITION OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE	11
15.	FINANCIAL	13
16.	TRANSFER OF PLAYERS	13
17.	REGISTRATIONS	15
18.	PENALTIES, SUSPENSION ETC.	16
19.	PREMIERSHIP	17
20.	SENIOR GRADING MATCHES	21
21.	MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES.	21
22.	FORFEITS	22
23.	UMPIRES	23
24.	INTER-ASSOCIATION GAMES	24
25.	JUNIOR COMPETITION	25
26.	LOCAL GROUND AND PLAYING RULES.	26
27.	BY-LAWS	28

NOTE - Additions and amendments to these By-Laws were adopted by resolution of a majority at a committee meeting held on:

24th August 1992
15th September 1992
13th February 1995
24th July 1995
23 September 2012

1. DEFINITIONS

- a) The definitions contained under interpretations in the Geelong Softball Association Rules (hereafter the Rules) shall apply to these By-Laws.
- b) Association means Geelong Softball Association Incorporated.
- c) Officer means Officer of the Geelong Softball Association Inc.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Association Membership shall consist of:

- a) Officers of the Association as stated in the rules, notwithstanding that members of one Club should not form a majority of officers and that not more than two members of one immediate family be officers of the Association.
- b) Affiliated Clubs and members thereof.
- c) Associate Associations and members thereof.
- d) Life Members.
- e) Public Officer.
- f) All players, coaches, managers, umpires, delegates and other interested persons shall be registered with the Association.

3. ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATIONS

- a) Any softball umpires association or other non-playing associations may be admitted as an Associate Association. The constitution and rules of all associate associations must be approved of, and endorsed by, the officers before admission. Any alteration to the accepted constitution must be approved by the officers before coming into operation.
- b) All associate associations shall submit a report to the Annual General Meeting of the Geelong Softball Association Inc.
- c) No executive member of/or official of any other Softball Association shall be eligible for election as an officer of the Association. Appointment to any sub committee would be upon application to the Officers of the Association.

4. GOVERNMENT

i. Officers of the Association

- a) The Officers shall meet on such day and at such time as may be determined by resolution of the officers.
- b) The Officers shall select representative team coaches, managers, scorers, and any other officials deemed necessary to accompany representative teams.
- c) Appointment of selection and disputes protest committee shall be as a result of nominations received in writing or approached by the Officers of the Association prior to commencement of the softball season.

ii. Committee

- i. As members are deemed to be financial members of the association until October 21st of each year. Any club failing to be represented by a registered member of that club at the Annual General Meeting and committee meetings from the date set for the Annual General Meeting, may be **fined \$50-00**, unless intention **not** to participate in the coming season is receiving in writing.
- ii. Such fine to be **paid on or before** the next meeting. If such fine were not paid as provided, the club shall forfeit its right to be represented until such fine is paid as hereinafter provided. Apologies will not preclude the offending club from incurring the fine.
- iii. The roll call shall be called from the roll book at the beginning of general business.

iii. STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Association shall be:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two to Six Other Members

The officers of the Association shall be appointed to be responsible for one or more portfolios. These persons are able to co-opt other members to assist with their portfolios. Portfolios to include, but not limited to the following:

- Minute Secretary
- Recorder
- Coaching
- Scoring
- Senior Players
- Administration/VSA
- Junior Committee
- Media/Press Correspondent
- Draw
- Tournament Teams
- Umpiring
- Electronic Media
- Fundraising

5. DUTIES OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY

The Honorary Secretary shall:

- a) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.
- b) Perform the clerical work of the Association and carry out all directions given at meetings of the Association and Committees.
- c) Receive all Protests.
- d) Carry out any instructions that may be forthcoming from the Association at any time.

6. DUTIES OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

The Honorary Treasurer shall:

- a) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible and if not present, arrange for an updated report to be presented to members.
- b) Keep a true and correct account of all monies received and expended by the association and of matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure takes place.
- c) Receive all monies and pay same to the credit of the Geelong Softball Association Inc. at a Geelong branch of any financial institution decided upon by the Association.

- d) Pay all accounts and advances passed by the Association. All cheques must be signed by any two of the following:
 - President;
 - Vice President;
 - Honorary Secretary; and or
 - Honorary Treasurer.
- e) Submit a statement showing the financial position of the Association at Association meetings and as the officers may direct
- f) Keep a record of all monies due to the Association by clubs and Association, and render accounts for same.
- g) Present a copy of respective balance sheets, duly certified, at the Annual General meeting of the Association.

7. PORTFOLIOS

A sub-committee may be appointed at any time to a portfolio by the officers of the Association to assist all/any of the positions of the Officers of the Association.

