

**VICTORIAN
VOLLEYBALL
LEAGUE**

BYLAWS

1 March 2006

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VICTORIAN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE COMPETITION & TECHNICAL COMMISSION (VVLCTC)

1. PROCESS OF ELECTION

The VVL Competition & Technical Commission (VVLCTC) will be made up of a proposed 5-person committee. The Volleyball Victoria Board of Management will appoint two members. The Volleyball Victoria Referees Commission will appoint one member. The VVL Clubs shall elect the remaining two members.

The election shall take place towards the end of the season with the new VVLCTC taking office at the conclusion of the season. Clubs shall have one vote per team entered in the VVL during that season.

The exact mechanism by which the election shall be run shall be determined by the VVLCTC so as to achieve the results described in this section.

2. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The VVLCTC will be responsible (except where VVI Board policy or decisions prevent them) for the quality and presentation of the Victorian Volleyball League, including but not limited to the following:

- VVL Bylaws
- VVL Draw
- Dispute Resolution
- Promotion/Relegation
- Prizes
- Division Structure

3. BYLAW CHANGES

The VVLCTC reserves the right to modify the Bylaws where it is deemed appropriate. VVL Clubs will be notified in writing, giving an opportunity to comment, two weeks prior to any proposed changes being implemented.

4. BYLAW INTERPRETATION

If any Club is unsure of the interpretation of any Bylaw, they must contact the VVLCTC for a ruling. An incorrect interpretation of a Bylaw by a Club is no grounds for appeal for any penalties handed down by the VVLCTC for Bylaw infringements.

4. COMMUNICATION

All communication with the VVLCTC shall be through the Competition Manager as nominated by VVI or via any other means nominated by VVI from time to time.

Communication from the VVLCTC may be via email and all clubs are required to register with VVI, the email addresses of sufficient people to receive communication on behalf of their club. It is the clubs' responsibility to ensure that any changes to this are communicated as above to ensure the club continues receive communication.

VICTORIAN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS

FIVB RULES

Unless stipulated otherwise within these Bylaws, current FIVB Rules shall apply.

PART A: COMPETITION RULES

A1. TEAMS

A1.1 To play for a particular VVL team, a player must first be a fully registered member of VVI with the particular Club that they are representing. A VVL Club is defined as a Club that competes in the VVL senior competition. A VVL Club is financially responsible for all teams entered by that Club.

A1.1.1 Juniors are bound to their senior Club even if the Club only provides one gender division at the senior level for VVL. A transfer is required to break this bond. In the case of a player of one gender in a club that does not enter that gender into VVL, only a financial clearance is required.

A1.1.2 The time frame in which players may transfer (refer to Bylaw B8.1) is from January 1 to midday on the last business day before Round 9 of each VVL season (for an 18 week season. Round 8 for a 16 week season. Round 7 for a 14 week season).

A1.2 In any given match, each team shall field a minimum of seven registered players, one of whom may be a playing coach. All participants must be registered with VVI and all players must be uniformed and able to participate at the level of the game being played. A team will be permitted to play with six players but will be penalised an *Insufficient Players Penalty* (see Appendix A).

No person under 15 years of age is permitted to participate in Senior VVL, unless permission has been granted by the VVLCTC via written correspondence. The VVLCTC will require the *U15 Parental Waiver Form* to be completed and submitted to VVI before such a request will be considered. The form is available on the VVI website.

A1.3 Each team shall complete the required detail, i.e. Participants' names and numbers, on the scoresheet before the start of each match. Only players who are registered are to be written on the score sheet. The captain (and coach, if there is one) shall sign the team list on the scoresheet before the match.

Commentary: Teams should be aware that recording incorrect information on the scoresheet can lead to a forfeit. For instance, incorrect player names or numbers. Teams should make sure that the details they place on the scoresheet are accurate.

A1.3.1 The names of the team's coach, assistant coach, trainer and manager (as required) must also be written on the scoresheet in the spaces provided. Only people listed on the scoresheet may sit on the bench or be in the warm-up area during a match. All coaches (and, by extension, assistant coaches) must hold at least a Level 1 NCAS Accreditation).

- A1.3.2 The *Comments* section of the scoresheet is provided for officials to make note of important issues relating to the match (eg, injury reports, delays to the game, equipment issues, contraventions of these Bylaws, etc). The members of the playing team are not permitted to use that area to make comments concerning the match.
- A1.3.3 The detail entered on the scoresheet by the team captain or coach must be legible. This ensures that player eligibility for finals is not compromised. The Competition Manager may request that the VVLCTC penalise a club a *Inadequate Game Documentation Penalty* (see Appendix A)
- A1.4 Before the start of the match the referee will verify which players are present for the commencement of the first set, and thus eligible to play. Any player arriving late is able to play when they arrive, if their name is listed on the scoresheet at the commencement of the match. At the conclusion of the match the referee must strike any players names from the scoresheet if they were not present, uniformed and able to participate at the level of the game being played. The referee should inform the coach or captain, if they are available, that these names are being removed.

A2. UNIFORMS

- A2.1 All club uniforms must be registered with the VVLCTC. Where a club intends to change its uniform during or between seasons, VVLCTC approval must first be gained. Where a club is continuing to play in previously approved uniforms, no action is required under this Bylaw. Uniform is to include shirt, shorts and advertising material.
- A2.2.1 Each player of a team shall, during an official game, wear the prescribed uniform as per FIVB Rules except as described in Bylaw A2.
- A2.2.2 All players during competition matches shall wear uniforms in approved Club colours. Each team member must wear identical playing shirt (except the Libero, see Bylaw A2.2.5) and shorts/bloomers. Shorts must be the same style, material and colour. Any logos or brand names must be the same for all team members. Logos may differ on shorts only if they are smaller than 20cm². Bandannas are permitted if they match one or more of the colours of the team's uniform. In the Honours Division, Captains must have a suitable bar below the number on the front of their uniform as described in the FIVB rules.
- A2.2.3 Exceptions to the FIVB uniform rules are as follows:
- Players' jerseys may be numbered 1 to 100 inclusive for Divisions 1 & 2, Honours must be numbered from 1 to 18 inclusive.
 - The VVLCTC has the authority to permit a uniform design in the VVL.
 - Socks are not required to be uniform.
 - Captain's bars are only required in the Honours Division.
- A2.2.4 Temporary modifications to uniforms, including using tape or similar materials, are not part of the official uniform (and are not permitted – see Bylaw A2.3.1) except for the purposes of placing a bar under the number on the front of the Captain's uniform.

- A2.2.5 If a team chooses to nominate a Libero player in a match, that player must have a uniform that contrasts with the team uniform. This Libero Uniform must be in the same style as the team uniform (ie shirt style, shorts vs bloomers, etc). This uniform must also be registered according to Bylaw A2.1. The uniform of another sporting team may not be used as a Libero uniform.

Commentary: The word 'contrasts' in the above paragraph refers to the ease with which a Libero is distinguished from the rest of the team in a momentary glance. For instance, where two or three players are standing close together and a quick attack is passed by a player in that group, the referee must be able to tell in that instant whether the Libero contacted the ball or not. In particular, just because the colours of a Libero uniform are the same as the normal uniform but 'opposite', does not mean that the uniform qualifies as 'contrasting'. If the overall effect is not a clearly distinguishable difference, then that uniform is not 'contrasting'.

- A2.3 Penalty for out of Uniform: The first referee will advise the team captain of any uniform infringements during warm-up, and the player shall be unable to take the court until the problem is rectified. If, by the game start time the player is still not in correct uniform, they are not able to participate in the game (subject to Bylaw A2.3.1). If the player's name is on the scoresheet at the start of play, that player may take the court when ready. Delays are unacceptable. If fewer than six players are in correct uniform at the "Official Start Time" then the procedures and consequences described in Bylaw A10 apply. This regulation will be enforced from the first week of competition. The first referee is responsible for enforcing the uniform rule. If a dispute arises, a member of the VVLCTC and/or the Chief Referee (or Duty Referee) will make a ruling that is final.

NB: Should a player not make their entire uniform visible to the referee during the warm-up and, as a result, the referee discovers a uniform fault just before the game leading to a delay to the game start, then the procedures and consequences described in Bylaw A10 shall still apply. It is the team's responsibility to be in uniform to start the game, not the referee's. If such a uniform fault is discovered later in the game, then the referee may use Delay Sanctions as defined in the Rules of the Game to penalise the delay.

- A2.3.1 The VVLCTC or Chief Referee may allow a player to play with minor uniform infringements but the team will be penalised an *Out Of Uniform Penalty* (see Appendix A) for each such player.

Minor infringements include:

- An invalid number (See Bylaw A2.2.3)
- Excessively faded uniforms.
- Shorts instead of bike-shorts or vice-versa
- Not having a "Captain's Bar" under the number on the Captain's uniform (See Bylaw A2.2.4)

Minor infringements do **NOT** include (and hence are not permitted in any circumstances)

- Incorrect uniform colour (eg dark navy instead of black) including shorts and Libero uniforms.
- Using tape to modify a uniform (See Bylaw A2.2.4). (Except Captain's bar)
- Duplicate numbers

NOTE: The VVLCTC will not make regular allowances under this rule for the same breach. Additionally, any particular allowance under these rules is not a guarantee that the same allowance will be made on a future occasion for the same team or another team. In particular, the VVLCTC will not allow this rule to be used to avoid the uniform regulations. This rule is intended to cater for one-off occurrences.

- A2.6 The VVLCTC may direct all teams to wear certain forms of advertising identification on their uniforms in a specified manner as per a sponsor's request. The VVLCTC will not allow a player to take the court if they fail to wear specified sponsor identification.

A3. BALLS

A3.1 The VVLCTC will nominate and provide suitable balls to be used in VVL.

A3.2 The 3-ball system will apply where possible; otherwise a 1-ball system shall be used.

A4. ACCESS

A4.1 Teams shall be allowed access to the match court before the start of a game as follows:

- The Official Warmup time of 10 minutes, during which spiking and serving is permitted, shall take place before the start of the match.
- The Official Warmup shall be timed to conclude approximately 2 minutes before the Official Start Time. These last 2 minutes allow the referee to take the stand, coaches to address teams, the teams to take the court and the 2nd referee to check rotations.
- As a result, the whistle for the first serve of the match should be blown at the Official Start Time.
- General Warmup shall take place before the Official Warmup. Spiking and serving are not permitted during the General Warmup.
- The minimum time between matches, including all of the above, is 20 minutes.
- **NOTE:** These warmup times occur **BEFORE** the *Official Start Time* of the match (see Bylaw A10).

A5. SUITABILITY OF THE VENUE/EQUIPMENT

A5.1 Before each match, the referee shall inspect all necessary equipment to determine its suitability for play. In the case where match equipment is declared unsuitable, the Chief Referee must take immediate action to remedy the problem, failing this, the referee will refer the matter to the VVLCTC for their decision.

A6. SUBSTITUTIONS AND THE LIBERO

A6.1 TWELVE SUBSTITUTION RULE

THIS RULE WILL ONLY BE USED IN DIVISIONS 1 AND 2

The Twelve-Substitution Rule is to be used for the VVL. An explanation of how it works is as follows:

- Any number of players may substitute into the same rotational position on court within the following limitations:
- There is a maximum of TWELVE (12) substitutions permitted per set per team.
- A player may only take the court three times per set, ie. when a player's number has been recorded on the scoresheet for the third time, that player may be substituted off but may not enter the court again. The scorer CIRCLING the player's number indicates this third appearance.
- Different players may substitute into the one rotational position, except that once substituted for a particular position they are "locked" into that group of players. (ie. players who have substituted for that position) and may not substitute within another group.