The Portfolios to include the following duties:

i. DUTIES OF THE MINUTE SECRETARY

- a) The Minute secretary is to keep a true and correct record of minutes and resolutions passed by the Association at all duly constituted meetings.
- b) To assist the honorary secretary in all the duties of that office as far as possible.

ii. DUTIES OF THE RECORDER

- a) To receive all match results.
- b) To record all team registrations and clearances.
- c) To prepare premiership tables.
- d) Record match player gradings.
- e) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.

iii. DUTIES OF THE COACHING COMMITTEE

- a) Duties as directed by Association Secretary relating to coaching.
- b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.

iv. DUTIES OF THE SCORING COMMITTEE

- a) Duties as directed by Association Secretary relating to scoring.
- b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.

v. DUTIES OF THE SENIOR PLAYERS COMMITTEE

- a) Duties as directed by Association Secretary relating to Senior Players.
- b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.

vi. DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATION/VSA COORDINATOR

- a) Duties as directed by Association Secretary relating to Administration/VSA Coordinator
- b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.

vii. DUTIES OF THE JUNIOR COMMITTEE/CO-ORDINATOR

- a) The Junior committee shall consist of a representative from ALL junior clubs, all of whom are registered members of the Association. Monthly meetings are to be held during the season, and a true and correct record of minutes to be presented to Board/delegates meetings. A chairperson is to be appointed by the officers of the Association.
- b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.
- c) Duties as directed by the Association relating to the running of junior competition

viii. DUTIES OF THE MEDIA/PRESS CORRESPONDENT

- a) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.
- b) Collate all information pertaining to the upcoming games as well as results and information upon completion of games. Arrange publication of same with the local newspaper and/or media.
- c) Duties as directed by the Association relating to media issues pertaining to the Association and its members. This may include impending or past games/events/issues relating directly or indirectly to Geelong softball.

ix. DUTIES OF TOURNAMENT TEAM CO-ORDINATOR

- a) Duties as directed by Association Secretary relating to tournament teams.
- b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.

x. DUTIES OF THE DRAW & SENIOR PLAYER CO-ORDINATOR

- a) Duties as directed by the Association relating to senior player competitions;
- b) b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible.

xi. DUTIES OF AN UMPIRES COMMITTEE/COORDINATOR

- a) Duties as directed by the Association relating to umpiring;
- b) Attend all meetings of the Association, if possible .

8. SELECTION COMMITTEE

- a) Nominations will be called for the positions of Senior selection committee and Junior selection committee one month prior to the commencement of the softball season.
- b) The Junior selection committee is to be appointed from a panel, consisting of one registered member from each of the junior clubs. There is to be a minimum of three people from this panel along with the coach/coaches of the respective representative teams.

The Senior selection committee is to consist of the appointed coach/coaches of the representative team along with one independent selector, appointed by the Officers of the Association.

- c) The president, in the role as chairperson of selectors shall not have a vote on selections unless it is a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- d) Nominations for selector positions will be called for one month prior to the commencement of the season.
- e) If insufficient nominations are received for these committees, the officers of the Association will have the power to co-opt extra selectors up to the required number.
- f) The selection committee will select the teams for relevant representative commitments at the instruction of the officers of the Association.

- g) Should there not be enough players eligible to hold player selections, all eligible players may nominate themselves and the selection committee will be responsible for the selection of the final team.
- h) In the event that there are not enough eligible Geelong players available, permit players may be approached to fill the positions as per VSA Rules and Regulations.

9. DISPUTES AND PROTEST COMMITTEE

- a) A protest and disputes committee will be appointed by the officers of the Association as a result of nominations called by the secretary one month prior to commencement of the softball season.
- b) The protest committee shall consist of five members, all of whom are to be appointed by the officers of the Association. This committee will hear protests arising during matches on the rules of the game. At least three members of this committee are required to hear a protest and their decisions shall be recorded and shall refer to the appropriate law of softball.
- c) The disputes committee shall consist of five members, three of whom are to be appointed by the officers of the Association and the remaining two are to include the Senior Vice President (who shall act as Chairperson with the power of a casting vote if required) and one other member of the current Board of the Association. Should the Senior Vice President be directly involved, then the officers of the Association may elect a “replacement” chairperson.
- d) The disputes committee will hear disputes arising from games other than protests, and any other matters that from time to time come before the officers of the Association.
- e) Any party to a dispute shall have right to appeal to the officers. All appeals must be in writing and delivered to the Association within (3) three days from the disputes committee hearing and deciding the dispute.
- f) VSA Judiciary Regulations to apply:

http://victoria.softball.org.au/_uploads/res/5975_64785.pdf

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees may be appointed at any time by the Association to consider and report on any question that may be referred to them, and the number to constitute a quorum and the number to be appointed to such committee shall be determined on each occasion by the officers.

11. DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR

- a) To audit the accounts of the Association.
- b) To submit a report in writing on the audit of the Association accounts to the president of the Association before the Annual General Meeting.

12. ADVERSE WEATHER COMMITTEE

Shall consist of a committee of (3) three, being two of the officers of the Association and one grounds person with power to co-opt.

- a) Governed by “Duty of Care”, the committee has the right to cancel junior and/or senior matches affected through weather conditions. For juniors, the cancellation is to be reported over the local radio station and advise all electronic media 2 hours prior to commencement time where possible. For seniors, the cancellation is to be announced (1) one hour prior to time of play where possible.
- b) Saturdays/Sundays. If the weather forecast is 36 Degrees Cel. or higher 1 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the game, that timeslot will be cancelled.
- c) Mid-Week for Juniors. If at 3pm the current temperature is 36 Degrees Cel., the matches scheduled that evening are to be cancelled.
- d) Mid Week for Seniors. If the current temperature is 36 Degrees Cel. or higher 1 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the game, that timeslot will be cancelled.

An attempt must be made to contact each club secretary in the first instance and failing that, the club coach/President. If a full round of matches cannot be played due to weather conditions, the round will be cancelled.

For Senior competition should some games take place, the remainder of the games shall be played:

- a) before the end of the next round at a time agreed on by the teams and the officers of the Association.
- b) If during the week prior to finals – games must be played within 72 hours of scheduled game.
- c) Should the teams not be in agreeance, the officers of the Association will appoint a suitable time. Failure to comply, will result in a loss recorded against the team unable to fulfill this commitment. If both teams do not comply to the Association’s time, no points will be awarded to either team.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) The Association shall in May of each calendar year convene an Annual General Meeting of its members in accordance with the rules of the Association.
- b) The Honorary Secretary shall give not less than (14) fourteen days notice in writing to officers, Life Members and clubs and any Associate Associations of such Annual meetings.
- c) Of the members attending each club shall be represented by at least (1) one member who shall have (1) one vote, and Associate Association shall be represented by (1) one person who shall not be eligible to vote. The officers present shall also have (1) vote.
- d) The quorum for such meeting shall include representatives from at least half the clubs of the previous season.
- e) Life members provided that they do not exceed one-half of the number of committee persons present are entitled to (1) one vote each.
- f) Life members shall have all the privileges of a member of the Association with the exception where if it happens, that Life members present, number more than half of committee members present a ballot is to be taken among the Life members to reduce their number voting to the required number.

14. RECOGNITION OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

i. Life Members

- a) Nominations for Life Membership of the Association shall be in writing and shall be signed by (2) two members of the Association, as per (Rule 7 (g) (I)).
- b) The nomination shall contain written details of the qualifications, which support the nomination according to the criteria set down in these By-Laws.
- c) Life Member nominations must be received by the end of January of the current season. The Board will then consider these nominations and acceptance must be by a three-fourths majority. The nomination is voted on at the February Board meeting and, if accepted, will then be presented at the following presentation day/night.

- d) A resolution to admit a nominee to Life Membership of the Association shall be approved by three-fourths majority of those present at the Annual General Meeting and entitled to vote.
- e) A Life member shall be presented with a medal and trophy bearing the insignia of the Association as approved.
- f) A life member shall be eligible for election or appointment as a member of any sub committee and such shall have the right to vote on that such committee. They are entitled to (1) one vote as such. Life members shall not vote in a dispute in which their club is concerned.
- g) The criteria for eligibility for consideration as a Life member of Association shall be that the nominee shall have been:
 - i. Active in the sport of Softball as a member of the Association for a period of at least (10) ten years and:
 - ii. Over that time rendered exceptional service including serving as an officer of the association; and
 - iii. Be recognised as a person who has consistently worked for the ultimate good of softball as a first priority above any personal goals.
- h) Made a contribution to Softball in Geelong of such value that there is a desire by the Association to retain a lifetime Association with that person.

ii. Service Award

- a) Nominations for the Service Award of the Association shall be in writing and shall be signed by (2) two members of the Association, as per Rule 7 (g) (ii). The nomination shall contain written details of the qualifications, which support the nomination according to the criteria set down in these By-Laws.
- b) Service award nominations must be received by the end of January of the current season. The Board will then consider these nominations and acceptance must be by a three-fourths majority. The nomination is voted on at the February Board meeting and, if accepted, will then be presented at the following presentation day/night.
- c) A resolution to grant the Service Award shall be approved by a majority of three-fourths of members present at the Annual General Meeting and entitled vote.
- d) A recipient of the Award shall be presented with a memento bearing the insignia of the Association.

- e) The criteria for eligibility for consideration for the Service Award shall be that the nominees shall have been:
 - i. Active in the sport of Softball as a member of the Association for a period of at least (10) ten years, and;
 - ii. Over that time rendered noteworthy service to the sport in one or more capacities, and ;
 - iii. Be recognised as a person who has consistently worked for the ultimate good of Softball as a first priority above any personal goals.

15. FINANCIAL

a) Special Accounts

All Special Levies, and/or other monies set aside by the Association for specific purpose shall be kept by separate entry for that purpose.

b) Expenses

The Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary shall have the power on behalf of the Association to expend a sum not exceeding \$200-00 for the immediate expense without authority, subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Association.