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
10	4	11	2	1	7	
6	9			5		
10	3			2		
9				5		
8				②		
⑩						
8						

- In the example shown above, we can see that the starting line-up is 10, 4, 11, 2, 1 and 7. This means that these players have taken the court once already. The coach has seen fit to substitute into the position "I" group the players 6, 9, 8 and 3. Number 10 has taken the court three times and thus has finished his/her set as indicated by the circle. (As has player 2 in position IV).
- These players: 10, 6, 9, 8 and 3, are locked into the group in position I and none of them can be used to substitute into another position in this set. For example, player 9 has only appeared twice so far and can therefore make another appearance on court but only in position I and only if no more than twelve substitutions are used per set.
- In the example shown, all twelve substitutions have been used.
- When recording the substitutions go DOWN THE LEFT side column for each position and when the left is full go DOWN THE RIGHT side column.
- There is no requirement to record the score at the time of each substitution.
- The second referee reports the 11th and 12th substitutions and the third court entry of a player to the first referee and the coach concerned.

A6.2 SIX SUBSTITUTION RULE

THIS RULE WILL BE USED IN THE HONOURS DIVISION

The standard FIVB 6-substitution rule shall be used in the Honours Division as described in the official FIVB Rule Book.

A6.3 THE LIBERO

THIS RULE WILL BE USED IN ALL DIVISIONS

The standard FIVB Libero rules, as described in the "Official Volleyball Rules" (the FIVB rule book), apply except as follows:

- If a team has only 6 remaining fit players plus a Libero and one of the 6 players is injured, the Libero may cease being the Libero and become a normal player. This player will then be allowed on court as an exceptional substitution. This player may not return to being the Libero for the remainder of the match. If the Libero is the last resort for exceptional substitutions. If the Libero is on court at the time of an injury, they **must** leave the court and be replaced by the original player they replaced before they can be used as part of an exceptional substitution under this bylaw.

A7. CHAMPIONSHIP LADDER

A7.1 The VVLCTC shall establish a championship ladder after the completion of each round in accordance with these regulations, and this shall be displayed at each playing venue, each round.

A7.2 Four championship points shall be given for a win, and no championship points for a loss or for the forfeiting/disqualified team. In the case of a forfeit/disqualification, the winning team shall be awarded 3 - 0 sets and 75 - 0 points.

A7.2.1 Teams penalised under these Bylaws will lose championship points according to the table in Appendix A. These championship point penalties are mandatory. Details of individual penalties may be published on the ladder but total penalties need not be (they should be inferable from ladder totals).

A7.3.1 In the case of equal championship points, the sets won/lost percentage shall determine precedence.

A7.3.2 In the case of equal championship points and equal sets won/lost percentage, the points won/lost percentage shall determine precedence.

A7.3.3 In the case of equality after Rule A7.3.2 the match results of the games played against each other by the teams involved will resolve the matter as per A7.3.1 and A7.3.2.

A7.3.4 In the case of equality after Rule A7.3.3 at the end of the season or at some other time at which final ladders need to be determined, a play-off match will determine the result.

A 7.4 A VVLCTC member must ratify all match results and championship ladders before they come into effect. If requested, a copy will be sent to the Club delegate/collected from the office within three (3) working days of the competition day or made available in another convenient form.

A8. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS & FINALS

A8.1 At the conclusion of the round robin series, the top 4 placed teams shall play off in the finals series as predetermined by the VVLCTC. The VVLCTC may choose to allow fewer teams into a finals series in the case of a small division. This shall be communicated before the season commences.

A8.2 Divisions shall receive trophies and/or medallions and/or prize money as specified by the VVLCTC.

A8.3 Clubs may promote players within their Club at any time - with the exception of A8.3.1 to 8.3.4, inclusive.

A8.3.1 Only 2 transfers will be allowed between teams per round (2 up players/2 down players). Note that where a club has multiple teams in the same division, the maximum number of transfers in and out of any of that club's teams is still 2.

A8.3.2 Clubs may relegate players within their Club provided that the player has played less than nine matches (including finals) in a higher division - for an 18 match season (8 for 16 matches, 7 for 14 matches).

Commentary: This bylaw is expressed in 'matches'. In an 18 week season with 2 byes, there will be 16 matches and hence the number of matches used in the above bylaw shall be 8. This terminology shall be used consistently through these bylaws except where such an interpretation is obviously meaningless.

A8.3.3 Clubs may transfer players between teams playing in the same division at any time for the first three rounds. After the third round, no more than one player may transfer between teams within that division each round.

A player may not transfer between teams in the same division once that player has played more than eight matches (including finals) for the other team in that division - in an 18 match season (7 for 16 matches, 6 for 14 matches).

~~A8.3.4 A club may relegate one player per team despite Bylaw A8.3.2 per season. That player may not move down more than one division without VVLCTC approval. That player may not move back up again without VVLCTC approval.~~

Commentary: This Bylaw has been deleted for the 2005 season onwards as it was used during 2004 in a manner that was contrary to the spirit of the game. Any similar relegations must now occur through Bylaw A8.3.5 below.

A8.3.5 A club may apply in writing to the VVLCTC in *exceptional* circumstances for transfers between teams outside of the Bylaws A8.3.1 to A8.3.3.

A8.4.1 No player shall play in more than one match during a round (including Rescheduled Games - see Appendix B), or in the case of finals in the same designated final (Semi-, Preliminary or Grand). A *Forfeit Penalty* (see Appendix A) will apply for those teams where players have played in more than one match during a round, and the second and subsequent game(s) will be deemed a forfeit (see also Bylaw A7.2).

A8.4.2 A team that plays an unregistered player shall forfeit the match and be penalised the *Forfeit Penalty* (see Appendix A).

NB: A player who requires a transfer (see Bylaw B8) but has not yet completed said transfer shall be considered unregistered for the purposes of the VVL despite the fact that they are a fully registered member of VVI.

A8.4.3 A team that plays a player in a manner contrary to the requirements of Bylaw A8, or any other Bylaw limiting the movement or eligibility of players (eg Bylaw B8), shall forfeit the match and be penalised the *Forfeit Penalty* (see Appendix A).

A8.5.1 To be eligible for the finals, players must have been present, uniformed and able to participate at the level of the game being played, for a minimum of eight (8) of the round matches for a particular club. This is based on an 18 match season and may differ for different length seasons (7 for 16 matches, 6 for 14 matches).

Members of the Volleyball Team Australia squads and holders of AIS Scholarships (including coaches) who play two (2) or more games in the VVL in a season will be eligible to play in the finals in divisions approved by the VVLCTC. This exception will only be considered during the time that a player holds their position in the VTA squad or retains their Scholarship. Any player who ceases to be such a member before the completion of Round 7 shall not be considered for this exemption.

Clubs wishing to avail themselves of this Bylaw must apply in writing to the VVLCTC before such a player can participate in finals.

A8.5.2 A player may not play in a final of a division if the number of games played in higher division(s) of the VVL is equal to or greater than the total number of games in which the individual has played in that lower division in that season. However, subject to Bylaw A8.4.1, a player may play in the finals for a team of his/her Club in a higher division than he/she normally plays (see Bylaw A8.3).

A8.5.3 For clubs with two teams in one division, a player may not play in the finals for one team if they have played more games (including finals) for the other team in that season.

A8.6 Special consideration may be granted by the VVLCTC where a player has played insufficient games. A written submission with appropriate documentation is required. Regarding illness or injury, a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner must be provided. Consideration will only be given to players who are registered and only from the time that they are registered.

Commentary: The intention of the last sentence of the previous paragraph is that, for instance, a player, registered for most of the season, who has played one game too few, may apply for permission to play in the finals, should there be a suitable reason. However, if a player has been registered for 7 weeks and has played 7 games and is one short, the VVLCTC shall not consider the period before the player was registered and hence the player would not have grounds to apply under this Bylaw.

In previous seasons, this rule has been interpreted very loosely by the VVLCTC. The original intention was to cover people who barely miss out under exceptional circumstances and this intention shall be honoured from now on.

A8.6.1 Any medical certificate provided by a player to support a claim made under Bylaw A8.6 must be provided to VVI by the end of the week (midday Friday) after the player misses their first game. After this time, the certificate will only be considered as covering the period commencing one week before it is *received* by VVI.

Commentary: For Example, a player injured at training on Tuesday might miss a game the next Saturday and then has until the following Friday to present a medical certificate – 10 days after the injury.

A8.6.2 The VVLCTC shall only consider the period of time covered by (a) medical certificate(s) when considering injury as under Bylaw A8.6.1.

A8.6.3 Where VVI has received a medical certificate declaring a player unable to play for a period of time, that player shall not be permitted to play in the VVL during that time. Any team fielding a player covered by a medical certificate provided to VVI shall forfeit as if the player was unregistered at that time.

A8.6.4 In order for a player to return to playing before the end of a period as described in Bylaw A8.6.3, that player will have to get a medical certificate declaring them fit to play. That certificate will be attached to the original certificate and will cut short the period described on the original. Further injury or relapse will then require a new medical certificate.

Commentary: A8.6.1 has been introduced to prevent abuse of Bylaw A8.6. A8.6.2 is introduced to prevent players getting a medical certificate for the entire year after an injury. Bylaw A8.6.3 is introduced both to complete the process of A8.6 and also due to public liability concerns raised by VVI's insurer.

A8.7 The VVLCTC shall determine the date, time and venue of the finals.

A9. MATCH OFFICIALS

A9.1 The VVLCTC will supply, where possible, through the VVRC or otherwise, a 1st referee for all round matches. The nominated duty team shall be responsible for providing a 2nd referee, a scorer and at least two line judges. Where it is not possible for the VVLCTC to supply a 1st referee, the duty team shall be required to supply the same. In this instance, the VVLCTC will provide as much notice as is possible for the supply of these officials. (These officials must be suitably qualified).

A9.2 Each team entered in the VVL must have available at least one State qualified (or better) referee to act as 1st or 2nd Referee according to Bylaw A9.1.

A9.3 The VVLCTC, through the VVRC, will appoint one 1st referee, one 2nd referee, two lines persons and one scorer for grand final matches, and where possible, for all other finals.

A9.4 Teams not providing the required duty personnel or not fulfilling their duties to an acceptable standard, as set out by the VVLCTC will be penalised an *Inadequate Duty Penalty* (see Appendix A).

A9.4.1 The term 'acceptable standard' as used in Bylaw A9.4 shall at least include being present at the court with sufficient time to carry out the duties of the officials as described in the FIVB Rules of Volleyball and performing those duties to a standard considered, by the referee, as reasonable for the level of the game being played.

Commentary: Standard match protocol requires the 1st Referee to take the stand approximately two minutes before the start of the game (see Bylaw A4). It is the role of the 2nd Referee to control and direct the teams whilst they are near their benches from that time, check line-ups and control the work of the scorer. The Scorer is required to verify the teams on the scoresheet and check the line-ups before the start of the match. Therefore, a duty team without a 2nd Referee and Scorer at the court two minutes before the game start time are unlikely to be performing their job to an acceptable standard. Since a match can't start without Line Judges, referees should not invite teams onto court until a full duty team is present. Therefore, a duty team without line judges at the court about one minute before game time are unlikely to be performing their job to an acceptable standard. It is advisable that duty teams inform the 1st Referee that they are present and where they shall be before a game, especially if they have just completed playing and are having a team meeting, eating, etc. This will help prevent problems under this Bylaw. It is the responsibility of the duty teams to be present at the court at a suitable time and not that of the referee.

A10. MATCH CONTROL

A10.1 Each team shall be ready to take the court and ready to commence the match at the time specified in the draw.

The "Official Start Time" of a match shall be either the time specified on the draw, or the time as determined according to Bylaw A4.1, whichever is later.

A10.2 If a team is deemed incomplete as set out in A1.1 - A1.4 at the Official Start Time, it will be deemed a late start, and the team will be penalised a *Late Start Penalty* (see Appendix A). A team is considered incomplete when a minimum of 6 players are not present, in uniform and able to play the game at the level being played. The game must start as soon as the team is considered complete. Referees will note on the scoresheet and match report, teams not ready to commence at the Official Start Time.