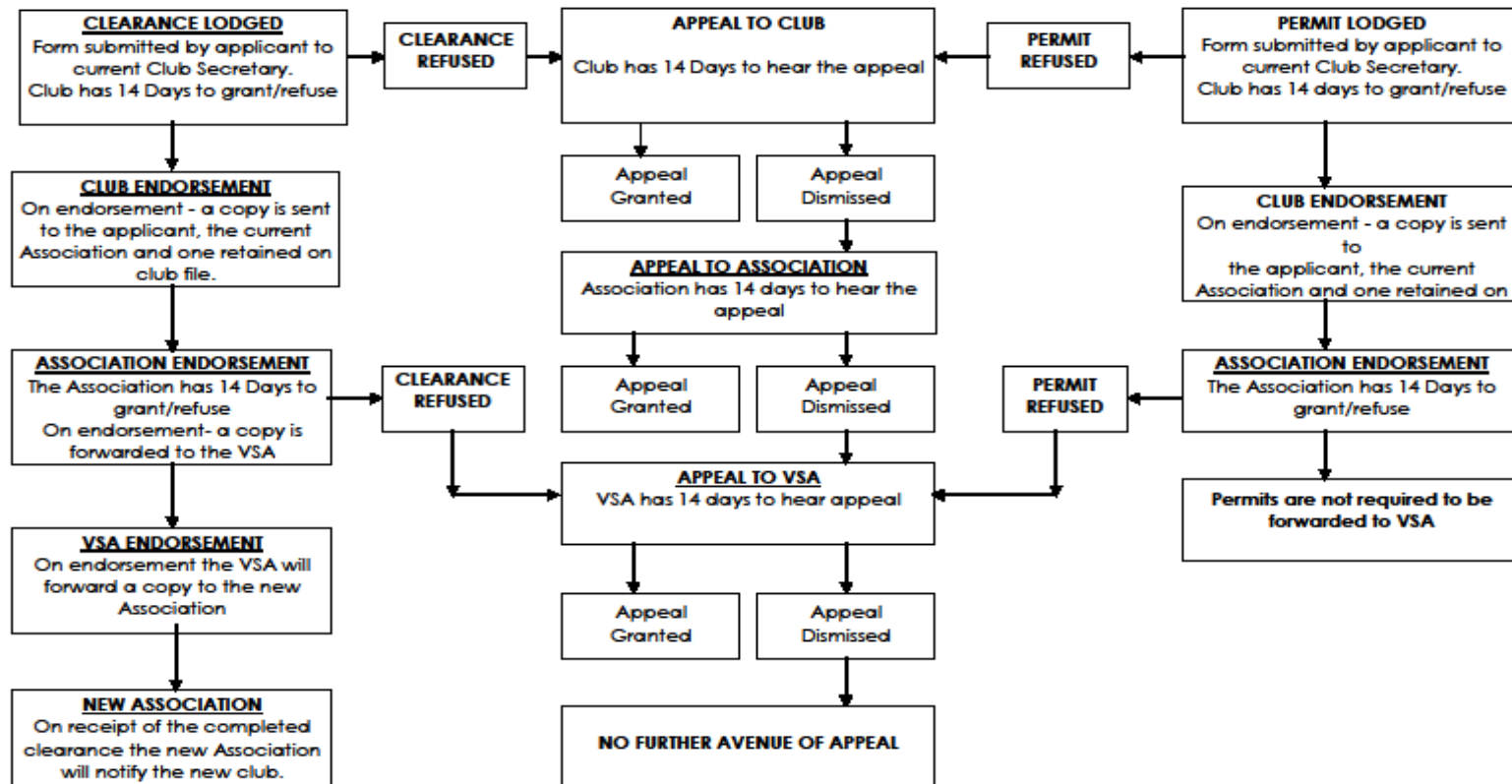
c) Liability of the Association

The Association will not be responsible for any debts incurred by affiliated clubs and no person shall incur any expense to the Association unless with the **written consent** of the Association or as herein before provided.

16. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

Form to be completed and submitted by applicant as per current Softball Victoria – Clearance/Permit Procedure (2011 sample attached)

Softball Victoria - Clearance/Permit Procedure.



- (a) All clearance forms must be signed by the player and the relevant club official.
- (b) An appeal against the refusal of a clearance shall be made in writing within (7) seven days. Having received notice in writing (48) forty-eight hours prior to the meeting of the appeal, any party who fails to appear, a decision will be made in favour of the other party. Any player U/18 must have an adult representative in attendance.
- (c) After a player has not played for a period of (3) three calendar years, she/he shall automatically have an open clearance.
- (d) Players of disbanded and recessed clubs to make application to the Association Honorary Secretary for permission to play with another club.
- (e) Inter Association Permit players who enter the competition after the 30th November must play a minimum of four (4) games to be eligible to play in the finals
- (f) Should a player take part in a game without a Permit or Clearance, the offending team shall forfeit all premiership points earned in that game or incur a fine of \$50 if points are not gained in the game in which the player took part.
- (g) Applications for permits are to be in possession of the Honorary Secretary or a member of the executive prior to scheduled time of play, on which the player wishes to participate.

Each Senior side shall be allowed to field no more than four (4) inter-Association Permit players.