A10.3 If a team is not ready to take the court within 15 minutes of the Official Start Time, they shall be deemed to have forfeited that match and will be penalised a *Forfeit Penalty* (see Appendix A). The *Forfeit Penalty* shall replace the *Late Start Penalty* described in Bylaw A10.2 which would already have been applied.

If a team is late for the commencement of a game but are found to be eligible to play within the 15 minutes, the *Late Start Penalty* is still applicable (See Bylaw A10.2). Note, the referee must make the Official Start Time clear to the teams and inform any members of the late team when that time passes. The referee must further inform the teams at the time of the Forfeit.

A10.4 Each match is under the control of the 1st Referee who may be rostered or team supplied.

A11. MATCH RECORDS

A11.1 At the conclusion of each match, the 1st referee shall complete the following reports:

- scoresheet
- best player voting slip
- match report (in which the referee shall detail any problem/actions to be taken)

The first referee shall lodge these documents immediately following the match with a VVL official in attendance, or otherwise where necessary.

A12. REPORTING OF PLAYERS OR OFFICIALS

A12.1 Outside of the game, the referees and/or VVL Officials must report any player/official for any act of misconduct, bad language, disputing decisions or any other act which, in the opinion of the official, is likely to bring the game of Volleyball and/or the VVL into disrepute.

A12.2 All reports beyond those covered by the sanction rules shall be recorded in an appropriate form as supplied by or requested by the VVLCTC.

A12.3 Upon receipt of such a report, in which a player/official has been reported the VVLCTC shall:

- a) Organise a tribunal before the next round. The tribunal shall consist of 3 people as follows:
 - two members of the VVLCTC
 - one VVRC official, other than the official who made the report* None of the above shall be connected with the club, team or individual;
- b) Advise the reported person of the allegation and the date of the tribunal.
- c) The Tribunal will decide appropriate action and advise the VVL clubs.
- d) Appeals on the grounds of natural justice may be made to the VVI Board. Appeals based on the interpretation of the rules and bylaws will not be granted.

A13. MISCONDUCT SANCTIONS

A13.1 Except where bylaw A13.2 applies, any participant who receives a misconduct expulsion (Red Card) during a VVL match shall be automatically stood down from participation in the VVL until the conclusion of the round in which the team in which s/he was participating at the time of the expulsion is scheduled to play their subsequent match.

Commentary: Participant includes all non-playing members of the team as listed on the scoresheet.

A13.2 Any participant who receives a misconduct disqualification (Red & Yellow card together) during a VVL match shall be automatically stood down from participation in the VVL until the conclusion of the round in which the team in which s/he was participating at the time of the disqualification is scheduled to play their second subsequent match.

Commentary: Bylaws A13.1 and A13.2 are effectively a one and two match suspension respectively. The construction of the bylaw is such that if a team has a bye in the next round, then not only is the person suspended from the next round after the bye when that team plays but also from participating in other teams for that club in the interim rounds. This ensures that the player may not count another division match in which they would never have played as the suspension. Eg Person A, a member of the MH team of Club Y, receives a red card in round 5 of the VVL. The MH team has a bye in round 6 but games in Rounds 7 & 8. Person A may not participate in the VVL until the end of round 7 and can return in round 8 even if Club Y has other teams playing in round 6. Person A may not claim that they planned to participate in another division in round 6 and therefore count that game as the suspended game.

A14. PROTESTS

A14.1 All protests shall be resolved immediately. As soon as an on-court captain indicates a wish to protest the first referee will immediately call upon the Chief Referee, or duty referee not involved in officiating at that time, to resolve the matter. The protesting captain must give a detailed description of their grievance to the Chief Referee or duty referee. The Chief Referee or duty referee may call on any members of the VVLCTC who are present to assist in resolving the protest as he or she sees fit. The Chief Referee will note the protest and its resolution on the scoresheet. Team members are not permitted to write in the comments section of the scoresheet. Teams may only protest the application or misapplication of a rule or Bylaw. They may not protest the referee's judgement or their perceived quality of the officiating. Any other complaints should be addressed with the Chief Referee, VVLCTC, VVI or other appropriate person outside of the context of the game.

NB Only the on-court captain may register a protest

If the protest procedure undertaken by the Chief Referee or duty referee takes more than 10 minutes, a 5-minute warm-up may be requested by either captain and must be granted if requested. The decision of the Chief Referee or duty referee is final. At the completion of the game, the Chief Referee or duty referee will complete a written report and submit it to the VVLCTC (or, where appropriate, record the decision on the scoresheet). An appeal can only be made on the grounds that the Chief Referee or duty referee misinterpreted a rule or Bylaw. All appeals must be forwarded to VVLCTC within two working days of the scheduled starting time of the match to which the appeal refers.

A14.2 Where a protest appeal has been requested in writing to the VVLCTC, the VVLCTC will follow an appropriate procedure similar to the one described in A12.3, if necessary.

A14.3 Matches shall not be replayed as a result of a decision under Bylaw A14.2. However, where appropriate, results may be adjusted or overturned or other decisions made regarding the conduct of the competition.

Part B: ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS

B1. TEAM APPLICATION AND AFFILIATION FEES

- B1.1 Each team seeking affiliation with the Victorian Volleyball League (hereafter VVL) must complete the 'VVL Nomination' form and pay a nomination & entry fee as determined each year by Volleyball Victoria Incorporated. Clubs must be Incorporated and be able to provide proof of Incorporation. The entry fee (& not nomination fee) is refundable should the club/team not be admitted to the VVL. Withdrawal from the competition is not grounds for reimbursement.
- B1.2 Teams nominated for the VVL must register all players and officials and pay the appropriate entry fee as outlined in the VVL payment schedule. Referees must be registered members of VVI in order to participate in VVL.

B2. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- B2.1 All profits from VVL activities conducted by the VVLCTC belong to VVI and at VVI's discretion, shall be used for the development and promotion of Volleyball within Victoria.

B3. PAYMENT OF FEES/LEVIES/FINES

- B3.1 In the case of fines, the time for payment shall be within fourteen (14) days from the date of notification by the VVLCTC. Such notification shall be forwarded to the Delegate for that Club. Teams failing to pay fines by the deadline date will not be permitted to play.
- B3.2 In the case of *large fines* (see Appendix A), the VVLCTC may, provided a written request is received prior to the expiry of the fourteen (14) days, extend the time for payment. This does not apply to *Forfeit Penalty* fines.
- B3.3 Teams failing to pay entry fees and other levies by the final deadline date, or as prescribed by VVI, will be penalised a *Late Payment Penalty* (See Appendix A) per week until the payment is made in accordance with VVI's payment rules. Failure to pay the required amount after a time specified by VVI (including any *Late Payment Penalty* fines) may result in suspension or expulsion from the VVL.
- B3.3.1 A club, and all teams that play for that club, may be held responsible for fees owed by one team of that club.
- B3.3.2 Any team suspended from the VVL under Bylaw B3.3 shall forfeit any matches they are scheduled to play during that time.

B4. DEFAULT OF CLUBS, TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS

- B4.1 If a Club fails to pay any fee, levy, fine or other payment for which they are liable, and has not lodged a written appeal/request with respect to the fee, levy, fine or other payment for which they are liable under these rules and regulations, within the 14 days specified, then the VVLCTC may suspend, disqualify or expel the Club and/or team for such a period as the VVLCTC sees fit. The effect of such a suspension, disqualification or expulsion shall be borne by each and every individual registered with the Club (players, officials, etc.). The period of suspension, disqualification or expulsion will be extended indefinitely, until such time as the outstanding debt is honoured in full or the VVLCTC agrees to a payment plan.
- B4.2 If any individual registered with, or acting on behalf of, any VVL Club fails to pay any fee, levy, fine or other payment for which an individual is liable under these rules and regulations, within the fourteen (14) days specified for the payment, and they have not lodged a written appeal/request with respect to the fee, levy, fine or other payment for which they are liable under these rules and regulations, the individual will be disqualified by the VVLCTC for such a period as the VVLCTC sees fit. The period of disqualification may be extended indefinitely, until such time as the individual's outstanding debt is honoured in full or the VVLCTC agrees to a payment plan.
- B4.3 Where a Club, having failed to pay any fee, levy, fine or other payment for which they are liable, either disbands or simply ceases to participate and no individual from that Club and/or team registers with any other VVL Club, the VVLCTC shall make application to all affiliated Associations through VVI for suspension, disqualification or expulsion of each and every individual registered with that Club until such time as the outstanding debt is honoured in full, or in the case of an individual, that individual's outstanding debt is honoured in full, or the VVLCTC agrees to a payment plan.
- B4.4 Where a Club and/or an individual has failed to honour an agreed payment plan, the Club or individual shall be immediately suspended, disqualified or expelled, for such a period as the VVLCTC sees fit. This period of suspension, disqualification or expulsion shall remain at least until the outstanding debt is paid in full.

B5. REVIEW OF FINES AND OTHER DECISIONS

- B5.1 All fines stated in these rules and regulations shall be levied, but Clubs or individuals wishing to seek a review by the VVLCTC of the fines imposed shall do so in accordance with these rules and regulations:
- B5.2 A review of a fine by the VVLCTC may be sought without having to first pay the fine, provided a written application for the fine to be reviewed has been received by the VVLCTC within the fourteen (14) day period in which the fine would otherwise be due. If a written application for review is not received within the fourteen (14) day period, the fine must be paid. Any written application for review of a fine must be made within fourteen (14) days of the date of notification of the fine, otherwise all rights to appeal the decision of the fine are forfeited. A *Fine Review Application Fee* (see Appendix A) must be submitted with the written 'fine review' request. Where a club is successful in having a fine overturned, the *Fine Review Application Fee* will be fully refunded.
- B5.3 The VVLCTC has the right to dismiss any application to review a fine or any other decision if it considers the application to be frivolous or vexatious. Under such circumstances, there are no review or appeal processes of this decision. The application fee is not refundable in these circumstances.

B6. EFFECT OF DISQUALIFICATION/SUSPENSION

- B6.1 Any individual disqualified under these rules and regulations, and specifically through Regulations B4 and B5, shall be deemed to be disqualified from any form of participation (other than spectating) in all official Volleyball Victoria Incorporated (hereafter VVI) activities, Volleyball matches, tournaments, teams, tours and functions until otherwise directed by the VVLCTC. For VVI affiliated bodies (ie. Local and Regional Leagues and Associations), this disqualification shall be at the individual affiliated bodies' discretion (please consult VVI for effects this may have on insurance arrangements).

B7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND COACHES

- B7.1 Where a Club has a coach with overseas qualifications, they should contact the appropriate Australian body or the AVF to ensure that the coach is qualified to coach in Australia and Victoria.
- B7.2 Before any player or official is eligible to take part in any official match, he/she must be registered with VVI on the official registration form(s), and have paid the prescribed fee. A player or official may register with VVI at any time during the season, subject to Regulations B8 and B9. All registrations must be received at the VVI office by midday on the last business day before the match is scheduled to be played (unless other arrangements have been made in advance).
- B7.3 A player cannot play and an official cannot participate in a VVL scheduled match until the team receives authorisation of registration from VVI.
- B7.4 A team who plays an unregistered player in a VVL scheduled match shall forfeit the game and be penalised. Clubs will be penalised for having an unregistered official (coach, referee), and Referees will have their match payments withheld until they have registered, if they fail to register before participating in a match. See Appendix A.
- B7.5 Officials of affiliated teams must be registered with the VVL in the same manner as players. Coaches of Honours, Division 1 and Division 2 teams, must hold, as a minimum, a current Level One National Coaches Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) certificate. Proof of accreditation must be supplied when requested by VVI or the VVLCTC.
- B7.6 By virtue of registration, a player/official automatically agrees to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions of the VVLCTC and these Bylaws.
- B7.7 Clubs are limited to two non-Australian citizen international players per team. International players with permanent Australian residence are exempted. Clubs may apply in writing to VVI for exemption.