- (i) Inter-Association Permit players must be nominated prior to the commencement of the game and if more than four (4), the game shall be forfeited.
- (ii) Each team will be allowed to register (5) five only Inter-Association Permit players.
- (iii) Inter-Association players or teams who wish to enter, as a team in their own right will be allowed to do so at the discretion of the officers of the Association.

17. REGISTRATIONS

- (a) Each club Secretary shall submit to the Association recorder by the registered date set by the officers:

- (i) The list of players and officials to be registered for the upcoming season on the appropriate form.
 - (ii) Dates of Birth of all players with proof of age for U/18 members.
 - (iii) Player registration fees to be paid prior to the player taking the diamond for their third (3rd) game, accompanied by the relevant registration forms.
- (a) Each new club applying for admission shall state in writing, at least one month prior to commencement of the season, the particulars of its uniform, club rules and By-Laws which must be approved by the Association before being adopted. At this time, indication of Incorporation must be presented.
 - (c) Casual Player. A new player can apply for casual player permission to enable them to participate on a casual arrangement. The player must pay a game fee which includes insurance costs. This arrangement can apply for up to and including 2 games. Prior to taking the field in the third game the player must pay full registration fees to Geelong Softball Association.
 - (d) Penalty for playing an **Unregistered** player is a fine of \$50-00 (and match points for the game the penalty occurred in, if the fine is not paid in the allotted time frame.)

Appeals are to be in writing within (7) seven days of the offence to the officers of the Association in extenuating circumstances.

- (i) All players in a senior round should be in registered uniform after participating in their (3rd) third playing game. Uniforms and numbers to be clearly displayed. Failure to do so and detection by the recorder via score cards, will result in a fine of \$50-00. Exemption only applies after written permission has been granted.
- (ii) Registered uniform for all Clubs to be sent in writing to the Association secretary. Once approval is granted by delegates and offices of the Association, any proposed change are to be sent in writing to the officers to be accepted.

18. PENALTIES, SUSPENSION ETC.

- a) Persons under Suspension or Disqualification by the Association or whose Suspension or Disqualification has been endorsed by it, shall be barred from playing or taking part in any match played under control of the Association. Penalty for infringement –the officers of the Association reserve the right to increase the penalty.
- b) Any Club or Association under Suspension shall forfeit all rights and privileges held under or in the Association or its property. Its delegates shall cease to act and shall not be entitled to attend any meeting of the Association. Its members shall be debarred by the officers of the

Association from taking part in any match played under the Auspices of the Association.

- c) Any Club or member of a club represented or affiliated with the Association which is within the ambit of its power shall be liable to Suspension or Disqualification by the officers of the Association or such other penalty as the Association may determine.
- d) Any club or player Suspended by an Association or club shall have the right of appeal to the officers. The officers reserve the right to retain or increase or reduce any penalty imposed on clubs or players. The appeal must be lodged within (7) seven days of notification of appeal to the Honorary Secretary of the Association and must be in writing and heard within (48) forty eight hours of receipt.
- e) Upon a decision, the officers of the Association are to immediately notify Victorian Softball Association of player/s or persons disqualifications.

19. PREMIERSHIP

The method of determining the Premiership for each year shall be as follows:

- (a) In all matches, except Tee ball, the following points will be allocated:

4 Points for a Win,
2 Points for a Draw
0 Points for a Loss
0 Points for a Bye

The position of the team shall be determined by the percentage and the points scored.

- (b) Final Series

- i. In the event of any teams tying at the conclusion of the home and away series of matches, the position of such teams will be determined by the proportion of runs scored For and Against each team.
- ii. Should a tied game occur at even innings in a finals game, or completed 7 innings, the tie break rule is to be played.
- iii. In the event of no game taking place in any final, the team who finished highest on the ladder will go through to the next final. Should no games be able to be played, the team who finished on top of the ladder after home and away games will be declared the winner.
- iv. The team winning the Premiership in each grade shall be awarded a trophy, the nature of which shall be decided by the Association.

- v. No Premiership side lower than Division One shall be allowed more than (6) six players of the Premiership team be on the diamond at one time next season. In the event of the Association having only one competition, this rule will not apply.
 - a. Penalty : \$50-00 Fine (and four match points if fine not paid in time frame.)
 - b. Juniors must be 13 and over to play senior womens competition.
- vi. All players must play (3) three games with their club during the season to qualify for the finals. In the event of a washout, a player has right of appeal in writing to the officers if this determines on her/his qualification. This appeal must be tendered within 48 hours from the declared washout round.
- vii. Players playing a majority of games in any one Senior Division with the Club whom registered with, cannot play in a lower senior division Final Series.
 - a. Players playing an equal number of senior games in more than one Senior Division with the Club whom registered with, are deemed to be qualified in the higher Senior Division.
- viii. In the event of a registered player wishing to play in a higher Division than their registered Club can provide, the player can apply for an Intra-Club permit for one season. This would enable the player to participate in two senior divisions, provided the divisions were played on different days. Minimum of (3) three games to be played in permitted team.
- ix. Any player who has played in a senior team on the round before such senior team has a bye, shall not be eligible to play on a lower senior division on the round on which the senior team has a bye, with the exception that:
 - (i) A player 13 years and over may participate in any senior division at any time, provided that such player may participate in only one senior match in any one round of matches unless the substitute rules in Section 26 applies.
In the event of Final series, once the player 13 and over entry level in the finals is started, they cannot play in a lower grade.
 - (ii) A senior player who has played in a higher division on the occasion of a bye in such player's regular division, will be entitled to return to that regular division in the following rounds of matches, regardless of a bye which may occur on the higher division.

(iii) For the purpose of paragraph (ii), Senior player's regular division shall be determined If less than three (3) rounds of matches have been played by the division in which such player was registered at the start of the season; or

- (c) Where the senior player has participated in an equal number of games in two divisions, the regular division will be deemed to be the higher division.

PENALTY The team in which the ineligible player participated shall lose (4) four match points or a fine as determined by the officers of the Association.

- (d) All senior teams within the Association, irrespective of division / club teams having more than one team be all governed by the same by-law as above 19 (viii) with one exception:

That should (2) two teams of one club participate in the Final Series in (one grade), same division, players shall be deemed to play with the team which they played the first final match.

- (e) Any club with (2) two sides in one division, excluding Tee ball, must name (5) five players in each team who cannot be moved from team to team. This must be done after six completed rounds separating the players by the majority of games in either team A or team B.

- (f) The duration of the game shall be one hour and 20 minutes with a 5/10 minute rule. The 5/10 minute rule means that no new innings will start with 5 minutes or less to go at the end of even innings and that when an innings starts you have a maximum 10 minutes past the one hour 20 minutes to complete the innings.

At one hour 30 minutes the game is ended irrespective of whether both innings are completed. The score of the game shall then be the score at the end of the last complete innings, unless the team second at bat have scored more runs than the team first at bat in the incomplete innings. In this case the score shall be that of the incomplete innings.

- (g) The score of a regulation game shall be the score at the end of the last completed innings unless the team second at bat has scored more runs than the first team at bat in the incomplete innings. In this case, the score shall be that of the incomplete inning.

(Reference - Rule 5 Section 4 (a) Rule Book)

- (h) At least two (2) completed innings shall constitute a game.

- (i) (5) Five Minute Rule.
When equal innings are completed with less than five (5) minutes remaining to scheduled finish of the game, the next innings shall not commence and “time and game” will be called by the umpire.
- (j) Division (1) one grand finals will be (7) seven innings, and other Divisions will be (1) hour and (30) minutes or as determined by the Association. In the event of one only division, it will be 7 innings.
- (k) Competing teams must supply (1) one leather ball per match, such balls to be approved by the umpire, this does not necessarily mean a new ball each match.
- (l) The Mercy Rule or (10) Ten Run Rule.
In all games, including Finals, the game shall be called if a team is (15) fifteen runs ahead after (3) three innings,(10) ten runs ahead after (4 four innings or seven (7) runs ahead after 5 innings..
- (m) Declaration Rule.
In all games, including finals, the batting team may declare their innings closed. The batting team may declare at any time, but only once during the game.
- (n) Catcher Rule.
When a player, who will take the field in the immediate next defensive inning as the catcher, is on base, and there are (2) two out, a runner (but not the DR) may replace that player. The intent is to hasten the change over of innings. Time should be called by the offensive team and the plate umpire advised of the changeover.
- (o) Designated Runner
 - (i) a designated runner may be used during the game for any base runner.
 - (ii) the DR must be named on the official report card, and must be named on the bench list prior to submission to the umpire.
 - (iii) the DR may not otherwise enter the game either defensively or offensively.
 - (iv) A DR may only enter the game once per innings.
 - (v) Should a DR enter the game for a second time in any innings, said player shall be ejected.
 - (vi) Should the DR enter the game after the line-up has been submitted, they shall be declared an illegal player, and be ejected from the game.
 - (vii) Should a DR illegally re-enter the game, then both the coach (whose name appears on the line up card) and said player are ejected.

- (p) In the event of a Club having to withdraw a team during the season it must be the Club's lowest team in wither Senior or Junior sections, unless otherwise as determined by the officers. A team may be entered after the start of the season at the discretion of the officers of the Association.

20. SENIOR GRADING MATCHES

- (a) The first (3) three playing matches of the season shall be used as grading matches. After (3) three matches, the officers of the Association will have the right to place teams in the grades they feel are appropriate.

Clubs entering sides shall abide by the officer's decision.

- (b) Clubs which elect not to play (3) three grading matches shall then forfeit the rights to enter that side.
- (c) Divisions which gain teams by regrading after the third round shall recommence points and percentage from zero.

Divisions losing teams will not be effected, unless a bye was involved in the original draw, then teams will recommence points and percentage from zero.