B8. TRANSFER / CLEARANCE OF PLAYERS

B8.1 There are two types of movements of players between clubs as follows:

1. Financial Clearance: A declaration by a club that a former member of that club has no outstanding financial obligations to that club.
2. VVL Inter-Club Transfer: The movement of a VVL player from one club to another club in consecutive seasons. An Inter-Club Transfer also requires a *Financial Clearance*.

NOTE: Inter-Club transfers will only be allowed during the times specified in Bylaw A1.1.2. Any applications received outside these dates will be invalid.

The VVLCTC has the right to penalise a club an *Abuse Of Transfer Penalty* (see Appendix A) if the VVLCTC believe that non-adherence to these transfer rules has prejudiced another club or the competition as a whole.

B8.2 Inter-Club Transfers are required by any VVL Club player wishing to transfer to another VVL Club in consecutive seasons. This applies to all of Senior & Junior VVL - Honours, Division 1 & 2. It also applies to Junior players who have played a minimum of one (1) match for a VVL Club in a Junior competition in the last 12 months.

B8.4.1 A player previously registered with a VVL Club shall require VVLCTC approval and a Financial Clearance from that Club BEFORE playing for another league Club, even if they have not played for a number of years. Applications shall be on the prescribed form and shall be lodged with VVI.

B8.4.2 Where a player or official has completed a season with a VVL Club, that player no longer requires a financial clearance from any clubs they may have been registered with prior to that season.

B8.5 An Inter-Club *transfer fee*, which shall be determined by the VVLCTC, must be received by VVI before a transfer is approved. The current *Transfer Fee* (see Appendix A) must be forwarded WITH the transfer form, or the transfer will not be considered for approval.

B8.6 The Transfer Form must be signed by both clubs and the player concerned and forwarded to VVI by midday on the last working day before the day on which the player wishes to first play for the new club.

B8.7 A player or club may choose to use VVI as an intermediary in the transfer process instead of approaching the other club directly for appropriate signatures.

B8.8 Clubs may refuse a transfer/clearance of a player/official due to financial indebtedness to the club.

B8.9 Should a Club refuse an application on financial grounds, the VVLCTC Disputes Committee is to follow the established procedure of A12.3 if necessary.

B8.10 A Club may claim compensation for:

1. Equipment sold to the player, not paid for by the player
2. Any direct debt incurred by the Club on behalf of a player for which the player is responsible
3. Club fees (individual players will still be liable for their share of unpaid fees if their Club disbands)

- B8.11 A Club may not claim compensation for:
1. Equipment supplied in good playing condition on a loan basis, except where that equipment is not returned in good playing condition
 2. Coaching received by the player, except where there is an agreement between the player and the Club for payment for coaching. A Club may not discriminate in any way, in regard to financial claims against the player seeking the transfer by claiming any amount not reasonably expected to be paid by other members of the Club that the player is leaving.
- B8.12 The VVLCTC Disputes Committee will approve or reject the application after presentation of the above information, if necessary.
- B8.13 All junior teams will be encouraged to affiliate with a VVL Club. The Club is ultimately responsible for the development of athletes. Transfer regulations apply to all junior VVL players.
- B8.14 Teams may register a maximum of two transferred players from other VVL Clubs each season (subject to Bylaw B8.15). Once a player transfers to a team, they are considered 'transferred players' for that club until the end of the year in which they transfer. Where a Club has more than one team, each team may only play two 'transferred players' in any one game. A financial clearance is not considered a transfer.
- B8.15 Where more than two (2) players are transferred out of a team, its club may apply, in writing, to the VVLCTC to be allowed an equivalent number of additional transfers into that team. A player will be considered to have been a member of the team they played the most matches for in the previous season.
- B8.16 **FREE AGENTS**
- Where a club ceases to compete in all divisions of the same gender in the VVL, all players who played VVL for that club in those divisions in the last season shall become *Free Agents*. These Free Agents may register with any club for the next season and will not count as transferred players.
 - Where that club continues to exist as a VVI registered club, each player will require a financial clearance.
 - The VVLCTC may withhold Free Agent status or prevent a player from playing where their disbanding club still owes money to VVI. See also Bylaw 8.10, point 3.
 - Players may apply to the VVLCTC, in writing, for Free Agent status if they believe that actions of their club have unduly and adversely affected their ability to compete in the VVL. Normal team selection issues are not grounds for Free Agent status.
- B8.17 All Transfers and Clearances require VVLCTC endorsement.
- B8.18 It is the players' and/or clubs' responsibility to ensure that all required transfers and clearances are carried out. This may require clubs to request histories from new players and officials.

B9. JUNIORS

- B9.1 For each Honours team entered in the VVL, clubs must enter a junior team in a competition or competitions as nominated by VVI.
- B9.2 Normal transfer rules apply to movement of a junior to a senior team where that team is not part of the Club associated with the junior team.
- B9.3 A junior player can play in a maximum one Junior League and one Senior League match per round, or designated final (Semi, Preliminary or Grand).

B10. VENUES

- B10.1 The VVLCTC shall determine the venue/s for each round of the normal season.
- B10.2 No match shall be transferred from a nominated venue without prior approval of the VVLCTC. See Appendix B - 'Rescheduling of Games'.
- B10.3 The nominated venue must meet the standard volleyball requirements as designated by the VVLCTC.
- B10.4 The VVLCTC shall determine the venue for the finals.