- (d) New team entries received after grading matches are completed will be admitted and graded initially at the discretion of the executive and then be subjected to the normal grading period of (3) three matches.
- (e) In the event of one open division, no grading matches will apply.

21. MATCH RESPONSIBILITIES.

- (a) The team occupying **First Base Bench** will be responsible for filling in scorecards by the completion of the game. The team occupying **First Base Bench** shall write the full names and uniform numbers of both teams on the back of the score card prior to the game and on such list additional players who take part in the game shall be added. The card shall be completed with Final scores and passed to the umpire for his/her report.

The umpire shall then place the completed score card and Best and Fairest vote envelope in the nominated box at the conclusion

of the game. The umpire's report card shall be the official record of the match and list of players participating therein. Scores shown thereon shall be the official match record.

- (b) For home and home games and Semi-final games, each team is responsible for match fees, which must be paid as agreed by the GSA Board as set at the start of each season.. Match fees for the Grand Final game shall be borne by this Association.
- (c) At the completion of the last game for the day/evening on the diamond, the team occupying **Third base bench** is responsible for returning the equipment to the property room. Failure to return the equipment to the satisfaction of the officers, results in a \$50-00 fine.
- (d) Cleaning of clubrooms

All clubs will be required to complete clubroom duty as rostered and duties include:

- Empty all bins in clubrooms
- Clean Toilet areas
- Sweep and Mop Floors if necessary
- Other duties as advised by the officers.

Failure to complete the last round responsibilities, will result in a fine of \$50-00.

22. FORFEITS

- (a) Notice of intention to give a forfeit must be given to the Honorary Secretary of the Association and the opposing club at least 24 hours prior to the game concerned. Failing this such club shall be responsible for the full amount of the match fees. Any team giving (2) two forfeits in succession or (3) three forfeits during the season, shall be dealt with by the officers.
- (b) A team receiving a notified forfeit must name between (7) seven and nine (9) registered players.. The Registrar is to be notified within 48 hours from the completion of the scheduled game time. The scorecard is to be obtained from the office by a club representative by the completion of the match for which the forfeit was received. Failure to comply with the above, will exclude the allocation of premiership and percentage points of 7-0 to the team receiving the forfeit.

- (c) A team receiving a forfeit on the diamond must name between (7) seven and nine (9) registered players on the scorecard prior to scheduled completion time of the match and return same to the office. Failure to comply with the above will exclude the allocation of premiership and percentage points of 7-0 to the team receiving the forfeit.

23. UMPIRES

Umpires Duties - (In addition to those contained within SAL Rules and regulations.

- (a)
 - (i) Plate umpires to arrive at playing diamond at an appropriate time prior to commencement of match.
 - (ii) Plate umpires **must wear protective mask**, body shield, shin guards and appropriate footwear.
 - (iv) Plate umpires shall be solely responsible for ensuring the score card and scores are correctly completed before affixing their signature to the card.
- (b)
 - (i) All senior teams must supply a line umpire as printed in draw and team obligations as supplied by the officers of the Association.
 - (ii) This requirement operates on teams which have a bye or have received a forfeit, notified or otherwise, or which have given a forfeit, notified or otherwise.
 - (iii) Line umpires must report to plate umpire (5) five minutes prior to scheduled time of commencement of the game. Failure of a line umpire to complete their commitment may result in a fine of \$25-00 (and risk 2 match points of his/.her team if fine has not been paid within the specified time frame).
 - (iv) Line umpires name and club to be legible on the score card.
- (c) Prior to the commencement of the season, each senior team shall nominate a person from each club who may be rostered for plate umpiring duties by the umpires coordinator, A club shall not be permitted to participate in any division until these nominations are submitted.

(d) Club Plate Umpires:

- (i) Club plate umpires must report to game at an appropriate time prior to scheduled time of commencement of game.
- (iii) Failure for complete non-attendance - \$50-00 fine and risk of loss of (4) four match points if fine not paid within time frame.

Non-Club Plate Umpires

A non-club plate umpire failing to attend a designated match shall be subject to disciplinary action by the disputes committee.

- (e) An umpires committee shall select umpires each week and notify the individuals. A copy to be given to all clubs and published on the notice board of the club rooms.
- (f) Teams will be at the specified diamond for the game. Teams and officials to go to the benches according to the draw. First named will go to first base bench, and therefore will bat first in the game.

Every team will be given (10) ten minutes grace to have a complete team and then must take the field with at least seven (7) players or forfeit the match.

- (g) Any player/team official who brings the game into disrepute may be reported on the score card by the umpire, umpire's adviser or an officer of the Association. Such reports shall be dealt with by the disputes committee. Softball Victoria's Zero Tolerance policy is to apply.

24. INTER-ASSOCIATION GAMES

- (a) The Association uniform shall be defined in the rules.
- (b) All Geelong Representative players and officials must wear the uniform as approved by the officers. No players will be permitted to wear such uniform in any practice, club game or game other than a Geelong Representative Side.
- (c) Every financial player in the Association is eligible for selection in representative sides.