B11. CHANGE OF TIME/VENUE/DATE

- B11.1 The VVLCTC discourages changes of times, venues or dates. However, teams may apply in writing to the VVLCTC for such changes - at least 30 days prior to the original scheduled match, and after advising their opponents in writing. Where the change is approved by the VVLCTC, a prescribed fee is payable by the team requesting the change, and VVI must again be notified in writing of the rescheduled match details - time, date, etc. The rescheduled match must take place NO LATER THAN 6 days after the original match was scheduled (and before any finals matches or other deadlines as declared by the VVLCTC from time to time). The VVLCTC decision in such matters shall be final. The team requesting the change must also contact the VVRC once permission has been granted by the VVLCTC.
- B11.2 It is the responsibility of the team requesting the reschedule to arrange for a time to play the match. That team shall be expected to inconvenience themselves, where necessary, to effect the reschedule. This shall include playing at the opposition's venue and/or at a non-optimal time. Where the opposition does not offer their venue, the team requesting the reschedule must supply the venue. This may require rescheduling other club commitments such as training times.
- B11.3 The VVLCTC has the right to compel a team to accept the rescheduling of a game where the VVLCTC believes that doing so is in the best interests of the players, the VVL or the sport.
- B11.4 The VVLCTC has the right to compel the teams to schedule the game at a certain time and/or place if the teams are not able to reach an agreement. Such compulsion shall be within the concept of inconvenience described in Bylaw B11.2. If one team refuses to play at that time, they shall forfeit the match.

Refer to Appendix B - 'Rescheduling of Games'.

B12. DRAW

- B12.1 The VVLCTC shall provide teams with a detailed draw for the complete VVL season prior to the season.
- B12.1.1 Where certain matches within the draw are unable to be determined before the start of the season, the VVLCTC shall provide details as to how those game details will be determined and when.
- B12.2 The length of the season and the number of matches in the draw shall be determined by the VVLCTC.

B13. TIME OF PLAY

- B13.1 All round matches during the season shall be played on such days as the VVLCTC determines is of benefit to the competition.
- B13.2 Before the date and/or time of the match can be varied, approval must be sought from the VVLCTC at least 30 days before the match is scheduled to be played. The two teams concerned must reach agreement and it will be the responsibility of the team initiating the change to pay the prescribed fee. Only extenuating circumstances will be considered for any re-scheduling of matches. Refer to Regulation B11, and Appendix B.

B14. INSURANCE

- B14.1 The VVLCTC will not accept responsibility for any accident/injury occurring at any official VVL match or activity organised or patronised by the VVLCTC.

B15. PROMOTION/RELEGATION/ADMISSION

- B15.1 Whilst accepting in general terms the principle of promotion and relegation, the VVLCTC will not be bound to any formula when allocating teams to various divisions. In general, the top team gains automatic promotion to the grade above. If, subject to B15.2, a team is ineligible for promotion, the next eligible ranked team may gain promotion. The premiership team cannot decline promotion if eligible.
- B15.2 Only one team per Club may compete in a division. In the situation where insufficient teams have nominated for the lower divisions, or relegation, two teams from the same Club may be admitted to maximise competition opportunities.
- B15.3 If a team withdraws, the VVLCTC shall decide the replacement or if a team is to be relegated or whatever other changes are necessary.
- B15.4 Prior to each VVL season, if necessary, a VVL Qualifying Tournament may be conducted to assist with the admission of new teams or the promotion and relegation of existing teams for the next season.
- B15.5 The VVLCTC reserves the right to direct any team to compete in the Qualifying Tournament, irrespective of where the team(s) finished on the ladder.
- B15.6 The format of the Qualifying Tournament will be decided each year by the VVLCTC.

B16. MEETINGS

B16.1 **DELEGATE MEETING:** The VVLCTC may call meetings of Club Delegates to discuss various aspects of the VVL from time to time.

B16.2 **TECHNICAL MEETING:** The VVLCTC may hold a technical meeting before each VVL season if necessary. The VVLCTC and VVRC shall discuss, at that meeting, rules, bylaws and protocols that shall apply for that season. Each team is required to send one representative (preferably the Coach) to that meeting. Where the changes between seasons don't necessitate a technical meeting, the VVLCTC may choose another form of communication to feed information for the season to the Clubs.



APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES

Description	Bylaw(s)	Penalty: Championship points lost
Insufficient Players Penalty	A1.2	1 per game
<i>Inadequate Game Documentation Penalty</i>	A1.3.3	1 per game
Out Of Uniform Penalty	A2.3.1	1 per player
Forfeit Penalty	A8.4.1, A8.4.2, A8.4.3, A10.3	2 per game
Late Start Penalty	A10.2	1 per game
Late Payment Penalty	B3.3	1 per week
Inadequate Duty Penalty	A9.3	1 per game
Fine Revue Application Fee	B5.2	N/A
Transfer Fee	B8.5	N/A
Large Fine	B3.2	N/A
Reschedule Fee	B11	N/A
Unregistered or unaccredited Official	B7.4, B7.5	First offence: 1 penalty point Subsequent offences (after notification): Forfeit & Forfeit Penalty
Abuse Of Transfer Penalty	B8.1	Min: 1 Max: 4

Note: Penalties of Championship Points are mandatory.

APPENDIX B

RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- a) Teams may apply in writing to VVI, at least 30 days prior to the original scheduled match, for a game to be rescheduled. A fee may be necessary (see Appendix A) and must be included with the request in order to be considered. The fee will be fully refunded if the game is not rescheduled.
- b) Within 3 working days, VVI will contact the Club in writing, refusing or granting permission to reschedule. This does not however, imply that the other team must reschedule - this is simply PERMISSION to ask the other team to reschedule.
- c) If permission is granted, the Club must then negotiate with the other team, to arrange to reschedule the match.
- d) The teams have 3 working days to respond to the request. The rescheduled match may only occur any time prior to the original date, or a maximum of 6 days after the original date and at least 1 week before any finals or any other deadline as determined by the VVLCTC.

Where the club that has been requested to reschedule does not respond in the stated time frame, The VVLCTC will seek an immediate response. If a definite answer is not forthcoming, the VVLCTC may force the reschedule upon the club. This club will still be able to choose when and where the game is to be played. There is no compulsion upon any club to agree to a rescheduling of a VVL match. However, the VVLCTC reserves the right to compel teams to reschedule if it is felt to be in the best interests of the VVL.

- e) VVI must be informed by the Club requesting the rescheduled game, regarding the match details for VVI approval.
- f) The Club rescheduling the game is responsible for the organising of all duty responsibilities and use of a correct scoresheet. VVI must receive the original scoresheet no later than 2 working days after the rescheduled match or the match will be deemed forfeited by that Club.