25. JUNIOR COMPETITION

In this Association Junior competition shall be played under the Rules of Softball with the following provisions also applying:

- (a) Players eligible of Under Age Competition shall be under the Age (at 31/12) as per VSA regulations in the year the competition commences with the exception placed on primary students.
- (b) No player under the age of four (4) years old shall be allowed to play with the exception of modified rules or tee ball.

With the introduction of modified rules, an application to the officers of the Association for extenuating circumstances can be considered.

- (c)
 - (i) Primary games shall be played on a full size diamond but the pitching distance remains at 35 feet, and play with an 11" Primary Ball.
 - (ii) Tee Ball games shall be played on a 45 feet running path, 30 feet pitching distance and shall play with an 11" Primary Ball.
- (d)
 - (i) Players playing in Primary competition, seven (7) and over are eligible to play in Under 14 competition.
 - (ii) Players from another club will be permitted to fully participate in a game with the exception of pitching and catching. No written consent needed for casual arrangement.
- (e) **9th BATTER RULE**
All Primary games, including finals, will be played under the 9th Batter Rule, which is:
 - (i) An innings is completed when (3) three batters are out, or when each batter in the team has had one turn at bat.
 - (ii) When the 9th batter has finished their turn at bat and all subsequent plays have been completed the scorer/s shall notify the umpire that the 9th batter has batted.
The umpire then calls "Time". If there are less than 3 batters out, any not out runners on the bases shall all score a run each.

- (iii) Should the 9th batter have been 3rd out of the innings, the normal rules apply and any runners left on base do not score.

26. LOCAL GROUND AND PLAYING RULES.

- (a) Teams **must not** practice near where another game is in progress.
- (b) Enclosed ground rules are played at Stead Park and all but players, coaches, umpires and officials must stay outside the boundary.
- (c) Players must not cross Stead Park at the conclusion of their game, if another game is in progress, but must go beyond the boundary of the playing field.
- (d) Clean barracking is allowed on benches and sidelines.
- (e) The umpire may declare any batter out, who endangers the catcher, the umpire or any other persons by carelessly throwing the bat. If the batter is declared out then the ball shall be dead and no runners shall advance.
- (f) In the event of a team at any time having less than nine (9) players, any registered lower grade player but limited to two (2) players can play on any given match day. But in no circumstances can a player play in a lower division team than what they are registered in.

The extra players named will be entered on the score card, and that person will be deemed to have played in that game as well as deemed to have played in a lower grade match. Therefore those players can legally take part in their higher grade game on the day including finals for that higher grade. (As a player).

In the lowest Association division and in the event of extenuating circumstances, and approval of opposition coach/coaches and officers of the Association, consideration can be made to use no more than (2) under (14) fourteen junior boys. This can be approved no more than (5) five times in one season, and they are unable to participate in the Finals Series.

- (g) In the event of an injury to a player during a game in progress a substitute runner may be used with the permission of the opposing captain or coach, who has the right to select the runner who is not to be one of the next (3) three batters.
- (h) In the event of a team at any time having less than nine (9) players, substitutes can be sourced from that game's opposition team first and failing availability, subs to be sought from other teams. In the event of a club having 2 teams, subs can also be sought from their own club.
- (i) A team with a substitute cannot exceed the number of players of the opposition team.
- (j) A substitute can be played in any position on the field except in the pitching or catching positions.

Game fees still apply for any substitute player.

Substitutes can not get votes in the games that they play as substitutes. This must be clearly noted on the scorecard.

Games played as a substitute will not count towards finals eligibility.

- (k) No metal cleats are to be worn on Geelong Softball diamonds.
- (l) Best and Fairest - In the event of a tie, there shall be no count back. Trophies to be awarded to players involved.
- (m) Ground Markers- In the event of no tenders received for Grounds markers or Lines persons for the coming season, Clubs named for ground marking duties must arrive at the ground in sufficient time to ensure that all diamonds required for days play are marked prior to commencement of the first round. Failure to fulfill this duty to satisfaction of the officers - \$50-00 fine will be imposed.
- (n) When notified, all clubs must be represented at all coaches, umpires or any other meetings, which the officers have deemed compulsory. A fine of \$50-00 to be paid by clubs not attending.
- (o) All members must comply with the GSA Code of Conduct
- (p) Consumption of alcohol is only permitted in designated areas;

- (q) Alcohol can only be purchase dint he designated areas;
- (r) Brining your own alcohol is not permitted and contravenes GSA's liquor licensing; and
- (s) Any breach of the alcohol rules may result in fines up to \$13,000 per individual.

27. BY-LAWS

- (a) All regulations and By-Laws of the Association to be read in conjunction with the Victorian Softball Association and Softball Australia rules.
- (b) The Association shall have the power to make, amend or rescind By-Laws to carry out the rules of Association, provided that By-Laws are consistent herewith. By-Laws may be made, amended or rescinded at an ordinary meeting of the Association provided that the resolution for the adoption therefore is approved by a majority of the committee present thereat. All By-Laws and amendments become operative immediately upon confirmation by the Association.